

**West Lindsey District Council**  
**Regulation 18 - Decision Statement - Referendum**  
**Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan submitted to it by Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 26 May 2022, based on the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Area as approved by WLDC on 20 June 2018. Documents relevant to the neighbourhood plan can be viewed on the WLDC's webpage at:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning/all-neighbourhood-plans-in-west-lindsey/sturton-by-stow-and-stow-neighbourhood-plan/>

2.1 In Spring 2018 Sturton by Stow and Stow Parish Councils submitted a request to WLDC for the designation of the whole of the parishes of Sturton by Stow and Stow as a Neighbourhood Area. The approval of the Neighbourhood Area designation, for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan, was made on the 20 June 2018.

2.2 The Parish Councils carried out consultation on the Draft Submission Neighbourhood Plan for Sturton by Stow and Stow in late 2020. Consultation on the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken in Summer 2021. An independent examiner was appointed to undertake the examination of the Submission version of the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan. The examiner's report was completed on 25 March 2022 and made available to WLDC and the Parish Councils.

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

2.6 To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, the referendum, to be held on 26 May 2022, will pose the following question.

**"Do you want West Lindsey District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sturton by Stow and Stow 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 referendum, such as for the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan, that plan can be given significant weight in planning decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application.