



Decision Statement (Reg. 18): Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan

15 August 2022

Purpose

This Decision Statement has been prepared and published in accordance with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). This statement sets out the Council's decision and proposed actions following receipt of the Examiner's Report into the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan.

This decision has been taken by the Director, Community as per the Council's Constitution (Part 3(24), version July 2022).

The Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan, this Decision Statement and the Examiner's Report are available to view and download from the Council's website¹. Paper copies may be inspected at East Cambridgeshire District Council's Customer Service Centre at The Grange, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4EE during normal opening times. Please refer to the Council's website for details.

Further information about the neighbourhood planning process, including the purpose of the examination and referendum is provided on the Council's website.

Background

The Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Area² was designated by East Cambridgeshire District Council in August 2019 and updated slightly in June 2021.

The Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and supporting evidence documents, were submitted to the Council by Haddenham Parish Council on 13 April 2022.

The Council published the Plan for a period of six weeks from 14 April to 31 May 2022. Comments were received from eight respondents during this period. Following publication, the District Council submitted the Plan for independent examination.

The main purpose of the independent examination is to assess whether or not the Plan satisfies certain "basic conditions" and other legal requirements which must be met before a Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a local referendum.

The Independent Examination was primarily held in June and July 2022. The Plan was examined by Mr David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI of Penny O'Shea Consulting. The examination was carried out through written representations, meaning no public hearing session was required, and included a site visit to the Neighbourhood Area.

Council's Decision

The Independent Examiner's recommendations are set out in the *Examiner's Report*³ which accompanies this Decision Statement.

¹ <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/haddenham-and-aldreth-neighbourhood-plan>

² A map of Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Area is available at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/haddenham-and-aldreth-neighbourhood-plan>

³ The examiner's Report is available at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/haddenham-and-aldreth-neighbourhood-plan>

In his report, the Independent Examiner confirms he is satisfied that the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan makes appropriate provision for sustainable development. The Independent Examiner concludes that, subject to applying a number of *recommended modifications*, the Plan has appropriate regard to national policy and achieves general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area.

The Independent Examiner also confirms there is no evidence to suggest that the Plan is not compatible with relevant EU obligations (as transposed into UK law), including human rights requirements.

Consequently, the Independent Examiner concludes that provided that his recommended modifications are applied, the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan would meet the basic conditions and should proceed to a referendum.

The examiner's recommendations are summarised in Appendix 1 of this statement.

The regulations require the Council to take a decision as to what action to take in response to the recommendations of the examiner, including what modifications to make to the draft plan. The Council has agreed with Haddenham Parish Council, the *Qualifying Body*, that the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan will be modified as per the examiner's recommendations.

A paper copy of this Decision Statement is available for inspection at the Council's Customer Service Centre at *The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4EE*.

Based on the examiner's findings and recommendations, the Council is satisfied that the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan, where modified as informed by the examiner's recommendations, meets the basic conditions and is otherwise legally compliant.

Referendum arrangements

Following this decision, the Council will proceed to arrange and hold a referendum. The purpose of the referendum is to enable local people to vote on whether the Council should use the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan (once the recommendations of the examiner have been incorporated) in taking planning decisions.

Where the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan is supported by the majority of voters, the plan will be 'made' by East Cambridgeshire District Council and will form a part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire.

The Independent Examiner is required to consider whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Area boundary (the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Area's boundary is coterminous with Haddenham Civil Parish boundary). The Independent Examiner concluded that such an extension is not necessary.

The referendum will be held within 56 working days of publication of this Decision Statement, as per the statutory requirements. Formal details will be confirmed on publication of the Information Statement.

Summary

East Cambridgeshire District Council is satisfied that, subject to applying the modifications recommended by the Independent Examiner, the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements and will proceed to referendum.

Appendix 1: Summary of Examiner's Recommendations

The following table provides a summary of the examiner's recommendations. For full details, refer to the Examiner's Report.

Table 1: Summary of Independent Examiner's recommendations

Examiner's report paragraph no.	Neighbourhood Plan (submission version) reference	Recommendation
17	Plan Title	Include the period for which the Plan is to have effect in its formal title
46	Policy HAD3	Rewrite policy as suggested
47	Policy HAD3	Clarify the position as regards affordable housing in the New Road scheme within the supporting text Consider including support in principle for affordable homes, including low cost home ownership, in the policy
49	Paragraph 7	Include this as a policy within the Plan
51	Policy HAD5	Reword policy as suggested Include an explanation of what this would mean in practice within the supporting text
52	Policy HAD5	Add the suggested sentence to the end of the policy Include an explanation of the implications of the permitted development provisions within the supporting text
57	Policy HAD7 Paragraph 8.2	Make the additions to paragraph 8.2 proposed by the Parish Council in response to the examiner's question Add the suggested sentence immediately afterwards
60	Policy HAD8	Insert a new paragraph in the supporting text (perhaps after paragraph 1.11) to explain the relationship between the Plan and the Design Code and the expectation that regard will be had to the guidance in the Design Code when development is proposed.
64	Policy HAD8	Include reference in the Plan to the fact that Map 7 is the result of a two-stage process, explain why it was necessary to revisit the conclusions of the Design Code exercise, and explain why the four additional viewpoints were subsequently included
66	Policy HAD9	Rewrite the policy as suggested
67	Policy HAD10 Paragraph 8.8	Correct the reference to the NPPF paragraph
68	Policy HAD11 Paragraph 8.9	Amend to quote from the current version of the NPPF

69	Policy HAD11 Paragraph 8.11	Delete the first sentence of paragraph 8.11 and replace as suggested
72	Policy HAD11	Publish the LGS appraisal referred to in paragraph 8.10 and include a summary of its findings in the supporting text to the policy
74	Policy HAD12	Add the phrase “wherever practicable” to the first sentence of the policy Include Historic England’s advice on local lists in the supporting text as suggested
77	Policy HAD13	Restructure the policy in order to (a) simplify it, (b) ensure that a clear explanation is given of the interplay between the policy itself, the various sources of guidance referred to and the supporting text, and (c) take opportunities to remove duplication of policy requirements within the Plan itself.