

Report to: Meeting of the Full Council: 5 March 2026

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny, Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Matthew Norton, Business Manager - Planning Policy & Infrastructure, Ext. 5852

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Report Title</b>	Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To advise the Council of the result of the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, and to seek approval from Council for the 'making' (adoption) of the Plan.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>(a) That the report be noted; and</p> <p>(b) Council 'make' Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan, confirming that it forms part of the Development Plan for Newark &amp; Sherwood District.</p>
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	To confirm that the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Development Plan for Newark & Sherwood District.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Since 2020, a steering group made up of local residents has led the production of the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan, and the Neighbourhood Area was designated in February 2021. The Neighbourhood Plan was developed with the assistance of District Council Officers and a consultant appointed by the Parish Council.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan was subject to several rounds of consultation with residents of Winthorpe with Langford. Following this, Winthorpe with Langford Parish Council submitted a Submission Draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations). The District Council published the Neighbourhood Plan for comments under Regulation 16 of the Regulations.

1.3 Following the Regulation 16 consultation, the Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to an independent examiner. The Examiner, having considered all the representations, including from the District Council, concluded that the plan was compliant with the relevant regulations subject to a number of modifications and could proceed to referendum. District Council Officers made the recommended modifications to create the Referendum Version of the Plan.

## **2.0 Proposal - 'Making' the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan**

2.1 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 has amended section 38 (subsection 3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (development plan). Through these revisions, where more than half of those voting in its referendum have voted in favour of the Plan then it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan and so can be used in the determination of planning applications within the neighbourhood area from that point forward.

2.2 Where a Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum then the Council must proceed to formally 'make' it, thus confirming that it has come into force. There are a narrow range of circumstances under which the Council could elect to not make a plan. These are where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU Obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998). Where the Council decides that a plan should not be made then it ceases to form part of the Development Plan.

2.3 With the Examiner's recommended modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with any EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provisions made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2.4 The referendum was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The question decided was: 'Do you want Newark and Sherwood District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Winthorpe with Langford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' 225 ballot papers were counted with none being rejected, representing a turnout of 37.82%. There were 225 votes for 'yes' and 20 for 'no'.

2.5 The Neighbourhood Plan, including its preparation, has been assessed and it is not considered to breach or be otherwise incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human rights Act 1998). With the referendum being passed the Plan has satisfied the necessary requirements in order to be 'made'.

## **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.

<b>Implications Considered</b>			
<b>Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable</b>			
Financial	Y	Equality & Diversity	N/A
Human Resources	N/A	Human Rights	N/A
Legal	Y	Data Protection	N/A
Digital & Cyber Security	N/A	Safeguarding	N/A
Sustainability	N/A	Crime & Disorder	N/A
LGR	N/A	Tenant Consultation	N/A

#### Financial Implications – FIN25-26/9019

- 3.1 The District Council will recover the cost of the referendum and associated administrative costs, but funds will be provided by Central Government to cover these costs.

#### Legal Implications - LEG2526/113

- 3.2 This is a matter reserved to Full Council under the Council’s Constitution. This report outlines the legal status and process of the Neighbourhood Plan. The outcome of the referendum showed a majority in favour of making the Neighbourhood Plan and therefore the Council as Local Planning Authority are obligated to make the Neighbourhood Plan within the eight weeks following the referendum.

#### **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.

The Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be seen here:

[Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan | Newark & Sherwood District Council](#)

Information about the Winthorpe with Langford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum can be seen here:

<https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/your-council/your-council/elections/12-february-2026-neighbourhood-plan-referendum/>