

LOCKINGTON AND HEMINGTON 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 Lockington and Hemington Neighbourhood Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Lockington and Hemington Neighbourhood Development Plan forms part of the Development Plan for North West Leicestershire District.

2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1. The Lockington and Hemington 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 more than 94% of those who voted in the referendum on 25 January 2024.

3. Background

- 3.1. In March 2021, Lockington and Hemington 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 5 May 2021.
- 3.2. Following the submission of the Lockington and Hemington Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in May 2023, the Plan underwent a six week public consultation between 16 June and 28 July 2023. NWLDC 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 published his report on 9 October 2023, where he recommended that, subject to certain modifications, the Lockington and Hemington Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.
- 3.4. A referendum was held on 25 January 2024, and the question asked at referendum was:

“Do you want North West Leicestershire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lockington and Hemington to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”

- 3.5. The turnout was 18% and 94% 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 Lockington and Hemington Neighbourhood Plan on **19 February 2024**. 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.