

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Decision Statement

Summary

Following an Independent Examination, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead's Cabinet has now confirmed that the Datchet neighbourhood plan can proceed to a Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

Background

The Datchet Neighbourhood Plan is the Qualifying body for the Neighbourhood Plan. During the production of the Neighbourhood Plan the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group undertook several consultations and engagement events including presentations at village fetes and exhibitions with various other local stakeholders in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. After the Draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Royal Borough a formal process of consultation was undertaken and the representations received were forwarded to the independent examiner for their consideration during the examination process. The consultation process has met the legal requirements.

The examiner was appointed by the Royal Borough, with the agreement of the Qualifying body. This examination was carried out without a public examination, using the written representations process, and the examiner's report recommends that the plan proceeds to referendum, subject to modifications.

Decision

The Council's Cabinet considered the recommendations within the examiner's report at its meeting on the 23 February 2023 and agreed to accept the examiner's proposed modifications, issue a decision statement, and progress the plan to referendum.

The Plan, with the examiner's suggested modifications, meets the Basic Conditions as required in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and is compatible with the Convention rights and complies with provision made by or under section 38A and B of the 1990 Act.

Cabinet also delegated authority to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Parking, Highways & Transport, to make minor, non-material, amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan prior to the referendum being announced.

Next Steps

The Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a public referendum. This is expected to be held on 4 May 2023.

This Decision Statement and the Examiner's Report are available on the Council's website via the following link:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/emerging-plans-and-policies/neighbourhood-plans/progress-neighbourhood-plans>

Paper copies can also be viewed at the following locations during their usual opening hours:

- Maidenhead Library, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1QU
- Datchet Library, Montagu House, 8 Horton Road, SL3 9ER
- Datchet Parish Council Office, 1 Allen Way, Datchet, Slough SL3 9HR
- The Bridge Café, The Green, Datchet, SL3 9EH

An Information Statement relating to the referendum will be produced and publicised in due course.

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan

Examiner's Recommended Changes

Council Officers are satisfied that the amended Datchet Neighbourhood Plan reflects the Examiner's following the below recommended changes.

Location of change	Page of Plan	Proposed Change
Introductory Section	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 1.1, change first sentence to: "The Neighbourhood Plan for Datchet covers the period 2022-2033." • Delete Para 1.3, which is unnecessary and appears confusing • Para 1.4, replace "jurisdiction" with "scope" • Para 1.5, change to: "The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the development plan..."
Policy DAT1	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete the wording of Policy DAT1 • Replace with a newly worded Policy DAT1: "Major residential development must provide a mix of dwelling types to include units designed meet the needs of older people." • Add new paragraph of supporting text, following on from Para 4.10: "New homes designed to meet the needs of older people may include the following: (PROVIDE THE FOUR BULLET POINTS (a. to d. from the deleted policy wording) HERE.
Policy DAT2	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT2, delete second sentence in the opening paragraph and replace with: "...Guide 2021. Development proposals should:" • Policy DAT2, change criteria to reflect the above: "a. respond to...b. utilise and/or augment the...c. integrate the..." • Policy DAT2, policy wording on page 32, replace "must" with "should" in column one line 5, line 8, line 18 and line 23; and in column two, line 1, line 7 and line 13. For clarity, it is recommended that the word "must" is replaced by the word "should" in all seven instances of the Policy criteria included in Section B.
Policy DAT4	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete the wording of part B of Policy DAT4 and replace with: "In respect of development proposals that have a direct or indirect effect on non-designated heritage assets, consideration will be given to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset."
Policy DAT5	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT5, last line of part A, delete "retained and" • Policy DAT5, second line of part B, replace "preserve" with "conserve" • Para 7.2, line 9, change sentence to "...undergrowth. Nevertheless, it is important that such views for those using the Thames Path are respected, are improved where possible and are not adversely impacted by riverside development. Moreover..." • Para 7.3, change last line to "...small – are protected from harm."

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 7.4, change last sentence to “It is important that views of the spire are protected from harm.”
Policy DAT6	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT6, delete the wording of the Policy and replace with: “Development impacting on Datchet Common and Gravel Pits, and/or Queen Mother Reservoir Local Wildlife Sites must enhance biodiversity and must not result in any significant harm.” • Change the title of the Policy to “Biodiversity” • Para 7.6, change to: “...are protected. As well as seeking to ensure that development minimises its impact on wildlife, national policy is clear in establishing that development has a role to enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity (see also Policy DAT8).”
Policy DAT7	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT7, delete part B and replace with: “The management of development within areas of Local Green Space will be consistent with that for development within Green Belts, as set out in national policy.”
Policy DAT9	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT9, change part A to: “...be retained. Development should seek to provide new grass verges where possible. These should be designed to prevent degradation, for example, by preventing vehicles from driving over them or from using them for parking. • Policy DAT9, change part B to: “B. The protection and/or enhancement, including biodiversity enhancement, of existing grass verges will be supported.”
Policy DAT10	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT10, part B, line 3, change “must” to “should” • Policy DAT10, part C, first sentence, add “...for new development in areas at risk of flooding subject to...” • Policy DAT10, part E., line 3, change “must” to “should” • Policy DAT10, part F., lines 1 and 8, change “must” to “should” • Para 7.35, delete first sentence (“Datchet’s...capacity.”)
Policy DAT12	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT12, delete part A. and replace with: “A. The development of segregated cycle and pedestrian routes that provide for suitable access by disabled users, those with sensory impairments and users of mobility scooters, will be supported.” • Policy DAT12, delete part B. (To ensure...Policies Map) • Policy DAT12, part C, change to: “The protection and/or enhancement of the positive features of Key Movement Routes, including the protection and maintaining of existing trees and the provision of new trees, hedging, verges and/or pollution mitigating planting, will be supported.” • Policy DAT12, delete part D and replace with: “Development should not result in harm to highway safety or to the accessibility of Key Movement Routes.” • Para 9.4, delete wording and replace with “The Parish Council will promote enhancements to Key Movement Routes. Suggested improvements are listed and described in Appendix A.”
Policy DAT13	61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DAT13, delete part A and replace with: “The development of new dwellings should provide for secure cycle parking and storage.”

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Para 9.5, retain first sentence and delete the rest of the paragraph (“The housing...AL39”). Add new sentence to follow the retained sentence: “To encourage cycling, the development of new housing will be expected to include provision for cycle parking and for thoughtfully-designed secure storage allowing for easy access.”
Other Matters		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update the Contents, paragraph, and page numbering to take into account the recommendations contained in this Report Chapter 10, Issue Numbers 30, 31 and 36 change start of “Possible actions” by deleting “DPC and RBWM to” and changing to “DPC to work with RBWM and...”