Background to support Referendum on Oxspring Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Barnsley Council) is responsible for deciding whether development should go ahead in the Borough.

Barnsley Council must produce a Local Plan which sets out a range of allocations to meet the development needs of the Borough together with planning policies which are used to help the Council determine planning applications. The Barnsley Local Plan was adopted by the Council on 3 January 2019.

Neighbourhood Planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans (commonly called Neighbourhood Plans).

Neighbourhood Plans are used, together with the Local Plan, to help the Council determine planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans cannot block development that is already part of the Local Plan. What they can do is shape where that development will go and what it will look like.

Oxspring Parish Council has produced a Neighbourhood Plan that has been subject to several rounds of consultation. An independent examiner has reviewed the Plan, and the comments made, to check whether the Plan meets a number of legal requirements and whether any modifications are required.

The examiner has recommended that, subject to modifications, the plan does meet the legal requirements and should proceed to referendum. Barnsley Council has decided to accept the recommendation and to submit the Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan to referendum. All those registered to vote within the neighbourhood area are entitled to vote in the referendum.

The referendum will ask 'Do you want Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to use Oxspring Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Oxspring Neighbourhood Area?' If more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, Barnsley Council must make (adopt) the Plan and use it to help determine planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.