



Babergh District Council

Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan – Final Decision Statement

On 8 September 2016 a local referendum was held in which more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan. Accordingly Babergh District Council has decided to 'make' the Plan.

The Plan as made becomes part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used where relevant to help the District Council decide planning applications. This decision was taken by Full Council on 20 September 2016.

Reason for Decision

In accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended) the District Council appointed an independent examiner to assess the submitted Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan.

The examination was undertaken by Janet L Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI a 'suitably qualified and experienced' person who was independent of the plan making process via written representations. The Examiner concluded that subject to modification the Plan would comply with the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.

The Strategy Committee at its meeting on 9 June 2016 agreed with the suggested modifications and concurred that the Plan so modified would comply with the Basic Conditions. The Strategy Committee therefore resolved that the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

The local referendum was held on 8 September 2016. The format of the local referendum question was:

'Do you want Babergh District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Lavenham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

More than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. The results of the local referendum were:

Response	Votes Cast	Percentage of total
YES	490	91.25
NO	47	8.75
Total	537	100

The result of the local referendum enables the District Council to formally make the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that the Plan would be in breach of any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act, 1998).

At its meeting on 20 September 2016 Babergh District Council decided that the Plan was not in breach of this legislation and that it should be made part of the Development Plan for the district.

Dated: 20 September 2016