

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 25 JULY 2018

REPORT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

WALKERN PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN, 2017-2033

WARD(S) AFFECTED: WALKERN PARISH

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To adopt the Walkern Parish Neighbourhood Plan following the Referendum of 5th July 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL: that:

(A)	the Walkern Parish Neighbourhood Plan, as detailed at Essential Reference Paper 'B' to this report, be formally 'made' and used as part of the Development Plan.
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1.0 Background

1.1 Neighbourhood Planning was introduced by the Government under the Localism Act in 2011. Walkern Parish Council submitted a request for Neighbourhood Area Designation of the Walkern Parish in October 2014 which was subsequently agreed in January 2015.

1.2 The Parish Council submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan to East Herts Council in September 2017. Following this, a six week consultation took place between 5th October and 16th November 2017. Then the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed by an Independent Examiner in February 2018 and was

recommended to proceed, subject to recommended modifications, to Referendum.

- 1.3 The Referendum took place on 5th July 2018 with a 48.78% turnout. There was an overall 'yes' vote of 515 against 25 who voted 'no'. As outlined within Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, (as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017) the Council is able to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area.

2.0 Report

The Referendum

- 2.1 The residents within the Walkern Parish voted on the following question:

"Do you want East Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Walkern Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"

- 2.2 With an overall successful 'yes' vote, the Council are now able to formally adopt the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the East Herts Development Plan.

Adoption

- 2.3 If the Neighbourhood Plan for Walkern Parish is adopted, it will become part of the Development Plan for East Herts District Council. Consequently, any planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area will be assessed alongside the current Local Plan 2007 policies, the policies within the emerging Draft District Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and all other material planning considerations.

2.4 It is considered that the Walkern Parish Neighbourhood Plan for Walkern Parish positively contributes to the East Herts Development Management process providing a strong community vision that seeks to contribute to sustainable development.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#)

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendum\) Regulations 2012](#)

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