

Faversham Neighbourhood Plan
Decision Statement
Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General)
Regulations 2012 (as amended)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Decision Statement is to set out Swale Borough Council's (the Council's) decision in relation to the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Review (the Plan) 2023 – 2038. The Decision Statement outlines the Council's decision in respect of:

- The actions to be taken in response to recommendations made by the Examiner in the Examiner's Report
- What modifications are to be made to the Plan
- Whether the Plan meets the basic conditions, and would not breach or be incompatible with any EU obligation or Convention rights
- The area in which the referendum will take place

2. Examination and Examiners Report

The Faversham Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for Examination in November 2023. The Council appointed Derek Stebbing BA(Hons), DipEP, MRTPI to independently examine the Plan. The Examiner examined the Plan by written representations and undertook an unaccompanied site visit of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

The Council received the Examiner's report on 25th April 2024. The Examiner's report recommended that the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan 2023 - 2038 has been duly prepared in compliance with the procedural requirements and that the Plan, subject to a number of modifications, meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.

3. Decision and Reasons

The Council must consider each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's report and decide what action to take in response. The Examiner's proposed modifications, and the Council's response and reasons to each of these are set out in Appendix I. The Council did not feel that all of the Examiner's recommended modifications were necessary to meet the basic conditions. The table in Appendix I sets out the Examiner's proposed modifications and the Council's proposed action and the reasons behind each decision.

The Council is satisfied that subject to the modifications in Appendix I being made, that the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements and can proceed to referendum.

4. Referendum Area

In recommending that the modified Plan go forward to referendum, the Examiner considered whether or not the referendum area should extend beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Examiner recommended that there is no need to extend the referendum area.

The Council agrees with this recommendation and concludes that the referendum area will not be extended and will be applied only to the designated Neighbourhood Area.

5. Conclusion

The Faversham Neighbourhood Plan can proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum. The referendum date will be published in due course.

The Faversham Neighbourhood Plan Area shall define the extent of the referendum area.

Date of Decision Statement: 23rd May 2024

This Decision Statement and the Examiner's Report will be made available on the Council's website and Faversham Town Council's website.

Appendix I – Examiner's recommendations for proposed modifications, Council's response and reasons