



## **Lewes District Council**

### **Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan**

#### **The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012**

#### **Regulation 19 – Decision on a Plan Proposal – Decision Statement**

**Report prepared by Thea Petts – Neighbourhood Planning Officer,**

**Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Lewes District Council has a statutory duty to support and advise communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and to take such plans through the process of examination, referendum and adoption. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the Local Planning Authority's responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.

1.2 This statement confirms that at the Full Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, Lewes District Council formally adopted ('made') the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan has now been brought into legal force, forming part of the statutory development plan for Lewes District. Consequently, the Plan will now be used when determining planning applications in the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Area, which covers the entirety of the three parishes, the boundaries of which lie partly within the South Downs National Park and partly within Lewes District.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Area, covering the entirety of the Parishes, was designated by the South Downs National Park and Lewes District Council in January 2014<sup>1</sup>.

2.2 The Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Lewes District Council in June 2017. The Regulation 16 consultation took place between July and August 2017 whereby the Plan was publicised and representations were invited on the Plan.

2.3 Mr Christopher Lockhart-Mummery QC was appointed by the South Downs National Park Authority, with the approval of Lewes District Council and the Parish Councils, to undertake the examination of the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

2.4 The Examiner's Report concluded that subject to a series of modifications, the Plan met the basic conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=258865>

2.5 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) require the local planning authorities to outline what actions they will take in response to the recommendations in an Examiner's report made under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4A to the 1990 Act (as applied by Section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2.6 Having considered each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report, and the reasons for them, the South Downs National Park Authority and Lewes District Council in consultation with Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Parish Councils decided to accept the modifications to the Plan to ensure that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in legislation. Modifications were made to the neighbourhood plan, in line with the Examiner's recommendations, and a Decision Statement was published in February 2018<sup>2</sup> confirming that the District Council and the South Downs National Park are satisfied the Plan meets the basic conditions and could proceed to a referendum.

2.7 A successful relevant referendum on the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan was held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, where over 92% of those who voted did so in favour of the neighbourhood plan becoming part of the statutory development plan for the district.

2.8 On 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018, Lewes District Council formally adopted ('made') the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Development Plan (incorporating the modifications as set out in the Decision Statement) as part of the statutory development plan for the district.

2.9 Lewes District Council adopted the Joint Core Strategy on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The Joint Core Strategy is the strategic plan which sets the context for the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan.

### 3. Conclusion

3.1 I confirm that the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan (incorporating the modifications as set out in the Decision Statement), complies with the statutory and legal requirements and basic conditions set out in the Localism Act 2011, and following the Full Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 has been 'made'.

3.2 Therefore, the Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for Lewes District and will be used to determine planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area (the entirety of the parishes of Ditchling, Streat & Westmeston) as defined on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014 with immediate effect.

3.3 I am taking the above mentioned decision as I concur with the advice contained in the above report under the 1990 Act in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3.4 I declare that I have no personal or prejudicial interest in respect of this decision.



Signed.....

Signed.....

Ian Fitzpatrick

Councillor Tom Jones

Director of Regeneration and Planning

Lead Member for Planning

Date – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Date – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018