

Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan

Decision Statement

Reg. 18(2) - The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by way of written representations, Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) now confirms that the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (STNP) will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.

2. This decision statement is available on the STNP page of the SDC website: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20069153/sevenoaks_town_neighbourhood_plan and will be displayed at the District Council office, Argyle Road. A copy will also be sent to Sevenoaks Town Council for display at their offices.

Background

3. SDC formally designated the area shown at **Appendix 1** as the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Area in October 2013.

4. Following the submission of the STNP to SDC, the plan was publicised, and representations were invited. The publicity period ran from 4 August to 22 September 2022.

5. The District Council appointed an Independent Examiner, David Hogger BA MSc MRTPI MCIHT to examine whether the STNP met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the STNP should proceed to a referendum.

6. The Examiner's Report recommended a number of modifications so that the STNP is able to comply with the 'basic conditions' and other relevant statutory provisions and that the submission plan if modified can be put to referendum.

7. The Executive Summary of the Examiner's Report (21 December 2022) states: "From my examination of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan and its supporting documentation including the representations made, I have concluded that subject to the policy modifications set out in this report, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions".

8. In the summary, the Examiner's Report states that the independent Examiner recommends to SDC "that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to Referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements".

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

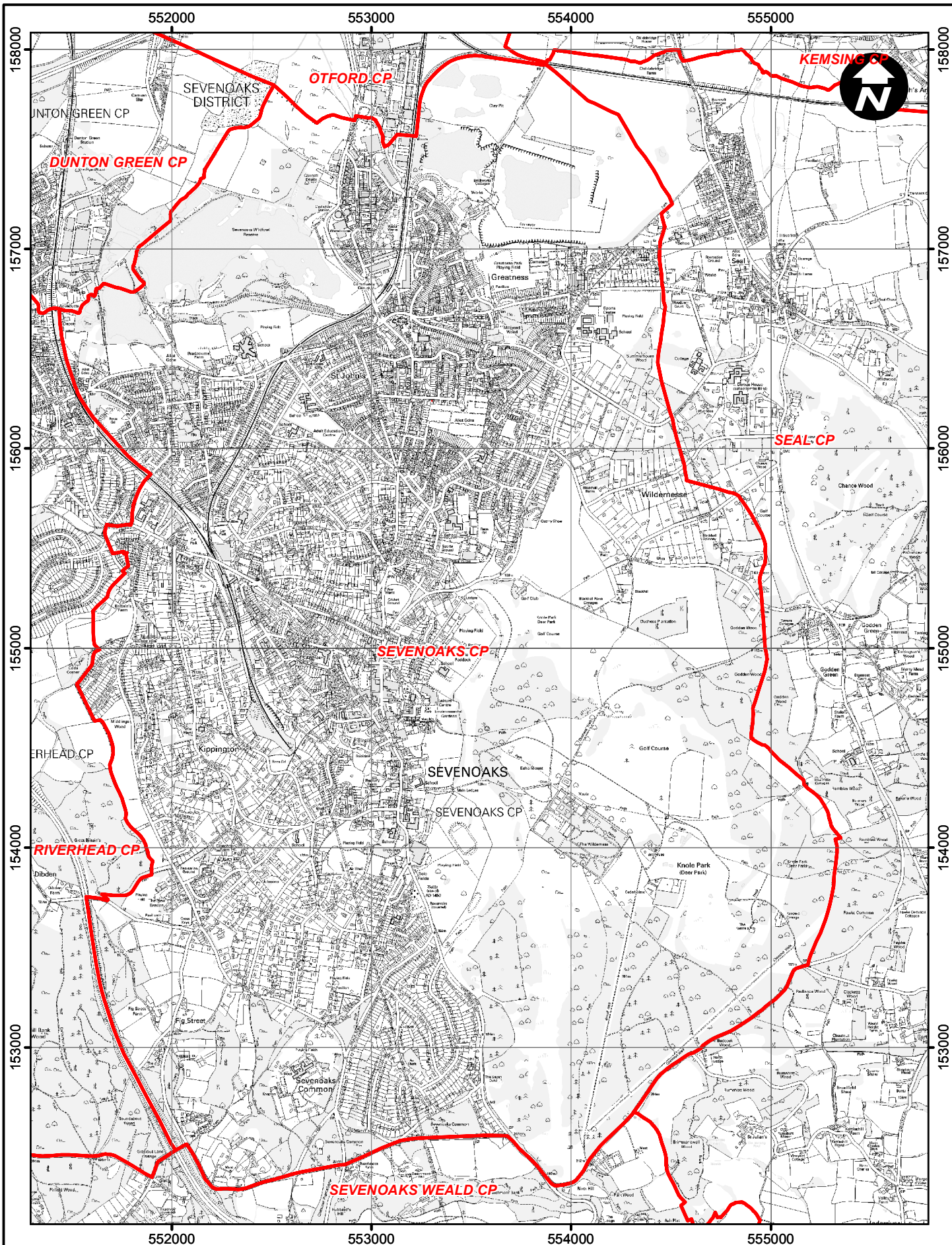
9. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

10. Having considered the recommendations made by the Examiner's report, and the reasons for them, SDC in conjunction with STC (the Qualifying Body) has agreed to accept the modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in response to the Examiner's recommendations/ modifications.

11. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 a referendum which poses the question, '*Do you want Sevenoaks District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Sevenoaks Town to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?*' will be held in the area formally designated as the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Area, that is Sevenoaks Town Council Parish Boundary (see Appendix 1), to ensure the community has the final say on whether the neighbourhood plan comes into force or not.

12. The date on which the referendum will take place is Thursday 4 May 2023.

Appendix 1: Neighbourhood Area (Sevenoaks Town Council Parish Boundary)



Sevenoaks
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Sevenoaks District Council, 100019428, 2013.

SEVENOAKS PARISH WARDS

Sevenoaks CP

Scale: 1:25,000
Date: August 2013