

MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL
ASTWOOD AND HARDMEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Decision Statement – 19th January 2022

Summary

Following a referendum of residents eligible to vote within the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan area, Milton Keynes Council will make the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan on 19th January 2022.

Background

Astwood and Hardmead Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for its area to be designated a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012). The area was designated on 6th December 2018.

The Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Milton Keynes Council for examination and was subsequently publicised for a six-week period, ending on, 21st May 2021. All comments received were then passed to the Independent Examiner, Louise Brooke-Smith, who submitted her report on the Plan in August 2021, stating that the plan met relevant basic conditions and requirements and, should proceed to referendum.

Following the examination, Milton Keynes Council, in consultation with Astwood and Hardmead Parish Council, accepted the examiner's recommendations on 13th September 2021 and proceeded to make arrangements for a referendum to be held on 25th November 2021.

The Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan was successful at the referendum held on 25th November 2021. 89 voted 'Yes' and 12 'No', turnout was 43.9%. Under the changes to Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning Act, 2017, following the successful referendum the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan came into force as part of the Milton Keynes statutory development plan. The Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan must still be made by the Council within 8 weeks of the referendum.

Decision

The Council makes the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan part of the Milton Keynes Council Development Plan.