

Maltby Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

The Information Statement

This statement has been prepared to meet Regulation 4(3)(a) of the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

December 2023

1. About this statement

A referendum on the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 8th February 2024.

This statement provides information on the referendum that is taking place, and the neighbourhood plan it relates to.

2. Referendum on the Maltby 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 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Maltby to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

3. What is the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan and neighbourhood area?

Neighbourhood plans are planning documents, created by local people, which guide and shape development in a particular area. They form part of the Local Plan and are used when determining planning applications.

A neighbourhood plan must be prepared for a defined area known as the 'neighbourhood area'. The neighbourhood area for Maltby is identified on the map which is included at the end of this information statement. The boundary of the neighbourhood area was approved by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council on 10 April 2017 and covers the parish of Maltby.

The Maltby Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Maltby Town Council.

In the Decision Statement published on 19 December 2023, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council confirmed it was satisfied that, subject to modifications specified in the Examiner's report being made, the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan meets the legal requirements and basic conditions which neighbourhood plans must meet, and has been recommended to proceed to referendum.

The referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Maltby Neighbourhood Area. The independent examiner also recommended that the Plan proceed to a referendum based on the Maltby Neighbourhood Area, as approved by the Council.

4. Am I entitled to vote in the Referendum?

A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if on the 8th February 2024:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area; and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the referendum area. A person's 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.

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

In order to vote in the referendum **you must be registered to vote by midnight on Tuesday 23 January 2024**. You can make an application to register to vote at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** or call 01709 336010. You will need to provide your National Insurance Number when registering to vote.

Electors who are currently on the register at a qualifying address do not need to make a new registration application to vote at this referendum.

5. How do I vote in the Referendum?

In Person

At your local Polling Station on 8th February 2024. Information about your polling station will be included on your poll card that will be sent to you in early January. Polling Stations will be open between 7:00am and 10:00pm.

Photographic ID

If you are voting in person at your polling station, you will need to bring a form of acceptable photographic ID with you. Acceptable photo ID includes:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state, or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state (including a UK provisional licence)
- A biometric immigration document
- An identity card bearing Proof of Age Standard Scheme hologram (a pass card)
- A Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Persons Bus Pass
- A Disabled Persons Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom pass
- A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland.
- A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales.
- A Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel card issued in Wales
- A Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's Smart Pass issued in Northern Ireland
- A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- An Electoral Identity card issued in Northern Ireland.

You can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate if:

- you do not have any of the acceptable forms of photo ID
- you no longer look like the photo on your photo ID
- the name on your photo ID is different to your name on the electoral register

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate or an Anonymous Elector's Document for this referendum is **5pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024**. Applications can be made online at **www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate**. You will need your National Insurance Number and a recent digital photograph of yourself.

If you are not able to complete an application online, you can request a paper application form by contacting Electoral Services at **electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk** or call 01709 82 3590.

By Post

If you already have a postal vote you will receive a Postal Poll card confirming this and your Ballot Paper will be sent to you in January.

By Proxy

Voting by proxy means that you can appoint someone else to vote on your behalf, either by post or at your polling station. This person is called your proxy.

If you already have a permanent Proxy Vote you will receive a Poll Card confirming this in the weeks leading up to the referendum.

Applications for postal or proxy votes

If you would like to vote by post in the referendum, you can make an online application to vote by post at **www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote**.

The Electoral Registration Officer must receive your application **by 5pm on Wednesday 24 January 2024**.

If you would like to vote by proxy for this referendum, you can make an online application to vote by proxy at **www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote**.

The Electoral Registration Officer must receive your application **by 5pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024**.

You will need to provide your National Insurance Number when applying for a postal or proxy vote. If you are not able to provide it, we will need to ask you for additional documents to confirm your identity.

If you are not able to complete an application online, you can request a paper application form by contacting Electoral Services at **electoral.services@rotherham.gov.uk** or call 01709 823590.

How to Mark Your Ballot Paper

You will 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 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will 'make' the Maltby Neighbourhood Development Plan. If the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' it will help determine planning applications in the Maltby Neighbourhood Area. It will also form part of the statutory development plan for Rotherham.

If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' then the Neighbourhood Plan will not be made part of the statutory development plan for the local area.

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 (as modified) of the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan;
- Maltby Design Code
- Maltby Master Plan with an addendum - a schedule of changes
- The Independent Examiner's Report on the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan;
- A Summary of Representations made on the Maltby Neighbourhood Plan which were submitted to the independent examiner;
- A Decision Statement from the Local Planning Authority which confirms the draft Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and other legislative requirements. It also confirms that the neighbourhood plan can proceed to referendum;
- A Statement of General Planning Information in respect of town and country planning, which includes neighbourhood planning.

All of the documents can be viewed online on the Council's website at:
<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/neighbourhood-plan/3>

A hard copy of all of the above documents and this Information Statement can be inspected at the following locations (during opening hours):

- Maltby Library, High Street, Maltby, Rotherham, S66 8LD
- Riverside Library, Main Street, Rotherham, S60 1AE

7. Referendum Expenses

Individuals or Groups may campaign to promote a particular outcome of the referendum. Spending on the campaigns is restricted by an expenses limit, which campaigners and campaign groups must not exceed.

The referendum expenses limit is £2,362 plus £0.059 for each entry in the relevant register of electors and has been calculated as the following:

Persons Entitled to Vote (as at 1 January 2024): 11,912 persons
Expenses Limit: £3,064.81

8. How to find out more

Further general information on neighbourhood planning is available on the council's website at: <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/planning-development/neighbourhood-planning/1>

For queries regarding planning issues and neighbourhood planning in general, please contact the Planning Policy Team on 01709 82 3869 or by email at planning.policy@rotherham.gov.uk.

Referendum Area

