

## SWANNINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

### 1. Summary

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

### 2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1. The Swannington Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions, 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. The Plan was endorsed by 80% of those who voted in the referendum on 2 March 2023.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. In November 2018, Swannington Parish Council made an application to NWLDC for a neighbourhood area to be designated under Part 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This designation was agreed by the District Council on 7 January 2019.
- 3.2. Following the submission of the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in July 2022, the Plan underwent a six week public consultation between 5 September 17 October 2022. NWLDC appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Mead, to assess whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 3.3. The examiner published his report on 19 December 2022, where he recommended that, subject to certain modifications, the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.
- 3.4. A referendum was held on 2 March 2023, and the question asked at referendum was:
- “Do you want North West Leicestershire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Swannington to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”*
- 3.5. The turnout was 12% and 80% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.6. 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).
- 3.7. The Council agreed to make the Swannington Neighbourhood Plan on **22 March 2023**. It forms part of the development plan alongside the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan and will be used to determine planning applications in the neighbourhood area.