

# **Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Post Examination Decision Statement**

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

#### **1. Introduction**

This Decision Statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

It sets out Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's response to the recommendations contained within the Examiner's Report for the Welwyn Neighbourhood Development Plan ("the Plan"), and the Council's decision on how to proceed.

The independent examination of the Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken by David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI, and the Examiner's Report was received on 6 November 2025.

#### **2. Background**

Welwyn Parish Council, as the qualifying body, has prepared the Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan covering the period 2025–2036.

The Welwyn Neighbourhood Area was designated by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in September 2020.

- Preparation of the Plan has included:
- Regulation 14 (pre-submission) consultation undertaken by Welwyn Parish Council between May and June 2024
- Submission of the Plan to the Borough Council in April 2025
- Regulation 16 consultation undertaken by the Borough Council following submission

An independent examiner was appointed to assess whether the Plan meets the 'Basic Conditions', complies with legislation, and should proceed to referendum.

The examination was undertaken by written representations.

#### **3. Independent Examination**

The Examiner's Report was received on 6 November 2025.

The Examiner concluded that:

- Subject to modifications, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions
- The Plan complies with the relevant legislation
- The Plan should proceed to referendum
- The Examiner also recommended that the referendum area should be the designated Welwyn Neighbourhood Area.

#### **4. Decision and Reasons**

The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require the local planning authority to set out how it will respond to the Examiner's recommendations.

Having considered the Examiner's Report and its recommendations, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has decided:

- To accept the Examiner's recommended modifications to the Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan
- That the Plan, as modified, meets the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, and complies with the statutory requirements
- That the Plan should proceed to referendum
- That the referendum area should be the designated Welwyn Neighbourhood Area

These decisions were made by the Council on 24 February 2026.

The Council considers that the recommended modifications are necessary to ensure that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and is legally compliant.

#### **5. Environmental Considerations**

The submitted Plan was supported by screening assessments for:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Council is satisfied that the modifications made to the Plan do not require these assessments to be revisited.

#### **6. Next Steps**

The Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a local referendum.

The referendum will take place on:

**Thursday 7 May 2026**

Residents on the electoral register within the Welwyn Neighbourhood Area will be entitled to vote.

#### **7. Availability of Documents**

The following documents are available to view:

- Welwyn Neighbourhood Plan (Referendum Version)
- Examiner's Report
- This Decision Statement
- Information Statement
- Summary of representations

Documents are available online and at designated inspection locations within the Borough.

## **8. Decision Statement Publication**

This Decision Statement is published in accordance with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

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Dated: 25.03.2026