

Report to:	<b>Service Director – Planning and Sustainable Development</b>	
Date:	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b>	
Title:	<b>Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan: Making of Plan</b>	
Portfolio Area:	<b>Planning and Economy</b>	
Divisions Affected:	<b>Gwinear-Gwithian and St Erth</b>	
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: <b>Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Authors, Roles and Contact Details:	<b>Ryan Searle, Development Officer</b> <a href="mailto:Ryan.searle@cornwall.gov.uk">Ryan.searle@cornwall.gov.uk</a> 01872 327953	
Approval and clearance obtained:	<b>N</b>	
<b>For Cabinet and delegated executive decisions only</b>		
Key decision?	<b>N</b>	
Published in advance on Cabinet Work Programme?	<b>N/A</b>	
Urgency Procedure(s) used if 'N' to Work Programme?	<b>N/A</b>	
Date next steps can be taken	<b>5 clear working days after decision is made. Decision is required to be made, including call-in by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</b>	

**Recommendations:**

1. The Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, having been approved by more than half of those voting at referendum held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017, is made and is used, as part of the development plan for Cornwall, in development management decisions in the parish of Gwinear-Gwithian, pursuant to section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (the NDP) has been successful at Examination on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and referendum on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017. A simple majority is required for an NDP to progress. In this case there were 626 'yes' votes and 83 'no' votes: 88% in favour.

The NDP can now formally be made, which means it is adopted and forms part of the development plan for Cornwall and is used in decision making in the NDP area, Gwinear-Gwithian Parish.

## **2. Purpose of Report**

The Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans and to take plans through a process of Examination and Referendum.

The Gwinear-Gwithian Parish NDP has been through the statutory stages of neighbourhood plan making in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (the Regulations):

- Area designation
- Pre-submission consultation
- Legal Compliance check
- Publication consultation
- Examination
- Plan Proposal decision
- Referendum

With relevant Council decisions taken as detailed in section 4 below.

The next stage is to 'make' the Plan – i.e. adopt it as part of the planning policy framework. The Regulations state that this must take place within 8 weeks of the day following the date on which the referendum was held. The referendum was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017, so the NDP must be 'made' by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## **3. Benefits for Customers/Residents**

The Neighbourhood Plan is an opportunity for the local community to influence place making and planning decisions in their local area. The Cornwall Local Plan supports the production of neighbourhood plans and the spatial strategy requires development proposals to 'assist the creation of resilient and cohesive communities' and as part of this 'Support[ing] the delivery of made Neighbourhood Plans and other community based initiatives that help to make communities more resilient' (Cornwall Local Plan, Policy 2 – Spatial Strategy). Residents of the Neighbourhood Plan Area, Gwinear-Gwithian Parish, have had the opportunity to be involved in the research for and writing of the NDP and through the consultation and engagement associated with the NDP's development have been able to contribute their ideas and views.

For applicants, agents and developers wishing to submit proposals in the area, the NDP adds extra detail to the strategic policies for the area, so that applicants will have information about community expectations when preparing an application and can tailor their proposal accordingly.

#### **4. Relevant Previous Decisions**

Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Proposal Decision – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The final version of the Plan, incorporating the Examiner's recommended amendments, published alongside the Notice of Referendum.

Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Legal Compliance Report - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The Submission draft plan, following pre-submission consultation carried out by the qualifying body. The LPA carries out a legal compliance check and publishes the Plan for Regulation 16 'publication' consultation.

Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Area Designation – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

At the start of the process the Parish Council applied to designate their parish as a NDP Area.

All previous reports and versions of the Plan are available on the Cornwall Council website on a page dedicated to [Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan](#).

#### **5. Consultation and Engagement**

The first statutory round of consultation occurs at area designation. Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Council submitted an application and map to designate their Neighbourhood Area on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Cornwall Council consulted residents and other interested stakeholders on the designation between 4<sup>th</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Copies of the application letter and statement that explains how the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Area met the conditions of Section 61G(2) of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990, were made available to view from Hayle One Stop Shop during the six week consultation period.

After this notification that a Parish Council is preparing a NDP until the point that the NDP is submitted to Cornwall Council, responsibility for consultation and engagement on the NDP falls to the qualifying body – Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Council. This is tested at independent examination and the Qualifying Body are required to submit a Consultation Statement.

The Consultation Statement details the process undertaken, which included public meetings, a dedicated website, attendance and promotion at community group meetings and events, leaflet drops to every household, media releases, electronic and paper questionnaires, business survey and consultation events.

The next statutory consultation undertaken is the pre-submission consultation (Regulation 14), a 6 week consultation carried out by the Parish Council prior to submission. This was held from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 (extended to the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 for some consultees). The consultation was advertised on the Neighbourhood Plan website and Parish Council notice boards. The 'Consultation Bodies', as set out in Schedule 1 of the 2012 Regulations are consulted. Any comments submitted during this consultation must be summarised and include in the Basic Conditions Statement, with a note of what action was taken in response.

