

Regulation 19 (Final) Decision Statement (30th April 2024)

This Statement was published on 30th April 2024 pursuant to Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Canterbury City Council has 'made' the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Canterbury District.

Summary

This document is the decision statement required to be prepared under Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the council's considerations and formal decision in bringing the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan into legal force.

Following an independent examination and positive referendum result, held on 28 March 2024, Canterbury City Council decided to make the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Background

The city council formally designated the Bridge Neighbourhood Area on 17 April 2019 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The city council published the draft plan, which covers the period 2022 to 2037, for consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 in May 2023.

The city council appointed an independent Examiner in accordance with Regulation 17 and the council received the Examiner's report in November 2023.

The council published their Regulation 18 decision statement in December 2023 and accepted the examiner's recommendations and proposed modifications to allow the referendum plan to progress towards becoming a 'made' plan and part of Canterbury district's development plan, subject to a 'yes' vote in a referendum.

A local referendum was held in Bridge on 28 March 2024 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the plan. Of the votes received, 398 (66%) voted 'yes' in response to the referendum question.

Decisions and reasons

Canterbury City Council decided by resolution of its Cabinet on 22 April 2024 to 'make' (adopt) the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.

The city council as the local authority 'makes' the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan in accordance with Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Bridge Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Canterbury district. Planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area must be considered against the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan, as well as existing national planning policy and the Canterbury District Local Plan.

On 28 March 2024 the plan was subject to a referendum which returned a vote in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications. Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (as amended) requires that the Council must 'make' the Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

The council has assessed the plan and concluded that the plan, including its preparation, is compatible with EU obligation and the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998) and complies with the relevant provisions within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

The adopted version of the Bridge Neighbourhood Plan (as approved by the city council) was published on the council's website, alongside this Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement, on 30th April 2024.

A copy of the neighbourhood plan (including supporting documents) and the examiner's report can be viewed on the council's website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/planning-and-building/neighbourhood-planning

Hard copies of the neighbourhood plan can also be viewed at the City Council offices at Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW at the following times:

- Mondays 10am – 2pm
- Tuesdays 10am – 2pm
- Thursdays 10am - 2pm