

Debenham Neighbourhood Development Plan - Final Decision Statement

On 7 February 2019 a local referendum was held in which more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the Debenham Neighbourhood Development Plan. Accordingly Mid Suffolk District Council has decided to 'make' (adopt) the Plan.

The Plan as made becomes part of the Development Plan for the area and will be used where relevant to help the District Council decide planning applications. This decision was taken by Full Council on 18 March 2019.

Reason for Decision

In accordance with the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended) the District Council appointed an independent examiner to assess the submitted Debenham Neighbourhood Plan.

The examination was undertaken by Janet Cheesley BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI a 'suitably qualified and experienced' person who was independent of the plan making process. The Examiner concluded that subject to modification the Plan would comply with the 'Basic Conditions' as set out in Paragraph 8(2), Schedule 4B the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990.

Mid Suffolk Cabinet, at its meeting on 10 December 2018, agreed with the suggested modifications and concurred that the Plan so modified would comply with the Basic Conditions. Cabinet therefore resolved that the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

The local referendum was held on 7 February 2019. The format of the local referendum question was: *'Do you want Mid Suffolk District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Debenham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'*

More than 50% of those who voted in the referendum were in favour of the Plan. The declared result was:

Response	No. of Votes Cast	Percentage of Total
Yes	972	95.5%
No	46	4.5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1018</i>	<i>100%</i>

The result of the local referendum enables the District Council to formally make the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that the Plan would be in breach of any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act, 1998). At its meeting on 10 December 2018 the Council decided that the Plan was not in breach of this legislation and that it should be made part of the Development Plan for the district.

Dated: 18 March 2019