

## **Statement of General Information as to Town and Country Planning (including Neighbourhood Planning) and the Referendum**

### **Referendum**

A referendum on whether to adopt the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan will be held for residents of the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area on 13 June 2024.

The question that will be asked at the referendum is:

*“Do you want Dacorum Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Bovingdon Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

The referendum will ask you to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to this question.

If a majority of the votes received are in favour, the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the Development Plan for Dacorum Borough Council (the Council) (see below). It will then help the Council and other planning decision makers to make decisions on planning applications in the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area.

### **The Planning System**

The UK has a plan-led system of town and country planning. The purpose of the planning system is to help achieve sustainable development. This means deciding what gets built and where so that places can grow in terms of new homes, businesses, and supporting facilities without detriment to future generations and in a way that respects and protects the natural and historic environment.

The planning system has two parts which are usually the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority:

- Plan making – setting out proposals for development and policies to guide development over a set period of time; and
- Development management – where planning decisions are made through the assessment of planning applications.

Local authorities and other decision makers, such as planning inspectors, make planning decisions based on policies in the local Development Plan, national policy, and other material considerations. The Development Plan is the starting point for determining any planning application, so the planning policies within the plan help to decide how much and what type of development happens, what it looks like and where it goes.

The Council’s Development Plan comprises of:

- the Core Strategy 2011;
- the Site Allocations DPD 2017;
- the ‘saved’ policies in the Dacorum Borough Local Plan 1991-2011;
- waste and minerals plans produced by Hertfordshire County Council; and

- any neighbourhood plans that have been made (i.e. adopted by the Council) following a successful referendum.

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

Neighbourhood planning was introduced under the 2011 Localism Act and enables local communities to write a Neighbourhood Plan – part of the statutory development plan – for their own area. Neighbourhood Plans must have regard to national planning policy, contribute to sustainable development, be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the area and be compatible with European Union obligations and human rights requirements.

Neighbourhood plans are produced in consultation with local communities by parish or town councils or, in areas without a parish, by forums of residents and businesses. When a neighbourhood plan passes a local referendum, it becomes part of the statutory Development Plan and its policies must be used to help determine planning applications within the designated neighbourhood area. Therefore, neighbourhood plans allow communities to have influence over development in their own areas.

## **Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan**

The Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan has been managed through a Steering Group reporting into the Parish Council in consultation with Bovingdon parish residents and other stakeholders. It sets planning policies for the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area (see below).

The Parish Council held a consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan before submitting it to the Council. The Council then held a further consultation, before sending the Plan and the representations received to an independent examiner to examine the Plan.

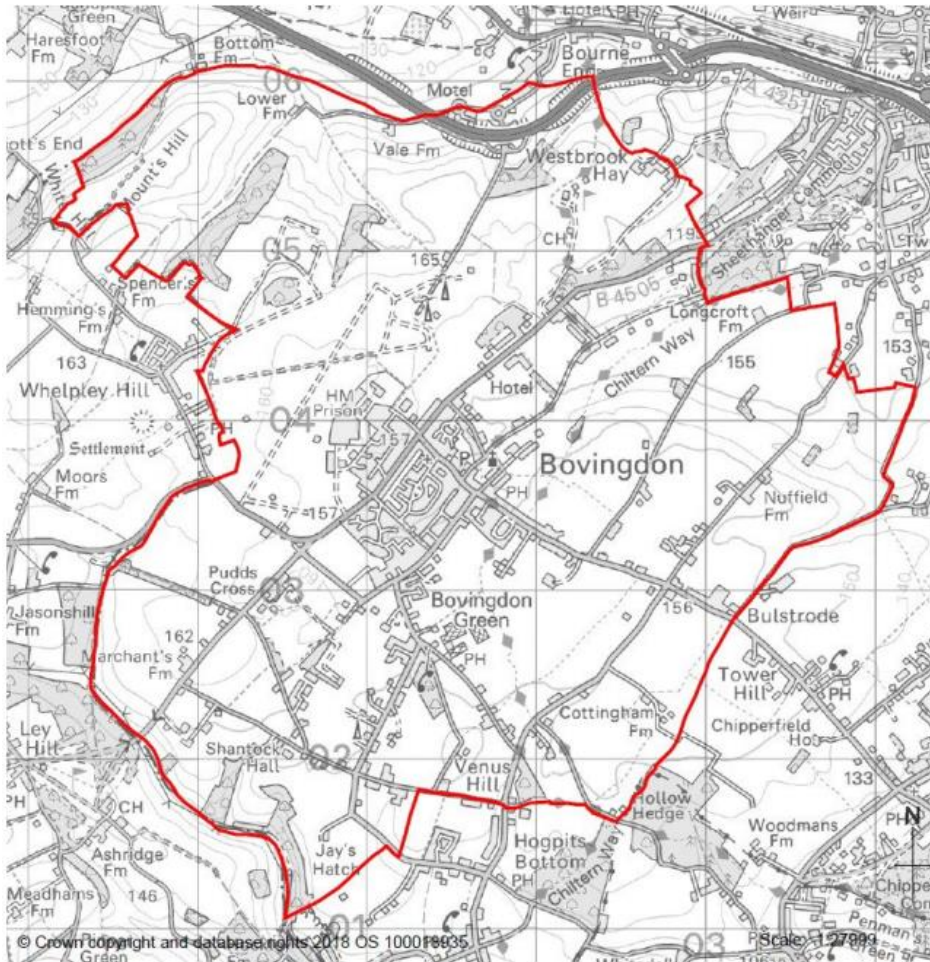
The examiner recommended a number of modifications to the Plan to ensure that it complies with the basic conditions and other legislative requirements before proceeding to a referendum. The Council decided to accept the examiner's modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and to submit the modified Plan for a referendum in the designated Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area. The referendum version of the Plan is the final version of the Plan, and includes these modifications.

Further details about the process can be found on the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan webpage: [Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan \(dacorum.gov.uk\)](http://dacorum.gov.uk)

## **Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area**

The area covered by the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan relates to the Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area that was designated in 2018. This area is the same as the boundaries for Bovingdon Parish.

The Bovingdon Neighbourhood Area is shown in the map below.



## How to view the Neighbourhood Plan and other documents

The Plan and other specified documents, as listed below, can be viewed online at [Bovington Neighbourhood Plan \(dacorum.gov.uk\)](http://BovingtonNeighbourhoodPlan(dacorum.gov.uk)).

Paper copies of the specified documents are also available for inspection during normal office hours at:

- Dacorum Borough Council, The Forum, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1DN.
- Bovington Parish Council, Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovington, HP3 0HJ.

The specified documents are:

- Bovington Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2038
- report of the independent examiner;
- summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- an information statement: and
- a statement setting out general information on town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum (this document).