

Bookham Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

The following statement was agreed at the MVDC Council meeting of 6 December 2016.

Summary

Following an Independent examination, Mole Valley District Council confirms formal acceptance of the recommendations outlined in the Bookham Neighbourhood Plan Examination Report. The Examiner recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Referendum subject to a number of modifications. This Recommendation was agreed at the Meeting of Mole Valley District Council held on 6 December 2016.

Background

Bookham Vanguard Forum was designated by MVDC in December 2012 and is the qualifying body for preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Bookham.

The Bookham Neighbourhood Area was also designated by MVDC in December 2012 and comprises the electoral wards of Bookham North and Bookham South.

The draft BNDP was submitted to Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) in December 2015. It was published between 12 February and 6 April 2016 and representations were invited, as required under Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011.

In July 2016, Mole Valley District Council appointed Andrew Ashcroft as Independent Examiner, to review whether the plan met the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements and whether the plan should proceed to referendum. The appointment was made in agreement with Bookham Vanguard Neighbourhood Forum and MVDC is satisfied that Mr Ashcroft satisfies the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990: that the examiner is independent of the qualifying body, has no interest in any land that may be affected by the draft plan and has appropriate qualifications and experience.

The Examiner's Report concludes that the Bookham Neighbourhood Plan does meet the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements, subject to a number of modifications. It further concludes that the plan can proceed to a Referendum. The Referendum area should be based on the Bookham Neighbourhood Area, as designated by MVDC.

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

The recommendations set out in the examiner's report are detailed in the Schedule of Modifications. The examiner's report should be read in full for a detailed explanation of the reasons for recommending modifications. A copy can be viewed at www.molevalley.gov.uk/localplans.

Mole Valley District Council has considered each recommendation set out in the examiner's report. The Council's response is included in the table.

In summary, the Council agrees with all the examiner's recommendations, but proposes some minor changes to the wording of policies BKEC2 and BKH4 and the supporting text to policies BKH4 and BKIN3. These changes are considered to be non-material and do not change the meaning of the plan's policies or the examiner's recommendations. They are proposed in the interests of clarity and readability.

The Examiner recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Referendum, subject to the recommended modifications being made.

Mole Valley District Council agrees with the examiner's recommendation. Arrangements will now be made for a referendum to be held, concurrent with Local Government Elections on 4 May 2017.