

## **The ‘Making’ of the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan**

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*Ward Member(s)* Cary - Henry Hobhouse; Kevin Messenger  
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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To note the result of the Referendum in relation to the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan and to confirm that the Plan be ‘made’ (or adopted).

### **Forward Plan**

2. This report appeared on the District Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated committee date of September 2019.

### **Public Interest**

3. The Neighbourhood Plan represents the views of Castle Cary Town Council, Ansford Parish Council and other stakeholders on the preferred approach to future development in the parishes. This has been the subject of Independent Examination by a qualified person and proceeded to a Referendum by the local electorate, with the result being in favour of the Plan. Once the making of the Plan is confirmed by the District Council, it will become part of the Statutory Development Plan with equal status to the Local Plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of various events and meetings which have been used to engage with interested parties and public consultations. The Town and Parish Councils also have a dedicated website for the Neighbourhood Plan: [Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan](#)

### **Recommendation**

5. That the District Executive agrees to the making of the Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Background**

6. Neighbourhood planning helps local communities play a direct role in planning for the areas in which they live and work. The plan can show how the community wants land in its area to be used and developed. If a plan is ‘made’ following a successful referendum, it becomes part of the development plan for that area. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
7. The Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Area designation was approved by the District Council in June 2015. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan for the area was prepared and a ‘Pre-Submission’ Plan was consulted upon by the local Steering Group in February 2018 (Regulation 14). This initial consultation was followed by formal submission of the Plan in November 2018 and the District Council carried out formal consultation in line with procedures set out in the relevant Regulations (Regulation 16). The Plan was then subject to an independent examination and the

District Council agreed the Examiner's recommendations and the next step of a local referendum on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

## **The Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan**

8. The Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the Town & Parish and the Stakeholders main objectives. The Plan summarises the consultation process and evidence base which informed its preparation. It also includes policies seeking to guide future development in the Town & Parish relating to Housing, Employment and Business, Traffic Transport and Infrastructure, Community Services and facilities; and Built and Natural Environment.
9. The Examiner's Report concluded that the correct procedure for the preparation and submission of the Castle Cary and Ansford Plan was followed and that it met the 'Basic Conditions', subject to the policy modifications being made. The Plan and supporting documents are all available on the District Council's website <https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/>
10. The District Council held a local Referendum on 30th July 2019. The prescribed question asked was:

*"Do you want South Somerset District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Castle Cary and Ansford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"*

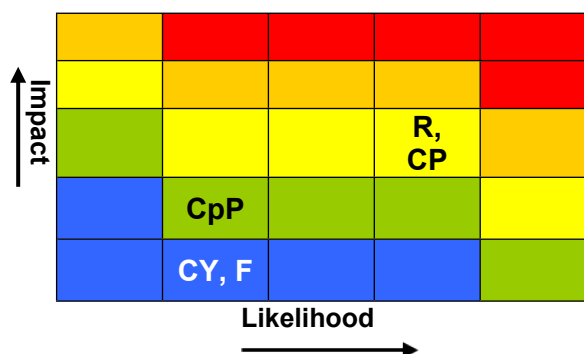
The Referendum results were as follows: 726 votes were cast; 682 voted in favour (Yes) of the Plan, with 43 voting against (No). As more than 50% of those who voted said 'Yes', the Neighbourhood Plan can now be 'made' (or adopted). Once this has been confirmed, it will have equal status to the Local Plan and be part of the Statutory Development Plan. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.

## **Financial Implications**

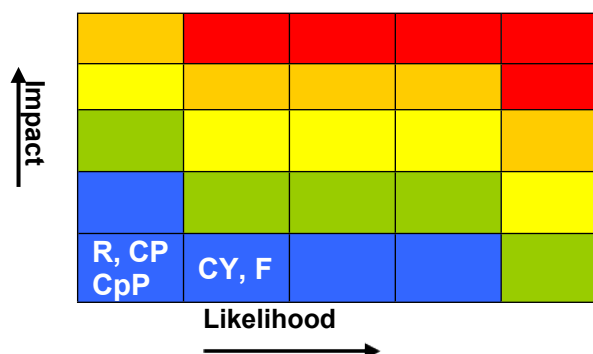
11. Under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations, 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts are generally passed directly to those parish and town councils (in England) where development has taken place. In England, communities that draw up a Neighbourhood Plan and secure the consent of local people in a Referendum, will benefit from 25% of the levy revenues arising from the development that takes place in their area.
12. The Council is able to claim a grant of up to £20,000 from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government towards the costs of progressing the Neighbourhood Plan once the date of the Referendum had been set. A claim will be made in relation to that at Castle Cary and Ansford once the next submission is open.
13. There is no SSDC funding involved in the recommendation specifically referred to in this report.

## Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



### Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

## Council Plan Implications

14. The Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan accords with the Council's aims to increase the focus on jobs and economic development, protect and enhance the quality of our environment; and to enable housing to meet all needs. The District Council's values include supporting people and communities, enabling them to help themselves; and the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the local community who wish to have an influence on future development in the town. The Council Plan states that it will focus on supporting communities to develop and implement Neighbourhood Plans.

## Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

15. The Castle Cary and Ansford Neighbourhood Plan does not directly address carbon emissions or climate change and no such issues arise.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

16. No significant changes to a service, policy or strategy are proposed, directly and, therefore, it is not necessary to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment.

## Privacy Impact Assessment

17. It is not necessary to process personal data so, therefore, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is not needed.

## Background Papers

None