



GROWING TOGETHER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT REGULATION 18 December 2016

1. THE PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Decision Statement is to set out Northampton Borough Council's decision on the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan and its reasons for it. The Decision Statement outlines the Council's decision in respect of:

- Actions taken in response to recommendations made by the independent Examiner in the Examiner's Report;
- Modifications that are to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan proposal to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements; and
- The area in which the referendum will take place.

2. RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S REPORT

2.1. The Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum submitted a Neighbourhood Plan proposal (the Plan) and supporting documentation to Northampton Borough Council for examination in October 2016. With the support of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum, Christopher Edward Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED MCMI IHBC was appointed by Northampton Borough Council to independently examine the plan proposal.

2.2. The independent Examiner published a report in November 2016. He recommended that, once modified to meet all relevant legal requirements, the Plan should proceed to referendum. The Examiner recommended nine modifications, which were aimed at clarifying the policies.

2.3. The Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum reviewed the Examiner's recommendations and subsequently presented Northampton Borough Council with a modified plan that takes on board all of the Examiner's recommendations. Northampton Borough Council considers that the modified Plan meets all the relevant legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.

3. DETAILS OF MODIFICATIONS

- 3.1 Appendix 1 outlines the modifications that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum has made to the draft Plan following the Independent Examination. In modifying the Plan, the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum considered each of the Examiner's recommendations. The Forum's decision on each recommendation is shown in the Table in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Northampton Borough Council has reviewed each of the modifications made to the Plan by the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum. The Borough Council is satisfied that the modifications made to the Plan reflect those modifications recommended by the Examiner. Northampton Borough Council therefore concludes that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.

4. REFERENDUM AREA

- 4.1. In September 2013, Northampton Borough Council designated the Growing Together Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.
- 4.2. In recommending that the modified plan go forward to referendum, the Independent Examiner considered whether or not the Referendum Area should extend beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Examiner recommended that the Referendum Area be the same as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 4.3. Following this recommendation, Northampton Borough Council concludes that the Referendum Area will not be extended and will be applied to the Neighbourhood Area.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1. Following the independent examination, Northampton Borough Council confirms that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.
- 5.2. The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a neighbourhood plan referendum. The Growing Together Neighbourhood Area boundary shall define the extent of the Referendum area.
- 5.3. Following an independent examination Northampton Borough Council now confirms that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum, to meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The date on which the Referendum will take place is agreed as Thursday 23 February 2017.

APPENDIX 1**Table of Recommended Modifications to the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan (GTNP)**

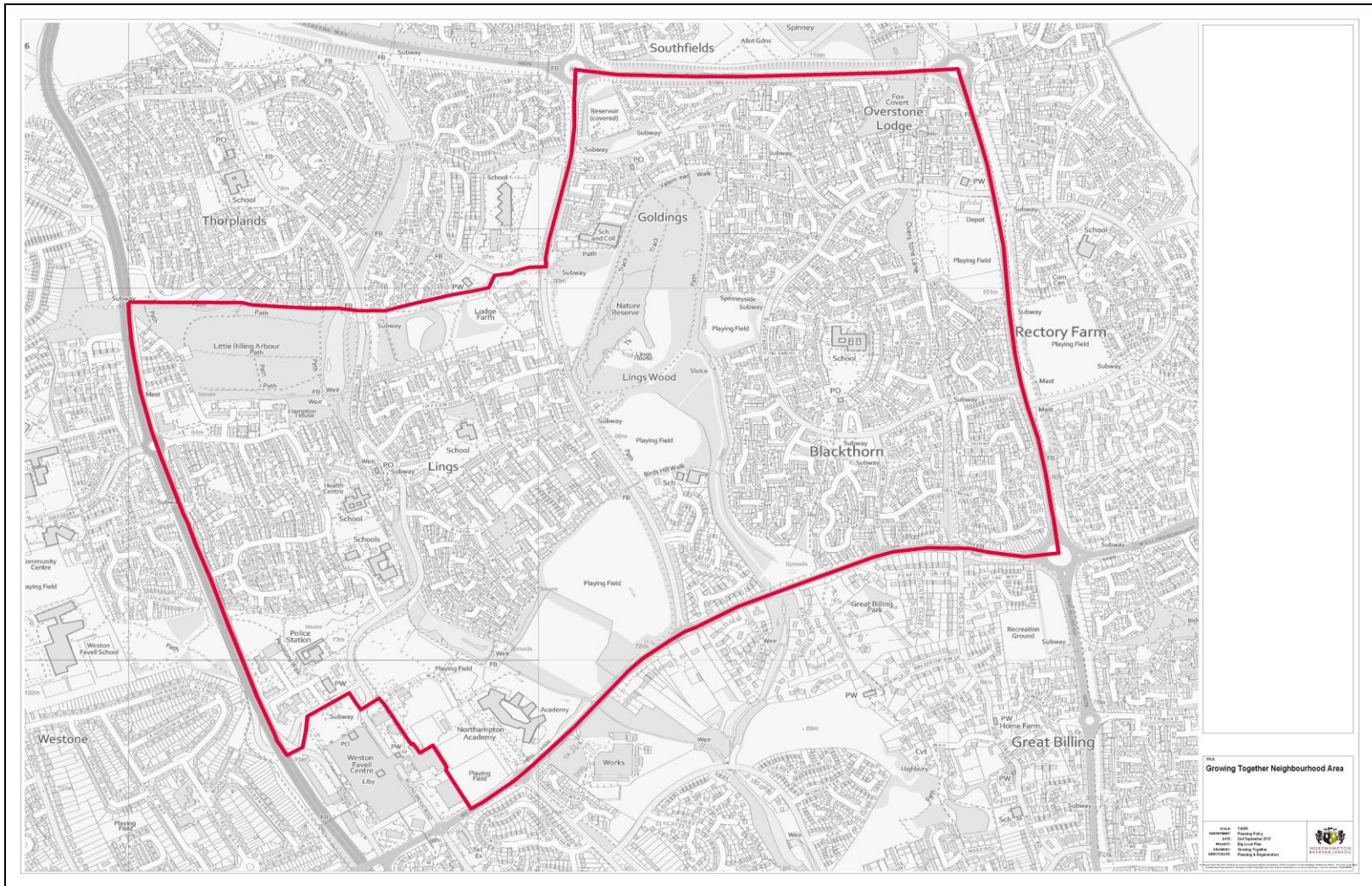
Examiner's Recommended Modifications (ref)	GTNP ref	Decision on amendment and reason	New text (where applicable)
<p>Modification 1: In Policy DES1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commence the Policy with "To be supported" • delete "within the Growing Together area" • delete provision g and transfer to supporting text • delete provision j and present the second sentence of provision j as a free-standing sentence after provision i <p>The first sentence of provision j could be included in the Next Steps and Implementation section of the Plan as a non-statutory community aspiration</p>	DES1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 2: Replace Policy H1 with "Proposals for new residential development should provide a mix of types of homes that reflects the latest assessment of local housing needs. Proposals that will deliver affordable homes, particularly 1 and 2 bedroom units, will be supported"</p>	H1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 3: In Policy H2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combine the introductory statement and the text of provision a to form a single sentence • delete provisions b and c • delete "may" 	H2	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 4: In Policy DEV1 replace provision c with "include a sustainable drainage strategy for the lifetime of the development"</p>	DEV1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 5: In Policy CO1 after "welcome" insert "and supported"</p>	CO1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.

