



Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2031

Decision Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Council at its Regeneration Services Committee meeting on 4 September 2017 accepted the examiner's recommendations in relation to the examination of the Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed that the Plan, subject to modifications, can now proceed to referendum.
- 1.2 The Council also agreed with the examiner's recommendation that the referendum area need not be extended beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area ratified by the Council on 18 December 2013.
- 1.3 The Examiner's Report, along with the submission version of the Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents are available on the Council's website at www.hartlepool.gov.uk.
- 1.4 Hard copies of the documents can also be viewed at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY.

2. Background

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council ratified the decision to designate the Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan Area on 18 December 2013. The plan area lies within the Rural West and Hart wards within Hartlepool.
- 2.2 Elwick Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) submitted the draft Plan and supporting documents to Hartlepool Borough Council in August 2016.
- 2.3 Hartlepool Borough Council publicised the submitted version of the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations for a period of 8 weeks from 20 February to 17 April 2017.
- 2.4 In March 2017, Hartlepool Borough Council, in agreement with the qualifying body appointed an independent examiner, John Slater BA (Hons), DMS, MRTPI, to undertake an examination of the Plan following the publicity period.

The examination was undertaken based on written representations and supported by an unaccompanied site visit of the Neighbourhood Plan area.

- 2.5 The Examiner's Report was received in July 2017 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation.
- 2.6 In accordance with the legislation, the Local Planning Authority must decide what action to take in response to the examiner's recommendations, what modifications to make to the Plan and whether the Plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.7 If the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the Plan can proceed to referendum, it is also required to consider whether the Referendum Area should be extended beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area.

3. Local Planning Authority Decision

- 3.1 Having considered the Examiner's Report, Hartlepool Borough Council has accepted the examiner's recommendations and is satisfied that the Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.
- 3.2 Hartlepool Borough Council also agreed the examiner's recommendation that the Referendum Area should be based on the designated Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 3.3 Not less than 28 days before the date of the referendum, Hartlepool Borough Council will publish on their website and make available an information statement, the Plan (as amended) and supporting documents. Hard copies of these documents will also be available at the Council's Civic Centre and Central Library during the referendum period.

Dated: 6 October 2017