

Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement (Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 18(2))

22nd January 2020

Summary

Following an independent examination, Bolton Council can now confirm that the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Referendum. This decision statement is available to view online on the council's website at [Neighbourhood planning – Bolton Council](#) and in hard copy at the One Stop Shop in Bolton Town Hall and at Blackrod Library during normal opening hours.

Background

Bolton Council formally designated the Blackrod Neighbourhood Area on 11th July 2016. Following the submission of the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan to Bolton Council the plan was publicised and representations were invited from 4th June to 19th July 2019. Bolton Council appointed an independent examiner to examine whether the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan is able to comply with the 'basic conditions', and that the draft plan as modified can be submitted for referendum. The examiner recommended to Bolton Council that, subject to the recommended modifications, the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Having considered the recommendations made in the examiner's report, and the reasons for them, Bolton Council has agreed to accept the modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in response to the Examiner's recommendations/modifications.

The Council also agrees with the Examiner's recommendation that the referendum of the Neighbourhood Plan should be based on the designated Neighbourhood Area. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a referendum which poses the question, 'Do you want Bolton Council to use the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Blackrod Neighbourhood Area?' will be held in the area formally designated as the Blackrod Neighbourhood Area.

The Referendum is currently being arranged by Bolton Council. Details of the Referendum, including the date it will be held, how people can vote, and who is eligible to vote, will be publicised in due course.