



**Kettering**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No:- 22/82

Committee:-	Council
Date:-	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Town clerk
Report Title:-	Headlands Neighbourhood Plan
Wards Affected:-	St Michaels and Wicksteed.

**1. Purpose of Report**

To update Council on progress with the neighbourhood plan, prior to its being put to a referendum of local people in the spring.

**2. Recommendations**

**Council is recommended** to agree the contents of the Decision Statement and ask NNC to proceed to arranging a referendum for the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**3. Information**

3.1. The Council approved the submission draft of the Headlands Neighbourhood Plan in November 2021, and in the intervening period, the draft has been tested by NNC as the planning authority and then by an independent examiner appointed by NNC, who proposed a number of largely textual and presentational changes to it. The changes made by the examiner were then commented on by the Town Council and by the planning authority. The Examiner's work is complete, his report has been fact checked by both the Town Council and NNC and a Final report has been submitted and accepted by NNC. NNC subsequently needs to produce a Decision Statement which sets out what actions will be taken to

implement the examiner's recommendations. The examiner's recommendations are attached as Appendix 1 to this report and the Decision Statement was due to be produced in time for this meeting.

- 3.2. One the attached Decision Statement has been formally published – expected during January NNC officers need to amend the draft plan so that it accords fully with the accepted recommendations. The final version will be shared with members when complete. The plan is then subject to a vote by affected local residents and businesses, through a referendum. The referendum date was considered by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee at their last meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January and of the two dates offered to them , they chose 27<sup>th</sup> April . About 1000 local households and businesses will be able to vote in the referendum, and a positive vote will lead to the Plan's adoption as formal planning policy, governing the planning authority's decision making.

#### **4. Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1. The plan has been the subject of engagement and communication with affected residents and businesses for some years, and between now and the referendum date, there will be a communications campaign, funded by the Town Council and overseen by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, to widen understanding of the plan and encourage people to vote. The Town Council's publicity has to be impartial in its description of the plan, but members of the residents group which has overseen the development of the plan are free to advocate it as a way forward.

#### **5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1. There is £1000 in the budget to support consultation and engagement work on the plan.

#### **6. Policy Implications**

- 6.1. The plan will form part of the planning policy framework for the Town. The plan will be the first predominately urban neighbourhood plan to be adopted in North Northamptonshire.

#### Background Papers

Minutes of Council 21/084 (Nov 21)

Minutes and papers of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee since October 2021

Communications with NNC and the independent examiner.

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended

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