



East Coker Neighbourhood Plan
Statement of Decision to Make the Plan
Date of Publication 6th December 2018

1. Summary

1.1 Following a positive referendum result, South Somerset District Council has agreed at the District Executive meeting on 6th December 2018 to make the East Coker Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Statutory Development Plan.

2. Background

2.1 The East Coker Neighbourhood Area designation was approved by the District Council in September 2013. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan for the area was prepared by local stakeholders and a 'Pre-Submission' Plan consulted upon in January-March 2017 (Regulation 14). This was followed by formal submission of the Plan in March 2018 and the District Council carried out consultation in line with procedures set out in the relevant Regulations (Regulation 16). The Plan was then the subject of independent examination and the Examiner's Report concluded that the correct procedure for the preparation and submission of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan was followed and that it meets the 'Basic Conditions', subject to several Proposed Modifications being made. The District Council agreed on the 6th September 2017 with the Examiner's recommendations for Proposed Modifications and that the next step should be a local referendum.

2.2 The Referendum took place on 7th November 2018. The prescribed question that was asked was:

"Do you want South Somerset District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for East Coker to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area".

2.3 In the Referendum, 426 votes were cast. Of these, 352 voted in favour of the Plan, with 74 against. The turnout was 29.2%. The Plan is therefore now 'made' (or adopted). Now it has been confirmed, it will have equal status to the Local Plan and be part of the Statutory Development Plan. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1 The referendum met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations (As Amended). More than 50% of those who voted in the Referendum said 'Yes', so the Neighbourhood Plan is now 'made'. The decision is effective as of 6th December 2018.

3.2 The Plan, supporting documents, representations received and Examiner's Report are all available on the District Council's website - [South Somerset District Council - East Coker Parish Neighbourhood Area Designation](#)