

High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Development Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning, and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019);
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (Adopted April 2019);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

- 1.4 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Tilton on the Hill and Halstead Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the four parishes of Tilton on the Hill and Halstead Parish Council, Cold Newton Parish Meeting, Lowesby Parish Meeting and Marefield Parish Meeting. In accordance with Regulation 6, Harborough District Council, on behalf of the relevant body (Tilton on the Hill and Halstead Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory processes to enable designation of the four parish areas as a Neighbourhood Area. The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Area was designated by Harborough District Council on 16 November 2016.
- 1.7 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within these four parishes and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 1.9 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2022 to 2031. This has the same end date of the Harborough Local Plan (Adopted April 2019).
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

High Leicestershire: Location

- 1.11 High Leicestershire is a large rural area comprising the parishes of Tilton on the Hill and Halstead (1,394ha), Cold Newton (629ha), Lowesby (577ha) and Marefield (209ha) in the Harborough District of Leicestershire. The area is bisected north/south by the B6047 which links the markets towns of Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray. The Neighbourhood Area lies approximately half-way between the two towns and contains four settlements each with its own identity. The resident population of Tilton on the Hill, Halstead, Cold Newton and Lowesby is 720 comprising 300 households.

- 1.12 Tilton on the Hill lies on the B6047 that connects Market Harborough to Melton Mowbray. It is the largest village in the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Area, with 250 houses and a basic range of services including a village shop, pub and village hall.
- 1.13 Cold Newton is a small hamlet with just ten dwellings and no services.
- 1.14 Halstead is another small hamlet. It has some 30 dwellings and is separated from Tilton on the Hill by a few small fields.
- 1.15 Lowesby is a small settlement associated with Lowesby Hall and its estate. It is an agricultural settlement consisting of a church, former school, cricket ground and a small number of houses and pairs of estate cottages.
- 1.16 Marefield is small farming community of just seven dwellings.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

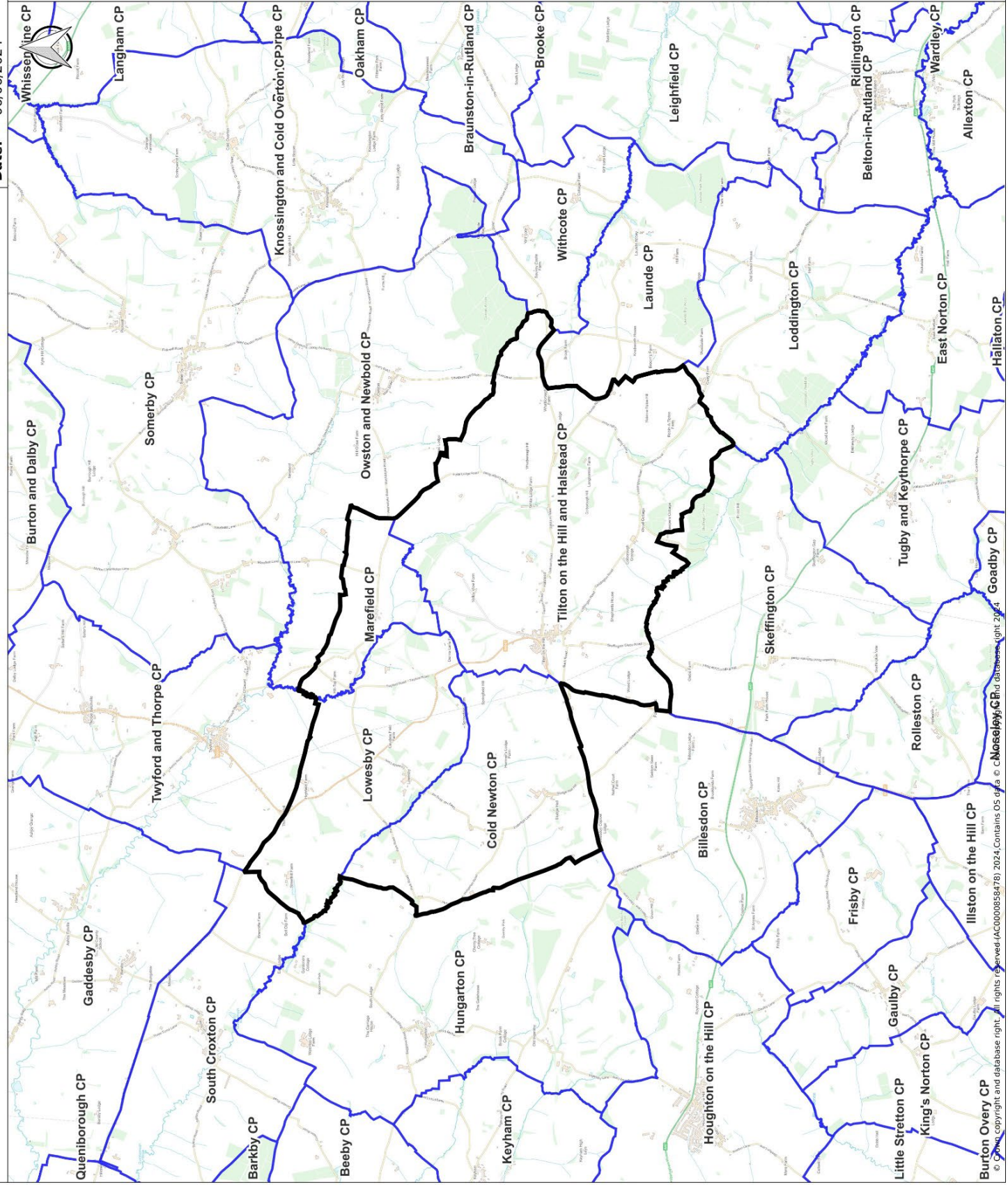
- 1.17 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan has been led by Tilton on the Hill and Halstead Parish Council who set up a Neighbourhood Plan Committee, comprising representatives from all parishes, to prepare the Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.



Parish

Neighbourhood Area

Parish



2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 December 2023, and it is against this version of the NPPF which the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In order to achieve sustainable development, the Framework has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Brownfield Land Registers.
 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.
 - Climate Change.
 - Design: process and tools.
 - First Homes.
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge.
 - Healthy and Safe Communities.
 - Natural Environment.

- Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space.
- Housing for Older and Disabled People.
- Housing Needs of Different Groups.
- Neighbourhood Planning.
- Planning Obligations.

2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| HL1: Retention of Services and Facilities - This policy supports the protection, diversification and accessibility to identified services and facilities. | Paragraphs 83, 86, 88 & 97 | <p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p> | The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against their unnecessary loss and seeks improvement of facilities that meet day to day needs. |
| HL2: Allotments – Seeks the provision of allotments within Tilton on The Hill | Paragraphs 96 & 97 | <p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p> | Policy plans positively for the provision of a new local and recreational facility, enabling and supporting healthy lifestyle including opportunities for social interaction. |
| Policy HL3: Broadband - New development to facilitate access to fibre optic broadband technology. Exceptions will only be considered if unviability of a | Paragraphs 83, 97 and 118 | Not relevant | This policy supports sustainable economic development and the provision of high-quality communications infrastructure in accordance with the NPPF. |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|---|--|---|
| development can be demonstrated. | | | |
| HL4: Infrastructure - Supports the provision of new or improved infrastructure together with financial off-site contributions. Policy includes a list of identified infrastructure requirements. The viability of development will be taken into account. | Paragraphs 7, 11, 28, 34, 92, 100 | <p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>Should a neighbourhood plan consider infrastructure? (Paragraph: 045 Reference ID: 41-045-20190509)</p> | This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan. |
| HL5: Design – New development should reflect the distinctive local character and reflect the guidance set out in the High Leicestershire Design Guide. | Paragraphs 28, 110, 129, 131, 132, 134, 135 & 138 | <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play?</p> | This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>What are local design guides? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 26-005-20191001)</p> | development that is of a design that reflects the local area. |
| <p>HL6: Climate Change - Expects development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. Development will be expected to take into account a number of issues including use of sustainably sourced resources, design, construction, health and well-being of residents and net gain in biodiversity.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 157, 158, 159 & 162</p> | <p>Why is it important for planning to consider climate change? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 6-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can the challenges of climate change be addressed through the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 6-003-20140612)</p> <p>How can adaptation and mitigation approaches be integrated? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 6-004-20140612)</p> | <p>This policy plans for climate change, through mitigation and adaptation, to support the future resilience of communities.</p> |
| <p>HL7: Countryside Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character,</p> | <p>Paragraphs 84, 88, 124 & 180.</p> | <p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes?</p> | <p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. States that development will be controlled in accordance with Policies SS1, GD3 and GD4 of the Harborough Local Plan.</p> | | <p>(Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> | <p>approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p> |
| <p>HL8: Protecting the Landscape – Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting. Enhancements will be sought where possible.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 136, 180 & 181</p> | <p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph:036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph:001 Reference ID: 26-001-2019001)</p> | <p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and character of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area.</p> |
| <p>HL9: Tranquillity – Seeks to conserve or enhance the tranquillity of The Countryside</p> | <p>Paragraph 191</p> | <p>Not relevant</p> | <p>Support the protection of tranquil areas that remain relatively undisturbed as well as providing a recreation and amenity value.</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| HL10: Area of Separation – Protects the open character between Tilton on the Hill and Halstead | Paragraphs 135, 160 & 181 | <p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 03 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> | This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area. |
| HL11: Countryside Access – Seeks to protect and enhance existing Public Right of Way. Where possible seeks the creation of new links (footpaths, bridleway and cycleways) to the network. | Paragraphs 92, 98, 100, 104 & 120 | How should open space be taken into account in planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 37-001-20140306) | This policy facilitates healthy communities and supports active lifestyles supporting access to open spaces. |
| HL12: Ecology and Biodiversity – Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. New development will be expected to maintain and | Paragraphs 180, 181, 185 | <p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity?</p> | The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>enhance these features for biodiversity gain. New houses should integrate features which support biodiversity.</p> | | <p>(Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p> | <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p> |

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| <p>HL13: Trees and Hedgerows – Existing trees should be integrated into new development. Policy seeks to resist development that damages or results in the loss of ancient trees, hedgerows or trees of good arboricultural or amenity value.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 136, 180 & 186</p> | <p>What are the considerations when planning for trees within settlements? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 8-029-20190721)</p> <p>How can I find out whether an area contains ancient woodland? (Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 8-031-20190721)</p> <p>How can I find out whether a site contains ancient or veteran trees? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 8-032-20190721)</p> <p>How can local planning authorities assess the potential impact of development proposals on ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 8-033-20190721)</p> <p>What compensation can be provided if development resulting in loss or harm is, exceptionally, permitted? (Paragraph: 034 Reference ID: 8-034-20190721)</p> | <p>This policy supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment. Development resulting in the loss of ancient trees will not be supported.</p> |
| <p>HL14: Water Management - Seeks the sustainable management of water.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 157, 158 & 173-17</p> | <p>How can neighbourhood planning take account of flood risk?</p> | <p>Policy considers the potential for flood risk and proactively seeks to implement</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Development should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) accompanied by a maintenance schedule, surface water discharges carried out in accordance with the drainage hierarchy, incorporate water efficiency measures and protect existing drainage systems.</p> | | <p>(Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 7-015-20220825)</p> <p>What advice and information on flood risk is available for neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 7-016-20220825)</p> <p>What needs to be considered if there is a risk of flooding in the neighbourhood area? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 7-017-20220825)</p> <p>What are sustainable drainage systems and why are they important? (Paragraph: 055 Reference ID: 7-055-20220825)</p> <p>What sort of sustainable drainage systems can be considered? (Paragraph: 056 Reference ID: 7-056-20220825)</p> <p>What information on sustainable drainage needs to be submitted with a planning application? (Paragraph: 059 Reference ID: 7-059-20220825)</p> | <p>measures to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | <p>How can sustainable drainage reduce the causes and impacts of flooding? (Paragraph: 063 Reference ID: 7-063-20220825)</p> | |
| <p>HL15: Non-designated Heritage Assets - The impact of development on a number of identified Non- Designated Heritage assets will be assessed in terms of their harm or loss of the asset and the significance of the heritage asset.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 189, 190, 194, 195 & 203</p> | <p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they? (Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723)</p> | <p>This policy supports the conservation of non-designated heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Non-Designated Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Hl16: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within the Neighbourhood Area which will be protected. Development in this designation will only be supported in very special circumstances.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 105-107</p> | <p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p> | <p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. Development in this designation will only be permitted in very special circumstances.</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>HL17: Land between Melton Road and Marefield Lane, Tilton on the Hill - Allocates approximately 0.9heates of land for the development of around 25 dwellings, subject to criteria.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 70, 71, 83</p> | <p>What is neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 41-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should neighbourhood planning bodies use a housing requirement figure that has been provided to them? (Paragraph: 103 Reference ID: 41-103-20190509)</p> <p>Can a neighbourhood plan allocate sites for development? (Paragraph: 042 Reference ID: 41-042-20170728)</p> <p>Housing and economic land availability assessment.</p> | <p>The qualifying body has carried out an appraisal of options and an assessment of individual sites against clearly identified criteria.</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>HL18: Infill - Supports housing infill development within the Tilton on the Hill Limits to Development</p> <p>Outside of the Limits to Development, settlement boundaries, housing development will be limited and determined in accordance with the Local Plan.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 70, 72 & 83</p> | <p>What is previously developed (brownfield) land? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> | <p>Supports the development of windfall sites – giving weight to the benefits of using suitable sites within existing settlements</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>HL19: Housing Mix - Expects development to provide for a mix of housing types to reflect the most up to date Housing Needs Assessment and local evidence. Will also need to demonstrate how the needs of older and smaller households will be met.</p> | <p>Paragraph 63</p> | <p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626).</p> | <p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.</p> |

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|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>HL20: Affordable Housing – All affordable housing will be subject to a condition or planning obligation securing those people with a local connection to the Neighbourhood Area. First Homes are to comprise 25% of all affordable units delivered.</p> | <p>Paragraphs 63, 64, 65 & 66</p> | <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is a First Home? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 70-001-20210524)</p> <p>What are the First Homes criteria? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 70-002-20210524)</p> <p>What appropriate methods can local authorities use to set out their local requirements for First Homes, including both local First Homes criteria and local First Homes eligibility criteria? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 70-009-20210524)</p> <p>How should developer contributions be secured for First Homes? (Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 70-012-20210524)</p> <p>How can the 25% First Homes requirement be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 70-013-20210524)</p> | <p>First Homes to be provided as part of the affordable housing provision in the district. This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | National Planning Policy Framework | Planning Practice Guidance | Commentary |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | How can neighbourhood plans support the provision of affordable homes for sale, including First Homes? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 70-017-20210524) | |
| HL21: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings– The re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for buildings will be supported subject to criteria. | Paragraphs 88 & 89 | Not relevant | This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas and takes a proactive approach in this respect. |
| HL22: Working from Home – Supports development that facilitates working from home providing it is in keeping with the character of the area, does not harm residential amenity and provides for a safe and suitable access. | Paragraphs 88 & 89 | Not relevant | This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas and takes a proactive approach in this respect. |

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

| National Planning Policy Framework | How the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan supports objective |
|--|--|
| 1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes | Provides a steer as to where new housing should be focused. Supports a supply and mix of housing types, including affordable housing, to meet local needs, and the housing needs of older households as well as the provision of smaller, low-cost homes. Priority will be given to people with a local connection to the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Area when affordable housing is allocated. |

| National Planning Policy Framework | How the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan supports objective |
|---|--|
| 2 – Building a strong, competitive economy | Supports home working, the provision of suitable broadband infrastructure, and the re-use of rural buildings, facilitating the sustainable growth of the rural economy. Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, including the village store and public house, supporting the vitality of the community. |
| 3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres | The village of Tilton on the Hill has a number of key services and facilities, and an ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities. Improvements in community infrastructure is also supported. |
| 4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities | <p>Seeks the protection of the countryside and its improved accessibility as well as the protection of local green spaces. These are recognised as a recreational resource and have potential to improve quality of life. Positive measures are included to conserve and enhance the tranquillity of the countryside.</p> <p>Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, proving opportunities for people to meet and support quality of life as well as the protection of residential amenity.</p> |
| 5 – Promoting sustainable development | Supports housing development within the built up area of Tilton on the Hill with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth. |
| 6 – Supporting high quality communications | Supports the provision of infrastructure that facilitates the provision of fibre optic broadband technology. |
| 7 – Making effective use of land | Supports infill housing development within the built up area of Tilton on the Hill, facilities the redevelopment of vacant and under-developed land and the re-use and conversion of buildings. |
| 8 – Achieving well-designed places | Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside. |
| 9 - Protecting Green Belt Land | Not applicable |

| National Planning Policy Framework | How the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan supports objective |
|--|---|
| 10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change | Supports the conversion and re-use of buildings. New development should take full account of flood risk and its impact on the water environment. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and the sustainable management of surface water. Expects all development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change. |
| 11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment | Protects the character of the countryside, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity. |
| 12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment | Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance. Seeks to positively contribute to, and manage, the district's historic environment. |
| 13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals | Not applicable. |

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).
- 4.2 The following section identifies how the Policies of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019).

Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031

- 4.3 The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Harborough Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Policy SS1: | The Spatial Strategy |
| Policy GD2: | Settlement Development |
| Policy GD3: | Development in the Countryside |
| Policy GD4: | New Housing in the Countryside |
| Policy GD5: | Landscape Character |
| Policy GD8: | Good Design in Development |
| Policy H1: | Provision of New Housing |
| Policy H2: | Affordable Housing |
| Policy H3: | Rural Exception Sites |
| Policy H5: | Housing density, mix and standards |
| Policy BE1: | Provision of New Business Development |
| Policy HC1: | Built Heritage |
| Policy HC2: | Community Facilities |
| Policy HC3: | Public House, Post Offices and Village Shops |
| Policy G1: | Green Infrastructure Networks |
| Policy G12: | Open space, sport and recreation |
| Policy G14: | Local Green Space |
| Policy G15: | Biodiversity and geodiversity |
| Policy CC1: | Mitigating Climate Change |

Policy CC3: Managing Flood Risk

Policy CC4: Sustainable Drainage

Policy IN1: Infrastructure Provision

Policy IN3: Electronic Connectivity

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 | Explanation of High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan |
|--|--|--|
| HL1: Retention of Services and Facilities | Policies HC2 & HC3 | Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Area. Supports development which assists their diversification and improved accessibility. Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded. |
| HL2: Allotments | Policies HC2 & G12 | Seeks the provision of new facilities to serve the local community. |
| HL3: Access to Broadband | Policy In3 | Seeks to facilitate the provision of suitable telecommunications infrastructure for residents and businesses. |
| HL4: Infrastructure | Policy IN1 | Supports the provision of infrastructure where appropriate allowing for consideration to be given to the viability of the housing development. Identifies the types of infrastructure that will be sought. |
| HL5: Design | Policy GD8 | Requires new development to respect and enhance both the local character and distinctiveness of the Neighbourhood Area. Whilst protecting the amenity of residents and securing the provision of a safe and suitable access. |
| HL6: Climate Change | Policy CC1 | Expects development to mitigate against and adapt to climate change and identifies the issues to be addressed. |
| HL7: Countryside | Policies SS1, GD3 & GD4 | Seeks the protection of open countryside and protects it from |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 | Explanation of High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan |
|--|--|--|
| | | unacceptable development which would harm its intrinsic value and rural character. Development will only be allowed that is in accordance with the relevant policies of the Harborough Local Plan. |
| HL8: Protecting the Landscape | Policies GD5 | Protects the rural character and qualities of the landscape of the High Leicestershire Landscape Character Area, including important views and vistas. |
| HL9: Tranquillity | Policy GD8 | In conserving and enhancing tranquillity, the local character will be protected, light pollution minimised, and regard will be had to high quality open spaces. |
| HL10: Areas of Separation | Policy GD5 | Seeks to manage the location of development so that it respects settlement distinctiveness. |
| HL11: Countryside Access | Policy G1 | Protects and supports the provision of new pedestrian and cycling links to the surrounding countryside, including the use of former railway lines. |
| HL12: Ecology and Biodiversity | Policy G15 | Protects locally designated ecological sites and requires new development to contribute towards the protection and improvements in biodiversity. |
| HL13: Trees and Hedgerows | Policies GD2 and G15 | Seeks the protection of trees and hedges on development sites. Seeks to avoid the loss of ancient trees. |
| HL14: Water Management | Policies CC3 and CC4 | Seeks to manage flood risk along with the use of sustainable water management, including the provision of sustainable drainage systems. |
| HL15: Non-Designated Heritage Assets | Policy HC1 | Identifies non-designated heritage assets. Supports the conservation and enhancement |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 | Explanation of High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| | | of the parishes heritage assets, including archaeological assets. Development will have regard to the scale of any harm and to the significance of the non-designated asset. |
| HL16: Local Green Space | Policy G14 | The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Local Green Spaces that meet the relevant national criteria. Protects and preserves high quality green spaces with benefits for the local community. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded and development in this designation will only be supported in very special circumstances. |
| HL17: Land between Melton Road and Marefield Lane, Tilton on the Hill | Policy HC1 | Identifies a housing allocation for the Neighbourhood Area, having regard to the requirement identified in the Local Plan and the houses that have been approved. |
| HL18: Infill | Policies GD2 and GD4 | <p>Defines the Limits to Development for Tilton on the Hill, taking into account the character of the village as well as recent and proposed development, to guide development.</p> <p>Outside these limits to development. Residential development will not normally be permitted.</p> |
| HL19: Housing Mix | Policy SS1 & Policy H5 | Provides for a mix of housing types informed by up-to-date evidence of housing need. |
| HL20: Affordable Housing | Policy H2 | <p>Supports the provision of affordable housing to meet local needs.</p> <p>Should a rural exception site be identified at a point in the future,</p> |

| High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Policy | Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 | Explanation of High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Local Plan |
|--|--|---|
| | | its future development is to be guided by Local Plan policy. |
| HL21: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings. | Policies BE1 & GD3 | Supports a sustainable rural economy and its diversification through the re-use of existing buildings whilst protecting the character of the countryside. |
| HL22: Working from Home | Policies SS1 & BE1 | Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy. |

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan (February 2024) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.

5.3 The outcome of this assessment concludes that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan. As such the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan with its current proposals does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken.

5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Environment Agency – From the perspective of the Environment Agency, we do not disagree with the outcome of the Screening Report, that the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan does not

require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken.

- Natural England – Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. It is Natural England's advice, based on the material supplied with the consultation, that significant effects of statutorily designated conservation sites or landscaped are unlikely.
- Historic England – On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.5 Each policy of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed to determine the effects on historic environment, Natura 2000 sites and Habitats Regulation Assessment. The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.6 A full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken as part Harborough Local Plan (2011 to 2031) preparation. The HRA for the Local Plan determines that no European sites lie within Harborough District. Outside of the boundary the nearest European site is Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site which is located 7km to the north-east of the district boundary.
- 5.7 The assessment concluded in 2017 that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in conjunction with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the fact that no Natura 2000 sites are located within the district and no impact pathways were identified linking internationally important wildlife sites outside of the district (e.g. Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site) to development within Harborough District. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.8 The Local Plan HRA considered but dismissed the following sites from the analysis due to a combination of distance and absence of impact pathways linking it to the District:
- Ensor's Pool SAC;
 - The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar; and
 - River Mease SAC

The HRA looked into the potential effects of the plan on Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site in more detail. However, it concluded that the Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the site as no impact pathways were identified linking it to development within Harborough District.

- 5.9 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:

- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
- having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.

6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Harborough Local Plan.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004.

Appendix 1: High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

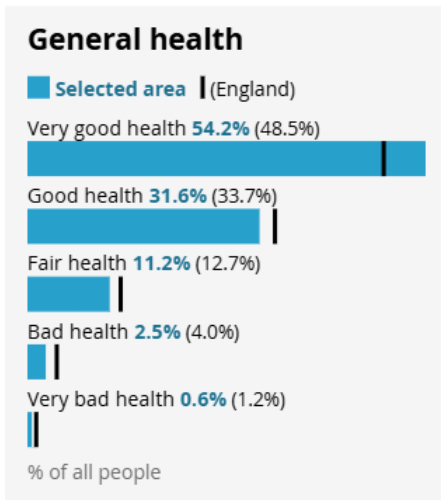
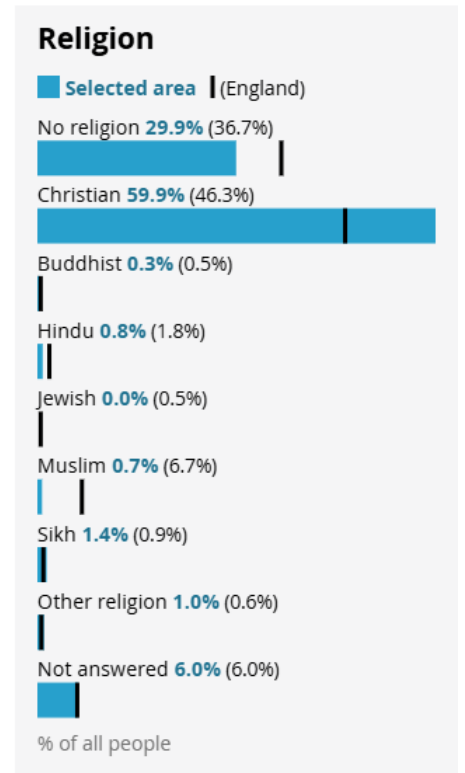
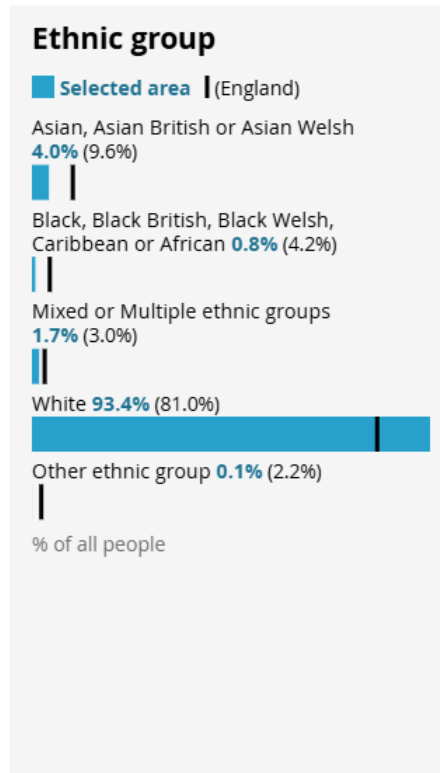
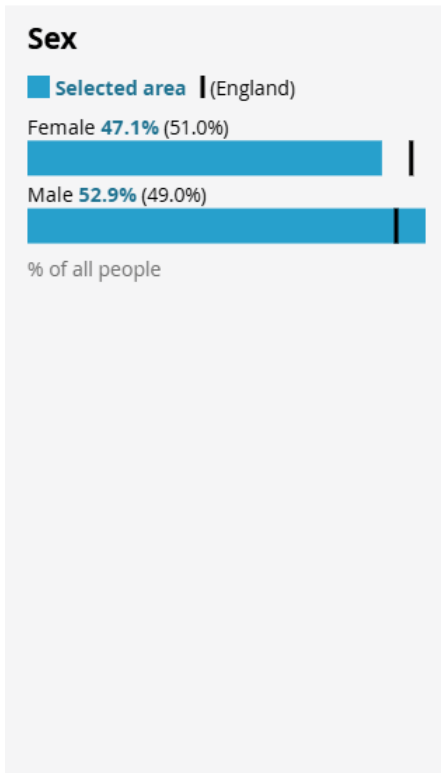
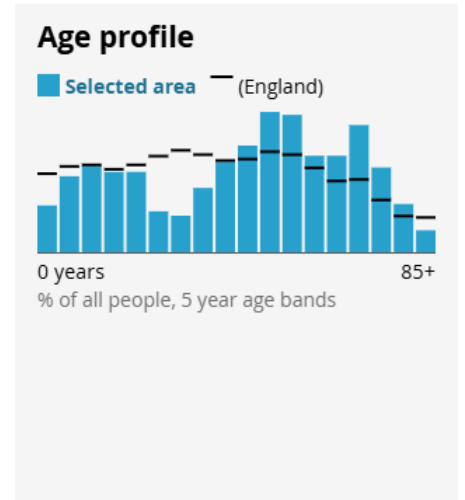
Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

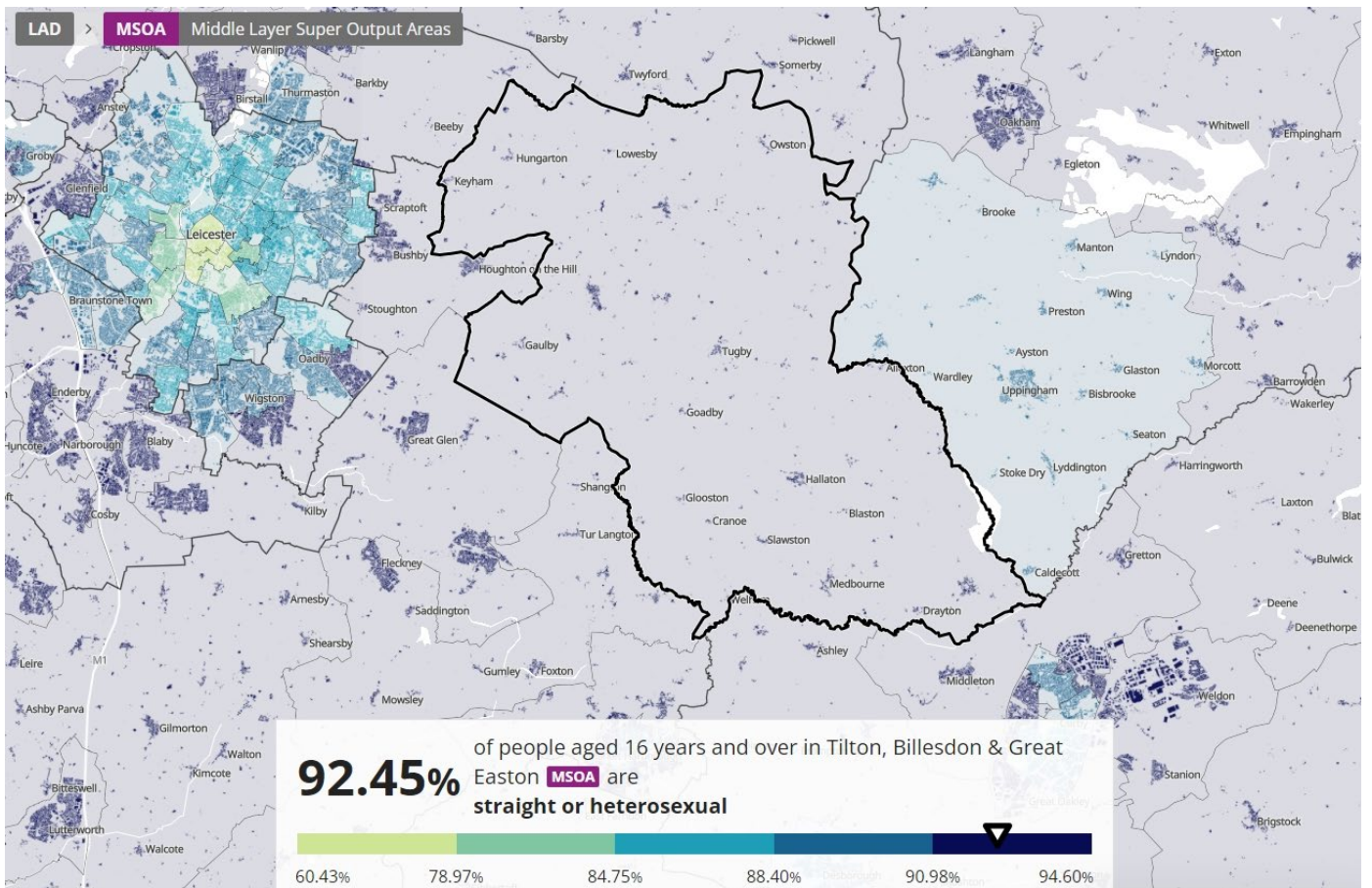
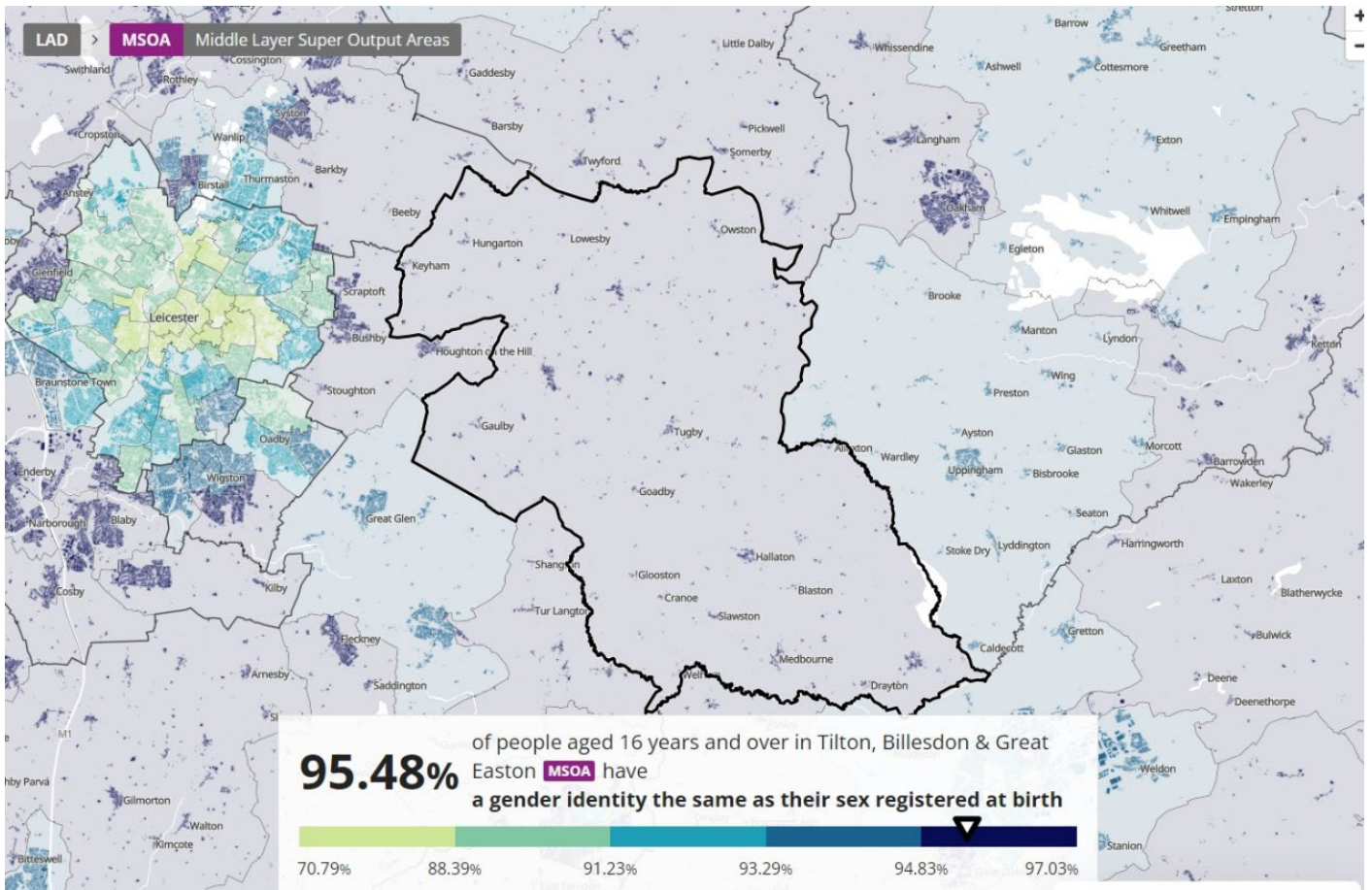
Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2021 published by the Office for National Statistics. For certain geographies, data is available for age, disability, gender identity, race, religious belief, sex and sexual orientation. There is no know data for pregnancy and maternity. Not all Census 2021 topics are available for all geographies. (Note: The data and

boundaries displayed in the profile below are aggregated from small areas on a best to fit basis, and therefore may differ slightly from other sources).





Summary

The proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people in the Neighbourhood Area is significantly higher than the national picture, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds is lower.

The proportion of people in the Neighbourhood Area who are Disabled under the Equality Act is lower than the average for England and Wales. Those who consider themselves to be in very good health (54.2%) is higher than the national picture (48.5%)

Parts of the Neighbourhood Area lies in a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) along with Billson and Great Eaton. In the MSOA 95.48% of people age 16 years and over have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth.

The proportion of ethnic minorities is noticeably lower than the national picture.

The proportion of Christians in the Neighbourhood Area (59.9%) is higher than England and Wales (46.2%) whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

In the MOSA, 92.45% of people age 16 years and over, are straight or heterosexual. This is a little less than England and Wales as a whole (94.6%).

Key Issues and Policies of the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key priorities for the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Area that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address.

- To ensure residents can access key services.
- To ensure future development is situated to give minimal impact and be of sympathetic design and character
- To protect, manage and enhance the natural, built and historic environment.
- To reduce deprivation, loneliness and isolation
- To ensure future developments meet the needs of the community.
- To promote health and wellbeing in the community.
- To protect and enhance the character and culture of the individual parishes.
- To address and reduce the potential impacts of climate change.
- To promote economic growth.
- To promoter regeneration.

These issues are reflected in the following Vision for the High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan, comprising eight broad objectives;



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 21 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues and objectives.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy HL19 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households.

Policy HL20 supports the provision of affordable housing including a proportion of First Homes.

Policy HL1 seeks the retention of key services and facilities and Policy HL2 seeks the provision of new allotments. Policy HL4 requires new development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. These policies are seen as important for the long-term sustainability of the area. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the local services include a village

store, public house, village halls and recreational space. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact, as is the support for the provision of a community playing field.

Policy HL16 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (HL19) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy HL19 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy HL1 seeks the retention of key services and facilities. Policies HL4 requires new development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. These policies are seen as important for the long-term sustainability of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to locally based services for those with lower mobility levels.

Policy HL22 facilitates home working which could potentially have a positive impact on those with less mobility.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy HL5, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention and improvement of key services such as the village halls

(Policies HL1). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities, including the village halls (HL1) with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy HL5, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The High Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and those with young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. There is also the potential to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the High

Leicestershire Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.