**DRAFT**

**Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Party**

**Report to the Parish Council, May 14th 2025**

1. The Chairman of the Parish Council attended the Executive meeting of CYC on April 22nd Tuesday evening, when the MPNP was discussed and gave a short address prior to the discussion by members of the Murton Neighbourhood Plan Examiners Report and Decision Statement. Following the discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Neighbourhood Plan and for it to proceed to referendum. It should be noted too that members thanked yourselves and the Parish Council for all the hard work you have put into producing the Plan.
2. The decision taken by the Executive can be found on:

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s182510/Murton%20NP%20Exec%20report.pdf>

1. The CYC Strategic Planning Policy Team, with whom we have been working, have updated their webpage following the Executive meeting:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/planning-policy/murton-neighbourhood-plan>

1. It should be noted from this report that:

**As the Neighbourhood Plan is now at an advanced stage, its**

**policies have legal weight in decision making with regard to any**

**planning applications to be determined within the Murton**

**Neighbourhood Plan area. This is reflected in The Neighbourhood**

**Planning Act 2017 which recognises that, when determining an**

**application, a LPA must have regard to “*a post examination draft***

***neighbourhood development plan as far as material to the***

***application”*. If a LPA makes a decision to allow a draft**

**neighbourhood plan with modifications to proceed to referendum,**

**then the modifications recommended must also be taken into**

**account.**

**The government have published guidance on the weight of the**

**Neighbourhood Plan policies. The guidance states that ‘*where the***

***local planning authority has issued a decision statement (as set***

***out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General)***

***Regulations 2012) detailing its intention to send a neighbourhood***

***plan to referendum, that plan can be given ‘significant weight’ in***

***decision-making, so far as the plan is material to the application*’.**

**The Neighbourhood Plan supports the achievement of the core**

**principles set out in the Council Plan. In particular, policies in the**

**plan seek to support well designed development, as well as**

**supporting green infrastructure with positive implications for health**

**and well-being and climate change objectives.**

1. The Executive report quotes the Examiner’s Report:

**Positively the Examiner summarises that *“The Plan is a good***

***example of a neighbourhood plan. It includes a variety of policies***

***and seeks to bring forward positive and sustainable development***

***in the neighbourhood area. It recognises its sensitive location in***

***the Green Belt and proposes the designation of a package of Local***

***Green Spaces. The Plan has been underpinned by community***

***support and engagement. All sections of the community have been***

***engaged in its preparation.”***

1. The next stage will be to incorporate all the Examiner’s recommendations into the Neighbourhood Plan, ahead of the referendum, which City of York Council officers will do, and forward to us the documents to keep us updated on progress. It should be noted that these amendments must be made as per the Examiners recommendations and that there is no opportunity for making additional changes other than those highlighted in Paragraph 7.60 of his report.

1. The Regulations state that the referendum must take place within 56 days of the decision to proceed to referendum (excluding weekends and bank holidays) – so by 14th July. The referendum is run by the City of York Council’s Electoral Services Team, rather than the Strategic Planning Policy Team. The latter has been in touch with the Electoral Services Team, and they have provisionally booked **Thursday 10th July** for the referendum to take place. We will be informed if for any reason this date changes. The referendum will take place at St James Church, the approved polling station in the Murton Parish.

If over 50% of those voting in the referendum vote ‘Yes’ in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, then under the legislation, the Neighbourhood Plan is effectively ‘made’ (adopted) and the City of York Council must formally ratify its adoption as part of the statutory Development Plan for York at a meeting of its Executive.