

**West Lindsey District Council**  
**Regulation 18 - Decision Statement - Referendum**  
**Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan**

1.1 Under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) has produced this 'Decision Statement' in relation to the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan submitted to it jointly by Hemswell and Harpswell Parish Councils.

1.2 Following an independent examination of written representations, WLDC confirms that the Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a neighbourhood planning referendum, to be held on 2 March 2023, based on the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Area as approved by WLDC on 10 April 2017. Documents relevant to the neighbourhood plan can be viewed on the WLDC's webpage at:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-west-lindsey/hemswell-harpswell-neighbourhood-plan>

2.1 In March 2017 Hemswell and Harpswell Parish Councils submitted a request to WLDC for the designation of the whole of the parishes of Hemswell and Harpswell as a Neighbourhood Area. The approval of the Neighbourhood Area designation, for the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan, was made on the 10 April 2017.

2.2 The Parish Councils carried out consultation on the Draft Submission Neighbourhood Plan for Hemswell and Harpswell in early 2020. Consultation on the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken in early 2022. An independent examiner was appointed to undertake the examination of the Submission version of the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan. The examiner's report was completed on 14 December 2022 and made available to WLDC and the Parish Councils.

2.5 WLDC under delegated powers has determined that the recommended modifications to the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'basic conditions' as set out in section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. WLDC and Hemswell and Harpswell Parish Councils have agreed that the examiner's recommended modifications be accepted and included in the Neighbourhood Plan for it to proceed to a public referendum.

2.6 To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, the referendum, to be held on 2 March 2023, will pose the following question.

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

2.7 Government planning guidance advises that where a decision statement has been made detailing the intention to send a neighbourhood plan to a referendum, such as for the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan, that plan can be given significant weight in planning decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application.