

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting/Date: Council – 15 October 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Planning

Report by: Chief Planning Officer

Ward(s) affected: Great Staughton

Executive Summary:

The Referendum on the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan was held on 4 September 2025 and resulted in an 92.3% 'Yes' vote in support of making the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan. As this exceeds the required threshold of 50% of the votes cast the Council is required to formally 'make' the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan unless the Council considers that it would be incompatible with any EU or human rights obligations. As part of the statutory development plan the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan would be used to help decide planning applications within the neighbourhood area.

It is not considered that making the plan would be incompatible with an EU or human rights obligation and the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan must therefore be 'made'.

Recommendation(s):

The Council is

RECOMMENDED

To 'make' the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan in the form attached as Appendix 1 such that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for Huntingdonshire with immediate effect.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider whether the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan should be officially 'made' such that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for Huntingdonshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Great Staughton Neighbourhood Area was formally designated on 21 January 2021. Following substantial local consultation to aid with preparation of the plan it was submitted for statutory consultation which took place between 11 December 2024 and 5 February 2025. The submission neighbourhood plan, its supporting evidence base and all responses to the statutory consultation were subject to an independent examination commencing on 17 February 2025 with the final report issued on 3 April 2025.
- 2.2 The examination confirmed that the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan should move forward to referendum subject to modifications and confirmed that it complied with the specified basic conditions, was properly prepared by the qualifying body, covered the designated plan area, did not contain any excluded development and contained policies that related to the development and use of land. The examiner's report also confirmed that there was nothing in the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan that led them to conclude there would be any breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. They also confirmed that the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with EU obligations arising from the Habitats Regulations Assessments and other directives (as retained in UK law).
- 2.3 The outcome of the examination and proposed changes were reported to Cabinet on 17 June 2025. Arising from these it was agreed that the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan as proposed to be modified should progress to referendum.

3. ANALYSIS

- 3.1 The referendum was held on 4 September 2025 where the statutorily set question was posed asking residents of the designated neighbourhood area: 'Do you want Huntingdonshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Staughton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'.
- 3.2 A total of 707 people were eligible to vote in the referendum; 168 ballot papers were issued representing a turnout of 23.76%. The number of votes cast in favour of 'Yes' was 155, the number of votes in favour of 'No' was 13 with 0 ballot papers rejected where the intended vote could not be clearly determined. This indicated a majority of 92.3% voting in favour of using the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan to help decide planning applications within the designated neighbourhood area.

- 3.3 As the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan was endorsed by more than the required threshold of 50% of those voting the Council must now 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan such that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for Huntingdonshire unless the Council considers that it would be incompatible with any EU or human rights obligations. It is not considered that making the plan would be incompatible with an EU or human rights obligation and the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan must therefore be 'made'.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The key impacts of this are the reiteration of the importance of the planned system with town and parish councils and residents of the neighbourhood plan area having the opportunity to positively influence how their community grows in the future.
- 4.2 Successful 'making' of a Neighbourhood Plan entitles Great Staughton Parish Council to an increased proportion of CIL receipts from development within the neighbourhood area, up from 15% to 25%.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan with immediate effect.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Progressing the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan through to referendum links to the Corporate Plan Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Section 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. The Council is content that the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan meets the specified basic conditions, does not breach the European Convention on Human Rights and is not incompatible with EU obligations arising from the Habitats Regulations Assessments and other directives (as retained in UK law).

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An additional 10% of CIL receipts within the neighbourhood area will be passed over to Great Staughton Parish Council. This may have implications on resource availability for infrastructure projects provided by this Council. Additional support, both financial and partnership working, may be sought to help deliver some of the projects identified in the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory obligation to 'make' the Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan now that it has successfully passed the referendum stage.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet 17 June 2025

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 17 June 2025, 7:00 pm - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(as amended\)](#)

[National Planning Practice Guidance \(Neighbourhood Planning\)](#)

Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan Webpage

[Neighbourhood Plan | Great Staughton Parish Council | Mobile Library, Post Office & Doctors](#)

[Neighbourhood Planning webpage](#)

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