

## **STONELEIGH AND AURIOL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - TO 'MAKE' THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL REFERENDUM**

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<b>Wards affected:</b>	Auriol Ward; Cuddington Ward; Stoneleigh Ward;
<b>Urgent Decision</b>	No
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 – Stoneleigh and Auriol Local Plan Decision Statement

### **Summary**

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a right for communities to draw up neighbourhood development plans. Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Forum, with support and advice from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has produced a neighbourhood plan.

The neighbourhood plan has been subject to community and stakeholder engagement and was subject to an Independent Examination during September and October 2025, which concluded with a recommendation by this committee that Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to Referendum.

A Referendum was held on 12 February 2026 with a positive outcome, with the following results based on a turnout of 20.7%:

- Yes: 93.4%
- No: 6.6%

### **Recommendation (s)**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Agree that the Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan be formally made (adopted) as part of the statutory Development Plan.**
- (2) Authorise the publication of the Decision Statement (Appendix 1 of this report).**

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### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 To formally 'make' the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Stoneleigh and Auriol, under section 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, following a positive Referendum on 12 February 2026 and in accordance with the prescribed timescales under section 38A(4)(b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Forum has been working to prepare a neighbourhood plan for several years. The Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area were designated by the Council in November 2020.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with strategic policies in the Borough's adopted Local Plan.
- 2.3 The Council has a statutory duty to provide advice and assistance to Neighbourhood Forums that are preparing a neighbourhood plan. Planning officers have had regular contact with Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Forum and have provided comments and planning advice throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, via meetings and email correspondence. In addition, the council has provided a detailed responses to the two formal consultation stages detailed below:
  - Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) consultation.
  - Submission Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 16) consultation.
- 2.4 There are nine key stages to preparing a neighbourhood plan which are detailed below. Further information on each of the nine stages is contained within our Neighbourhood Planning Guide.
  - Stage 1 - Designating a neighbourhood area
  - Stage 2 - Designating a neighbourhood forum
  - Stage 3 - Preparing a draft neighbourhood plan - evidence gathering and public engagement.
  - Stage 4 - Pre-Submission publicity and consultation
  - Stage 5 - Submission of a neighbourhood plan to the Council as the local planning authority
  - Stage 6 - Independent Examination
  - Stage 7 – Referendum
  - Stage 8 - Bringing the neighbourhood plan into force

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- Stage 9 – Monitoring and review

- 2.5 The final Examiner's report was received by the Council on 23 October 2025 which completed stage 6 and on the 25 November 2025 this committee accepted and agreed with the Examiner's proposed modifications to the Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan and that the plan could proceed to referendum on the 12 February 2026.
- 2.6 The Referendum was held on 12 February 2026 (completing stage 7), with the following outcome based on a turnout of 20.7%:
- Yes: 93.4%
  - No: 6.6%
- 2.7 Legislation (Section 38A(4)(b) of the 2004 Act) requires Epsom & Ewell Borough Council to 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan within 8 weeks of a successful Referendum.
- 2.8 Once formally 'made', the Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory land use development plan for the defined neighbourhood area with equivalent weight and legal status as the Epsom and Ewell Local Plan.
- 2.9 Part of the adoption process as set out under Regulation 19 and 20 Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), requires the Council to publish a Decision Statement (Appendix 1) on the website and to bring to the attention those who live, work, carry on a business in the neighbourhood area of adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. We are also required to send a copy of the Decision Notice to the qualifying body and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

### 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

#### 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None

#### 3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 None

#### 3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None

#### 3.4 Dependencies

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3.4.1 None

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None

### 4 Financial Implications

4.1 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### 5 Legal Implications

5.1 The report details the process by which the Neighbourhood Plan has been proposed, examined and subject to a referendum. More than half of those voting in the referendum voted in favour, meaning that under s.38A(4)(b) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council as local planning authority is under a duty to 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan "as soon as reasonably practicable", or else within 8 weeks from the day after the referendum (under Reg 18A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). The council must publish the Neighbourhood Plan and put a formal adoption statement on its website and make hard copies available at local libraries and at the council offices. If the recommendations are agreed, then the plan achieves the statutory status of forming part of the development plan for the area. The council, in its capacity as local planning authority, will be duty bound to use the plan to help it determine planning applications and do so in accordance with various town and country planning acts.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** As set out above.

### 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Encourage high quality design which balances the built environment with new open green spaces

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** The Neighbourhood Plan contains a policy relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None

6.5 **Partnerships:** Making the neighbourhood plan will deliver Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Forums aspirations to have an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan in force in the designated area.

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6.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None

### 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

#### **Previous reports:**

- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee – 25 November 2025 – Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan – Examiner’s Report and Decision to Proceed to Referendum](#)
- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee – 3 July 2025 – Response to Stoneleigh and Auriol Submission Neighbourhood Plan \(Regulation 16\)](#)
- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee – 17 October 2024 – Response to Stoneleigh and Auriol Draft Neighbourhood Plan \(Regulation 14\)](#)

#### **Other papers:**

- [Stoneleigh and Auriol Neighbourhood Plan \(2025-2039\)](#)
- [Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Neighbourhood Planning Guide](#)