

DECISION STATEMENT REGULATION 18(2)

SOMERBY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thursday 17th December, 2020

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following an independent examination, Melton Borough Council can now confirm that the Somerby Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Referendum.
- 1.2 This decision statement is available to view online on the Council's website at www.meltonplan.gov.uk.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Somerby Parish received formal area designation for the purposes of preparing a NP the 21st December, 2015. This area comprises of the whole of the Parish of Somerby, inclusive of all four settlements, Somerby, Pickwell, Burrough on the Hill and Leesthorpe as shown in Appendix 1 in this document.
- 2.2 Somerby Parish Council – the 'qualifying body', submitted the Somerby Neighbourhood Plan, along with supporting documents, to Melton Borough Council in March, 2020 for consultation, independent examination and the remaining stages of the draft Plan's preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The Council conducted a 'Regulation 16' 6-week formal public consultation on the Plan, from the 28th May, 2020, until 10th July 2020.
- 2.3 Following this period, Melton Borough Council appointed an independent examiner, John Slater, in September, 2020, to examine the Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 2.5 The examiner's final report was issued to the Local Planning Authority on the 27th November, 2020. He concludes that subject to a series of recommended modifications set out in his report, the Somerby Neighbourhood Development Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.6 Moreover it is also recommended that the referendum should be held within the neighbourhood area (Somerby Parish).
- 2.7 As a delegated decision, Melton Borough Council's approved the plan to go forward to referendum, including all of the recommendations made by the Examiner and that the referendum area is appropriate.

3 DECISION AND REASONS

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
- 3.2 Having considered the examiner's recommendations and reasons for them, Melton Borough Council concurs with the examiner's view and have decided to make modifications to the draft Somerby Plan to ensure that it meets legal requirements including the Basic Conditions as set out in the legislation.
- 3.3 The Council is satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.
- 3.4 The Council also agrees with the examiner that the referendum area should reflect the extent of the parish of Somerby.
- 3.5 The Referendum is currently being arranged by Melton Borough Council. Details of the Referendum, including the date it will be held, how people can vote and who is eligible to vote will be publicised in due course.
- 3.6 It should be noted that in response to the spread of COVID-19, MHCLG has published an update on planning matters, including temporary measures affecting neighbourhood plans.
- 3.7 Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 mean that no referendum can take place until 6 May 2021. These provisions will be kept under review and may be amended or revoked in response to changing circumstances.
- 3.8 Neighbourhood Plans awaiting referendums can be given significant weight in decision-making.

APPENDIX 1 – Somerby Neighbourhood Area

