

## **Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan Final Decision Statement**

Decision Publication Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### **1. DECISION**

- 1.1 Following an independent examination and a positive referendum result, Bath & North East Somerset Council has decided, on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015, pursuant to Section 38A(4) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, to 'make' the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan').
- 1.2 The Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the Development Plan and the policies in the Plan will be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.

### **2. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 2.1 With the examiners recommended modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of the Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 2.2 The Referendum held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held in the Neighbourhood Plan area and posed the question "Do you want Bath & North East Somerset Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Freshford and Limpley Stoke to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?"

The results of the referendum were: 74% in favor (319/429) and 26%% against (110/429). The turnout was 50.1%.

- 2.4 Bath & North East Somerset Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan Area comprises the whole area of two Freshford in Bath & North East Somerset Council authority area (B&NES) and Limpley stoke in

the Wiltshire Council authority area. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, B&NES Council approved that the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Area be designated in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

- 2.2 Freshford and Limpley Stoke Parish Council submitted the draft Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan, and supporting documents, to B&NES Council on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
- 2.3 Following submission of the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan to the local authority, B&NES Council publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period 27<sup>th</sup> October 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 2.4 In December 2014, B&NES Council appointed an independent examiner, Ms Janet Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI, to review the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5 The examiner's report was received on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and concluded that subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, that the draft Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The examiner also recommended that the area for the referendum should not extend beyond the Neighbourhood Area to which the plan relates.
- 2.6 A referendum was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 74% of those who voted were in favor of the Plan. Paragraph 38A (4) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must make the Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Plan. The Council are not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan would breach, or would be otherwise incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 2.7 This decision statement, the Plan and details of where it can be inspected, have been published on our website. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or conduct business in the Neighbourhood area.

**Signed:**



**Lisa Bartlett**

Divisional Director – Development  
Bath & North East Somerset Council

**Dated:** 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015

