

**Martock Neighbourhood Plan
Statement of Decision to Make the Plan
Date of Publication - 3rd June 2021**

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following a positive referendum result, South Somerset District Council has agreed at the District Executive meeting on 3rd June 2021 to make the Martock Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Statutory Development Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Martock Neighbourhood Area designation was approved by the District Council in April 2016. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan for the area was prepared and a 'Pre-Submission' Plan was consulted upon by the local Steering Group in July 2019 (Regulation 14). This initial consultation was followed by formal submission of the Plan in January 2020 and the District Council carried out formal consultation in line with procedures set out in the relevant Regulations (Regulation 16), and in accordance with Covid-19 Regulations. The Plan was then subject to an independent examination and the District Council agreed the Examiner's recommendations and the next step of a local referendum on the 4th March 2021.

- 2.2 The District Council held a local Referendum on the 6th May 2021. The prescribed question asked was:

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

The Referendum results were as follows: 997 votes were cast; 870 voted in favour (Yes) of the Plan, with 119 voting against (No). There were 8 rejected ballot papers; and the turnout was 37.8%. As more than 50% of those who voted said 'Yes', the Neighbourhood Plan can now be 'made' (or adopted). A neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum. At this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the 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 3rd June 2021.

- 3.2 The Plan, supporting documents, representations received and Examiner's Report are all available on the District Council's website - <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>