

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Making of Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement published pursuant to Schedule 38A (9) of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended by the Localism Act) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.1 Work on the Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan began in 2016, led by a Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has involved extensive community consultation throughout, with support provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Area covers the whole of Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council.
- 1.3 The Plan includes policies relating to homes to meet the needs of local people; local infrastructure; transport; local distinctiveness, landscape, wildlife and open spaces.
- 1.4 The draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents were formally submitted to Cheshire West and Chester Council in April 2020. Following a seven week period of publicity, an examiner was appointed with the agreement of the qualifying body (Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council). The plan was then subject to examination and the independent examiner's report was published on 9th March 2021. The report concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the plan met the required 'basic conditions' and could proceed to referendum.
- 1.5 On 22 March 2021, 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 6 May 2021, 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 Utkinton and Cotebrook to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
- 1.7 90% of those who voted said 'yes' to the plan. The outcome was as follows:

Response	Votes
Yes	212
No	23
Turnout	40%

Making of the Plan

- 2.1 Preparation of the Utkinton and Cotebrook 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 Parish 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 Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan be formally made.
- 3.2 The reason for this decision is that the Utkinton and Cotebrook 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 Head of Planning hereby exercises their delegated authority to make the plan.
- 3.4 A copy of this note will be sent to Utkinton and Cotebrook Parish Council and anyone who asked to be notified of the decision. The note will also be sent to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Climate Emergency and the local ward councillors.
- 3.5 In accordance with Regulation 19 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 by appointment, or libraries during opening hours:
- The Forum, Chester, CH1 2HS;
 - Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
 - Northwich Customer Service Centre, 1 The Arcade, Northwich, CW9 5AS;
 - Ellesmere Port Customer Service Centre, First Floor, Ellesmere Port Library, CH65 0BG;
 - Frodsham Library and Integrated Services, Princeway, Frodsham, WA6 6RX;
 - Sandiway library, Mere Lane, Cuddington, Northwich, CW8 2NS
 - Winsford Library, High Street, Winsford, CW7 2AS
- 3.8 Please check the Council's website for details prior to visiting, in case any additional restrictions are in place.
- <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-a-library/find-a-library.aspx>
 - <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/customer-service-centres/customer-service-centres.aspx>
- 3.9 Further information is also available by contacting;
neighbourhoodplanning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Charnley', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom right.

Rob Charnley
Head of Planning

20 May 2021