

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL - MONDAY, 8 JULY 2024

Please find attached, for consideration at the meeting of the Council on Monday, 8 July 2024 the following reports which were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda No Item

5. **Ringwood Neighbourhood Development Plan - Referendum** (Pages 3 - 4)

6. **Questions** (Pages 5 - 6)

To ask questions under Standing Order 22. Questions received by the deadline are enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Kate Ryan
Chief Executive

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COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2024

RINGWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAKING THE PLAN (REFERENDUM AND DECISION ON ADOPTION)

SUPPLEMENTARY UPDATE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

- i. notes the outcome of the Referendum of 4 July 2024; and
- ii. agrees that the Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan be ‘made’ (adopted) as part of the Development Plan for New Forest District (Outside the National Park).

2. RESULT OF THE 4th JULY REFERENDUM

- 2.1 Further to the provisions of the main report, officers can confirm that 83.2% of votes recorded answered ‘yes’ to the question: ‘*Do you want New Forest District Council and New Forest National Park Authority to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ringwood to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?*’. The turnout was 58.93%
- 2.2 As the majority of those who voted (i.e. over 50%) are in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, then the Plan should be ‘made’ (adopted) by both New Forest District Council (NFDC) and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) within 8 weeks of the Referendum date.
- 2.3 The only circumstance where the District Council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act 1998, including equality implications. The examiner considered this matter independently and found no evidence that the Plan breaches these human rights. The District Council concurs with that position.
- 2.4 Upon formal adoption the Neighbourhood Plan becomes legally part of the statutory Development Plan for the determination of planning applications.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Having drawn up a Neighbourhood Plan and secured the consent of local people in a referendum, the parish of Ringwood would (upon adoption of the Plan) benefit from the proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy revenues generated from the development that takes place in its area increasing from 15% to 25%.

4. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 4.1 I am delighted that the electors of Ringwood have approved this Plan which will enable them to shape the future of their town. It is a successful end to a long process for those involved.

For further information contact:

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – [Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan](#)
(Final Version, May 2024)
Appendix 2 – [Examiners Report](#)
Appendix 3 – [NFDC Decision Statement](#)

FULL COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2024 – QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 22

First Questions

Question 1

From Cllr Jack Davies to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Steve Davies

The Liberal Democrat manifesto commitment to allow local authorities to opt out of right to buy was a popular policy with local people. Will the Portfolio Holder write to the new Secretary of State and ask for right to buy to be stopped in the New Forest?

Question 2

From Cllr Malcolm Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety and Wellbeing, Cllr Dan Poole

Dibden Golf Club is celebrating its 50 year anniversary this year. Why is New Forest District Council not celebrating the opening of this facility, which it provided nor working with the club and members to help them celebrate this event?

Question 3

From Cllr Mark Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate, Cllr Jeremy Heron

With the new Government firmly in place, can the Portfolio Holder indicate whether work has been undertaken by officers to provide enough material to maximise the local government settlement with this authority given the manifesto commitments?

Question 4

From Cllr Alex Wade to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, Cllr Geoffrey Blunden

Is it not unreasonable for Parish and Town Councils to suddenly have to find an extra approx. £30k for tree works provision, because NFDC deems it reasonable to raise its tree contracting prices significantly, especially following councils setting their budget for FY24/25 in January at the explicit request of NFDC?

Second Questions

Question 5

From Cllr Alex Wade to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Cleary

As NFDC celebrates its 50th year, and we are off the back of a General election where there seemed to be a lot of apathy and frustration, what efforts are being made to engage New Forest's Residents, to learn about what NFDC Does and become involved in the democratic process? And do you agree, that despite it not being unique to the New Forest, the voter turnout for local elections suggests there is more we can do?

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