



Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – General Note

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

On 23rd November 2023 there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area, the **Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan**. This note contains information about the planning system and neighbourhood planning.

The Planning System

The planning system helps decide what gets built, where and when. It is essential for supporting economic growth, providing new homes and protecting the natural environment. Most new buildings, major changes to existing buildings or major changes to the local environment need planning permission. Without a planning system everyone could construct buildings or use land in any way they wanted, no matter what effect this would have on other people who live and work in their area.

Hart District Council is responsible for deciding whether most forms of development should go ahead within the district. Decisions are based on **national planning policy** and the **local development plan**.

National Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance provide policy and guidance for local councils in drawing up Local Plans and on making decisions on planning applications. These can be viewed on the [Planning Practice Guidance website](#).

The Development Plan

A development plan is a set of documents that set out the policies for the development and use of land across the local authority area. It includes Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans and in Hart is currently made up of the following documents:

Development Plan Documents in Hart District:

Plan	Date adopted/made
Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032	30 April 2020
Hart Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 Saved Policies	23 December 2002
South East Plan – Policy NRM6 only	In February 2013 the South East Plan was formally abolished except for Policy NRM6
Hook Neighbourhood Plan	27 February 2020
Hartley Wintney Neighbourhood Plan	28 November 2019
Fleet Neighbourhood Plan	28 November 2019
Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan	26 September 2019
Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan	30 March 2017
Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan	29 June 2017
Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan	15 December 2016
Crondall Neighbourhood Plan	20 May 2021
Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Plan	20 May 2021
Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan	28 July 2022
Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan	October 2013

Local Plans

Local Plans for Hart are made by Hart District Council and their preparation involves a process of public consultation and independent examination. The current Local Plan is the Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032 adopted on 30 April 2020. Some policies within the Hart Local Plan 1996 – 2006 remain 'saved' and will continue to apply to proposals where relevant. Further details can be found on the [Hart District Council website](#).

Neighbourhood Plans

What are they?

Neighbourhood plans were introduced under the Localism Act 2011. Their purpose is to give local communities greater influence on future development in their local area by establishing a set of policies which will be used in making decisions on planning applications.

Neighbourhood plans are required by law to meet certain “Basic Conditions”. They must have regard to national planning policy and must generally conform with the strategic policies in the Local Plan. They must contribute to achieving sustainable development and be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements. Importantly, they should not be used to prevent development which is allowed for in the Local Plan.

Who makes them?

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by town or parish councils or especially established neighbourhood forums. There is a statutory process that must be followed to make a plan.

How are they made?

The plan must be prepared through a process of consultation with local residents and businesses. An independent examiner then reviews the plan and checks whether it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. The examiner reports on whether any modifications should be made to the plan and whether it should proceed to the referendum stage.

At the referendum, local residents can vote on whether the neighbourhood plan should be used to help decide planning applications in the area. All those registered to vote within the neighbourhood area are entitled to vote in the referendum.

What status do Neighbourhood Plans have?

If more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the neighbourhood plan, the local planning authority must make it part of the statutory development plan for the area. This means that the plan will be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications.

Additional information in relation to neighbourhood planning is available on the [Government's neighbourhood planning webpages](#).

Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan

Winchfield already has a ‘made’ or adopted Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in March 2017. It is good practice to review Neighbourhood Plans every five years, and in doing so, the Parish Council decided to prepare a replacement Neighbourhood Plan which refreshed some existing policies and introduced new policies.

The new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by **Winchfield Parish Council**. Preparation of the plan has followed the statutory requirements and it has been subject to an independent examination. Hart District Council has decided that, subject to modifications, the plan can proceed to referendum.

Section 70(20) of the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) provides that a

local planning authority must have regard to the policies in a post-examination neighbourhood plan. In the case of the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan, the Council made a decision at its Cabinet meeting on 5 October 2023 to proceed to referendum.

The Referendum

The referendum will take place on 23rd November 2023. Further information can be found on the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan webpage at [Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Examination | Hart District Council](#)

How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the [Government's neighbourhood planning webpages](#) and the [Hart District Council website](#).