

Information Statement

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 21st November. This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum asks you to vote 'yes' or 'no' to a question. For this referendum you will receive a ballot paper which asks the following question:

Do you want Swale Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Faversham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

3. What is a neighbourhood area?

The neighbourhood area for Faversham is identified on the map which is included at the end of this Information Statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Swale Borough Council in July 2020 and covers the town of Faversham.

The referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Faversham Neighbourhood Area. The Independent Examiner also recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum based on the Faversham Neighbourhood Area.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if, on Thursday 21st November if:

- They are registered to vote in a local government election in the referendum area and are 18 years or over on Thursday 21st November; and
- Their qualifying address for the referendum is in the Faversham town area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which they are entitled to be registered.

If you are not already registered to vote, the deadline for registering is Tuesday 5th of November 2024. You can check if you are registered by calling our helpline on 01795 417316. If you need to register, you can do so at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or call our helpline on 01795 417316; you will need your national insurance number to hand.

The referendum will be conducted based in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

5. How do I vote in the Referendum?

You will be given a ballot paper at the polling station, and you can vote by putting a cross (X) in the 'Yes' or 'No' box on your ballot paper. You will only be allowed to put a cross in one box or your vote will not be counted.

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'yes' in the referendum, then Swale Borough Council will 'make' the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will form part of the statutory development plan for Swale Borough Council and help determine planning applications in the Faversham Neighbourhood Area.

If more than 50% of individuals vote 'no' then the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for Swale Borough Council.

6. What are the referendum documents and where can you view them?

There are a number of documents that are available to view as part of the referendum.

These are listed below:

- The referendum version of the Faversham Plan.
- The Independent Examiner's report on the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.
- Information on how to access representations.
- A Decision Statement which confirms the Faversham Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements.
- A statement that sets out general information in respect of town and country planning (including neighbourhood planning).

These documents can be accessed on our website; <https://swale.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/local-plans/neighbourhood-planning/faversham/referendum>

Hard copies of the documents and this Information Statement will be available for inspection at:

- Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT (Monday-Friday 10am-12pm).
- Faversham Town Council, Town Hall, 12 Market Place, Faversham, ME13 7AE
- Faversham Library, Newton Road, Faversham, ME13 8DY
- Faversham District Office, Alexander Centre, Faversham

Prior to any members of the public seeking to view any of the documents in these locations it is recommended that they contact the operator of those venues in order to clarify

arrangements for viewing the documents (in case appointments need to be made or opening times change).

7. Referendum Expenses

Expenses can be incurred by an individual or body during the period of the referendum for referendum purposes.

The referendum expenses limit that will apply (as of 1st October 2024) in relation to this referendum is £3355.68. The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 16,842.

8. Referendum area

