

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Chiseldon Neighborhood Development Plan: FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

DATE OF PUBLICATION – 12/11/2025

1. Decision

- 1.1. Following an Independent Examination, Swindon Borough Council decided at the Council meeting on 25 September 2025:

“To authorise the ‘making’ of the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting at the referendum have voted in favour of the Plan being adopted and used to help decide planning applications in the plan area, in line with Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.”

- 1.2. A referendum was held on Thursday, 6 November 2025 and 82.9% of those who voted were in favour of the plan.
- 1.3. The Chiseldon Neighbourhood Development Plan is now made and forms part of the council’s development plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 11th October 2021, Chiseldon Parish Council requested that the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Area be designated for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the area.
- 2.2 Following a six-week consultation, Swindon Borough Council designated the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Area on 10 February 2022. This area is coterminous with the Chiseldon Parish Council boundary.
- 2.3 Chiseldon Parish Council undertook a pre-submission consultation on the draft Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan from 26 January to 8 March 2024 in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

- 2.4 Chiseldon Parish Council submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan to Swindon Borough Council in September 2024. The Plan and associated documents were publicised for consultation by Swindon Borough Council for six weeks between 13 December 2024 and 7 February 2025, in line with Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.5 Liz Beth BA (Hons), MA Dip Design in the Built Environment, MRTPI, was appointed as the Independent Examiner and all comments received through the Regulation 16 consultation were passed on for her consideration.
- 2.6 The Examiner issued her Report into the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Development Plan on 10 June 2025. In total, the Examiner made 5 recommendations to the submitted Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan and concluded that, subject to these modifications being made, the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan meets the necessary basic conditions (as set out in Schedule 4b (8) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and should proceed to referendum.
- 2.7 The Council agreed on 25 September 2025 that the plan, as modified by the Examiner's recommendations, should proceed to referendum.

3. Reason for Decision

- 3.1 Section 38A(4)(a) of the 2004 Act requires the Council to make the neighbourhood plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area. Section 38A (6) of the 2004 Act states that the Local Planning Authority is not subject to the duty if it considers that the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights.
- 3.2 Page 13 of the Basic Conditions Statement submitted in support of the Plan outlined the Qualifying Body's considerations to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), in particular the main issues for planning in the context of human rights are: protection of property, right to respect for private and family life and prohibition of discrimination. The council is satisfied that the preparation of the Plan had regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act. The Council is satisfied that there has been full and adequate opportunity for all interested parties to take part in the preparation of the Plan and to make their comments known.

3.3 Swindon Borough Council produced a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Determination in July 2023, which confirmed that a SEA and a full HRA were not required on the Plan. The screening determination has been subject to consultation with the relevant statutory consultees, who confirmed the decision. Therefore, the Council is satisfied that the making of the Chisledon Neighbourhood Development Plan, incorporating the modifications recommended by the Examiner and accepted by the council, would not breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the Convention rights

3.4 A referendum relating to the adoption of the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Development Plan was held on Thursday 6 November 2025.

3.5 The question which was asked in the Referendum was: *“Do you want Swindon Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Chiseldon to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

3.6 The result was as follows:

Response	Votes	Per cent of total
Yes	295	82.9%
No	60	16.9%
Turnout	356	17.77%

3.7 The majority of local electors voted in favour of the plan; therefore, the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan has become part of the council’s development plan.

3.8 As the plan was approved at the local referendum and the council is satisfied it would not breach and be otherwise incompatible with EU obligations or human rights legislation, the council is required make the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council’s development plan.

4. Other Information

4.1 In accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, this Decision Statement and the made Chisledon Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed on the Council’s website: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20113/local_plan_and_planning_policy/650/neighbourhood_planning/4

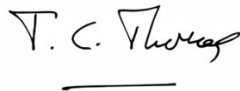
- 4.2 Hard copies of this Decision Statement and the Chiseldon Neighbourhood Plan can be inspected at:

Customer Service
Swindon Central Library
Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

- 4.3 In accordance with Regulation 19(b) and Regulation 30 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a copy of this Decision Statement has been sent to:

- The qualifying body, namely Chiseldon Parish Council
- The persons who asked to be notified of the decision

Signature:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. C. Thomas', with a horizontal line underneath.

Date: 12/11/2025

Tim Thomas

Lead Planning Policy Officer