

**To the Chair and Members of the
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

**EVALUATION OF THE TICKHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING REFERENDUM
HELD ON 23RD JULY 2015**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council's first Neighbourhood Planning Referendum election took place in Tickhill on 23rd July 2015. The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the election and to provide an update on any future Neighbourhood Planning elections. Any additional issues identified at this meeting will be incorporated into the service development plans for future elections.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

3. The Committee is asked to approve the report and make any additional comments in relation to the contents.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. A Neighbourhood Planning Referendum was held in the Tickhill area on 23rd July 2015 with the following question:

“Do you want Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Tickhill to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The outcome of the results were as follows:

Number of votes cast in favour of a 'YES'	1008
Number of votes cast in favour of a 'NO'	151
The number of ballot papers rejected	0
Electorate:	4359
Ballot papers:	1159
Turnout	26.59%

The outcome of the Referendum was in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Tickhill area.

5. Out of an electorate of 4,359 the number of electors who voted was 1,159 (26.59% turnout), of which 1,008 were in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Tickill area.
6. The Count was observed by two members of the Parish, local ward Councillors and a member of the Planning Department who all complimented on how well run and organised the election was throughout.

BACKGROUND

7. On 2nd November 2012, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council designated the Tickhill area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Part Two of the Town and Country Planning (England), Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
8. Following the submission of the Tickhill Neighbourhood Development Plan to the Council in June 2014, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ended on Monday 4th August 2014.
9. The Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr Terry Heselton, to review whether the Plan should proceed to referendum. The examiner's report concludes that, subject to a number of modifications, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.
10. Therefore to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum, which poses the question 'Do you want Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Tickhill to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' was held on Thursday 23rd July 2015 in the Tickhill area.
11. The outcome of the Referendum was in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Tickhill area. The neighbourhood plan now becomes part of the development plan. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

12. Future Planning Referendums

Our Planning Department have notified us of 5 other Neighbourhood Plans underway at present as follows:

Burghwallis

The next stage is examination, expected to be by the end of this year. The earliest we would expect a referendum would be January 2016.

Armthorpe

The next stage is examination, expected to be by the end of this year. The earliest we would expect a referendum would be January 2016.

Thorne and Moorends

Their current project plan timetables the referendum for October 2016.

Rossington

The very earliest would be the end of 2016.

Bawtry

Early in the process – at least 18 months away from a referendum, likely to be early 2017.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are comprehensive statutory provisions covering the delivery of elections.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The Council's Planning Department pay for the cost of a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum which is a set fee claimed back from Government.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Tickhill Neighbourhood Plan Referendum - Information Statement
- Declaration of results – Tickhill planning Referendum

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