

Decision Statement Regarding Hednesford Neighbourhood Development Plan (28.11.18)



(Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended)

Cannock Chase District Council decided by resolution of Full Council on 28th November 2018 to make the Hednesford Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Hednesford Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Cannock Chase District.

1. Decision and Reasons

- 1.1 The Hednesford Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the Basic Conditions and its promotion process is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. The Plan was endorsed by more than the required threshold in the referendum on 11th October 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 Hednesford Town Council applied to Cannock Chase Council for the land within the Town boundary to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 22nd April 2014. In order for the Hednesford Town Council area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) required the Town Council to apply to Cannock Chase Council. The consultation ran from 21st July 2014-14th September 2014 and no objections were received in response to the proposal. The Council Cabinet ratified the designation of Hednesford Neighbourhood Area on the 20th November 2014.
- 2.2 A draft Neighbourhood Plan was launched by the Town Council at Pye Green Community Centre on 4th July 2016. Formal consultation was carried out for 6 weeks during July- August 2016. The Town Council then undertook the Regulation 14 consultation on an updated draft Neighbourhood Plan for 6 weeks during September-October 2017.
- 2.3 The Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan was submitted by the Town Council to Cannock Chase District Council in January 2018 for assessment by an independent examiner. The Plan (and associated documents) was published for consultation by Cannock Chase District Council for 6 weeks between 12th February and 26th March 2018 (the Local Authority publicity consultation period- Regulation 16). Mr Robert Yuille was appointed as the Independent Examiner for

the Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan and all comments received to the Local Authority publicity consultation period were passed on for his consideration.

- 2.4 The Examiners Report was received on the 28th June 2018. The Examiner concluded that subject to modifications the Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions and all of the relevant legal requirements. On this basis it should therefore proceed to Referendum.
- 2.5 Cannock Chase District Council issued a 'Decision Statement' on the 2nd August 2018 which agreed with the Examiners recommendations and confirmed that the plan should proceed to Referendum.
- 2.6 A referendum was held on Thursday 11th October 2018. 79% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.
- 2.7 This decision statement can be viewed online on the Cannock Chase District Council website www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy or hard copies are available to view at the following locations during normal opening hours:
- Cannock Chase Council Civic Centre offices, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG
 - Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 4EP
 - Hednesford Library, Market Street, Hednesford, WS12 1AD