

This report is public	
Making (Adoption) of the Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	5 October 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Deputy Leader - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement, Councillor Aramini-Brant
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	21 September 2026
Report of	Assistant Director Planning, David Peckford

Purpose of report

To propose that the Executive recommends to Full Council that it ‘makes’ the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan following the successful referendum held in Bloxham Parish on 27 August 2026.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To note the referendum result of 27 August 2026 where 85% of those who voted were in favour of the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan which is above the required 50%.
- 1.2 To recommend to Full Council that it ‘makes’ the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan so that it continues to have effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the District.
- 1.3 To recommend to Full Council that it authorises the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enforcement to issue and publicise a decision statement.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 June 2026, the Executive resolved, following the completion of its examination, that the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.
- 2.2 The referendum for the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan took place in Bloxham on 27 August 2026 in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Referendum Regulations. More than 50% of those who voted, voted in favour of the Plan.

- 2.3 The Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan is now part of the statutory Development Plan, and the Executive is asked to recommend to the Council that the Plan be formally 'made'. The Plan proposed to be made is at Appendix 1 to this report.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The work required by the District Council to support the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is met within existing budgets. In addition to this Cherwell District Council can claim up to £20,000 of MHCLG grant for Neighbourhood Development Plan which also includes costs for the examiner and the referendum meaning no additional costs for the council. Kimberley Digweed – Finance Business Partner, 4 September 2026
Legal	The Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (all as amended). Following the referendum on 27 August 2026, in which more than 50% of those voting, voted in favour of the Plan, section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Plan unless doing so would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, Convention rights or other applicable legal requirements. Officers are not aware of any such incompatibility. Failure to make the Plan could therefore expose the Council to legal challenge. Following the Council's decision to make the Plan, statutory publication and notification requirements must also be complied with. The legal risks associated with the recommendation are therefore considered to be low. Denzil Turbevill, Head of Legal Services, 2 September 2026
Risk Management	There is no foreseeable risk to the Council beyond the legal risk identified and the identified legal risks associated with the making of the Plan are considered to be low. This, and any further arising risks will be managed through the service operational risk and escalated to the Corporate Risk Register as and when deemed necessary. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance & Insight Team Leader, 1 September 2026

Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	X			The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has been led by the local community and has been subject to extensive collaboration and consultation, culminating in the local referendum on 27 August 2026. All sections of the community, including all socio-economic and minority groups have therefore had the opportunity to influence the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan. The plan has no direct impact on residents as it is a policy-based document.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	X			As above
Climate & Environmental Impact				Not applicable
ICT & Digital Impact				Not applicable
Data Impact				Not applicable
Procurement & subsidy				Not applicable - the Council is not procuring any goods or services so there is no procurement impact
Council Priorities	1) Economic prosperity by contributing to the creation of vibrant economic centres and thriving rural villages. An inclusive and green economy can also be supported. 2) Supporting the health and wellbeing of communities 3) Quality housing and placemaking including the provision of community facilities.			
Human Resources	Not applicable			
Property	Not applicable			
Consultation & Engagement	The Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to two rounds of consultation and a local referendum. The statutory consultation requirements have been fulfilled.			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 On 3 June 2013, the Executive designated Bloxham Parish as a Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 On 19 December 2016, following a favourable referendum, the Council formally 'made' the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan part of the District's Development Plan, to be used in the determination of decisions on planning applications in Bloxham Parish.
- 3.3 Following engagement with the local community, Bloxham Parish Council subsequently submitted a Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan to the Council in October 2025.
- 3.4 The Council conducted a consultation on the submission draft (Regulation 16) between 8 December 2025 and 1 February 2026.
- 3.5 In agreement with the Parish Council, the Council appointed an independent examiner to undertake examination of the Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan in March 2026.
- 3.6 On 11 May 2026, the Examiner issued his report, recommending that the Neighbourhood Plan should, subject to recommended modifications, proceed to referendum.
- 3.7 On 16 June 2026, the Council's Executive resolved that the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.

4. Details

- 4.1 The referendum for the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan took place in Bloxham on 27 August 2026 in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Referendum Regulations.
- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Plan and other required information were made available for public viewing on the Council's website and at the Council's Offices at 39 Castle Quay, Banbury, before and during the referendum. The following documents were made available:
 - An Information Statement which provides general information about neighbourhood planning, the referendum and a map of the referendum area;
 - The Draft Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan (the referendum version);
 - The report of the independent examiner into the Neighbourhood Plan;

- Summaries of the written representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- A Decision Statement of the Local Planning Authority following consideration of the recommended modifications made by the Examiner;
- A General Statement containing background information.

4.3 The question (as specified by the regulations) posed for the referendum was:

‘Do you want Cherwell District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Bloxham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’

- 4.4 More than 50% of those who voted, voted ‘Yes’ in response to this question. The declaration of poll results is attached at Appendix 2 to this report. 753 people voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, with 125 against, providing a majority vote of 85%. The result of the referendum has been published on the Council’s website.
- 4.5 As a result of legislative changes made in 2017, a neighbourhood plan comes into force as part of the statutory Development Plan once it has received majority support at a referendum. The Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan therefore now has this status.
- 4.6 Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires the Council to ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the applicable referendum have voted in favour of the Plan.
- 4.7 The Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU (or human rights) obligations. There is no known breach or incompatibility. Officers consider that the Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan can be formally ‘made’. If the Council decided not to formally ‘make’ the Plan, it would cease to have effect as part of the Development Plan.
- 4.8 As soon as possible following the decision to make a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council must publish a decision statement stating that the Plan has been made and the reasons. A copy of the Council’s decision statement must be sent to the qualifying body (Bloxham Parish Council) and anyone who asked to be notified of the decision. The Council must publish where and when the decision statement can be inspected.
- 4.9 The Council is also required to publish the Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan on its website and notify any person who has asked to be notified of the making of the Plan that it has been made and where and when it may be inspected.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 Where a referendum poll results in more than half of those eligible to vote voting in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, the local planning authority must ‘make’ the Plan. The Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations. There is no known breach of incompatibility. Consequently, there are no other options.

6. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 A referendum was held on the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan on 27 August 2026. Of those eligible to vote, 753 voted in favour of the Plan with 125 against. The vote of 85% in favour meets the requisite majority, and the Plan is now part of the statutory Development Plan. The Council is still required to formally 'make' the Plan and there is no known breach or incompatibility with EU or human rights obligations which prevents this. The Executive is therefore requested to recommend the 'making' of the Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan to the Council on 19 October 2026 which would be within the prescribed eight-week period for making the decision following the referendum.

Decision Information

Key Decision	No
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	Adderbury, Bloxham & Bodicote

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Modified Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan
Appendix 2	Result of 27 August 2026 Referendum
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	Report to 16 June 2026 Executive, Item 7 – Bloxham Neighbourhood Plan
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Executive Director Approval (unless report of Executive Director of Statutory Officer)	Executive Director for Place & Regeneration, 2 September 2026

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