Hykeham Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement – September 2018

1. Summary

1.1 Following a positive referendum result North Kesteven District Council has made the Hykeham Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan at a full council meeting on Thursday 27 September 2018.

2. Background

2.1 North Hykeham Town Council and South Hykeham Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for Hykeham to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.

2.2 Following the submission of the Hykeham Neighbourhood Plan Examination Version (‘the Plan’) to the Council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 5 March 2018.

2.3 North Kesteven District Council appointed an independent Examiner, Liz Beth MA MRTPI to review whether the plan met the basic conditions required by legislation and whether the plan should proceed to referendum.

2.4 The Examiner’s Report concluded that the plan meets the Basic Conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in his report, the plan should proceed to a referendum.

2.5 A referendum was held on Thursday 19 July 2018, 87% of those who voted were in favour of the plan. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that the Council must make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1 With the Examiner’s recommended modifications the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.
3.2 The referendum held on Thursday 18 July 2018 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the Town of North Hykeham and the Parish of South Hykeham and posed the question: ‘Do you want North Kesteven District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Hykeham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’.

3.3 The count took place on Thursday 18 July 2018 and over 50% of those who voted were in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Electorate: 13,368  
Votes cast: 1,598  
Percentage turnout: 11.95%  
Yes votes: 1,394  
No votes: 199  
Spoiled ballot papers: 5  
Percentage in support: 87.23%  

3.4 The Council has assessed that the plan including its preparation does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3.5 The Council decided at the Council meeting on Thursday 27 September 2018 to make the Hykeham Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for North Kesteven.