



## The 'Making' of the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan

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## Purpose of the Report

1. To note the result of the Referendum in relation to the Queen Camel 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 Queen Camel 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 Council also have a dedicated website for the Neighbourhood Plan: [Neighbourhood Plan – Queen Camel Parish Council](#)

## Recommendations

5. That District Executive recommend that the Chief Executive agrees to the making of the Queen Camel 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



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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 Queen Camel Neighbourhood Area designation was approved by the District Council in March 2013. Since then, the Neighbourhood Plan for the area was prepared and a 'Pre-Submission' Plan was consulted upon by the local Steering Group in May 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), before the restrictions on movement in response to Covid-19 were put in place. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

### The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan

8. The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan sets out a vision for the Parish and the Stakeholders' main aims. The Plan summarises the consultation process and evidence base which informed its preparation. It also includes policies seeking to guide future development in the Parish relating to Housing, Business and Employment, Community Services and Facilities, Getting About, Environment; and Heritage. A site to the northwest of West Camel Road is allocated for about 30 dwellings; with the land to the north of Roman Way set aside for an extension to the existing recreation ground and/or an archeological interpretation area. The Plan also refers to a number of local projects that will be taken forward by the Parish Council, although these do not form Plan Policies.
9. The Examiner's Report concluded that the correct procedure for the preparation and submission of the Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan was followed and that it meets the 'Basic Conditions', subject to the proposed modifications being made. The Examiner proposed 19 modifications in all. The original Submission Plan, supporting documents and summary of representations received 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 the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The prescribed question asked was:

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

The Referendum results were as follows: 224 votes were cast; 202 voted in favour (Yes) of the Plan, with 22 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



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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.

## Financial Implications

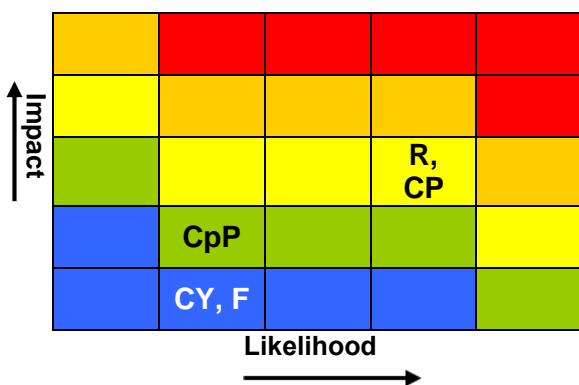
11. Under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations, 15% of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts are generally passed directly to those parish and town councils (in England) where development has taken place. In England, communities that draw up a Neighbourhood Plan and secure the consent of local 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 decision to hold a referendum has been made. A claim has already been made in relation to that at Queen Camel and the monies have been received.
13. There is no SSDC funding involved in the recommendation specifically referred to in this report.

## Legal implications and details of Statutory Powers

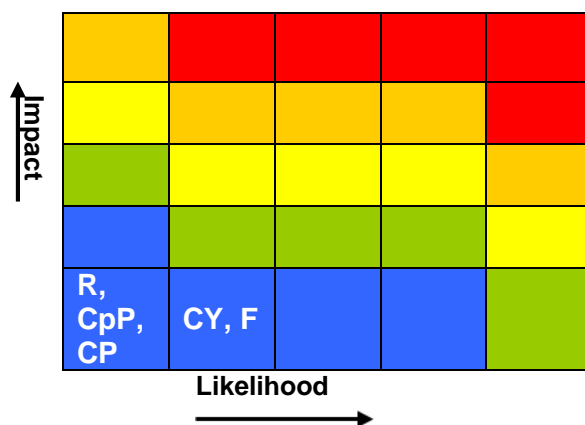
- 14 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (and subsequent amendments) provide base requirements for the process of the preparation and making of neighbourhood plans; the Localism Act 2011 provides Submission requirements (that is, the 'Basic Conditions'); and the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 (and subsequent amendments) provide for statutory Neighbourhood Planning Referendum Rules

## Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



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

## Council Plan Implications

- 15 The Queen Camel 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

- 16 The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan does not directly address carbon emissions or climate change and no such issues arise.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

- 17 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

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

## Background Papers

- The Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – Report to District Executive September 2020