

Broads Authority

17 March 2023

Agenda item number 12

Oulton Neighbourhood Plan- adoption

Report by Planning Policy Officer

Purpose

The Oulton Neighbourhood Plan has been examined. The Examiner made some changes to the Plan. The Plan was subject to a referendum on 2 February 2023 and was supported (more than 50% of those who voted in the referendum voted 'yes').

Recommended decision

To make/adopt the Oulton Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The submitted Oulton Neighbourhood Plan was approved by the Broads Authority's Planning Committee in April 2022. This was followed by a statutory publication period between 17 May and 24 June 2022, in which the Plan and its supporting documents were available to the public and consultation bodies online at the Authority and East Suffolk consultation webpages.
- 1.2. During the publication period, representations were received from a variety of organisations and individuals. The representations may be viewed [here](#).
- 1.3. These representations were submitted, along with the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting information, to the independent Examiner, Christopher Lockhart-Mummary. The examination was conducted via written representations during late summer 2022 (the Examiner deciding that a public hearing would not be required).
- 1.4. Legislation directs that an Examiner considers whether:
 - a) the draft plan meets the [basic conditions of a Neighbourhood Development Plan](#);
 - b) the draft plan complies with the definition of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the provisions that can be made by such a plan;
 - c) the area for referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area; and
 - d) the draft plan is compatible with the Convention rights.
- 1.5. At their meeting on 3 March, the Planning Committee endorsed the Oulton Neighbourhood Plan and recommended to the Authority that it be made/adopted.

2. The Examiner's Report

- 2.1. The [Examiner's Report on the Oulton Neighbourhood Plan](#) concluded that, subject to amendments (as set out in the report), the Plan can proceed to referendum. The Examiner also concluded that the area of the referendum does not need to be extended beyond Oulton Parish.

3. Referendum

- 3.1. The referendum for the Oulton Neighbourhood Plan¹ was held on 2 February 2023.

- 3.2. The question in the referendum was:

Do you want the Broads Authority and East Suffolk Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Oulton to help them decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

- 3.3. The result of the votes cast is as follows:

Description	Votes
Number of votes accepted	535
Number cast in favour of "YES"	457
Number cast in favour of "NO"	78

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows:	Number of ballot papers
(a) want of official mark	0
(b) voting for more answers than required	0
(c) writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	0
(d) being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	6
Total number of rejected votes	6

Electorate: 3,938

Ballot Papers Issued: 541

Turnout: 13.7 %

4. Next steps

- 4.1. If both the Broads Authority and East Suffolk Council make/adopt the Neighbourhood Plan, it becomes part of the Development Plan for the area. The policies have the same weight as Local Plan policies when making decisions.

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¹ Referendum version of the Plan: [Oulton-Neighbourhood-Plan-Referendum-Version.pdf \(east Suffolk.gov.uk\)](#)