



Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 19 Decision Statement (15 March 2016)

This Decision Statement is published pursuant to Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

At the Full Council meeting of 15 March 2016, following a positive referendum result, Bristol City Council resolved to 'make' the Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Bristol. Planning applications within the neighbourhood planning area must be considered against the Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan as well as existing planning policy such as the Bristol Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework.

Background

The Old Market area became a designated neighbourhood planning area on 31 January 2013. Old Market Community Association applied to be designated as a neighbourhood planning forum for the purpose of developing a neighbourhood development plan for the area. They were designated as Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Planning Forum on 1 May 2013.

Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Planning Forum published a draft neighbourhood development plan for consultation on 7 October 2013. An amended neighbourhood development plan was submitted to Bristol City Council for independent examination on 3 February 2015. The Plan was published by Bristol City Council between 9 February and 23 March 2015 and representations were invited on the plan.

Mr. Graham Self MA MSc FRTPI was appointed as independent examiner of the Plan and carried out his examination by written representations between May and June 2015. The examiner concluded that, subject to modifications, the plan could be submitted to a referendum. The examiner's report was published on 30 June 2015.

Bristol City Council considered the examiner's recommended modifications and reasons in partnership with Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Planning Forum. The council determined that the Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan, with modifications, met the basic conditions, was compatible with the Convention rights and complied with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan. The council's decision and reasons, along with the prescribed modifications, were set out in the Regulation 18 Decision Statement published on 14 January 2016.

Decision and Reasons

A local referendum was held in Old Market Quarter on 25 February 2016 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan. From the votes recorded, 265 out of 300 (88%) of those who voted were in favour of the plan. The turnout of electors was 10%.

Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended requires that Bristol City Council must 'make' the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.

Bristol City Council has assessed that the making of the plan does not breach, and is not otherwise incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

In accordance with the Act and Regulations, the Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan is 'made' and now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Bristol.