



South Somerset District Council

CASTLE CARY AND ANSFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT (PROCEEDING TO REFERENDUM) 11/06/2019

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The area for the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan comprises the whole of the parishes of Castle Cary and Ansford. In June 2015, South Somerset District Council formally agreed that the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Area be designated in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 1.2. Castle Cary and Ansford Parish Councils – the ‘qualifying body’, submitted the draft Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan, along with supporting documents, to South Somerset District Council in November 2018 for consultation, independent examination and the remaining stages of the draft Plan’s preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 1.3 Following submission of the draft Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan, South Somerset District Council publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the six week consultation period between 29th November 2018 and 19th January 2019.
- 1.4. In February 2019, South Somerset District Council appointed an independent examiner, Jill Kingaby to examine the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 1.5. The Examiner’s report was received in May 2019 and concluded that subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, the draft Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The Examiner also recommended that the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Area (the parish areas) are appropriate areas within which to hold a referendum.
- 1.6. In accordance with legislation, South Somerset District Council must consider the recommendations made in the Examiner’s report, decide what action to take in response to each recommendation and what modifications should be made to the draft Plan in order to be satisfied that it meets the Basic Conditions and is compatible with Convention Rights. If the authority is satisfied then a referendum must be held. Consideration also needs to be given as to whether to extend the area to which the referendum is to take place.

2. DECISION

- 2.1. Having considered the Examiner’s recommendations and reasons for them, the Council concurs with the Examiner’s view and at the District Executive meeting on 6th June 2019, it was agreed that modifications to the draft Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan should be made in accordance with Examiner’s recommendations, to ensure that it meets legal requirements including the Basic Conditions as set out in legislation.

2.2. The Council is satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.

2.3. The Council also agrees with the Examiner that the referendum area should reflect the extent of the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Area.