

## SUTTON BENDER AND DRAYCOT CERNE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN, 2020-2035:

### Final Decision Statement

**Date of publication: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

#### 1. Decision

- 1.1 Following an Independent Examination and a positive referendum result, Wiltshire Council has decided on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 pursuant to section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to 'make' the Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan (the 'Plan').
- 1.2 The Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan and its policies will be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.

#### 2. Reasons for Decision

- 2.1 With the Examiner's recommended modifications, and additional modifications made by the Council, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of the Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and Section 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 2.2 The referendum held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It was held in the referendum area (consisting of the parish area of Sutton Benger), and posed the question "Do you want Wiltshire Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sutton Benger Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"
- 2.3 The count took place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Response	Votes	Percent of total
YES	345	95.6%
NO	16	4.4%
Turnout	33.55%	

- 2.4 Wiltshire Council has assessed that the Plan including its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan area, situated in the northern part of Wiltshire, comprises of the parish area of Sutton Benger. The neighbourhood area was designated on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 as an area for the purpose of

preparing a neighbourhood plan in accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

- 3.2 Sutton Benger Parish Council (the 'qualifying body'), submitted the draft Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan, along with supporting documents, to Wiltshire Council in May 2024 for consultation, independent examination and remaining stages of the draft Plan's preparation in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 3.3 Following submission of the draft Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan, Wiltshire Council publicised the draft Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- 3.4 In July 2024, Wiltshire Council appointed an independent examiner Andrew Ashcroft to examine the draft Plan and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.
- 3.5 The examiner's report was received in October 2024 and concluded that, subject to making the modifications recommended in the report, the draft Plan met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The examiner also recommended that the Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Area (the parish areas) would be an appropriate area within which to hold a referendum.
- 3.6 Following receipt of the examiner's report, in October 2024 Wiltshire Council published a Decision Statement to confirm that the Council was satisfied that the draft Sutton Benger and Draycot Cerne Neighbourhood Development Plan, as modified, complies with the legal requirements and could proceed to referendum. The Council also agreed with the examiner that the Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Area (the parish area) would be an appropriate area within which to hold a referendum.
- 3.7 A referendum was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and 95.6% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. 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 those voting have voted in favour of the plan. The Council are not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.8 This Decision Statement and the Neighbourhood Plan have been published on Wiltshire Council's website along with details of where they can be inspected. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area.

Signed:



Nic Thomas  
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Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025