

COUNCIL MEETING – 9 MARCH 2020

BULCOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the Council's approval to call the referendum for the Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Following its Examination the Independent Examiner has concluded that the Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other relevant regulatory requirements. It has therefore been recommended that the Plan proceed onto referendum.

3.0 Background Information

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 The Bulcote Neighbourhood Area was designated on 26th April 2018, with the first stage of public consultation being carried out between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2019. Submission of a Draft Neighbourhood Plan to the District Council occurred in August 2019 with public consultation occurring between 12th September and 24th October 2019. The Plan was submitted for Examination on 22nd November 2019. 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.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 Approval is therefore sought for the referendum to be arranged for the Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 7 May 2020 – the same day as the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner. 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.

- 4.2 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.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The District Council will be responsible for paying for the referendums, but funds will be provided by central Government to cover the cost.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

a) the report be noted; and

b) the Chief Executive, acting as Returning Officer, be authorised to arrange the referendum for the Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 7 May 2020.

Background Papers

Submission Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan
Bulcote Neighbourhood Plan Examiner's Report

Available at: <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planningpolicy/neighbourhoodplanning/>

For further information please contact Matthew Tubb on extension 5850.

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