<p>Modification 6: In Policy CO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delete “permitted” and insert “supported” • after “alternative” insert “community facility” • delete “Section 8” and insert “Section 7” 	CO2	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 7: In Policy RE1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after “viability of” insert “any of” • delete “there” and insert “proposals” • before “key” insert “a” 	RE1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.
<p>Modification 8: In Policy T1 after “routes should” replace the text with “include sufficient lighting to make users feel safe and secure”</p>	T1	Agreed.	Amend as shown.

In addition, the Examiner states that a number of consequential modifications to the general text of the Neighbourhood Plan will be necessary as a result of recommended modifications relating to policies. These have been identified below (amendments associated with capitals, lower case, bullet points, full stops and general typing mistakes have not been recorded).

<p>Modification 9: Identified errors that are typographical in nature. Modification of general text will be necessary to achieve consistency with the modified policies</p>		
Reference	Amendment	Reasons
6.6	<p>Amend the second sentence of paragraph 6.6. to read as follows: ‘The ‘Secured by Design’ principles (or any equivalent standard which might amend or replace it in the future) will provide the framework to ensure crime and the fear of crime can be reduced. These platforms will ensure new development will help establish a strong sense of place and contributes positively to the creation of a well-functioning, visually attractive, safe and accessible environment.’</p>	Consequential amendment with reference to Examiner’s Modification 1.
7.7. 7.8 and 7.9	<p>Delete the last sentence of paragraph 7.7 and move to create a new paragraph 7.9 with amendments (see below).</p> <p>Insert a new paragraph 7.8 to read as follows: ‘The Forum recognises the importance of environmental performance and energy efficiency. Schemes which minimise the reliance of fossil fuels through the progression of renewable energy technologies will be supported.’</p> <p>Insert a new paragraph 7.9 to read as follows ‘It is recognised, however, that in some cases the measures highlighted in 7.7 and 7.8 will require other legal processes to be followed, some of which are outside the planning system and separate to the Neighbourhood Plan.’</p>	Consequential amendment with reference to Examiner’s Modification 1.

Map of the Referendum Area



ANNEX: PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION STATEMENT & EXAMINER'S REPORT

The Decision Statement, Examiners Report & Inspection Locations and Times for these documents will be made available for inspection at the locations listed below.

Please check Christmas & New Year opening hours with the specific location before you visit.

Location	Opening Times
Blackthorn Children's Centre Longmead Court, Blackthorn, Northampton, NN3 8QD	Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 5 pm Friday: 9 am - 4.30 pm
Blackthorn Good Neighbours Nursery Blackthorn Bridge Court, Blackthorn, Northampton, NN3 8QH	Monday - Friday: 8.15 am - 3.30 pm
Brookside Community Hub Billing Brook Road, Northampton, NN3 8NP	Monday: 9 am – 3 pm Wednesday 9 am – 12 noon
Northampton One Stop Shop, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE	Monday to Friday: 9 am – 5 pm
Northampton Central Library, Abington Street, Northampton, NN1 2BA	Monday - Friday: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Sunday: 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Weston Favell Library 56 Weston Favell Centre, Northampton, NN3 8JZ	Monday - Friday: 9.00 am - 7.00 pm Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Sunday: 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

The Decision Statement, Examiners Report & Inspection Locations and Times for these documents are also available to view online at:

<http://northampton.gov.uk/gtnp>

All enquiries about this Decision Statement should be directed to:

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- **Tel:** (01604) 837326