



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Witherley Neighbourhood Plan - Notice of Regulation 15 Submission (The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended))

This is a statement to confirm that the Witherley Parish Neighbourhood Plan under Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, was submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on 31 December 2021.

This statement sets out a brief history of Witherley Neighbourhood Plan, the acceptance of the submission HBBC, and the next steps.

Designation

Witherley Parish Council submitted an application to develop a neighbourhood plan which covers the area of Witherley parish in January 2017. A six week consultation on whether this was an appropriate area to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan ended on 20 March 2017. Following this consultation, the council formally designated the Witherley Neighbourhood Area.

Regulation 14 Pre-Submission and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

The Borough Council issued a SEA screening report and determination in relation to the draft Witherley Neighbourhood Plan, with the determination that a full Environment Report (SEA/HRA) was not required due to the reasons set out in the Witherley Strategic Environmental Assessment screening statement.

Witherley Parish Council undertook their Regulation 14 Pre-Submission consultation from Friday 20 November 2020 to Friday 22 January 2021. Information on this can be found on the Parish Council's website.

Regulation 15 Submission

The following covers the criteria for submission. Witherley Parish Council is a qualifying body as prescribed by Section 61F of the Localism Act 2011. The Witherley Neighbourhood Plan proposal is the only such document relevant to the designated plan area and is therefore not considered a repeat proposal for the purposes of Schedule 10, paragraph 5 of the Localism Act 2011. The Witherley Neighbourhood Plan does not include any development which would be defined as 'excluded development' as prescribed by Schedule 9, Section 61k of the Localism Act.

The submission of the Witherley Neighbourhood Plan proposal to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council included (but not limited to):

- a) A letter from Witherley Parish Council officially submitting the neighbourhood plan to the Borough Council;
- b) the Witherley Neighbourhood Plan (Submission Version);
- c) the Consultation Statement which contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan; explains how they were consulted; summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted; and describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan;

- d) the Basic Conditions Statement which explains how, in the view of the Qualifying Body, the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act and The Regulations;
- e) Witherley Parish Council minutes, dated 11 November 2021 where the progression of the neighbourhood plan was an item on the agenda;
- f) The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement Report and Decision Notice; and
- g) A map/statement identifying the area to which the plan relates.

The neighbourhood plan document will be made available shortly on the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council website. All other documents need to be available on the Parish Council's website in order for consultees to access all of the consultation material.

Delay in accepting the submission

It is evident from the date of submission that some time has passed between submission on 31 December 2021, and acceptance on 25 July 2022. This is due to the nature of the documents being inaccessible and therefore HBBC could not make the documents available on the Hinckley & Bosworth website until they had been presented in an accessible format. Although this isn't a requirement in the Neighbourhood Planning regulations, it is a legal requirement under the Accessibility Act; all documents published on public body websites must comply with the Website Accessibility Directive (2018), and it is the responsibility of the author to create an accessible document. The accessible version of the plan was completed in July 2022. Therefore the plan can now proceed to the next stage.

The acceptance of the Regulation 15 Submission

The above documents are now considered to adequately fulfil the submission requirements under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Schedule 4b of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as inserted into Schedule 10 of the Localism Act 2011. Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are satisfied that the qualifying body of Witherley Parish Council has satisfied the relevant regulatory requirements to advance the Witherley Neighbourhood Plan to the publicity and consultation stage (Regulation 16) and subsequent submission of the Neighbourhood Plan for independent examination.

Regulation 16 Submission Consultation

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will undertake the Regulation 16 Submission consultation stage for a **minimum** of six weeks, and will invite representations from any consultees prescribed by regulation. Further consultation related information will be made available once the consultation arrangements have been finalised.

Dated: 25/07/2022