

# Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan 2021 - 2037

## Post-Examination Decision Statement



**Dated: 28 August 2024**

**Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)**

### Summary

Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the relevant local planning authority to decide what action to take in response each recommendation made by the Independent Examiner and to publish the decision on its website. This Decision Statement fulfills that purpose.

The submission draft Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan 2021 - 2037 has been independently examined by Ann Skippers BSc (Hons) MRTPI FRSA FHEA AoU. Her final report was issued on 21 August 2024. In summary it notes that this Plan is well articulated and that it has a clear link between the vision, the objectives that support it and the policies. Some modifications are made but these do not significantly or substantially alter the nature of the Plan. In the main they are intended to ensure that the Plan is clear and precise and provides a practical framework for decision making. Subject to all of the modifications being made, it also concludes that this Plan meets the basic conditions, that it should proceed to a local referendum, and that the referendum area should be the same as the Plan area.

Having considered the examination report, it is the District Councils recommendation that:

*'Edwardstone Parish Council should make all the necessary modifications to their Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Independent Examiner's Report and, subject to the satisfactory completion of that task, this Plan will be advanced to a local referendum covering the parish of Edwardstone.'*

### Background

The Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations. The key stages are set out below:

- In March 2021, designation of the whole parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area, which enabled the Parish Council (the 'qualifying body') to prepare its Plan
- Publication by the Parish Council of their Regulation 14 pre-submission draft Plan for consultation between 30 October and 11 December 2023
- In March 2024, submission of the draft Plan to Babergh District Council, which was then made available for public consultation between 29 April and 14 June 2024



- Commencing in July 2024, independent examination of the Plan. The final Examination Report was issued on 21 August 2024

The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). In order to satisfy them a Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State,
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development,
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Development Plan for the area of the authority, *and*
- not breach and be otherwise compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) also prescribes the following basic condition:

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017(7).

The pre-submission draft Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan was subject to independent screening. This concluded that an Appropriate Assessment was not required. After consulting the relevant statutory bodies on the screening outcome, the Council issued its formal Determination Notice in February 2024.

## **Decision**

The Edwardstone Neighbourhood Plan as modified to incorporate all the modifications set out in the Independent Examiners Report dated 21 August 2024 complies with the Basic Conditions as set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and should proceed to a local referendum.

The date of the referendum will be announced separately.

A 'Referendum Version' of the Neighbourhood Plan, i.e., the version incorporating all the required modifications, will be published either on the day that the referendum is announced, or sooner if it is practical to do so.

## **References:**

1. Independent Examiners Report on the Edwardstone NP:  
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/babergh/edwardstone-np-exam-report>
2. Edwardstone NP Examination Correspondence document:  
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/documents/d/babergh/edwardstone-np-exam-correspondence>