Harborough District Council
Great Bowden Neighbourhood Development Plan Review –
Final Decision Statement

1. Summary

1.1. Following a positive referendum result Harborough District Council is publishing its decision to 'make' Great Bowden Neighbourhood Development Plan part of Harborough District Councils Development Plan in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2. Background

2.1. Great Bowden Parish Council, as the qualifying body successfully applied for the parish of Great Bowden to be designated as Great Bowden Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012), which came into force in April 2012. On 5 December 2015 Harborough District Council approved the designation of the entire parish as Great Bowden Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012) Part 2, Regulation 7.

2.2. Following the submission of Great Bowden Neighbourhood Plan Review Examination Version to the Council, the plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and stakeholders. The 6 week consultation period closed on 8 April 2026.

2.3. On 11 May 2026, Harborough District Council received an amended Basic Conditions Statement to accompany the Great Bowden Review Neighbourhood Plan, taking into account the provisions of Sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 which came into force on 25 March 2026. The council assessed the amended Basic Conditions Statement in accordance with the relevant legislation and validated the document. At the request of the examiner the Council sought the views of people who live, work and carry out business in the area for a two week period ending on 3 June 2026.

2.4. The Council, with the agreement of the Qualifying Body, appointed an independent examiner, Mr Andrew Ashcroft, to review whether the changes to the Plan were significant as to change the nature of the Plan. The Examiner determined that an examination and referendum would be required. The examiner considered the changes against the Basic Conditions required by legislation and that the Plan should proceed to referendum.

2.5. The Examiner's Report concludes that, subject to making the modifications proposed by the Examiner, the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and should proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning referendum.

2.6. A referendum was held on 8 October 2026 and a 'yes' vote was returned with 278 out of 290 persons that voted, voting '*to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bowden to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area.'*

2.7. Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 requires that the Council must 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

2.8. 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 or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3. Decision and Reasons

3.1. With the Examiner's recommended modifications Great Bowden Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 48 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, is

compatible with EU obligations and the Convention rights and complies with relevant provision made by or under Section 38A and B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended.

3.2. The referendum held on 8 October 2026 met the requirements of the Localism Act 2011; it was held in the Parish of Great Bowden and posed the question:

'Do you want Harborough District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Great Bowden to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood area?'

3.3. The count took place on 8 October 2026 and greater than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications in the plan area. The results of the referendum were:

Description		**Votes**
Total number of votes cast		**290**
Number cast in favour of a **"YES"**		**278**
Number cast in favour of a **"NO"**		**12**
The number of Ballot Papers rejected was as follows	(a) Want of Official Mark	**0**
	(b) Voting more times than the voter was entitled to	**0**
	(c) Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	**0**
	(d) Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	**0**
	(e) Rejected in part	**0**
	Total number of Spoilt Votes	**0**
Electorate 1172 Turnout**– 24.74%**		

3.4. Harborough District Council has assessed that the Plan, including its preparation, does not breach, and would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

3.5. In accordance with the Regulations and the Council's scheme of delegation Great Bowden Neighbourhood Development Plan is 'made' and planning applications in the Parish must be considered against Great Bowden Review Neighbourhood Development Plan, as well as existing planning policy, such as the Harborough District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance.

4. Where to view this Decision Notice

4.1. The decision notice may be viewed at:

Harborough District Council
The Symington Building
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
LE16 7AG

Open - Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri: 8.45am - 5pm. Wed: 9.30am - 5pm