

Barton Le Clay Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement (9th March 2026)

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Summary

Following an Independent Examination and Referendum, Central Bedfordshire Council now confirms that the Barton Le Clay Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan') forms part of the Development Plan for Central Bedfordshire and the policies in the Plan can therefore now be given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land covered by the Plan.

Background

Barton Le Clay Parish Council, as the relevant body, applied for the Parish of Barton Le Clay to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Area application was approved by Central Bedfordshire Council ('the Council') on 10 January 2013 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Following the submission of the Plan to the Council in July 2025, the Plan was publicised, and representations were invited under the formal Regulation 16 consultation. This consultation period was for 6 weeks, from 9th July 2025 to 20th August 2025

The Council, with the agreement of Barton le Clay Parish Council, appointed an Independent Examiner, David Kaiserman BA DipTP MRTPI to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and should proceed to Referendum.

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

Decisions & Reasons

The Council accepted the contents and proposed modifications in the Examiner's Report, that the Barton Le Clay Neighbourhood Plan (as modified) should proceed to Referendum.

A Referendum took place on **Thursday 19 February 2026**. The results showed that **96.66%** of those who voted were in favour of the Plan.

On the **Monday 9th March 2026**, the Director of Places and Communities made the delegated decision, pursuant to Section 38A(4) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to 'make' the Barton Le Clay Neighbourhood Plan as more than half of those voting, voted in favour of the Plan. This Decision Statement and the Plan have been published on our website. This information has also been brought to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the Neighbourhood Area via the Parish Council.