

**TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

**EVALUATION OF THE BURGHWALLIS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING  
REFERENDUM HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Council's second Neighbourhood Planning Referendum election took place in Burghwallis on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the referendum. Any additional issues identified at this meeting will be incorporated into the service development plans for future elections.

**EXEMPT REPORT**

2. Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 Burghwallis area on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 with the following question:

**“Do you want Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Burghwallis 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'	76
Number of votes cast in favour of a 'NO'	11
The number of ballot papers rejected	0
Electorate:	245
Ballot papers:	
Polling Station	49
Postal Vote	38
Turnout	35.51%

The outcome of the Referendum was in favour of using the Neighbourhood Plan for Burghwallis to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

5. Out of an electorate of 245 the number of electors who voted at the Referendum was 87 (35.51% turnout), of which 76 electors were in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Burghwallis area.
6. The Count took place at the close of poll and was observed by five members of the Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who all complimented on how well run and organised the Referendum was throughout.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council designated the Burghwallis 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 Burghwallis Neighbourhood Development Plan to the Council in August 2015, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. The publicity period ended on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015.
9. The Council appointed an independent examiner, Nigel McGurk BSc(Hons) MCD MBA MRTPI, 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 Burghwallis to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in the Burghwallis area.
11. The outcome of the Referendum was in favour of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Burghwallis 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.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Burghwallis Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – Decision Statement
- Declaration of results for Burghwallis Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

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