

**Committee: Full Council**

**Date: 21 March 2023**

**Title: Neighbourhood plan**

**Purpose of Report**

Members to consider the next stages of taking the neighbourhood plan to referendum

**Recommendation:**

Members are being asked to **Resolve** to approve the changes proposed by the Examiner of the Ilminster Neighbourhood plan. That up to £15,000 be allocated from General reserves in the 2023-24 budget to ensure that the required changes are implemented.

**Report:**

1. Members were updated at the Full Council meeting on the 21 February that the examiners report on the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan (INP) had been submitted been completed and that it had been passed to SSDC for their consideration. This has been publicly displayed on both the council and SSDC's websites.
2. As a result of the examiners report members of the Ilminster Neighbourhood Development Group met to discuss the next steps and who would be responsible for carrying out this work.
3. An email has been sent to the consultants to establish what aspects they will be required to carry out and who will be required to complete other tasks. At the time of the report being written no response to the email sent to ECA had been received.
4. Members were provided with an earlier reply from ECA outlining some of what they were willing to carry out but they did not wish to accept they had any responsibility for the grammatical errors contained in the report. It would seem that the INPDG will require additional support for any outstanding amendments to be carried out.
5. Included with this report is a document that the INPDG have put together to identify what additional steps would be required to be carried out. **Appendix**

**21A.** Also included with this report is **Appendix 21B** that details all of the amendments put forward by the Examiner and that will need completing.

6. The examiner has proposed that an additional annex to the INP be created and this will require further funding.
7. So far there has been expenditure of over £71,000 on the INP development with the majority of this funded through Government funding. It is clear that in order to see the Plan reach the referendum stage there will need to be additional funds spent. The referendum itself will be funded through Somerset Council.
8. Ilminster Town Council has not budgeted for any further expenditure on the INP. If members are to fund the plan further then the money will to be taken from the General Reserves in the 2023-24 Budget. This would leave very little of the anticipated £30,000 that are anticipated to be available left. It is hoped that some of the expenditure could be offset by obtaining additional Localism grants to support the plan.
9. Members are being asked to **Resolve** to approve the changes proposed by the Examiner of the Ilminster Neighbourhood plan. That up to £15,000 be allocated from General reserves in the 2023-24 budget to ensure that the required changes are implemented.

**Mark Tredwin**  
**Town clerk**  
**March 2023**