

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE / CHIEF OFFICER DECISION**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Portfolio Holders and key decisions made by Chief Officers. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules.

Portfolio	Lead Cabinet member for Planning
Subject Matter	Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan - Response to Consultation on the Submission Plan
Ward(s) Affected	Histon & Impington
Date Taken	Monday, 15 July 2019
Contact Officer	Alison Talkington, Senior Planning Policy Officer 01954 713182 (alison.talkington@scams.gov.uk)
Date Published	Monday, 15 July 2019
Call-In Expiry	Monday, 22 July 2019
Key Decision?	No
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	No

Purpose / Background	
Purpose	
1.	The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to the public consultation on the submission version of the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 19 June until 31 July 2019.
Background	
2.	The two parishes of Histon and Impington are treated as one community and since 2012 a grouped Parish Council has been in place. Histon & Impington Parish Council decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for this community to provide a more locally focussed set of policies for their parish. An application to designate that part of Histon & Impington north of the A14 of their parish as a Neighbourhood Area was submitted to SCDC in June 2014. It was considered that the area of Impington south of the A14 had very different needs and requirements which could not successfully be captured in a Neighbourhood Plan covering all parts of the parishes. The Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Area was designated on 9 September 2014.
3.	Officers provided informal comments on earlier drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan ahead of the formal pre-submission consultation process.
4.	A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening was undertaken on a draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan, and a

screening determination was published in October 2018.

5. Pre-submission public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken by the Parish Council from 1 October until 16 November 2018. Officers provided a formal response to the consultation, providing constructive comments about the Neighbourhood Plan to assist the neighbourhood plan group with finalising the Neighbourhood Plan.
6. On 3 June 2019, Histon & Impington Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan to SCDC. Officers have confirmed, as set out in the Legal Compliance Check for the Neighbourhood Plan that the submitted version of the Neighbourhood Plan and its accompanying supporting documents comply with all the relevant statutory requirements at this stage of plan making. Public consultation on the submitted Neighbourhood Plan is therefore being undertaken between 19 June and 31 July 2019.
7. Officers, in conjunction with Histon & Impington Parish Council, are in the process of selecting and appointing an independent examiner to consider this Neighbourhood Plan. All comments submitted during the public consultation on the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be provided to the examiner for their consideration.

Considerations

8. The Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Histon & Impington Parish Council to provide planning policies for development in the area, with the aim of providing greater clarity when determining planning applications in the area. The Neighbourhood Plan includes 19 planning policies that cover a range of issues including:
 - (i) Protecting the essential character of the community
 - (ii) Encouraging the growth and success of the retail, leisure and commercial businesses of the villages;
 - (iii) Ensuring the villages community infrastructure develops and adapts to emerging and changing demographic needs;
 - (iv) Developing a network of sustainable, accessible transport links within and around the villages;
 - (v) Supporting the community in continuing to make the villages safe, secure, supportive and welcoming to all;
 - (vi) Ensuring a sufficient supply of sustainable and high-quality housing within the villages.
9. To successfully proceed through its examination to a referendum, a Neighbourhood Plan must meet a number of tests known as the 'Basic Conditions'. These tests are different to the tests of soundness that a Local Plan must meet. The Basic Conditions are set out in national planning guidance and are summarised as follows:
 - (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan;
 - (b) the making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - (c) the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area;
 - (d) the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and
 - (e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, including that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a

European wildlife site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

- (f) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Our Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit includes Guidance Note 11 (What are the Basic Conditions and How to Meet Them), which sets out further details on each of the Basic Conditions. When a Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the local planning authority it must be accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement that sets out how the Parish Council considers that their Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

10. When considering a Neighbourhood Plan, the examiner will assess whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions. When an examiner recommends that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum (if it meets the Basic Conditions, with or without modifications), the examiner's report must also set out whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the neighbourhood area. Comments made during the current consultation on the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan, which will be provided to the examiner for their consideration, should therefore address whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and can also address whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the neighbourhood area.
11. SCDC is fully supportive of Parish Councils bringing forward Neighbourhood Plans for their areas, including Histon & Impington Parish Council's decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, and officers have been supporting the Parish Council in the plan's preparation. The Council's proposed response to this public consultation on the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan (as set out in Appendix 1) reiterates and supplements comments made previously by officers, both formally during the pre-submission consultation and informally on earlier versions of the plan, where they remain relevant and appropriate.
12. SCDC is supportive of the aims of the Histon & Impington Plan and our comments are intended to help the Plan to be successful at examination as well as delivering policies that are clear in their meaning and are unambiguous in their interpretation. SCDC recognise the achievement of Histon & Impington PC in reaching this stage of submitting their Plan to us for examination.
13. SCDC considers that a number of the policies in the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan, would need to have some amendments made to them for the Plan to be capable of meeting the Basic Conditions. These concerns are set out in the proposed response (see Appendix 1).
14. If the examiner is minded to recommend that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum, the Council does not feel that the referendum area needs to be extended beyond the Neighbourhood Area as the planning policies included in the plan would not have a substantial, direct or demonstrable impact beyond the parish.

Declaration(s) of Interest

Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.

None

Dispensation(s) <i>In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.</i>
None

Consultation <i>Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.</i>
Ward Councillors.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection
The option of not sending a response from SCDC was rejected as this Council has a duty to provide advice and assistance to groups preparing neighbourhood plans.

Final decision	Reason(s)
To agree the response from SCDC set out at Appendix 1.	The response is intended to provide the independent examiner with SCDC's comments on the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan.

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Portfolio Holder	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information <i>Appendix 1: SCDC response to the Histon & Impington Submission Neighbourhood Plan.</i>
