



WARBURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

DECISION STATEMENT

1. Decision

- 1.1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trafford Council has decided by resolution at Council on 18 March 2026 to make the Warburton Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

2. Introduction

- 2.1. This document is the decision statement required to be prepared under Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the Council's considerations and formal decision in bringing the Warburton Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP) into legal force, following an independent examination and positive referendum, held on 12 February 2026.

3. Background

- 3.1. Warburton Parish was designated as a neighbourhood area by Trafford Council on 04 March 2019. Trafford Council received Warburton Parish Council's submission version of the WNDP on 28 February 2025. The Council administered a public consultation (Regulation 16) for a period of seven weeks running between Tuesday 15 April and Tuesday 3 June 2025. This was a week longer than the statutory minimum (6 weeks), to take account of the Easter and May Bank Holidays.
- 3.2. Mr Andrew S Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI was appointed by the Council, with consent of Warburton Parish Council, in June 2025 to undertake the independent examination of the submission version of the WNDP and to prepare a report of the independent examination.
- 3.3. The examination of the WNDP was carried out by way of written representations supported by an unaccompanied site visit of the neighbourhood plan area. Clarification on a number of issues was sought from Warburton Parish Council and Trafford Council during the Examination process.

- 3.4. An additional focussed public consultation was required during the examination in relation to the proposed Local Green Space known as “Part of Coroner’s Wood, Warburton”. This consultation ran for four-weeks between 11 August 2025 and 9 September 2025.
- 3.5. The Examiner’s Report was formally submitted to the Council on 10 October 2025. The Report concluded that subject to making the modifications recommended by the Examiner, the WNDP met the Basic Conditions set out in legislation and other legal requirements. Following the modifications the Examiner recommended the WNDP should proceed to referendum.
- 3.6. The agreed modifications to the WNDP were published as part of the Regulation 18(2) Decision Statement and Basic Conditions and Compliance Statement on 22 December 2025, which confirmed that Trafford Council was satisfied that the WNDP met the Basic Conditions and was compliant with legal and procedural requirements.

4. Reason for decision

- 4.1. A referendum for the residents of Warburton was held on 12 February 2026. A total of 107 votes were cast – from an electorate of 258 – representing a 41% turnout. The result of the votes cast in the referendum is as follows:
 - Number of votes cast in favour of Yes - 103
 - Number of votes cast in favour of No - 4
 - Number of rejected ballots - 0
- 4.2. Paragraph 38 (A) (4) of the 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 referendum have voted in favour of the plan being used to decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.
- 4.3. More than half of those voting in the referendum on 12 February 2026 voted in favour of the WNDP, which was duly made by Trafford Council on 18 March 2026. The report considered by both Executive and Council can be viewed on the Council’s website.
- 4.4. This decision statement will be made available as follows:
 - Trafford Council’s website at:
<https://www.trafford.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-strategy/neighbourhood-planning/warburton-neighbourhood-plan>

- Partington Library and Wellbeing Centre, 91 Central Road, Partington, M31 4FY (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 10am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm, Wednesday & Sunday Closed)
- In hard copy on request at Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0TH

4.5. A copy of this decision statement will be sent to:

- The qualifying body, namely Warburton Parish Council; and
- To any person who asked to be notified of the decision.