

Stage 4: Independent Examination

An examination is required to provide an independent assessment of your neighbourhood plan to make sure that it has been prepared in the right way and meets the Basic Conditions.

What is an examination?

Following the consultation period, the Council will decide whether the plan progresses to the examination stage.

South Holland District Council will arrange and pay for an independent examination of each Neighbourhood Plan. All documentation will be supplied by the Council. Some additional information may be requested by the examiner directly from the town/parish council or neighbourhood forum.

The Council will discuss the appointment of the examiner with the parish/town council or neighbourhood forum. The Council will appoint the examiner, who should be a qualified planner.

Meeting the Basic Conditions

The examination is likely to be a written exercise, although the examiner can decide to visit sites or hold a public hearing. The examiner will consider whether the neighbourhood plan meets the Basic Conditions. The examiner will also consider all representations made to the plan and how these concerns have been considered.

Independent Examiner's Report

The examiner will produce a report along with a recommendation of whether:

- The plan should move to referendum; or
- The plan should proceed to referendum following some minor amendments; or
- The plan should be refused.

The Council will be sent the report and will publicise it. The Council will consider any modifications and discuss them with the town/parish council or neighbourhood forum.

Decision Statement

A decision statement will be produced by the Council, stating whether the plan will move to referendum.