



## DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL GROVEHILL FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### POST- EXAMINATION DECISION STATEMENT Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

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This document is the decision statement required to be prepared under Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the Council's response to each of the recommendations contained within the report to Dacorum Borough Council of the independent examination of the Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan ("the Plan") by Independent Examiner Mr Nigel McGurk BSc(Hons) MCD MBA MRTPI, which was submitted to the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.

This decision statement, the Independent Examiner's Report and the submission version of the Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning)

Paper copies of this decision statement and the Independent Examiner's Report can be viewed during normal opening [times](#) at the following location:

Dacorum Borough Council  
The Forum  
Hemel Hempstead  
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James Doe  
Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Dacorum Borough Council (“the Council”) has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood (development) plans and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum. 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 the modifications proposed by the Examiner’s Report have been considered and accepted and that subject to making the recommended modifications (and other minor modifications) the Plan may now be submitted to referendum.

1.3 The Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan relates to the area that was designated by the Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013. This area is entirely within the Local Planning Authority’s area. See *Appendix A*.

1.4 Grovehill Future Forum undertook pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 between 28<sup>th</sup> Sept and 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016.

1.5 Following the submission of the Grovehill Neighbourhood Plan to the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the Council publicised the draft Plan for a six-week period and representations were invited in accordance with Regulation 16. The publicity period ended at 5pm on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## **2.0 INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION**

2.1 The Council appointed Mr Nigel McGurk BSc(Hons) MCD MBA MRTPI, with the consent of Grovehill Future Forum, to undertake the independent examination of the Grovehill Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.

2.2 The Examiner examined the Plan by way of written representations supported by an unaccompanied site visit of the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

2.3 The Examiner’s Report was formally submitted to the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The Report concludes that subject to making the modifications recommended by the Examiner, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to referendum. The Examiner also recommends that the referendum area should be the same as the designated Neighbourhood Area.

2.4 Following receipt of the Examiner’s Report, legislation requires that the Council consider each of the modifications recommended, the reasons for them, and decide what action to take. The Council is also required to consider whether to extend the area to which the referendum is to take place.

### 3.0 DECISION AND REASONS

3.1 Having considered each of the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report and the reasons for them, the Council, with the agreement of Grovehill Future Forum, has decided to accept all of the Examiner's recommended modifications to the draft Plan. These are set out in Table 1 and Table 2.

3.2 The Council considers that, subject to the modifications being made to the Plan as set out in 'Table 1: Examiner's Recommended Modifications', the Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions mentioned in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) is compatible with the Convention rights Annex B and meets the requirements of paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

3.3 'Table 2: Further minor modifications arising from the Examiner's modifications or to correct typographical errors', sets out a list of some further minor modifications to the general text agreed by the Council and Grovehill Future Forum for the purpose of achieving consistency with the modified policies or to correct typographical errors. As this is not a different view to the Examiner's, it is not necessary for the Council to re-consult on those minor modifications.

3.4 As a consequence of the required modifications, the Council will modify the Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan accordingly, for it then to proceed to referendum.

3.5 The Examiner recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum based on the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Council has considered this recommendation and the reasons for it, and has decided to accept it. The referendum area for the final Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be based on the designated Grovehill Future Neighbourhood Area.

3.6 The decision to accept the examiner's report and make minor modifications, as appropriate, in order for the neighbourhood Plan to meet the necessary requirements was delegated to the Assistant Director (Planning and Regeneration) at the Council's Cabinet meeting on 25 April 2017.

3.7 This decision statement is dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

3.8 It is a requirement of the Council to hold a referendum within 56 working days of publishing the decision statement as per unless a different date is agreed with the Qualifying body (Grovehill Future Forum). It was a decision at their October Forum meeting to approve the date of **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**.

#### **Other information:**

The Neighbourhood Plan document will be updated to incorporate all the modifications required. The date for the referendum has been set for 15<sup>th</sup> February and further details will be publicised on the Council's website, as appropriate.