

Hull City Council

Thornton Neighbourhood Plan

**Information booklet for the forthcoming
Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, 6 September 2018**

What is this booklet about?

On Thursday, 6 September 2018 there will be a referendum on a neighbourhood plan for your area. This leaflet explains the referendum that is going to take place and how you can take part in it.

What are Neighbourhood Plans?

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. It aims to help local communities play a direct role in planning the areas in which they live and work by showing how the community wants land to be used and developed in its area.

Neighbourhood plans must meet certain “Basic Conditions” by having regard to national planning policy, contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, being in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the area and being compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements. Plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

The Thornton Neighbourhood Plan

The Thornton Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by the Thornton Neighbourhood Forum. It covers the area known as Thornton. It has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and following a recent independent examination, it has been recommended to proceed to referendum.

How was the plan produced?

The plan must be prepared through a process of consultation before an independent examiner reviews the plan and checks whether it meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements. The examiner then reports whether any modifications should be made to the plan and whether it should proceed to the next stage in the process which is the referendum stage.

What status does the referendum have?

If more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the neighbourhood plan, the local planning authority must make it part of the statutory development plan for the area to be used in determining decisions on planning applications.

Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote yes or no to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper with this question:

Do you want Hull City Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Thornton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

Who can vote in the referendum?

You can vote in the referendum, if on 6 September 2018:

- You are registered to vote
- You are 18 years of age or over
- You are a British, Irish, Qualifying Commonwealth or European Union citizen
- Your qualifying address for your registration on the Register of Electors is within the Referendum area (this is the same area covered by the neighbourhood plan)

Everyone who is eligible to vote in the referendum will be sent a poll card in early August, which will provide information about the referendum and how to vote.

If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, you can check by calling Electoral Services on 01482 300 302.

If you are not already registered to vote, you would need to register by 20 August 2018. You can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by calling 01482 300 302 – you will need to provide your National Insurance Number when registering to vote.

How do I vote in the referendum?

The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

You show your choice by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. Put a cross in only **one** box or your vote will not be counted.

If more people vote 'yes' than 'no' in this referendum, then Hull City Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in Thornton.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then become part of the Development Plan. In Hull City Council's area the development plan consists of the Hull Local Plan (adopted February 2018).

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes', or the number of votes for 'yes' and 'no' are equal, then planning applications will be decided without using the Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Development Plan for the local area.

Ways of voting

In person on 6 September 2018:

Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

- The polling station for the referendum is The Octagon, Walker Street, Hull HU3 2RA
- The polling station is open from 7am to 10pm.

If you are not able to go to the polling station on 6 September, you can apply to vote by post or proxy.

By post:

- If you have a postal vote already, you will receive a poll card confirming this.
- If you want to vote by post and don't currently vote this way, you will need to complete an application form and send it to the Electoral Services Team. They must receive the form by 5pm on Tuesday 21 August 2018.
- Postal votes can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by 6 September. If you are not sure, then you may wish to vote by proxy.

If you are already a postal voter, your postal vote will be despatched around 13 August.

For those applying for a postal vote after We will endeavour to send out postal votes for new applicants as soon as practicable

By proxy:

- If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf.
- If you have a proxy vote already, you and your will receive a poll card confirming this.
- To vote by proxy, fill in an application form and send it to the Electoral Services. They must receive the form by 5pm on Wednesday 29 August 2018.
- When you apply for a proxy vote you must say why you cannot vote in person.
- Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

Postal and proxy vote application forms can be downloaded from www.yourvotematters.co.uk or by calling Electoral Services on 01482 300 302. Once complete the forms can be posted or hand delivered to Electoral Services, Guildhall, Alfred Gelder Street, Hull HU1 2AA. Alternatively, you can scan a completed form and email it to electoral.services@hullcc.gov.uk

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the following websites www.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning and <http://www.hull.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/neighbourhood-plans>

How to find out more

The following documents (known as the 'specified documents') are available for inspection:

- **The Submission draft Thornton Neighbourhood Plan**
- **The Independent Examiner's report**
- **A summary of the representations submitted to the Independent Examiner**
- **Hull City Council's Basic Conditions Statement and Decision Statement**

These documents can be viewed on our website at:

<http://www.hull.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/neighbourhood-plans>

They can also be viewed at the following locations:

The Wilson Centre
Alfred Gelder Street
Hull
(between 9am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday)

The Octagon
Walker Street
Hull
(between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday)