

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISION STATEMENT:

MARPLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Regulation 18

Date: 12th February 2024

At its meeting on the 11th January 2024, Stockport MBC (SMBC) resolved that following the inclusion of the recommended modifications in the Examiner's Report¹ that the Marple Neighbourhood Plan can:

- proceed to a referendum; and
- form part of the development plan for Stockport in the event that it receives majority support at that referendum.

To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum will be held in the area formally designated as Marple Neighbourhood Area².

The referendum will pose the question:

“Do you want Stockport Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Marple to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

If approved at referendum, Marple Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used by SMBC, alongside the Saved Unitary Development Plan policies and Core Strategy, for determining applications for development within the Marple Neighbourhood Area.

This Decision Statement, the Examiner's Report, a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan and other supporting documents that were subject to the examination can be viewed on the SMBC website at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/marple/referendum-plan> and on deposit at the following locations:

- High Lane Library, Buxton Road, High Lane, Stockport, SK6 8DX
- Hazel Grove Library, Beech Avenue, Hazel Grove, Stockport, SK7 4QP
- Marple Library, Memorial Park, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6BA
- Stopford House Reception, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE

¹ The Examiner's Report has been made available on the SMBC website at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/marple> and as a paper copy at the above listed deposit points during the referendum notification period.

² Marple Neighbourhood Area as designated by SMBC on 30th June 2016, under paragraph 61F of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

1. Background

Stockport MBC designated Marple Neighbourhood Forum as the qualifying body on 1st December 2016 and later re-designated it on 18th November 2021, as required by legislation, under paragraph 61F of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. The Neighbourhood Area for Marple was approved and designated on 30th June 2016.

The Pre-Submission Draft Marple Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ('the Regulations') between 20th November 2021 and 8th January 2022.

Subsequently, the draft plan and supporting documents were submitted by Marple Neighbourhood Forum to SMBC under Regulation 15(1) of the Regulations on 13th December 2022. Following consideration by the Council, the plan was then formally published for comments under Regulation 16 of the Regulations for a period of six weeks between 8th February and 26th March 2023.

Mr Nigel McGurk BSc (Hons) MCD MBA MRTPI was then appointed with the consent of SMBC and Marple Neighbourhood Forum to undertake the examination of the Plan, and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The examination commenced in June 2023 and was conducted through written representations. The Examiner's report was received on the 26th October 2023. It concludes that the Marple Neighbourhood Plan, subject to recommended modifications, meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation and other statutory requirements and should proceed to referendum.

2. Decision and Reasons

The Regulations require that SMBC publishes how it intends to respond to the Examiner's recommendations under Regulation 18.

Following receipt of the report, SMBC considered each of the recommendations made in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and the reasons for them and decided to accept modifications to the draft Neighbourhood Plan as set out in the Examiner's Report. The modifications are necessary to ensure that the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and legal requirements.

The submitted plan was accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report. None of the modifications set out in the Examiner's Report are considered to necessitate revisiting this assessment.

SMBC agreed the following at a meeting of the Council on 11th January 2024:

1. Following the inclusion of the Examiner's recommended modifications into the Plan, that the Plan is approved to proceed to a referendum;
2. In the event that it receives majority support at that subsequent referendum, that the Plan can be adopted as part of the development plan for Stockport.

The date on which the referendum will take place is agreed as Thursday 21 March 2024.