

# **Wyre Borough Council Regulation 18 Decision Statement on the Barton Neighbourhood Plan and details of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan Referendum**

The Barton Neighbourhood Plan (BNP) has been prepared by Barton Parish Council in association with Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council. The latter formally delegated their right to prepare a neighbourhood plan to Barton Parish Council and its Steering Group in consultation with the local planning authorities for the neighbourhood area - the local planning authorities being Preston City Council and Wyre Borough Council. Preston City Council is the lead authority in this case owing to the majority of the neighbourhood area falling within the administrative area of Preston City Council and Barton Parish Council.

Barton Parish Council (lead Parish) formally submitted the Barton Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents for examination in November 2022. The Barton Neighbourhood Plan is a way for the community within the designated Barton Neighbourhood Area to shape the future of the places where they live and work.

The Barton Neighbourhood Plan has been through the Independent Examination Stage following public consultation. An Independent Examiner was appointed by Preston City Council in agreement with Wyre Borough Council and Barton Parish Council, to assess the Plan proposals and supporting documents against the 'basic conditions' (legal requirements).

The Independent Examiner's report was received by the Council in June 2023. This includes recommended modifications. The Independent Examiner recommended that the Plan, once the BNP has been modified, proceeds to local referendum and that the referendum should be based on the Neighbourhood Plan area as approved by Preston and Wyre councils on 8 September 2017. Following this Independent Examination in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) the appropriate Council(s), must consider what action to take following the Independent Examiner's Report.

## **The Council's Regulation 18 Decision Statement**

The Council's relevant Portfolio Holder has considered the recommendations made by the Independent Examiner on 14 September 2023. As required by Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) the Council has now published its formal Decision Statement. This Decision Statement agrees with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner, and that the Barton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Local Referendum which will be a referendum held within the Designated Barton Neighbourhood Plan Area. The Decision Statement can be found on Wyre Borough Council's website at [barton-neighbourhood-plan-decision-statement \(wyre.gov.uk\)](https://www.wyre.gov.uk/barton-neighbourhood-plan-decision-statement) and a copy of the statement can be made available to view by appointment at the Council's main offices at Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-

Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7PU. All other relevant documentation for the BNP, including the modified BNP, the Independent Examiner's Report, and details of all previous stages of the Barton Neighbourhood Plan process can be found on the Council's Barton Neighbourhood Plan webpage at [Neighbourhood plans – Wyre Council](#).

As stated in the Council's Decision Statement the Barton Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a local referendum within the designated Barton Neighbourhood Plan Area and will be held on **9 November 2023**. As both Wyre Borough Council and Preston City Council have agreed to the Independent Examiner's findings and to proceed to referendum, both Council's will hold the referendum on the same date.

### **About the Referendum**

An Information Statement about the referendum has also been produced by Wyre Borough Council as required by the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations. This Information Statement is available on the Council's website at [Neighbourhood plans – Wyre Council](#) and includes amongst other information, details of when and how the referendum will be held, the referendum question, a map of the referendum area, who can vote, and details of referendum expenses. This Information Statement can also be made available to view by appointment at Wyre Borough Council's main office at Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7PU