

Lichfield City & Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plans Final Decision Statements

Report of the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth, Environment & Development Service:

Councillor I. Pritchard



Date:	27 March 2018
Agenda Item:	4
Contact Officer:	Ashley Baldwin/Patrick Jervis
Tel Number:	01543 308147/308196
Email:	Ashley.baldwin@lichfielddc.gov.uk/Patrick.jervis@lichfielddc.gov.uk
Key Decision?	YES
Local Ward Members	All Lichfield City Ward Members & Whittington & Fisherwick Ward Members

CABINET

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report relates to the preparation of two Neighbourhood Plans covering Lichfield City and Whittington & Fisherwick, which have recently been subject to referendum. Both Neighbourhood Plans received a majority 'Yes' vote at their respective referendums. The District Council now has to formally 'make' the Lichfield City and Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plans, following which they will form a part of the Lichfield District Development Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the results of the referendums for the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan and the Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan as presented at paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of this report.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees to the making of the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan and that this decision is then reported to Full Council.
- 2.3 That Cabinet agrees to the making of the Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan and that this decision is then reported to Full Council.

3. Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood planning is one of the provisions of the 2011 Localism Act allowing local communities to bring forward detailed policies and plans which can form part of the statutory planning process for an area and its residents.
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require that Neighbourhood Plans are subject to a referendum. The referendums were held in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012. All those eligible to vote in the Lichfield Neighbourhood Area voted 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question, "Do you want Lichfield District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lichfield City to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?" All those residents eligible to vote within the Whittington & Fisherwick neighbourhood voted 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question, "Do you want Lichfield District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Whittington & Fisherwick to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area? If the majority (50% +1) of the turnout vote in favour the Local Planning Authority (Lichfield District Council) must make the Neighbourhood Plan.

- 3.3 The referendum for Lichfield City was held on 22 February 2018. The Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan referendum received a turnout of 17%, with 2384 (57%) votes in favour and 1806 (43%) votes against the making of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.4 The referendum for Whittington & Fisherwick was also held on 22 February 2018. The referendum received a turnout of 19.6% with 392 (90%) votes in favour and 43 (10%) votes against the making of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.5 The 2012 Regulations require that upon the completion of the referendum the Local Planning Authority is required to publish a 'Decision Statement' on their website. This Decision Statement will state that the Neighbourhood Plan has been successful at referendum and will now be 'made', and will form a part of the Development Plan for Lichfield District. A proposed Decision Statement in respect of the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan is attached at [Appendix A](#) and for Whittington and Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan attached at [Appendix B](#).
- 3.6 The Cabinet is asked to note the referendum results set out at paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of this report and the Decision Statement and agree to the making of both the Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan and Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan. The Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan is attached at [Appendix C](#) and the Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan is attached at [Appendix D](#). The decision of the Cabinet will then need to be endorsed by Full Council.
- 3.7 Subject to a decision to make the two Neighbourhood Plans, the District Council will need to publish a Decision Statement for each online, and provide the Decision Statement to the respective Qualifying Bodies and any other stakeholder who has requested to be notified of the decision. Each Neighbourhood Plan will form a part of the Development Plan for Lichfield District and will be used in determining planning applications. The made Neighbourhood Plan will be published online and the prescribed persons will be notified.

Alternative Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lichfield District Council refuses to make the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council can only do this if it considers this would breach, or be incompatible with any EU Obligation or any of the Convention Rights. 2. Following the making of the Neighbourhood Plan, Lichfield District Council can decide to modify or revoke the Neighbourhood Plan, in line with the Regulations.
Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In line with the Regulations the Neighbourhood Plan has been through numerous consultation periods. A Consultation Statement detailing the consultation undertaken throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process was provided by the Qualifying Bodies (Lichfield City Council and Whittington & Fisherwick Parish Council) as part of their Neighbourhood Plan Submission Documents. 2. The Neighbourhood Plan Referendum was publicised according to the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012.
Financial Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government has made grant aid available to District Councils in recognition of the level of resourcing required in the administration of Neighbourhood Plans. A grant of £20,000 will be applied for during the next available funding window following the referendum. 2. Communities with Neighbourhood Plans in place will be entitled to 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts generated by eligible development in their area. Communities with no Neighbourhood Plan will be entitled to 15%.

Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	1. The Neighbourhood Plan demonstrates that it is in broad conformity with the Local Plan Strategy (2015) which conforms with the Strategic Plan.
--	---

Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extensive consultation procedures provided for by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 ensure that consultation is undertaken with the wider community and covers human rights matters. 2. The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 ensure that all those eligible were entitled to vote in the referendums. 3. Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) have been completed for both Neighbourhood Plans, please see Appendix E and Appendix F for the Lichfield City EqIA and Whittington & Fisherwick EqIA respectively.
---	---

Crime & Safety Issues	1. Crime and community safety issues may be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plans.
-----------------------	--

	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	Qualifying Body propose the replacement of the Neighbourhood Plan.	Ensure the Qualifying Body produce the replacement Neighbourhood Plan in accordance to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.	Green
B	Lichfield District Council decide to modify the made Neighbourhood Plan.	Lichfield District Council in line with the Regulations will seek the permission of Qualifying Body before modifying the Neighbourhood Plan, and will carry out the process in accordance with the Regulations.	Green
C	Lichfield District Council decide to revoke the made Neighbourhood Plan.	Lichfield District Council will gain permission from the Secretary of State before revoking the Neighbourhood Plan, the revocation will be in accordance with the Regulations.	Green
D	Secretary of State revokes the made Neighbourhood Plan.	This would be outside the control of the District Council.	Green

Background documents

1. Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 & Amendments
2. Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 & Amendments
3. [Lichfield City Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Referendum Version)
4. [Whittington & Fisherwick Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Referendums Version)
5. [Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy](#)

Relevant web links

1. Copies of the submitted neighbourhood plans can be found via:
 - www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/lichfieldnp
 - www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/whittingtonfisherwicknp