



April 2025

**Willand Neighbourhood Plan**

**ADOPTION DECISION STATEMENT**

**REGULATION 19 – THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL)  
REGULATIONS 2012**

**1.0 Summary**

1.1 Mid Devon District Council is publishing its decision to 'make' the Willand Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for Mid Devon District in accordance with Regulation 19 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This follows a positive referendum result on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**2.0 Background**

2.1 Willand Parish Council (as the qualifying body) applied to designate Willand Parish as neighbourhood area. The Willand Neighbourhood Area was designated on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

2.2 The Willand Neighbourhood Plan submission version was submitted to Mid Devon District Council on the 13th February 2024 (formal confirmation by Mid Devon District Council on 12th March 2024). Mid Devon District Council undertook the statutory consultation, in accordance with Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, between 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

2.3. Mid Devon District Council, with the agreement of Willand Parish Council, appointed an Independent Examiner (Liz Beth) to assess whether the plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation; and whether it should proceed to referendum. The examination into the Plan was carried out by written representations. The Examiner's report was received on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The report concluded that the Plan met the basic conditions and other statutory requirements, and subject to the modifications set out in the report, that the Plan should proceed to a local referendum.

2.4 On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Mid Devon District Council agreed the Examiner's modifications and factual corrections to the Willand Neighbourhood Plan, and

agreed that the plan should proceed to a local referendum. A Decision Statement was also approved and published for this.

### **3.0 Decision and Reasons**

- 3.1. The local referendum was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. It returned a 'yes' majority of 90%, to the question:

*“Do you want Mid Devon District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Willand to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

- 3.2 The results of the local referendum were as follows:

Ballot papers	Votes Recorded
Number cast in favour of a Yes	269
Number cast in favour of a No	29
Number of spoilt ballot papers	1
Total number of votes cast	299
Electorate:2793	Turnout: 10.7%

- 3.3. Following the positive referendum outcome, the Willand Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' (adopted) by Mid Devon District Council at a meeting of the Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.
- 3.4. It is considered that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; complies with the provision made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and is compatible with EU obligations, as incorporated into UK law and Convention obligations (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
- 3.5. The Willand Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the development plan for the Willand Neighbourhood Area (the parish of Willand). In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the determination of planning applications in Willand Parish will need to be made in accordance with the development plan (i.e. the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan 2013 – 2033, the adopted Devon Minerals and Waste Plans, and the 'made' Willand Neighbourhood Plan), unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

### **4.0 Where to view this Adoption Decision Statement**

- 4.1. The Adoption Decision Statement can be viewed at:

Mid Devon District Council's Offices, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6PP

Opening hours (via appointment, please contact 01884 255255):

- Monday - 9 am to 1 pm

- Tuesday - 9 am to 1 pm
- Wednesday - CLOSED
- Thursday - 9 am to 1 pm
- Friday - 9 am to 1 pm

Online on the Council's website:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/willand-neighbourhood-plan/>

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