

Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement (October 2022)

A great place to live and work.

Summary

Following an Independent Examination and Referendum, Central Bedfordshire Council now confirms that the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') forms part of the Development Plan for Central Bedfordshire and the policies in the Plan can therefore now be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.

This final Decision Statement and the Plan can be viewed at the following place:

[Central Bedfordshire Council website](#)

Background

Biggleswade Town Council, as the relevant body, applied for the Town of Biggleswade to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Area application was approved by Central Bedfordshire Council ('the Council') on 4th July 2018 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Following the submission of the Plan to the Council in February 2022, the Plan was publicised and representations were invited under the formal Regulation 16 consultation. This consultation period was for 6 weeks, from **14th February 2022-28th March 2022**.

The Council, with the agreement of Biggleswade Town Council, appointed an Independent Examiner, David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI, to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to Referendum.

The Examiner's Report concluded that, subject to making the modifications proposed by the Examiner, the Plan met the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

Decisions & Reasons

The Council accepted the contents and proposed modifications in the Examiner's Report, with some changes to the proposed wording as set out in the [Decision Statement](#) and that the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan (as modified) should proceed to Referendum.

A Referendum took place on **Thursday 6th October 2022**. The results showed that **83.35%** of those who voted were in favour of the Plan.

On the 17th October 2022, the Director of Places and Communities made the delegated decision, pursuant to Section 38A(4) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to 'make' the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan as more than half of those voting, voted in favour of the Plan. This Decision Statement and the Plan have been published on our website. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the Neighbourhood Area via the Parish Council.