



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan Review

Decision Statement – 14 July 2025

Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

Summary

Following an independent examination on the review of Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan Review, the council have considered all of the information available and this Decision Statement outlines the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) decision to "make" the reviewed Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan Review.

The reviewed neighbourhood plan was subject to a referendum.

Background

Market Bosworth Parish Council commenced review of the Made Neighbourhood Plan covering the area of Market Bosworth parish (with the addition, following a boundary review, of a small area of land previously within the boundary of Cabeby parish) following the successful referendum on the currently adopted Neighbourhood Plan, made in September 2015. Review proposals were subject to public consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended.

The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan Review was submitted to the Local Planning Authority in May 2024, and was subject to Regulation 16 Submission Consultation between 9am on Friday 13 September 2024 and 5pm on Friday 8 November 2024.

The Borough Council, with the agreement of Market Bosworth Parish Council appointed an independent Examiner, Dr Louise Brooke-Smith to examine whether the review of the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and to determine which 'type' of modifications have been made to the neighbourhood plan, as per Paragraph: 106 of the Neighbourhood Planning Practice Guidance (Reference ID: 41-106-20190509). The three types of modification include:

- minor (non-material) modifications which would not materially affect the policies in the plan
- material modifications which do not change the nature of the plan that would require an examination or a referendum
- material modifications which do change the nature of the plan that would require examination and a referendum.

The Examiner's Report recommends modifications to policies and modifications to the supporting content in the Plan, including corrections, to provide clarity in order to ensure that the Basic Conditions are met. Overall, the Examiner's Report (April 2025) concludes as follows:

"I find that the Revised Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of adequate consultation, and the resulting vision and ensuing policies generally reflect the findings of those

consultations. Drafts of the NP have been the subject of some amendments to take on board relevant comments from statutory consultees and key stakeholders.

The resulting version includes a site that already benefits from a Local Plan allocation, but I accept that this reinforces the stance of the local community and the HNA evidence base as discussed above. However, of fundamental concern is the need for the NP to avoid a restrictive approach to new development, notwithstanding this allocation. While there remains difficulty in confirming a clear and robust housing need for the Borough and hence a clear allocation of that housing need to centres such as Market Bosworth, there should be some acknowledgement that the Revised NP will be the subject of revision in the near future. There should also be appropriate means of assessing new development proposals in the meantime.

As such I consider that the policies proposed within the Revised NP are valuable, but only further to modification, so they can provide appropriate guidance to users of the plan and not be misconstrued as a blanket resistance to new sustainable development or hinder appropriate sustainable plan making.

In summary, and only subject to the modifications identified within this report, do I find that the Plan complies with the legal requirements set out in Paragraph 8(1) and 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the relevant regulations relating to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Hence, I recommend that, further to my proposed modifications, the Revised Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum. Should that Referendum be successful the Plan could proceed to be 'made' by Hickley and Bosworth Borough Council."

The Examiner also commented on the level of review, the neighbourhood area in relation to a referendum, and therefore whether a referendum would be required:

"The proposed changes to the Market Bosworth NP, in the form of the Revised NP require some modification to enable the plan to be compliant with the basic conditions. Reflecting the modifications proposed, primarily relating to policies CE3, CE5 and BD2, together with associated supporting text, I consider that these result in material modifications which change the nature of the plan. In this case, if the modifications are addressed by the QB / LPA there would be a need for the plan to be the subject of a referendum.

I am required as the Examiner to comment on the Referendum Area. I consider that the Referendum Area should reflect the approved Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Area reflects the whole of the Market Bosworth parish and I am content that this should also reflect the area for any forthcoming Referendum."

Regulation 18 Decision

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, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough 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 Regulation 18 Decision Statement can be found on the HBBC website.

As above, following the modification of the plan, the LPA accepted the Examiner's recommendation to send the plan to referendum. The information on said referendum is below.

Referendum

The referendum was held on Thursday 10 July 2025, in the Parish of Market Bosworth, and posed the question: 'Do you want Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?'

The count took place overnight following the close of poll on Thursday 10 July 2025, and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.

The results of the referendum were as follows:

	Votes Recorded	Percentage
Number cast in favour of a Yes	419	95.4%
Number cast in favour of a No	19	4.6%

Electorate: 1729

Ballot Papers Issued: 439

Turnout: 25.3%

Regulation 19 Decision

Following a positive result at referendum, in accordance with the regulations, the reviewed Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan is 'made' and planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area must be considered against the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan Review as part of the Development Plan for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Where to view this Decision Notice

This Decision Notice will be available online at: <https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/marketbosworthnpreview>

This Decision Statement may also be viewed by prior request at:

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub
Rugby Road
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR