

**Spitalfields Neighbourhood Plan
Decision Statement
5 October 2022**

In accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, this statement gives notice that a decision has been made to reject the Spitalfields Neighbourhood Plan and not to adopt it as part of the statutory development plan for the designated neighbourhood area.

Reasons

The neighbourhood plan underwent an independent examination conducted by Jill Kingaby MRTPI between February and July 2021. The examiner's final report was received by the Council and the neighbourhood forum on 15 July 2021, and on 9 August 2021 the Mayor of Tower Hamlets formally agreed with the examiner's recommendation that the neighbourhood plan be sent to referendum with some modifications. As the Spitalfields Neighbourhood Area is designated as a business area, two referendums were held – one for residents, and one for businesses.

The referendums were held on 11 November 2021. The residential referendum voted in favour of the neighbourhood plan, while the business referendum voted against it. The decision as to whether to adopt the neighbourhood plan therefore fell to the Council. This decision was taken on 5 October 2022.

The decision to reject the neighbourhood plan was taken for the following reasons:

- A low turnout in the residential referendum (13.5%), combined with a small margin of support for the neighbourhood plan in this referendum (54.2%). This indicates a relatively low level of support for the plan among the residential community.
- A high turnout of registered business voters in the business referendum (66.7%), combined with a large margin voting against the neighbourhood plan in this referendum (79.5%). This indicates a relatively strong opposition to the plan among the business community.
- The Council believes that the neighbourhood plan needs to work for the whole community within Spitalfields, both residential and business.

For these reasons, the Spitalfields Neighbourhood Plan has been rejected, and will not be adopted as part of the statutory development plan for the neighbourhood area.

Further Information

Further documentation referring to the neighbourhood planning process can be seen on the Council's website at

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/planning_and_building_control/planning_policy_guidance/neighbourhood_planning/Spitalfields.aspx.