

12. MAKING OF WHALEY BRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. Purpose of the report

To 'make' (bring into force) Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area.

Key Issues

- **following a positive referendum result, under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Peak District National Park Authority must 'make' (bring into force) Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the statutory development plan for Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area.**
- **A referendum asking "Do you want High Peak Borough Council and the Peak District National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Whaley Bridge to help them decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" took place on 7 December 2023. Six hundred and ninety four (694) people voted 'yes' (92%) and fifty nine (59) voted 'no' (8%).**
- **High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) are in the process of making the plan for their area under delegated authority.**

2. Recommendation

- 1. That the Committee makes Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

- 3. This is a legal obligation under Section 38 A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.**

Background Information

- 4. Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Development Plan area was designated by HPBC on 24th October 2013 and the Peak District National Park on 13th September 2013.**
- 5. Following submission by Whaley Bridge Parish Council of the draft Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan to the Peak District National Park Authority and High Peak Borough Council, and in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 16, the plan was publicised and representations were invited. This took place between 12 May and 22 June 2023.**
- 6. An independent Examiner, Mr Christopher Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED IHBC ('the Examiner'), was appointed by HPBC in consultation with the PDNPA and Whaley Bridge Parish Council. Examination of the plan took place between July and August 2023 and was conducted by written representations. The Examiner considered all of the policies and supporting text within the plan, and whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation.**
- 7. The Examiner's report was received on 1 September 2023 and was made available for viewing on the councils' websites. The Examiner concluded that Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, as modified by his recommendations, met the basic conditions set**

out in the legislation.

8. The Peak District National Park Authority (at a meeting of the Planning Committee on 6th October 2023) and High Peak Borough Council (decision taken by Council Committee on 25th October 2023), determined that the modifications recommended by the Examiner be accepted and that Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions, was compatible with Convention rights and complied with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan and so should proceed to a referendum.
9. The majority Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside of the Peak District National Park. However, there are a number of policies that are relevant for the National Park which cover a range of topics including community facilities, residential development, heritage, sustainable development, the natural environment, local green space, transport and travel.
10. It is considered that the Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the Peak District National Park's planning policies (as required by legislation), and help to enhance important local aspects as identified by the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Proposals

11. That Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan be made part of the statutory development plan for Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Area.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

Financial:

12. none

Risk Management:

13. The steps that the Authority is taking to respond to the referendum on Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan means that the risk of failure to meet government standards or legal obligations is negligible.

Sustainability:

14. Sustainability issues are fully considered in the neighbourhood planning process

Equality:

15. Equality issues are fully considered in the neighbourhood planning process

16. Climate Change

1. How does this decision contribute to the Authority's role in climate change set out in the UK Government Vision and Circular for National Parks?

Working with communities to plan for the development and use of land

2. How does this decision contribute to the Authority meeting its carbon net zero target?

Not applicable

3. How does this decision contribute to the National Park meeting carbon net zero by 2050?

Not applicable

4. Are there any other Climate Change related issues that are relevant to this decision that should be brought to the attention of Members?

No.

17. Background papers (not previously published)

None.

18. Appendices

Appendix 1 - [Whaley Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Referendum Version](#)

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

Clare Wilkins, Community Policy Planner, 11 January 2024