

**West Lindsey District Council**  
**Regulation 18 - Decision Statement - Referendum**  
**Morton Neighbourhood Plan**

1.1 Under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, West Lindsey District Council has produced this 'Decision Statement' in relation to the Morton Neighbourhood Plan submitted to them by Morton Parish Council.

1.2 Following an independent examination of written representations, West Lindsey District Council now confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a neighbourhood planning referendum, to be held on 6 May 2021, based on the Morton Neighbourhood Area as approved by West Lindsey District Council on 3 September 2016. Documents relevant to the neighbourhood plan can be viewed on the District Council's webpages below

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/Morton-Parish-neighbourhood-plan/>

#### Background

2.1 in mid-2016 Morton Parish Council submitted a request to West Lindsey District Council for the designation of the Parish of Morton as a Neighbourhood Area. The approval of the Neighbourhood Area designation, for the Morton Neighbourhood Plan, was made on the 3 September 2016.

2.2 The Parish Council carried out consultation on the Draft pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan for Morton in early-2020. Consultation on the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken in mid-2020. An independent examiner was appointed to undertake the examination of the Submission version of the Morton Neighbourhood Plan and the examiner's report was completed on 2 March 2021 and made available to the Parish Council and District Council.

2.5 West Lindsey District Council officers, under delegated powers, have determined that the recommended modifications to the Morton Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'basic conditions' as set out in section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. West Lindsey District Council and Morton Parish Council agreed that the recommended modifications made by the independent examiner be included and revised in the original Neighbourhood Plan in order for it to proceed to public referendum.

2.6 To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, the referendum, to be held on 6 May 2021, will pose the following question.

**"Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Morton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"**

2.7 In response to the COVID-19 situation government planning guidance advises that where a decision statement has been made detailing the intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum, such as for the Morton Neighbourhood Plan, that plan can be given significant weight in planning decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application.