

Maidstone Borough Council

North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015-2031

DECISION STATEMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended), the Council has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of neighbourhood development plans and orders 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 Following an independent Examination, and representations made by local residents and Maidstone Borough Council, the Examiner recommended that the North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan proceed to referendum. This recommendation was reported to Strategic Planning , Sustainability Committee on 19 January 2016 which recommended that Full Council approves the North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan for referendum; which the Council so resolved on Monday 25th January 2016.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to an area that was designated as a neighbourhood area on 18th December 2012. This area contains portions of three Council wards which lie within the boundary of Maidstone Borough Council.
- 2.2 The neighbourhood plan has been prepared by the North Loose Residents Association and following its submission to the Council in August 2015, was publicised and representations invited. The consultation period finished on 23 October 2015.
- 2.3 Ms Ann Skippers was appointed by Maidstone Borough Council, with the consent of the North Loose Residents Association to undertake the Examination of the North Loose Neighbourhood Development Plan and to prepare a report. The report suggested a number of minor modifications and recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum.

3.0 DECISION

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendation of the Examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of