



# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL CLYST HONITON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FINAL DECISION STATEMENT**

## **Summary**

1. Following a positive referendum result East Devon District Council has made the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Development Plan ('the Plan') part of the Development Plan for East Devon. The decision is effective as of 13 March 2025.

## **Background**

2. Clyst Honiton Parish Council, as the qualifying body, applied for Clyst Honiton parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area in September 2013 under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) (as amended). Following consideration, East Devon District approved part of the parish to be designated as the Neighbourhood Area, excluding strategic sites within the north and east of the parish. This came into force on 2 April 2014.
3. Following the submission of the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in January 2024, the Plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 12 April 2024.
4. East Devon District Council appointed an independent Examiner, Ann Skippers, to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and whether the Plan should proceed to referendum.
5. The Examiner's Final Report concluded that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions, and that subject to the modifications proposed in the report, the Plan should proceed to a referendum. East Devon District Council considered the Examiner's findings and concurred with them. A formal Decision Statement agreeing the necessary modifications and that the Plan would go forward to referendum was published, with effective from 7 November 2024.
6. A referendum was held on 23 January 2025; 84% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Plan. The Council are not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan

would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation (as retained and/or incorporated into UK law) or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

## Decision and Reasons

7. With the Examiner's recommended modifications, the Plan:
  - meets the Basic Conditions (set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990);
  - is compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights (as retained and/or incorporated into UK law), and;
  - complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.
8. The referendum, held on 23 January 2024, met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011. The referendum was held in the parish of Clyst Honiton and posed the question: 'Do you want East Devon District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Clyst Honiton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'.
9. Greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the Plan area.
10. The results of the referendum were as follows:
  - Number of votes cast in favour of a 'YES' – 71
  - Number of votes cast in favour of a 'NO' – 14
  - Voter turnout: 30%
11. The Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible, with, any EU obligation (as retained and/or incorporated into UK law) or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).
12. The Council decided at the Cabinet meeting on 5 March 2025 to make the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for East Devon.
13. The decision is effective as of 13 March 2025.

This Decision Statement and the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed online on the [Neighbourhood Planning Webpages](#) of the East Devon District Council Website. Hard copies can be viewed by appointment at the District Council Offices at Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton. Tel: 01395 571740 Email: [Planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk).