LUBENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the submission of Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 It explains how the proposed Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.3 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions, The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must
 - i. have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. 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 District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028;
 - iv. meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters must have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.4 The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement this Basic Conditions Statement and an Equality Impact Assessment, and the results of numerous consultations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Lubenham Parish Council 'the qualifying body' for the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan applied, through Harborough District Council in October 2011, and was put forward to be a part of the Government Neighbourhood Plan frontrunner pilot scheme.
- 2.2 Following acceptance as a 'front runner'. The Parish applied for designation as a Neighbourhood Plan area through a further application made to Harborough District Council in July 2012 under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (part 2 S6).

- 2.3 In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations. Harborough District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Lubenham Parish Council; the consultation period ran during September/October 2012.
- 2.4 The Parish was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Plan area as approved by Harborough District Council on June 10th 2013.
- 2.5 Considerable consultation has taken place within the Parish, including consultation with Neighbouring Parishes, throughout the preparation of the plan, culminating in a 6 week pre-submission consultation, and amendments to the plan prior to submission.
- 2.6 The Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area. Proposals relating to planning matters (the use and development of land) have been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.7 It is required that the Lubenham 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.
- 2.8 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all of 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.

3. SUBMITTING BODY

- 3.1 The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Lubenham Parish Council, which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011 for the Parish of Lubenham. The Plan has been prepared by Lubenham Parish Council assisted by the residents of Lubenham with professional support and advice from RCC (Leicestershire & Rutland), MRC Planning and Harborough District Council.
- 3.2 Lubenham Parish Council is satisfied that the submitted Plan:

(i) meets the basic conditions (as set out in Paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act (as amended) (1990); and

(ii) is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (1998) and European Union (EU) Obligations; and

(iii) complies with the provision concerning Neighbourhood

Development Plans made by or under Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning *and Compulsory Purchase Act* 2004.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD ÅREA

- 4.1 The whole Parish of Lubenham was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area through an application made on 11th May 2012 under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (part2 S6) and approved by Harborough District Council on 29th October 2012. June 10th 2013.
- 4.2 The whole Parish of Lubenham was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area through an application made on 11th May 2012 under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (part2 S6) and approved by Harborough District Council on 29th October 2012. June 10th 2013.
- 4.3 Lubenham is situated on the southern boundary of Leicestershire bordering Northamptonshire. It shares boundaries with Foxton, Laughton, Gumley and Theddingworth to the north and west and with Market Harborough in the east.
- 4.4 The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Lubenham and to no other Neighbourhood Areas. There are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area.
- 4.5 It 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.
- 4.6. A large part of the Proposed Harborough Strategic Development Area lies within the Parish of Lubenham and it was deemed necessary to reach an agreement between Harborough District Council and Lubenham parish Council relating to division of responsibility for this area. A Masterplan is in place in relation to this SDA. See designation statement for more detail
- 4.7. The Neighbourhood Plan will cover the period up to 2031, corresponding with the plan period for the emerging Harborough Local Plan. It thereby allows consistency in the evidence base and proposed housing requirement.
- 4.8. No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement.
- 5.2 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 set out in the Consultation Statement.

6. CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIC POLICIES OF THE LOCAL PLAN

- 6.1. It is required that the Lubenham 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. A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework specifies that the delivery of sustainable development is to be through the application of 12 core planning principles and the pursuit of 13 sustainability objectives supporting the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The 12 principles are that planning should:
 - a. be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
 - not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
 - c. proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;
 - d. always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
 - e. take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;
 - f. support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
 - g. contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;

- encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brown field land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
- i. promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
- conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
- k. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- I. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- m. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
- n. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- 6.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all of 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. The table in Section 7 sets out the conformity with the National Planning Policy Statement.
- 6.3 Neighbourhood Development Plans must also 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 District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028.
- 6.4 The table below considers the conformity of the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and also Harborough District Core Strategy. It identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies within the Core Strategy that the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides supporting commentary.

Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan Policies	National and Local Plan Policies	Justification
7.1 Policy LNP01 The Separation area between Lubenham and the SDA and between Gartree and the SDA and shown in green on Map 2 shall be maintained in order to preserve a visual gap between the built form of the settlements to maintain both Lubenham and Gartree's distinctiveness and separate identity. Development in this area shall be limited only to that appropriate in the countryside, such as agriculture, green infrastructure and recreation, and that which would detract from the open character of this area or reduce the visual separation of Lubenham and Gartree from Market Harborough shall not be permitted.	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 73, 75,76,78, 109,114,126	Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, as well as recognise that some open land can perform a variety of functions. This Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan policy supports this approach as well as the role of planning in creating healthy and inclusive communities, and facilitating access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for recreation. It also takes a positive approach to the protection of networks of green infrastructure. Paragraph 78 Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.
	HDC Policy CS 1, CS 8, CS13	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan accords with Harborough Core Strategy CS1 in maintaining the individual character of Lubenham, CS8 in protecting and enhancing local landscape, CS13 in identifying a separation area between Lubenham Parish and the Harborough Strategic Development. Area. The policy is protecting the green infrastructure which appeals to the many ramblers and walkers who make use of the open countryside and footpaths and protects the individuality of Lubenham Parish, keeping it separate from Market Harborough.

7. EXPLANATION OF CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND LOCAL PLAN

 7.2 Policy LNP02 New residential development that improves access to public open space or provides new publicly accessible open space in the parish will be supported provided it does not worsen flood risk. In particular access to; a. the River Welland making it more accessible to the public while protecting its natural features and species and; b. the disused railway line making it more accessible for walking or cycling while protecting its natural features and footways leading into the open countryside and linking the community and; d. new areas of public open space within the SDA; will be encouraged where it also accords with other relevant policies in the development plan. 	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 76, 109,117	Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, as well as recognise that some open land can perform a variety of functions. This Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan policy supports this approach as well as the role of planning in creating healthy and inclusive communities, and facilitating access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for recreation. It also takes a positive approach to the protection of networks of green infrastructure and habitats.
	HDC Policies CS2	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan builds upon policy CS2 CS8 CS9 and CS11 ensuring that new development enhances and protects
	CS8 CS9 CS11	special natural areas, species and green infrastructure and heritage while taking account of access to the countryside and taking heed of the potential impacts of Climate Change
7.3 Policy LNP03 All new residential		Lubenham has recognised its designation in the HDC Core
developments should be of a high standard of design and layout:-	NPPF Paragraphs	Strategy as a selected Rural Village with the need to accommodate some housing growth
(i) they should reflect the height, scale and	17, 55,56-59,63,	It also recognises that a large area of the Parish is taken up by
(i) they should reflect the height, scale and mass of existing neighbouring buildings	64,66,96,110,	the large SDA (providing 1500 homes within its Parish) This policy
and;		highlights the importance of good design in all developments
(ii) they should reflect the quality of material		within the Parish the importance of the local architecture as well
finishes found in the vicinity and:		as the scale of buildings within the landscape to ensure that it is built so as not to compromise the quality of finishes and
(iii) they should utilise features of vernacular		built so as not to compromise the quality of finishes and

architecture more commonly found in the vicinity. Development close to and within the Lubenham Conservation Area in particular shall be designed to the highest standards to ensure the character and appearance of the Lubenham Conservation Area and its setting are preserved and enhanced.		architecture in the rest of the Parish. This policy encourages good design and use of good quality materials in all new developments that reflects the surroundings and the character and appearance of the parish and its heritage.
	HDC Policies CS2 CS11 CS13	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect the heritage of the Parish and also builds upon the Harborough Core Strategy which states the following; CS2 All housing developments should be of the highest design standard. CS11 All development should respect the context in which it is taking place and respond to the unique characteristics of the individual site and the wider local environment beyond the site's boundaries to ensure that it is integrated as far as possible into the existing built form of the District. All development should respect the context in which it is taking place and respond to the unique characteristics of the individual site and the wider local environment beyond the site's boundaries to ensure that it is integrated as far as possible into the existing built form of the District. CS13 Rural development will be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which it is situated. This policy encourages good design and use of good quality materials in all new developments that reflects the surroundings and the character and appearance of the parish and its heritage.
7.4 Policy LNP04 New residential developments	NPPF	Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify
of five or more dwellings shall be required to	Paragraphs,	and meet the housing needs of an area. The Lubenham
demonstrate that they are designed to	· ····································	Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy seeks

incorporate measures that will protect and	57,58, 59, 64,	to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that
enhance natural habitats and bio-diversity within the site or within the vicinity of the site.	66,110,	reflects local need and demand while protecting natural habitats.
	HDC Policies CS8 CS11 CS17	Harborough Core Strategy requires that rural development will be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting. Retaining and, where possible enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which it is situated; This policy builds upon HDC Core strategy Policy CS17 Avoiding the loss of features and habitats of landscape, historic, wildlife or geological importance, whether of national or local significance.
 7.5 Policy LNP05 Residential development on each of the three allocated sites (E) Land north of Laughton Road (9 dwellings), (I) Land north of Foxton Road (27 dwellings) and (A) Land south of Main Street (36 dwellings) shall be permitted subject to the following criteria:- (i) On all sites of more than 5 dwellings at least 30% of the houses shall be affordable housing or in exceptional cases a contribution towards affordable housing for Lubenham Parish. (ii) All sites shall include a mix of housing types that will be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence of housing need. (iii) Development on all sites shall include comprehensive landscaping schemes including effective street planting and enhanced planting for boundaries with the open countryside. 	NPPF Paragraphs 17,47,55,59, 60, 66,73, 70, 103, 109, 117, 159, 173 184,	The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy seeks to provide sites that will provide a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand. It also seeks to ensure provision of an appropriate level of affordable housing within these sites or contributions that will be for the benefit of Lubenham Parish. In accordance with policies. NPPF Policy 59 states that design policies should concentrate on guiding overall scale, density massing height, landscape materials and access in relation to neighbouring buildings and the local area more generally. NPPF 73 calls for high quality of open space and opportunities for sport and recreation which can make a contribution to health and wellbeing and Lubenham Neighbourhood plan requires that developments allow for onsite natural open space or contributions that should be for the benefit of Lubenham Parish. NPPF109 requires that the planning system seeks to minimise the impacts on biodiversity and where possible to contribute to the commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity. NPPF 35 defines that developments should be designed to create safe and secure layouts that avoid conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan considers the layout

(iv) Developments of more than 10 dwellings of developments needs to consider the speed of vehicles in order shall include on site provision of natural open to safeguard other road users and pedestrians. It also requires space in accordance with HDC open space adequate space to be allocated to off street car and cycle parking standards (Provision for Open Space, Sport with consideration given to safe links with other roads and and Recreation (March 2009 or any later footpaths. versions of this policy) and financial NPPF 103 addresses the need to consider flood risk and to contributions towards the upkeep and ensure that development does not lead to flooding elsewhere. enhancement of current village open spaces Lubenham Parish is keen to ensure that new development is flood and play areas reasonably related to the scale resilient and does not exacerbate flooding and sewage problems of the development. that occur in some areas. It promotes the use of sustainable drainage systems and rainwater collection with designs that are (v) Developments of 10 dwellings or less shall water efficient. either include provision of on-site natural Any new development in the village will increase the number of open space or shall make a financial people needing to use community facilities including school, contribution reasonably related to the scale Church, Village Hall, and Playing Fields - in order to access these of the development in accordance with HDC residents will inevitably need to cross the main A4304 as the open space standards (Provision for Open facilities are spread throughout the village. Contributions towards Space, Sport and Recreation March 2009) or a safe crossing proportionate to the size of the development. any later versions of this policy) proposed towards the upkeep and enhancement of current village open spaces and play areas (vi)All new residential developments shall include schemes for the enhancement of habitats and bio-diversity. (vii) All new residential developments shall have target design speeds of a maximum 20 mph and because they will result in additional traffic on village roads shall make a financial contribution reasonably related to the scale of the development proposed for the express purpose of funding traffic speed reduction measures within the settlements in the

Neighbourhood Plan area.	
(viii) All new residential developments shall be designed to high standards by respecting the form, scale and massing of existing buildings and spaces in the sites' surroundings and in terms of the appearance and use of materials present in the vicinity.	
(ix) All proposed developments shall make adequate provision for off-street car parking and cycle parking in accordance with HDC standards.	
(x) All proposed developments shall provide safe links with the existing roads and footpaths in the vicinity of the site.	
 (xi) All proposed developments shall be energy efficient and designed for water efficiency, with initiatives such as rainwater collection and use incorporated into new designs. (xii) All proposed developments shall be designed to avoid flood risk to new homes as determined by appropriate flood risk assessments which shall accompany planning applications. 	
(xiii) All proposed developments shall make adequate provision for foul water drainage and undertake improvements as necessary.	
(xiv) All proposed developments of over 10	

dwellings shall contribute towards measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of projected increased traffic levels passing through the Lubenham main settlement. These mitigation measures shall be proportionate to the impacts of the development and may include (but need not be limited to), contributions towards a pedestrian/cycle fully controlled crossing point on the A4304, and localised junction improvements.		
	HDC Policies CS2 CS3 CS8 CS9 CS10 CS11 CS17	Lubenham has recognised its designation in the HDC Core Strategy as a selected Rural Village and the need to accommodate some housing growth. Potential sites have been identified both through HDC latest SHLAA and Lubenham 'call for sites' through the Neighbourhood Planning process. The plan has also taken into account the emerging Local Plan and the variety of options proposed for housing growth. The plan therefore identifies sufficient land to provide the numbers of dwellings required by the Core Strategy and also potential for revision dependent on the Options chosen by the emerging Local Plan. The policy also sets out design standards for roads, drainage and green spaces and recognises the need to protect important habitats. This policy also encourages energy efficiency and sustainable drainage solutions. The approach is to provide the types of accommodation identified by the community as needed, which include starter homes, affordable homes and homes more suited to older people, particularly bungalows rather than large 4/5 bedroom houses. The policy builds on policy CS17 'Rural development will be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which it is situated.'

 7.6 Policy LNP06 : Housing Reserve Site Housing Reserve Site- Housing Reserve Site Land to the south of Laughton Road (J) is identified as a reserve site for residential development. This site will be made available for residential development if: i) it is required to remediate a substantial shortfall in the supply of residential land due to the failure of other identified residential sites in Lubenham to deliver the anticipated scale of development permitted; or ii) it becomes necessary to provide for additional homes in Lubenham in accordance with any new development plan document that replaces the Harborough Core Strategy. 	NPPF Paragraphs 14, 17, 47, 50, 184, 204, 205,	This flexible approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed needs and provides for the identification of a potential housing site should certain conditions arise. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing that includes affordable housing,
	HDC Policies CS2 CS3 CS17	The Lubenham Plan responds to the variety of housing options posed in the Core Strategy and emerging Local Plan. It recognises the status of Lubenham as a selected Rural Village and the need to provide for some housing development in accordance with CS3 and CS 17 of the Core Strategy.

7.7 Policy LNP07 exceptionally some very limited residential development or residential infill at Gartree will be supported in order to maintain the vitality of that community. Where new residential development of five or more dwellings is proposed on environmentally acceptable sites within Gartree it should provide additional facilities or enhancements to the existing settlement (such as improvements to roads and footpaths, play space or other community benefits) at a level proportionate to the impacts of the development.	NPPF Paragraphs 14, 17, 47, 48, 50, 51 , 54, 55,70, 71,159,184, 205	Core Planning Principle 5 recognises the character of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within in. This promotes sustainable development through seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. Paragraph 50 and 54 calls for a wide variety of high quality homes to be delivered and recognises that local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing to reflect local needs. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.
	HDC Policies CS2 CS3 CS12	The Policy recognises the need for housing choice and affordability as outlined in CS3 and the Core Strategy Strategic Objective 3 <i>To locate new development in sustainable locations that respect</i> <i>environmental capacity and which have appropriate infrastructure,</i> <i>services and facilities in place or where these can realistically be</i> <i>provided; and to encourage the appropriate re-use of brownfield</i> <i>sites in sustainable locations.</i> Policy LNP07 also recognises the closeness of the Gartree settlement to the facilities in Foxton (school, Pubs, community facilities and shop) and the transport and infrastructure that links it to Foxton that provides sustainability for some degree of growth in this area in line with promoting sustainable development.
7.8 Policy LNP08 All affordable housing will be subject to conditions or a planning obligation to ensure that when social rented homes are allocated to qualifying candidates first priority is given to people with a familial or	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 50, 54, 59 ,	Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of the local community

