

DECISION STATEMENT

10 January 2023



HIGHCLIFFE & WALKFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (2020-2028)

Background

1. In September 2021, Highcliffe & Walkford Parish Council submitted the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan proposal to BCP Council. An independent examiner, David Hogger BA MSc MRTPI MCIHT was appointed to examine the plan. His report was received in July 2022. It concluded that subject to modifications, the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan meets basic conditions and other legal requirements and, on this basis, could proceed to referendum. A decision was taken at Cabinet on 26 October to agree to hold a referendum on 15 December 2022, to ask voters if they wanted BCP Council to use the Highcliffe & Walkford neighbourhood plan to decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
2. BCP Council held a referendum on 15 December in the neighbourhood area. In the referendum a majority (86%) voted in favour of plan. No other issues have become known that would suggest that the council should decline to make the plan.

Area covered by the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan

3. The neighbourhood plan area covers the civil parish of Highcliffe & Walkford.

What this means for the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan area

4. In England, development plans are used to set out the planning policies for the development and use of land. Planning applications are determined by local planning authorities such as BCP Council. Planning decisions are made in accordance with the adopted development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
5. The neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan for the civil parish of Highcliffe & Walkford which also includes the adopted Christchurch Local Plan (2014).
6. The policies in the neighbourhood plan are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Christchurch Local Plan. Therefore, when decisions are being made on development proposals, the policies contained in the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan will take precedence over the non-strategic policies in the adopted Christchurch Local Plan (2014).

Where to find information

This decision statement and the Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan has been published on the council's website at [Highcliffe and Walkford Results of Referendum and Decision Statement \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)