

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Making of Northwich Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement published pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 Schedule 38A (9) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Northwich Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1 Work on the Northwich Neighbourhood Plan began in 2013, led by a Steering Group on behalf of the Town Council. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has involved extensive community consultation throughout, with support provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 1.2 The Northwich Neighbourhood Area is the same as the parish boundary and was approved and designated on 6th June 2013.
- 1.3 The Plan includes policies relating to seven topic areas including – retail and commercial, employment and education, housing, environment – natural and built, transport and infrastructure, health and wellbeing, recreation, tourism and waterways. The Plan’s vision is for Northwich to:

“become a thriving town where people want to live, work and visit. The extensive river frontage along with the newly built Barons Quay development will be harnessed as a vibrant focus of attraction for shopping and leisure in a daytime and evening economy. New developments in the Town Centre will be sympathetic to the existing heritage so that the character of a market town with black and white buildings will be retained. Developments out of the Town Centre will complement the features and character of the areas and will protect and preserve the many green spaces the town enjoys”.
- 1.4 The draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents were formally submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council in November 2017. Following a seven week period of publicity, an examiner was appointed with the agreement of the qualifying body (Northwich Town Council). The plan was then subject to examination and the independent examiner’s report was received in March 2018. The report concluded that, subject to a number of (relatively minor) modifications, the plan met the required ‘basic conditions’ and could proceed to referendum.
- 1.5 On 24 April 2018, the Council’s Cabinet Member agreed to accept the examiner’s recommendations and confirmed that the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 1.6 At the referendum held on 21 June 2018, voters were asked to say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to the prescribed question:

“Do you want Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Northwich to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

- 1.7 88.8% of those who voted said ‘yes’ to the plan. The outcome was as follows:

Response	Votes
Yes	1704
No	215
Rejected (unmarked)	12

Making of the Plan

- 2.1 Preparation of the Northwich Neighbourhood Plan has now progressed through the prescribed stages set out in the regulations with a positive outcome at both independent examination and referendum. The plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for the area. The Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are to be congratulated on a significant achievement in reaching this stage, which would not have been possible without their hard work and dedication.
- 2.2 The final stage of the preparation process is for the Council to ‘make’ the Plan. At the meeting of the Council’s Cabinet on 11 October 2017 it was agreed that the decision to make a neighbourhood plan be discharged to the Senior Manager – Planning and Strategic Transport. The full report and minutes can be read at <http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clid=983&MId=5184&Ver=4>

Decision

- 3.1 That the Northwich Neighbourhood Plan be formally made.
- 3.2 The reason for this decision is that the Northwich Neighbourhood Plan has progressed through the prescribed stages set out in the regulations with a positive outcome at both independent examination and referendum. The Council is now required to make the plan and no reasons exist as to why this should not happen.
- 3.3 The Senior Manager - Planning and Strategic Transport hereby exercises their delegated authority to make the plan.
- 3.4 A copy of this note will be sent to Northwich Town Council and anyone who asked to be notified of the decision. The note will also be sent to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure and the local ward councillors.

3.5 In accordance with Regulation 26 of the 2012 Regulations, the Council has published the following on its website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

- This statement which sets out the decision to make the plan and reasons for it;
- Details of where the decision document can be inspected.

3.6 The final version of the plan and associated documents has also been published on the website.

3.7 The documents can be viewed online on computer screens in the following Customer Service Centres during opening hours – please check the Council's website for details:

- The Forum, Chester, CH1 2HS;
- Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
- Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS;
- Neston Library, Parkgate Road, Neston, CH64 6QE;
- Ellesmere Port Customer Service Centre, First Floor, Ellesmere Port Library, CH65 0BG; and
- Frodsham Library and Integrated Services, Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX;

3.8 A paper copy of the Neighbourhood Plan is also available to view at:

- Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS



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Fiona Hore
Senior Manager - Planning and Strategic Transport

4 July 2018