

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	22 April 2024
Report of	-	Cabinet
Subject	-	Peasmarsh Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2021-28

The Council is asked to consider the recommendation arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 April as set out below.

CABINET – 8 April 2024

CB23/86. PEASMARSH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2021-2028

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

On 19 January 2024, Rother District Council (RDC) resolved that the PNP (as amended in line with the Examiner's proposed modifications) should proceed to local Referendum. This decision, together with a revised 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 held on 29 February 2024 in the Peasmarsh referendum area of Peasmarsh Parish as recommended by the Examiner.

Following a turnout of 27%, 85% were in favour of RDC using the PNP for Peasmarsh to help it decide planning applications; 15% 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. 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 Peasmarsh Parish would be determined against the PNP, alongside relevant Local Plan policies, also having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework. It was noted that the development boundary for Peasmarsh, as contained in the PNP, superseded the development boundary and related site allocations in the 2006 Rother District Local Plan.

The decision to make the PNP would need to be publicised together with a statement setting out how the environmental considerations had been integrated into the Plan. Cabinet was pleased to recommend to Council that the PNP be "made" with immediate effect, which would bring it into legal force. This would take place at the extraordinary meeting of full Council due to be held on 22 April 2024.

It was noted that Neighbourhood Plan end dates were aligned to RDC's current Local Plan which was 2028. The adoption of this plan would mean a simpler review and revise process.

Cabinet and the local Member paid tribute to officers and the dedicated volunteer Neighbourhood Plan team at Peasmarsh for all the hard work and effort that had resulted in the development plan for Peasmarsh being completed in a relatively short period of time, despite the COVID pandemic.

RECOMMENDED: That the Peasmarsh Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2028 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 6)

Councillor D.G. Oliver
Leader of the Council