

# HALTON-WITH-AUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Regulation 19 (Final) Decision Statement

This Statement was published on 22 April 2026, pursuant to Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012/637.

Lancaster City Council has 'made' the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Lancaster District.

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This document is the Decision Statement required to be prepared under Section 38A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the Council's considerations and formal decision in bringing the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan into legal force.
- 1.2 Following an independent examination and positive referendum result, held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Lancaster City Council decided to make the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Halton-with-Aughton Parish Council (the Parish Council), as the appropriate qualifying body for their area, submitted proposals to Lancaster City Council (the Council) to designate the boundary of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 2.2 The Council approved the Neighbourhood Area application on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 2.3 Following initial consultation stages, a Draft Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (the Plan) was publicised, and representations were invited in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) between 15<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- 2.4 The Plan was submitted to the Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025. A final, formal, stage of publicity was undertaken over a 6-week period in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), between 10<sup>th</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to determine if there were any unresolved objections to the Plan.

- 2.5** The Council, with the agreement of the Parish Council, appointed an independent Examiner, to review whether the Plan met the 'Basic Conditions' and legal requirements for plan-making as required by legislation and whether it could proceed to referendum. This was completed with the final examination report dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 sent to both the Parish Council and the Council.
- 2.6** The Examiner concluded that subject to recommended modifications, the Plan would meet the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Parish 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 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Parish Council made the recommended modifications to the Plan. The Council accepted that the modifications recommended in the Examiner's Report were necessary for the Plan to meet the basic conditions and subject to these amendments the Plan should proceed to Referendum.
- 2.7** A local referendum was held in Halton-with-Aughton Parish on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to decide whether the local community were in favour of the Plan. From the votes recorded, 359 of the 395 votes (90.88%) received were in favour of the Plan. The turnout of electors was 16.87%.

### **3.0 Decisions and Reasons**

- 3.1** Lancaster City Council decided by resolution of Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 to make the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 3.2** Lancaster City Council as the local authority 'makes' the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan in accordance with Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Lancaster District. Planning applications in the Neighbourhood Plan Area (Halton-with-Aughton Parish) must be considered against the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan, as well as existing national planning policy and the Local Plan.
- 3.3** On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 the Plan was subject to a referendum which returned a vote in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications. Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must 'make' the Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the plan.
- 3.4** The Council has assessed the Plan and concluded that the Plan, including its preparation, is compatible with EU obligation and the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998) and complies with the relevant provisions within the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
- 3.5** The adopted version of the Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (as approved by Full Council) was published on the Council's website, alongside this Halton-with-Aughton Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

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