

East Hampshire District Council

Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan

Decision Statement Published pursuant to the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2011 S.38A(9) and Regulation 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

1. Summary

In accordance with the above regulations, and following a positive referendum result, East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) made the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan (2022-2033) on 28 September 2023. The neighbourhood plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for EHDC.

2. Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires EHDC to make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting in a referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to help to decide planning applications in the area.

A local referendum was held in Rowlands Castle Parish on 19 September 2023 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan. A total of 593 (96.5%) votes were recorded in favour, whereas 22 (3.5%) votes were not in favour of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The turnout of electors was 23.5% (615 out of an electorate of 2612).

Following an independent examination of the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan, EHDC has also concluded that the plan, including its preparation, does not breach or is not otherwise incompatible with any retained EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

On the basis of the foregoing and at its meeting on 28 September 2023, EHDC decided to make the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Development Plan with immediate effect. The plan has therefore become part of the Council's statutory development plan.

This decision statement can be viewed at all times on the EHDC website at: <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/emerging-neighbourhood-plans/rowlands>

For purposes of inspecting hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan, please contact the Planning Policy Team at neighbourhoodplans@easthants.gov.uk

Adam Harvey, Planning Policy Manager, 29 September 2023