



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COPLE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Final Decision Statement

Regulation 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and section 38A (9) and (10) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

As a result of the referendum on 5 February 2026, Bedford Borough Council has 'made' (brought into legal force) the Cople Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Plan will now form part of the development plan for the Bedford Borough Council area.

The Cople Neighbourhood Development Plan was examined by an Independent Examiner, who determined that subject to modifications, the Plan met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.

The referendum was held in Cople Parish, where more than 50% of those who voted were in favour of the Plan being used to help decide planning applications.

Bedford Borough Council considers that the Plan does not breach, nor is incompatible with, EU obligations or any of the Convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998.

This decision statement confirms that Bedford Borough Council resolved on 25 March 2026 to make the Cople Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Plan and supporting documents are available to view on the Council's website at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/cople-neighbourhood-plan>

Gavin Chinniah
Head of Planning and Building Control
Bedford Borough Council