



Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2037

Information Statement

This statement has been prepared to meet Regulation 4(3)(a) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

1. About this Statement

A referendum on the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 23 November 2023. This Statement provides information on the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it.

2. Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a specific question. For this referendum you will receive a Ballot Paper which asks the following question:

"Do you want Hart District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Winchfield Neighbourhood Planning Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

3. The Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan

The **Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan** has been prepared by **Winchfield Parish Council** assisted by the neighbourhood plan steering group. It has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and, following independent examination which recommended some modifications, has been recommended to proceed to referendum.

The neighbourhood area for **Winchfield** is shown on the map at the end of this Statement (Annex A). The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Hart District Council on 8 January 2015. The referendum area covers the whole of the neighbourhood area, which covers the whole of the civic parish of Winchfield.

4. What Does the Referendum Result Mean?

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'yes' in the referendum, then Hart District Council will 'make' the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Winchfield Neighbourhood Area. It will also form part of the statutory development plan for Hart. If more people vote 'no'

than 'yes' then the Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for the local area.

5. Can I Vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan referendum if on Thursday 23 November 2023:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

The referendum will be conducted based in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

In order to vote in the referendum, you must be registered to vote by **Tuesday 7 November 2023**. Electors who are currently on the Electoral Register at a qualifying address do not need to make a new registration application in order to vote at this poll.

6. How Can I Vote?

There are three ways of voting, you may vote in person, by post or by proxy:

In Person:

At your local polling station on **Thursday 23 November 2023**. This will be displayed on the poll card that will be sent to you.

The polling station will be open between **7am and 10pm**.

By Post:

If you already have a postal vote you will receive a postal poll card confirming this and postal vote pack with your ballot paper.

If you do not have a postal vote but, would like to vote by post in the referendum please complete a postal vote application form. Application forms can be downloaded from the [Electoral Commission website](#).

Once completed either scan a copy to **elections@hart.gov.uk** or deliver it to:

Electoral Services,
Hart District Council,
Civic Offices,
Harlington Way,
Fleet,
GU51 4AE

If you are not able to access the form online please contact us on **01252 774077** and

we will arrange for a form to be posted to you.

*Please note: The deadline for us to receive your postal vote application is **5pm Wednesday 8 November 2023.***

By Proxy:

If you already have a permanent proxy vote you will receive a poll card confirming this in the weeks leading up to the referendum.

If you are unable to vote at your polling station and do not wish to vote by post you may be eligible to vote by proxy. This means appointing somebody to vote on your behalf at your polling station.

Details on applying to vote by proxy and application forms can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

*Please note: The deadline for us to receive your proxy vote application is **5pm Wednesday 15 November 2023.***

*After this date you can still apply for an emergency proxy vote if your circumstances meet certain criteria. Information is available from www.yourvotematters.co.uk or by calling **01252 774077.***

7. How to Mark Your Ballot Paper?

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the box next to your choice on the ballot paper.

Put a cross in only ONE box and do not mark your ballot paper in any other way. If the Counting Officer is not able to clearly understand what your intention was your vote will not be counted.

8. Referendum Expenses

Individuals or Groups may campaign to promote a particular outcome of the referendum. Spending on the campaigns is restricted by an expenses limit, which campaigners and campaign groups must not exceed.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum and the numbers of persons entitled to vote has been calculated as the following:

The expenses limit as at the publication of this notice is:

Expenses Limit: **£2362 + (0.059*551) = £2394.51**

Persons Entitled to Vote: **551**

9. How Can I View the Referendum Documents?

There are a number of documents that are available to view as part of the referendum:

- The Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan (incorporating modifications) and Appendices;
- The Independent Examiner's Report;
- A Summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner;
- Post Examination Decision Statement, including confirmation that the Council is satisfied that the Plan meets the basic conditions and provisions as they apply; and,
- A statement setting out general information in relation to town & country planning (and neighbourhood planning) and the referendum.

These documents can be viewed on the [Hart District Council website](#).

If you do not have access to the internet the documents will be available at:

Hart District Council, Harlington Way, Fleet, GU51 4AE

Monday to Thursday 8:30 – 5pm, Friday 8:30 – 4:30 pm.

- You will be able to view the documents in the reception area
- Please contact us in advance to arrange an appointment on 01252 774419

Winchfield Inn, Station Road Winchfield – during opening hours

- Please see the [Winchfield Inn website](#) for opening hours

Barley Mow Pub, The Hurst, Winchfield – during opening hours

- Please see the [Barley Mow website](#) for opening hours

Winchfield Parish Council- by appointment with the Clerk

- winchfieldparishclerk@outlook.com

10. How to Find Out More

Further general information on neighbourhood planning can be found on the [Government's neighbourhood planning guidance webpage](#).

Annex A - Boundary of Winchfield Neighbourhood Area

