

The 'Making' of the Martock Neighbourhood Plan

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Purpose of the Report

1. To note the result of the Referendum in relation to the Martock 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 June 2021.

Public Interest

3. The Neighbourhood Plan represents the views of Martock Parish Council and other stakeholders on the preferred approach to future development in the parish. 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 Parish also have a website dedicated to local matters called Martock Online and this includes a section on the Neighbourhood Plan: <https://martockonline.co.uk/>

Recommendations

5. That District Executive recommends that the Chief Executive agrees to the making of the Martock 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.



South Somerset District Council

Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

7. The Martock Neighbourhood Area designation was approved by the District Council in April 2016. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan for the area was prepared and a 'Pre-Submission' Plan was consulted upon by the local Steering Group in July 2019 (Regulation 14). This initial consultation was followed by formal submission of the Plan in January 2020 and the District Council carried out formal consultation in line with procedures set out in the relevant Regulations (Regulation 16), and in accordance with Covid-19 Regulations. 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 the 4th March 2021.

The Martock Neighbourhood Plan

- 8 The Martock Neighbourhood Plan sets out an overview of the parish today and the strategic context along with a vision, objectives and main aims for the Parish and stakeholders. The Plan also includes policies seeking to guide future development in the Parish relating to Natural Environment, Built Environment and Heritage, Housing, Local Economy, Transport and Travel and Community Wellbeing.
- 9 No sites are allocated for development in the Plan but the Settlement Area Boundary has been amended from that shown in the adopted Local Plan, March 2015.
- 10 The Examiner's Report concluded that the correct procedure for the preparation and submission of the Martock Parish Neighbourhood Plan was followed and that it meets the 'Basic Conditions', subject to the proposed modifications being made. The Examiner proposed 22 modifications in all. The original Submission Plan, supporting documents and summary of representations received are all available on the District Council's website [here](#)
- 11 The District Council held a local Referendum on the 6th May 2021. The prescribed question asked was:

"Do you want South Somerset District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Martock to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

The Referendum results were as follows: 997 votes were cast; 870 voted in favour (Yes) of the Plan, with 119 voting against (No). As more than 50% of those who voted said 'Yes', the Neighbourhood Plan can now be 'made' (or adopted). A neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum. At this point it comes into force as part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. A development plan sets out the planning policies for the development and use of land.



South Somerset District Council

CP - Community Priorities
CY - Capacity
F - Financial

Moderate impact and moderate probability

Minor impact and minor probability

Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

16 The Martock Neighbourhood Plan accords with the Council's aims to lead the recovery and revitalisation of our economy and communities to be stronger, more resilient and more vibrant than before Covid-19; to enable housing and communities to meet the existing and future needs of residents and employers; to keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive and respond to the climate and ecological emergency; and to enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

17 The Martock Neighbourhood Plan does not directly address carbon emissions or climate change and no such issues arise.

Equality and Diversity Implications

18 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

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

Background Papers

- The Martock Parish Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – report to District Executive March 2021