



Decision Statement: Fordham Neighbourhood Plan

10 September 2018

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 Fordham Neighbourhood Plan.

This decision has been taken by the Director (Commercial) as per the Council's Neighbourhood Planning governance arrangements¹.

The Fordham Neighbourhood Plan, the Decision Statement and Examiner's Report will be published on the Council's website². 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 Fordham Neighbourhood Area was designated by East Cambridgeshire District Council in Fordham 2017.

The Fordham Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) and supporting evidence documents, were submitted to the Council by Fordham Parish Council in May 2018.

The Council published the Plan for a period of six weeks from Thursday 17 May to Friday 29 June 2018. Following the publication period, 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 it can proceed to a local referendum.

The independent examination was held in July and August 2018. The Plan was examined by Mr David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI of Trevor Roberts Associates. The examination was carried out through written representations. No public hearing session was required.

Council's Decision

In his report the examiner concludes that, subject to a number of recommended modifications being followed, the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan makes appropriate provision for sustainable development; has appropriate regard to national policy; is in general

¹ http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/fc080115_P157.pdf

² <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/neighbourhood-planning>

conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and is compatible with EU obligations, including human rights requirements. As such, the examiner recommends the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan (as modified) proceed to referendum.

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.

A schedule of the examiner's recommended modifications is provided in Appendix 1. The final column in the schedule of modifications explains how the plan will be modified in accordance with the examiner's recommendations.

The Council is satisfied that subject to making the proposed modifications, the plan meets the basic conditions and is otherwise legally compliant.

Referendum arrangements

Following the examiner's recommendations and Council's decision, the Council will proceed to hold a referendum.

The purpose of the referendum is to enable local people to vote on whether, the Council should use the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan in taking planning decisions. Where the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan is supported by the majority of voters, the plan will be 'made' by the Council and form a part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire.

The examiner gave consideration to whether the referendum area should be extend beyond the boundary of the Fordham Neighbourhood Area (which is coterminous with Fordham Civil Parish boundary). The examiner concluded that the referendum area should not be extended. The Council will therefore apply the Fordham Neighbourhood Area as the referendum area. A map of the Fordham Neighbourhood Area is provided in Appendix 2.

The referendum is expected to be held in November 2018. However, this is a provisional date, formal details will be confirmed on publication of the Information Statement.

Summary

Following amendment as per the modifications set out in Appendix 1, it is concluded that the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the basic conditions and other legal requirements and will proceed to referendum.

Appendix 1: Summary of Examiner's Recommendations

Examiner's report paragraph	FNP reference	Examiner's recommended modifications	How plan will be modified
30	Title page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include period of coverage in Plan title 	The Plan's title will be amended to include date range of plan period - "2016-2036"
48	Policy 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-refer to Local Plan policies • Define "major development proposals" • Include reference to Mildenhall Rd appeal decision (in supporting text) 	<p>The Plan will be amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specific references to policies in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, or subsequent replacement, particularly in relation to the development beyond the identified allocations; • Provide a link to the glossary and provide an explanation of the term "major development proposals"; • Provide a reference in the supporting text to the recent Mildenhall Road proposal appeal decision (Ref: APP/V0510/17/3186785).
49	Policy 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include commitment to review the Plan 	The plan will be amended through the addition of a 'Monitoring and Review' section (as section 6). This will provide a commitment to review the plan, as and when circumstances dictate that such a review is necessary.
54	Policy 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicate on a map the areas to which it applies 	An indicative map diagram will be added to the supporting text of Policy 4 to show the broad location for the areas of separation.
61	Policy 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-refer to Local Plan policies 	The policy will be amended to provide specific reference to policies in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, or subsequent replacement.
64	Policy 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-locate as an aspiration or community project • Clarify / remove discrepancy with Policy 9 	Policy 10 will be relocated to the list of community aspirations in Section 5. Remove discrepancy regarding location of facilities.
66	Policy 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give examples of harmful impact 	Amend policy to provide examples of harmful impact upon pedestrian access and public rights of way.

Appendix 2: Map of Fordham Neighbourhood Area

