



Lancaster City Council

CATON WITH LITLEDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Decision Statement: Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan Proceeding to Referendum

In line with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Lancaster City Council (the 'Council') have produced this 'Decision Statement' in relation to the Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan (the 'Plan').

Background

The Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated by the Council in June 2015. Following initial engagement, Caton with Littledale Parish Council (Parish Council) carried out statutory consultation (Regulation 14). The Parish Council subsequently submitted the Plan and supporting documents to the Council.

The Council published the Plan for a period of six weeks from 18th November 2021 to 6th January 2022. Following the publication period, the 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 from June to November 2022. The examination was carried out through written representations.

The Council received a report into the Examination of the Caton with Littledale Neighbourhood Plan by the Independent Examiner dated 3rd November 2022 (Examiner's Report). The Examiner concluded that the Plan, subject to modifications, meets the Basic Conditions and other relevant legal requirements. The modifications are summarised in section 6 of the Examiner's Report and the reasoning for the recommendations is given within the main body of the report.

Following receipt of the Examiner's Report, the Plan has been modified in accordance with the recommendations

The Council's Decision

The decision was made by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Place on 20 January 2023.

The Council has considered each of the recommendations and the reasons given for them in the Examiner's Report as required by Regulation 12 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Council endorses all the recommended modifications and the reasons given for them. The Council is satisfied that the Plan, as modified to accord with the recommendations in the Examiner's Report, meets the legal requirements and basic conditions as set out in legislation.

Proceeding with the referendum would be to the benefit of adopting localism within the district, enabling communities to shape their area. It would enable the community as a whole to decide if the Plan should be used by the Council for determining planning applications.

The independent Examiner has scrutinised the Plan to determine if it meets the Basic Conditions. The Examiner has concluded that subject to the recommended modifications, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and the Plan is ready to proceed to Referendum. It is considered that the Inspectors modifications are necessary for the plan to meet the Basic Conditions.

Therefore, the Council has determined that the modified Plan should proceed to referendum.

This Decision Statement, along with the Examiners Report, the plan documents and the Council's Individual Cabinet Member Report and Decision to proceed to referendum are available to view and download from the Council's website:

<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>

They can also be viewed by prior arrangement at Customer Services, Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster, LA1 1PJ during normal opening times. Please refer to the website for details.