

# **East Devon District Council**

## **Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan - Final Decision Statement**

### **Date of Publication 11 April 2019**

#### **1. Summary**

1.1 Following a positive referendum result East Devon District Council has made the Exmouth Neighbourhood Development Plan ('the Plan') part of the Development Plan for East Devon. The decision is effective as of 11 April 2019.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 Exmouth Town Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for the parish of Exmouth to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area in June 2015, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force on 6 April 2012.

2.2 Following the submission of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Examination Version to the Council, the Plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 17 October 2018.

2.3 East Devon District Council appointed an independent examiner, Jill Kingaby, 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 Final Report concluded that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, and which are set out in the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement of 8 February 2019, the Plan should proceed to a referendum.

2.5 A referendum was held on 21 March 2019, 87.62% 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. The Council are not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

#### **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 2 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 21 March 2019 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, it was held in the parish of Exmouth and posed the question: 'Do you want East Devon District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Exmouth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

3.3 Greater than 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:

Number cast in favour of a 'YES'

3821

Number cast in favour of a 'NO'

540

Turnout: 15.49%

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 Cabinet meeting on 3 April 2019 to make the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for East Devon. The decision is effective as of 11 April 2019.