

**WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PYRFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – FINAL DECISION STATEMENT  
9 FEBRUARY 2017**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Following a positive referendum result on the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan on 15 December 2016, Woking Borough Council has made the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for the purposes of managing development in the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area. This decision takes effect from 9 February 2017.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum, as a qualifying body was formally designated by Woking Borough Council as a Neighbourhood Forum on 13 February 2014. The Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum applied for the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Area was designated on 13 February 2014. The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Neighbourhood Area as designated by Woking Borough Council.
- 2.2 The Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan was published for Regulation 16 consultation between 4 April 2016 and 31 May 2016. It was submitted for Examination on 18 July 2016. Following an Independent Examination of the Neighbourhood Plan and the receipt of the Examiner's Report, the Council at its meeting on 20 October 2016 decided that subject to the Examiner's proposed modifications, the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.3 A referendum was held on 15 December 2016. Of the 1,581 people who voted, 1,526 (96.52%) voted **yes** for Woking Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Pyrford Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. 52 (3.28%) people voted **no**. Three ballot papers were rejected on the grounds of 'being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty'. Paragraph 38A (4) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of the people who voted have voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the Neighbourhood Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any European Union obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

**3.0 Decision and Reasons**

- 3.1 The Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan as published for referendum (in this regard, the Neighbourhood Plan that incorporates the Examiner's recommended modifications) meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with European Union obligations and the European Convention of Human Rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.
- 3.2 The referendum held on 15 December 2016 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.3 The count took place on 15 December 2016 and more than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan being used to help decide planning

applications in the Neighbourhood Area. Of the 1,581 people who voted, 1,526 voted yes and 52 voted no. Three ballot papers were rejected on the grounds of 'being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty'. Turnout was 38%.

- 3.4 The Council has decided that the Neighbourhood Plan and its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any European Union obligation or of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998)
- 3.5 Woking Borough Council therefore decided at its meeting on 9 February 2017 to make the Pyrford Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for the area.

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