

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	23 April 2018
Report of the	-	Cabinet
Subject	-	Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2028

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The Council is asked to consider the recommendation arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 9 April as set out below.

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### **CABINET – 9 April 2018**

#### **CB17/88. SEDLESCOMBE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2016-2028**

Following an affirmative local Referendum result in relation to the use of the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) to help the determination of planning applications in the Parish Neighbourhood Area, Cabinet was requested to recommend to Council that the SNP be formally adopted and become part of the statutory Development Plan for the area.

In December 2017, the District Council resolved that the SNP (as amended in line with the Examiner's proposed modifications) should proceed to local Referendum. This decision together with a changed version of the Plan was published on the Council's website. Following the due legal process, and in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan legislation, a local referendum was subsequently held on 15 March 2018 in the Sedlescombe referendum area of Sedlescombe Parish. Following a turnout of 46.04%, 86.2% were in favour of Rother District Council (RDC) using the Neighbourhood Plan for Sedlescombe to help it decide planning applications; 13.8% were against.

Following this result, it was incumbent on RDC under paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to 'make' a Neighbourhood Plan within eight weeks of the referendum result. Members were advised that this took account of a further screening of the Plan in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, which had shown that it would have no material effect on any European site. The principal effect of making the Neighbourhood Plan was that it would become part of the statutory 'development plan' for the area. Hence, planning applications within Sedlescombe Parish would be determined against the SNP, alongside relevant Local Plan policies, also having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework. The decision to make the SNP would need to be publicised together with a statement setting out how the environmental considerations had been integrated into the Plan.

It was therefore proposed that full Council be recommended to formally 'make' the SNP with immediate effect which would bring it into legal force. As there was not a full Council meeting within eight weeks of the referendum date an extra-ordinary meeting of full Council had been

called to take place on Monday 23 April 2018 for this purpose. In future it was hoped that careful programming of the statutory timescales for the necessary stages of neighbourhood plan making would avoid the need for special full Council meetings, although this may not always be possible.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2028 incorporating the Examiner's modifications, as presented to local Referendum, be "made" with immediate effect and form part of the Council's Development Plan.

(Cabinet Agenda Item 7.3)

Councillor C.R. Maynard  
Leader of the Council