

Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 6th May 2021.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

“Do you want Cheshire West and Chester Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Utkinton and Cotebrook area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The Referendum area is identified on the map which is included with this Information Statement. The Referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood area.

Who is entitled to vote?

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Thursday 6th May 2021

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area (if registered to vote and is 18 years of age or over on Thursday 6th May 2021); and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. A persons qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

You have to be registered to vote by Monday 19th April 2021 in order to vote in the referendum.

You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01244 977084.

If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and complete an online application form.

Remember..... If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person: on Thursday 6th May 2021

Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

- You will receive a poll card telling you where your polling station is.
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.
- **If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Democratic Services on 01244 977084 to find out where your polling station is.**

By post:

- To vote by post, fill in an application form and send it to Democratic Services, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Council Offices, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE to arrive by 5:00 pm on Tuesday 20th April 2021
- Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by **10pm on Thursday 6th May 2021**
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to **5pm on Thursday 6th May 2021**

By proxy:

If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf. Proxy vote application forms are available from Democratic Services on 01244 977084 and must be returned by **5pm** on Tuesday 27th April 2021.

Referendum expenses

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2397.40. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 600.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Specified documents

The specified documents are:

- The Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

The specified documents listed above can be viewed via the following link:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

If you are having difficulties viewing the documents online, please contact 01244 973887.

The documents can also be viewed online at the following Council offices, however due to COVID-19 restrictions, an appointment must be made in advance by contacting:

emma.lawrence@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk 01244 977265

- HQ, 58, Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NP;
- Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH;
- Civic Way, 4, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE

Dated: Wednesday 24th March 2021

Andrew Lewis
Counting Officer
Cheshire West and Chester Council
HQ, 58 Nicholas Street
Chester,
CH1 2NP

The Referendum Area

Utkinton and Cotebrook Neighbourhood Area

