



## **BLACKFORDBY NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – FINAL DECISION STATEMENT**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Following a positive referendum result North West Leicestershire District Council is publishing its decision to 'make' the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Blackfordby Neighbourhood Development Plan forms part of the Development Plan for North West Leicestershire District.

### **2. Reasons for Decision**

- 2.1 The Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Condition and its promotion process is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 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 of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. The Plan was endorsed by more than the required threshold in the referendum on 7 April 2022.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In October 2017 Ashby de la Zouch Town Council applied for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This designation was agreed by the District Council on 22 January 2018.
- 3.2 On 29 July 2021, Ashby de la Zouch Town Council submitted the Examination Version of the Plan to the District Council. It underwent a period of consultation from 27 August 2021 to 8 October 2021. North West Leicestershire District Council appointed an Independent Examiner, Mr Andrew S Freeman, to assess whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 3.3 The Examiner's report concluded that, subject to modifications, the Blackfordby will meet the necessary basic conditions and subject to these modifications being made should proceed to a referendum based on the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.4 A referendum was held on 7 April 2022, and the question asked at referendum was:

*"Do you want North West Leicestershire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Blackfordby to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?"*

The turnout was 19.95% and 89.3% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 3.5 North West Leicestershire District Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

- 3.6 The Council agreed to make the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan on 28 April 2022.
- 3.7 In accordance with the regulations, the Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan is therefore to be used in considering planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area, as well as other existing planning policy, including the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan.