

**Horsham District Council Local Planning  
Authority Southwater Neighbourhood  
Development Plan 2031**

**The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) Regulation 19 and 20: Decision on a Plan Proposal and Publicising a Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**1.0 Introduction**

**1.1** Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Horsham District Council has a statutory duty to support Parish Councils and Qualifying Bodies in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP's) and Orders and to take Neighbourhood Plans and Orders through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Council's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.

**2.0 Background**

**2.1** The Neighbourhood Plan Area for Southwater NDP relates to the area that was first designated by the Council as a neighbourhood area on 25th February 2014. A second application was made on 20 March 2016 for the re-designation of the Neighbourhood Area to reflect amendments made to the Parish boundary that had been brought into effect by Horsham District Council (Reorganisation of Community Order) in May 2015. This second application was approved by the District Council on 16 May 2016, again following public consultation, and it is this area that constitutes the designated Neighbourhood Planning Area. However, the Parish boundary was further amended on 5 February 2019 by an extension at the south of the Parish, to include an area of land south of Centenary Road. Section 61F(1) authorises a parish council to act in relation to a neighbourhood area if that area consists of or includes the whole or any part of the area of the parish council.

**2.2** The Pre-Submission Southwater Neighbourhood Plan underwent consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, from 5 October and 16 November 2018. The Pre-Submission Plan was amended in response to the comments made during the consultation and the "Submission Plan" was then

formally submitted to the District Council. The Council, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, undertook a further consultation of the Submission Plan. Representations were invited between 7 June 2019 to 19 July 2019.

**2.3** Derek Stebbing was appointed by the Council with the consent of Southwater Parish Council, to undertake the examination of the submission Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination. The Examiner upon a review of the evidence considered it appropriate to hold a hearing. A hearing was held on the 28 February 2020 at Southwater Leisure Centre with the examiner inviting key stakeholders to adequately examine a number of issues the examiner wanted to address beyond the representations submitted at Regulation 16.

**2.4** The Examiner's Report was completed and sent to Horsham District Council on the 15 May 2020. The Examiner concluded that with a number of modifications the Submission Southwater Neighbourhood Plan would meet the Basic Conditions and could proceed to Referendum on that basis. Following agreement with the parish council it was agreed to take the plan forward to referendum.

**2.5** On 6 May 2021, the Southwater Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031 successfully passed Referendum with 82.49% of the votes cast agreeing that the Southwater Neighbourhood Development Plan be used by Horsham District Council to help in the determination of planning applications in the Parish of Rudgwick (turnout at the Referendum was 35.05%).

**2.6** On 23 June 2021, Horsham District Council resolved at Full Council that Southwater Parish Neighbourhood Plan to 2031, (incorporating the Examiners modifications and all modifications as per the HDC Decision Statement), should be 'made' and become part of the Development Plan for Horsham District Council for the Parish of Southwater.

### **3.0 Conclusion**

**3.1** It is therefore, confirmed that the Southwater Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan to 2031, (incorporating Examiner's modifications as set out in the Horsham District Council Decision Statement), complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011. As a result of the Council resolution of 23 June 2021 the Southwater Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2031 has been 'made' with effect 24 June 2021.

**3.2** In accordance with Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations, the Southwater Parish Neighbourhood Plan is available to view on the Council's website and on the Parish

Council's website. In addition, hard copies are available upon request to view at the Horsham District Council Offices, Parkside, Chart Way, North Street, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1RL. Horsham District Council has also notified all persons who requested to be notified of the making of the plan and where it can be inspected.