



## **Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Final Decision Statement published pursuant to Section 38A Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)**

#### **1. Summary**

Following a referendum on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019, in which more than half of those who voted did so in favour of the neighbourhood plan, Bromsgrove District Council has decided to make the Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2030 part of the Development Plan for the District. This decision was taken at the Full Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. This statement sets out this decision and the reasons for the Council making this decision.

#### **2. Background**

The Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Plan area was designated by Bromsgrove District Council on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Parish Councils submitted the neighbourhood plan to the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. This was subject to a six week statutory representation period between 14<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

The Council appointed an independent examiner to assess whether the neighbourhood plan was deemed to meet the basic conditions and whether it could proceed to referendum. The examiner's report was received on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. This concluded that, subject to a series of minor modifications, the plan met the basic conditions and other legal requirements, and could proceed to referendum.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the Council published a Decision Statement under regulation 18 of the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (as amended) confirming that all of the modifications recommended by the examiner had been accepted and that the plan, as modified, met the basic conditions and should proceed to a public referendum.

A referendum relating to the Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2030 was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The referendum question asked was: " Do you want Bromsgrove District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) requires that the Council must make a neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan. The results of the referendum were as follows:

- Total ballot papers issued: 3372
- Ballot papers rejected: 33
- Yes votes: 2,911
- No votes: 427
- Electorate: 5,382
- Turnout: 63%

### **3. Reasons for the Decision**

The Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Neighbourhood Plan complies with the legal requirements and basic conditions previously referred to in this statement. It has also been subject to a referendum, and more than half of those who voted were in favour of the plan. As such it can now be formally 'made' by the District Council and become part of the statutory development plan for deciding planning applications in the designated neighbourhood area.

### **4. Where the Decision Statement can be inspected**

This decision statement, along with the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents, can be viewed online on the District Council's website at <https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/lbchnp> or on the Parish Council neighbourhood plan website at <https://www.lickeyandblackwellpc.org/>

A copy of the decision statement has been sent to the qualifying body (Lickey & Blackwell and Cofton Hackett Parish Councils) and all persons who asked to be notified of the decision.

If you require a hard copy of this statement or would like any further information, please contact the Strategic Planning Team on 01527 88 1663 or by email to [strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)

**Bromsgrove District Council – Strategic Planning and Conservation**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**