

INFORMATION STATEMENT

Cople Neighbourhood Planning Referendum

1. A referendum will be held on **Thursday 5 February 2026** to decide on the question below:
2. The question which will be asked in the referendum is;
‘Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Cople to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?’
3. The referendum area is Cople as identified on the map
4. A person is entitled to vote in the referendum if on **Thursday 5 February 2026**
 - He/She is entitled to vote in a local government election in the referendum area (the deadline for registration is Tuesday 20 January 2026)
 - 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 entitled to be registered.
5. The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the referendum is **£2399.76** The number of persons entitled to vote in the referendum by reference to which the limit has been calculated is 640.
6. The referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedure which are similar to those used at local government elections.
7. A copy of the specified documents may be accessed on the council’s website using the following link;
8. <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/cople-neighbourhood-plan>
9. Paper copies of the specified documents are also available to view by appointment only on request at Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford, MK42 9AP during normal working hours.

Dated: Tuesday 23 December 2025