Appendix 3 - The draft Decision Statement

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan

Draft Decision Statement

Following an independent examination Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet confirmed on the 20 October 2026 that the joint Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

Background

The Great and Little Gidding, Hamerton and Steeple Gidding, and Winwick Neighbourhood Plan Area was designated on 30 March 2023 under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). The plan area covers the parishes of Great and Little Gidding, Hamerton and Steeple Gidding, and Winwick and is contiguous with the combined Parish council's administrative boundaries.

The joint neighbourhood plan covers the parishes of Great and Little Gidding, Hamerton and Steeple Gidding, and Winwick. Great and Little Gidding Parish Council has taken the lead in preparing the joint plan for the three parishes and, with the consent of the two other parishes, is authorised to act in relation to the neighbourhood area.

The joint neighbourhood plan submitted the Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting evidence to Huntingdonshire District Council 19 March 2026. The statutory six week submission consultation was held from 11 May 2026 and 23 June 2026.

Huntingdonshire District Council, in discussion with the Parish Councils, appointed an independent examiner, Andrew S Freeman BSc(Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI, to review whether the submitted Neighbourhood Plan met the Basic Conditions as required by legislation. Andrew S Freeman issued his report on 27 August 2026 which recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan, subject to the modifications proposed in his report, met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.

Following discussions with the qualifying body it was decided that the Examiner's recommendations would be accepted in full.

The Basic Conditions are:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;

- The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, European Union (EU) obligations; and
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended) set out two basic conditions in addition to those set out in primary legislation and referred to above. These are:

- The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.
- Having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the neighbourhood development order is made where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development (this is not applicable to this examination).

Decision and Reasons

Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet considered the recommendations on 20 October 2026 and agreed to accept the Examiner's proposed modifications and approve the Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to referendum.

The modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan, as needed to ensure it meets the Basic Conditions and in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations are listed in the following table.

Examiner's Recommended Modifications Received 27 August 2026

The statement below sets out the modifications considered by the examiner as necessary to enable the submission neighbourhood plan to meet the required basic conditions. Strike-through text indicates a deletion and bold indicates the insertion of additional text.

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
PM1	Front cover	On the front cover of the Plan change “2023” to “2023 to 2036”.
PM2	Page 6	For Figure 1, substitute a copy of the plan accompanying the neighbourhood area designation approval dated 30 March 2023.
PM3	Page 24	Change the ending of Point 1 of Policy 1 so that it reads, “intrusive elements into the important views shown in Figure 15, in so far as they relate to land within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.” Amend Point 2 of the policy so that it reads, “With reference to built form, scale, proportions, details and materials, new developments should reflect and respect the existing character and identity of the villages as set out in the GWH Neighbourhood Plan - Village Contextual Analysis.” Provide a link to the Contextual Analysis. Substitute the following for Point 9 of the policy: “New residential units should reflect the size and nature of existing properties in the parishes which are predominantly medium to large detached houses.”
PM4	Page 26	In Policy 2, substitute the following for Point 3: “As set out in Surface Water Planning Guidance, the rate of surface water discharge from any new development on previously developed land shall not exceed the existing runoff rate.” Provide a link to Surface Water Planning Guidance. In Point 4, quote the document where industry standards on open access ducting can be found and add a link thereto.
PM5	Page 31	In the first point in Policy 3, replace 20% with 10%. Add, “Net gain at a level of 20% will be supported and encouraged.”
PM6	Pages 41 and 42	Replace Policy 5 with the following: “1. The nine spaces identified in Paragraphs 15.10.2, 15.10.3 and 15.10.4, and mapped in

Proposed modification number (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
		the [refer to the figures identifying the spaces], are designated as Local Green Spaces. 2. Any new proposal affecting the Local Green Spaces or their setting should respect their use, scale, aspect and visual contribution to the settlement. 3. Development proposals on these sites will not be supported unless they are consistent with national policy for Green Belts." Include, in Section 15, plans from the Local Green Spaces Evidence Report, October 2025, that identify the respective spaces.