

Annex 3



DARLINGTON

Borough Council

Middleton St George Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2036

Regulation 18 Decision Statement

Introduction

In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Council accepts the examiners recommendations in relation to the examination of the Middleton St George Neighbourhood Plan. The plan can now proceed to referendum subject to the modifications recommended by the examiner.

The Council also agreed with the examiner's recommendation that the referendum area should match that of the Neighbourhood Area which was formally designated by the Council on 14th May 2019.

The Examiner's Report, along with the submission version of the Middleton St George Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents are available on the Council's website at <http://www.darlington.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-and-environmental-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>

Background

On the 14th May 2019 Middleton St George Parish, excluding land at Teesside International Airport, was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area, for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Over the following months Middleton St George Parish Council (the Qualifying Body) prepared the Neighbourhood Plan which included substantial consultation with the local community and stakeholders.

The Plan and supporting documents were submitted formally to the Council on the 13th April 2021. Darlington Borough Council publicised the submitted version of the Plan and supporting documents between 29th September 2021 and 11th November 2021 in line with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

In January 2022, Darlington Borough Council, in agreement with the qualifying body appointed an independent examiner, Rosemary Kidd MRTPI, to undertake an examination of the Plan following the publicity period. The examination was undertaken via written representations and included an unaccompanied site visit of the Neighbourhood Plan Area by the examiner.

The Examiner's Report was received in May 2022 and recommended that, subject to a number of proposed modifications, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The modifications are required to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation. It was also recommended that the referendum area matches that of the Neighbourhood Area.

In accordance with the legislation, the Local Planning Authority must decide what action to take in response to the examiner's recommendations, what modifications to make to the Plan and whether the Plan should proceed to referendum.

If the Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the Plan can proceed to referendum, it is also required to consider whether the Referendum Area should be extended beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area.

Local Planning Authority Decision

Having considered the Examiner's Report, Darlington Borough Council accepts the examiner's recommendations, considers the Plan as modified, complies with the legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.

Darlington Borough Council also agrees with the examiner's recommendation that the referendum area should be based on the designated Middleton St George Neighbourhood Area.

Not less than 28 days before the date of the referendum, Darlington Borough Council will publish on their website and make available, the Plan (as amended) and supporting documents. Hard copies of these documents will also be available at The Hub, Dolphin Centre, Horsemarket, Darlington, DL1 5RP and Londis Convenience Store at 5 The Square, Middleton St George, Darlington, DL2 1EG during the referendum period.



Ian Williams
Chief Executive

27 June 2022