Once the Plan is submitted and judged to be legally compliant, Cornwall Council publicise the draft NDP in the next round of statutory consultation, the 6 week Regulation 16 'publication' consultation. Cornwall Council consulted residents and other interested stakeholders on the Plan proposal for the Gwinear-Gwithian area between Thursday 24th November 2016 and 12th January 2017 for seven weeks (extended due to the Christmas period).

The Plan proposal included a copy of a map and statement which identifies the area to which the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan relates; a Consultation Statement; the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan, a statement explaining how the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (the Basic Conditions Statement), a Delivery strategy, Equality assessment and a Sustainability appraisal.

Copies of the documents were available to view on the website, or through the Planning Register (planning application number PA16/00017/NDP) and hard copies were available from Carnhell Green Shop & Post Office, Reawla Stores, Gwinear Church, Connor Downs Post Office and the Red River Inn Public House during the consultation period. All responses to this consultation are forwarded direct to the Examiner.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 the Council published the report, considered it and took the decision to send the draft NDP to referendum.

An information statement was issued by the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The referendum took place on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and the results were declared on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

## **6. Financial Implications of the proposed course of action/ decision**

There are no further major costs to Cornwall Council.

## **7. Legal/Governance Implications of the proposed course of action/decision**

This is the final regulatory stage of the NDP process for the Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Council has to be satisfied that the making of the NDP does not breach any EU obligations or the European Convention on Human Rights as enacted in the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Plan has been screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and the Screening Opinion was that SEA and HRA were not required. A Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CIA) was undertaken at the Legal Compliance Check stage.

The Council is satisfied that the making of the NDP does not breach any EU obligations or the European Convention on Human Rights as enacted in the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Examiner confirmed in her report that she was satisfied that the NDP was compliant with European and Human Rights Legislation.

## **8. Risk Implications of the proposed course of action/decision**

There is a right to challenge the Council's decision to 'make' a Neighbourhood Development Plan pursuant to section 61E (4) or (8) of the 1990 Act and in accordance with Section 61N (1) of the 1990 Act the proceedings must be by way of judicial review brought within 6 weeks of the day after the day of publication of the decision to make.

## **9. Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications**

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not. The protected characteristics are Age, Disability, Gender Re-assignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex, Sexual Orientation and in Cornwall an additional characteristic, Cornish Status

The NDP has been developed to be in general conformity with the Cornwall Local Plan, which was subject to Examination in Public and found to be sound. The Cornwall Local Plan provides for the objectively assessed need for housing to meet the needs of all the community, against which the conformity of the NDP has been tested.

The Cornwall Local Plan has been subject to Comprehensive Impact Assessment. This concluded that the current and future businesses and residents of, and visitors to, Cornwall will be affected by the land use policies in terms of provision of jobs, homes, infrastructure, access to services and the protection of the environment. The Policies' objectives are to plan for the needs of the whole community now and in the future, the Plan period is to 2030. In addition, where evidence demonstrates a need, a number of protected characteristic groups are positively planned for with specific provision made for older people and the disabled.

The housing and affordable housing targets aim to ensure appropriate housing is available to meet local needs over the Plan period. Failing to provide sufficient housing will impact most on disadvantaged groups.

A CIA of the NDP was carried out as part of the Legal Compliance Check. It concluded that the NDP provides a strategy for the development of the Neighbourhood Area, and a range of policies, which will result in positive benefits for the local community. The key positive impacts are promoting sustainable development, protecting the built and natural environment, providing employment and housing to meet local need and promoting community engagement and involvement in planning.

## **10. Options available**

Cornwall Council has a duty to support communities who are preparing neighbourhood plans. The Regulations detail the Council's responsibilities. The NDP has been independently examined and found to meet the Basic Conditions; it has been endorsed by the community at referendum and has otherwise complied with all the legal requirements of plan production. It is considered that the NDP meets European legislation and is compatible with the European Convention on

Human Rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998. The NDP should therefore be 'made.' Failure to take the Plan forward to referendum would risk customer dissatisfaction and would be a failure of the Council's duty.

### **11. Supporting Information (Appendices)**

Appendix 1: Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Neighbourhood Plan  
Appendix 2: Declaration of Referendum Result

### **12. Background Papers**

None

### **13. Approval and clearance**

#### **All reports:**

<b>Final report sign offs</b>	<b>This report has been cleared by (or mark not required if appropriate)</b>	<b>Date</b>
Governance/Legal (Required for <b>all</b> reports)	Jane Astbury	17 Oct 2017
Finance (Required for <b>all</b> reports)	Leah Thomas	18 Oct 2017
Equality and Diversity (If required)		
On Behalf of the Service Director (Required for <b>all</b> reports)	Louise Wood, Head of Planning Policy	18 Oct 2017
Strategic Director (If required)		