

Summary

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a Planning document that helps to create a strategy for development in the local community. This sets out a shared vision that can influence the planning of the town. It is not a 'wish list' or something that can be used to block development, but it sets out a positive vision for the area.

Who has prepared the Middlewich Neighbourhood Plan?

It has been prepared by a Steering Group of local residents and town councillors, assisted by Planning Consultants engaged by the Town Council. These consultants were paid for by grants from the government obtained by the Group for that purpose.

What is the purpose of the Plan?

It supports sensitive development, taking into account the importance of the town's heritage and the needs of its present and future residents. As Middlewich is likely to see significant housing growth, as set out in policies and proposals in the Local Plan Strategy for Cheshire East Council, it also supports much-needed transport infrastructure improvements and the enhancement and provision of local community facilities including new education and health facilities in line with this growth. Proposals that encourage healthy lifestyles, cycling and walking are encouraged. This Plan aims to encapsulate the aspirations for the town and is a chance to engage with the Planning process.

What policies are contained in the Middlewich Plan?

The policies are considered in a thematic way – themes include the Town Centre, Housing, Design and Heritage, Transport, Employment, and Education, Communities, Health & Wellbeing. The policies in each theme are, briefly:

- Town Centre - Enhancing Vitality and Viability, Shop Fronts, Security Measures and Advertising, Improving Quality of Place in the Town Centre, Markets, Town Centre Opportunity Sites, Land off Wheelock Street, Locations Outside the Town Centre, Canalside Development and Marina Opportunity Site
- Housing – Housing Strategy, House Types
- Design and Heritage - General Principles, Sustainable Design, Conservation Area Design, Canalside Development, Special Blue and Green Routes and Encouraging Walking and Cycling
- Transport - Middlewich Eastern Bypass, Car Parking, Rail Station
- Employment - Employment Land Strategy, Employment Land, Midpoint 18, Tourism and Visitors

- Education, Communities, Health & Wellbeing.- Education Hub, General Principles, Investment in New and Improved Facilities (Healthcare), Investment in New and Improved Facilities (combined education, health care and wellbeing facilities), Open Spaces, Protecting Local Biodiversity

All the policies are linked to Planning outcomes i.e. things that can be considered as part of a Planning decision.

What next?

As at 1st October 2018, responses from the formal consultation (Regulation 14) which has just ended are being analysed and the Plan revised accordingly. It will then go to Middlewich Town Council and then, if approved, will be sent to Cheshire East Council who will check it and publish it for a further six weeks formal consultation (Regulation 16). Following this the Neighbourhood Plan will be examined by an independent Examiner who will test the plan against the required Basic Conditions. If the Examiner is satisfied that the Plan meets these conditions (usually subject to proposed modifications), the Plan will be subjected to a local referendum in Middlewich. If there is a majority Yes vote, the Plan will be 'made' by Cheshire East Council and used to determine planning applications alongside national and local (Cheshire East's own) planning policies.

Where can I get further details?

Visit www.middlewich.org/middlewich-neighbourhood-plan .

NB In addition to the Plan document itself there are a number of appendices which give further details, evidence and information, including a Town Centre Study and our Infrastructure proposals – suggestions for Developer contributions (Section 106).