

Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 21 October 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny, Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure

Report Summary	
Report Title	Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum
Purpose of Report	To seek the Council's approval to call the referendum for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan.
Recommendations	That Council: a) note the report; and b) authorise the Chief Executive, acting as Returning Officer, to arrange the referendum for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan.
Reason for Recommendation	To allow the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to Referendum.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following its Examination, the Independent Examiner has concluded that the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other relevant regulatory requirements. It has therefore been recommended that the Plan proceed onto referendum.
- 1.2 Neighbourhood Plans are required to meet the Basic Conditions set out at paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as well as a range of other regulatory requirements. It is through their Examination by an Independent Examiner that final conclusions are drawn over whether this is the case. Where a Plan is successful at Examination then it is able to proceed onto Referendum, with eligible persons being able to vote over whether it should be brought into force.
- 1.3 The Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Area was designated on 26 February 2021, with the first stage of public consultation being carried out in various phases between 5 June 2023 and 16 September 2023. Submission of a Draft Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council occurred in December 2024 with public consultation occurring between 8 January 2025 and 19 February 2025. The Plan was submitted for Examination in May 2025. Subject to the recommended modifications being accepted, the Examiner has concluded that the Plan should proceed onto referendum. Confirmation has been provided by the Parish Council that they are content with the recommended modifications.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 Approval is therefore sought for the referendum to be arranged for the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan as soon as practical. Prior to this date the referendum will be subject to a minimum, six-week publicity period. To support the referendum an Information Statement and the Notice of Referendum will be published and polling cards will be sent to all electors.
- 2.2 It is the District Council's responsibility to prepare a version of the Neighbourhood Plan incorporating any modifications from the Examiner, and it will be this version which goes to referendum. The Plan to be put referendum and its associated Examination report will be published on the District Council's website in advance of the Notice of Referendum being issued.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The District Council will be responsible for paying for the referendums, but funds will be provided by central Government to cover the cost of this exercise.

Legal Implications - LEG2526/5358

- 3.2 This is a matter reserved to Full Council under the Council's Constitution.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Submission Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan
Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report

Available at:

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/winthorpewithlangfordneighbourhoodplan/>