



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough Council Turvey Neighbourhood Plan POST- EXAMINATION DECISION STATEMENT

Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

This document is the decision statement required to be prepared under Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the response of Bedford Borough Council (“the Council”) to each of the recommendations contained within the independent examination report of the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan (“the Plan”) by independent examiner Wendy Burden, which was received by the Council on 22 April 2021.

This decision statement, the independent examiner’s report and the submission version of the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be viewed on the [neighbourhood planning pages](#) of the Council’s website.

BACKGROUND

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood plans and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 3) sets out the Local Planning Authority's neighbourhood planning responsibilities.

This statement confirms that the modifications proposed in the examiner's report have been considered and accepted and that subject to making the recommended modifications (and other minor modifications) the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan may now be submitted to referendum.

The Turvey Neighbourhood Plan relates to the area that was designated by the Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 19 April 2017. This area is coterminous with the boundary of the parish of Turvey and is entirely within the Local Planning Authority's area.

Between 6 November 2019 and 19 January 2020, Turvey Parish Council undertook consultation on the draft Plan in accordance with Regulation 14.

Following the submission of the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan to the Council on 2 July 2020, the Council publicised the draft Plan for a six-week period and representations were invited in accordance with Regulation 16. This consultation took place between 10 July and 24 August 2020.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The Council appointed Wendy Burden, with the agreement of Turvey Parish Council, to undertake the independent examination of the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

The examiner examined the Plan by way of written representations supported by an unaccompanied site visit of the Neighbourhood Plan Area on 17 February 2021.

The examiner's report was formally received by the Council on 22 April 2021. The report concludes that subject to making the modifications recommended by the examiner, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to

referendum. The examiner also recommends that the referendum area should be the same as the designated Neighbourhood Area, which is the same as the administrative boundary for Turvey parish.

Following receipt of the examiner's report, legislation requires that the Council considers each of the modifications recommended, the reasons for them, and decides what action to take. The Council is also required to consider whether to extend the area to be covered by the referendum.

DECISION AND REASONS

Having considered each of the recommendations made in the examiner's report and the reasons for them, the Council has decided to accept all of the examiner's recommended modifications to the draft Plan. These are set out in Table 1 below.

The Council considers that, subject to the modifications being made to the Plan as set out in Table 1 below, the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions explained in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), is compatible with the Human Rights Convention and that the requirements of paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have been met.

The examiner recommended that the Plan should proceed to a referendum based on the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Council has considered this recommendation and the reasons for it, and has decided to accept it. The referendum area for the final Turvey Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be based on the designated Turvey Parish Neighbourhood Area.

These decisions were made by the Mayor on behalf of the Council's Executive on 12 May 2021.

As a consequence of the required modifications, the Council will alter the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan in order that it can proceed to referendum.

The Neighbourhood Plan document will be re-titled **Referendum Version**. The date for the referendum and further details will be publicised shortly once a date is set by the Council.

Table 1: Decisions on the Examiner’s Recommended Modifications to the Turvey Neighbourhood Plan

Proposed Modification Number	Turvey Neighbourhood Plan Reference	Examiner’s Report Reference	Recommended Modification and Reason	Bedford Borough Council Decision/reasoning
PM1	Front cover	Para 3.3 Page 10	Insert under Heading “2020-2030”.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM2	Page 23 Policy T1	Para 4.29 Page 16	Add to list of development principles under The Mill Rise site: The existing water mains that will supply water to the new development will require upgrading in accordance with the requirements of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority prior to occupation of the dwellings.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM3	Page 46 Paragraph 5.106	Para 4.30 Page 16	Delete paragraph 5.106.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM4	Page 38 Policy T5	Para 4.40 Page 18	In the second sentence of Policy T5, delete “must” and replace with “should seek to”.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM5	Page 38 Policy T6	Para 4.41 Page 18	Delete Policy T6.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report

PM6	Page 43 Policy T9	Para 4.47 Page 19	Delete Policy T9.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report
PM7	Page 45 Policy T11	Para 4.52 Page 20	Delete first three sentences as far as "points:". Insert: "When assessing the impact of new development on traffic safety, road capacity and on-road parking capacity, particular consideration must be given to the following congestion points:" Delete sentence beginning "Development must include ---."	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report
PM8	Page 47 Policy T12	Para 4.54 Page 20	In the final clause of Policy T12 delete "granted" and replace with "supported".	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report

May 2021