



BEDFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **Bedford Borough Council Stevington 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 Stevington Neighbourhood Plan (“the Plan”) by independent examiner Wendy Burden, which was received by the Council on 1 October 2020.

This decision statement, the independent examiner’s report and the submission version of the Stevington 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 Stevington Neighbourhood Plan may now be submitted to referendum.

The Stevington Neighbourhood Plan relates to the area that was designated by the Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 28 November 2013. This area is coterminous with the boundary of the parish of Stevington and is entirely within the Local Planning Authority's area.

Between 9 December 2019 and 27 January 2020, Stevington Parish Council undertook consultation on the draft Plan in accordance with Regulation 14.

Following the submission of the Stevington Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in May 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 to 24 August 2020.

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

The Council appointed Wendy Burden, with the agreement of Stevington Parish Council, to undertake the independent examination of the Stevington 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 7 September 2020.

The examiner's report was formally received by the Council on 1 October 2020. 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 Stevington 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 Stevington 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 Stevington Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be based on the designated Stevington Parish Neighbourhood Area.

These decisions were made by the Mayor on behalf of the Council's Executive on 3 December 2020.

As a consequence of the required modifications, the Council will alter the Stevington 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 once a date is set by the Council.

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

<b>Proposed Modification Number</b>	<b>Stevington Neighbourhood Plan Reference</b>	<b>Examiner’s Report Reference</b>	<b>Recommended Modification and Reason</b>	<b>Bedford Borough Council Decision/reasoning</b>
PM1	Front cover	Para 3.3 page 10	Insert under Heading “2020-2035”.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM2	Page 39	Para 4.26 page 15	<p>Delete Policy DH2.</p> <p>Delete heading “DH2 Interpretation” and insert new heading “Non-designated heritage assets”.</p> <p>In the second sentence of the first paragraph under the new heading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change “the policy” to “national policy as set out in NPPF paragraph 197”.</li> </ul> <p>Delete “a significant factor” and insert “taken into account”.</p>	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM3	Page 50 Policy EN2	Para 4.33 page 16	In 2.: delete “remain as open green spaces” and insert “be managed in a manner compatible with their designation”.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report
PM4	Page 53 Policy CF1	Para 4.36 page 17	Delete “a. Almshouses, Park Road”.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner’s report

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PM5	Page 57 Policy T11	Para 4.38 page 17	In 1.: delete "made to ensuring" and insert "paid to".  In a.: delete "existing problems of traffic capacity are not exacerbated, especially on existing pressure points" and insert "whether there is adequate highway capacity to support the proposal, in particular".  In b.: delete "there is no adverse" and insert "the".  In c.: delete "there is no significant adverse" and insert "the".	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report
PM6	Page 58 Policy T13	Para 4.40 page 17	Rename: "Sustainable Drainage Systems".  In 1. Delete "sustainable urban drainage" and insert "Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)".	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report
PM7	Page 61 Policy BE2	Para 4.43 page 17	Delete Policy BE2 and the subsequent text.	Agree with the modification for the reasons set out in the examiner's report

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