work connection to Lubenham Parish and second priority is given to those with connections to surrounding Parishes and third priority to all other qualifying candidates.		Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan Consultations identified the need for affordable homes for local people with a particular need for bungalows. Paras. 50 and 54 call for a wide variety of high quality homes to be delivered and recognises that local planning authorities should be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing to reflect local needs.
	HDC Policies CS3 CS5	Needs have been identified for affordable homes for occupation by people from the Parish. In particular instances have occurred where larger homes could be made available for families if suitable transfers were available in the village. HDC core principles identify the following key issues as important P2 Securing delivery of appropriate affordable housing, particularly in the more rural areas; · P3 Providing an appropriate range of housing to enable young people and older people to stay in rural settlements;
7.9 Policy LNP 09 The layout of all new residential and business developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area shall incorporate speed reducing design measures with target design speeds of a maximum 20 mph.	NPPF Paragraphs 35, 56 - 58	Paragraph 35 defines that developments should be designed to create safe and secure layouts that avoid conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. Paragraph 58 requires that Neighbourhood Plans contain robust policies that set out the quality of the development and designs that function well and add to the overall quality of the area.
	HDC Policies CS11	In rural areas transport is an important aspect and while Lubenham Plan is generally supportive of alternatives to the private car, it is recognised that many new developments will increase the number of cars and motorised vehicles in use. The policy sets standards for new developments to safeguard the safety of pedestrians and other road users within new developments in accordance with Core Planning Principles 8, promotes good design and ensures that places are safe.

 7.10 Policy LNP10 The layout of streets and open spaces within and approaching the SDA shall be designed to maximise opportunities: a. for children to walk and cycle safely to school; b. for existing and new residents to access community facilities and services safely on foot and bicycle. 	NPPF Paragraph 35, 55, 56 - 58	Paragraph35 defines that developments should be designed to create safe and secure layouts that avoid conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. Paragraph 58 requires that Neighbourhood Plans contain robust policies that set out the quality of the development and designs that function well and add to the overall quality of the area.
	HDC Policies CS5 CS9 CS11 CS12 CS13	CS5 sets the scene To achieve the best possible overall effect for transport for the district as it looks towards a low carbon future. Geared towards transport developments that are also strategically beneficial to the wider area and which can complement works likely to be carried about by other developments. This Lubenham Policy is in line with CS9 addressing climate change issues and helps to reduce emissions working towards a low carbon future. CS11 - respecting the context in which development is taking place and CS13 reducing the level of car travel to schools.
7.11 Policy LNP11 Development of the SDA shall provide measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of projected increased traffic levels associated with the SDA passing through the Lubenham main settlement. These mitigation measures shall be proportionate to the impacts of the development and may include (but need not be limited to), a pedestrian/cycle fully controlled crossing point on the A4304, and localised junction improvements.	NPPF Paragraphs32 35, 56, 58	NPPF Para. 32 recognises for developments that generate a significant amount of traffic, improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the significant impacts of the development. Policy 35 defines that developments should be designed to create safe and secure layouts that avoid conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists. Paragraph 58 requires that Neighbourhood Plans contain robust policies that set out the quality of the development and designs that function well and add to the overall quality of the area. Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan with its division of responsibilities agreed with HDC sets out measures that enable measures to mitigate the impact of increased traffic that will result from the development of the SDA in Harborough.

	HDC Policies CS5 CS11 CS12	This policy recognises the impact that development of the SDA will have on the Lubenham community and outlines proposals for mitigation measures. CS5 'mitigation measures should be geared towards transport developments that are also strategically beneficial to the wider area and which can complement works likely to be carried about by other developments. While CS12 Delivering development and supporting infrastructure. Development is required to contribute to funding elements of the infrastructure.
7.12 Policy LNP12 New business, residential and school developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area shall be required to provide Travel Plans to reduce reliance upon the motor car and encourage alternative modes of travel.	NPPF Paragraphs 17,29, 30,32	A travel plan can help new residents to think differently about how they travel around the local area. This policy accords with NPPF paragraphs <i>To encourage the use of sustainable travel</i> <i>methods in order to help to reduce emissions by providing an</i> <i>alternative to the use of the private car.</i> All developments that generate significant amounts of traffic should be supported by transport statements or assessments
	HDC Policies CS5 CS7 CS9 CS12	A travel plan aims to promote sustainable travel choices as an alternative to single occupancy car journeys.
7.13 Policy LNP13 The Neighbourhood Plan encourages the installation of electric vehicle charging points at appropriate locations.	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 30, 35	Providing encouragement to solutions which support reduction of greenhouse gasses.
	HDC Policies CS5 CS9 CS12	Policy CS5 aims to assist in the delivery of the goals and outcomes of the Leicestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (LTP3). Goal – a transport system that helps to reduce the Carbon Footprint of Leicestershire. CS9 addressing climate change and CS12 Supporting infrastructure.

 7.14 Policy LNP14 The development of new housing and new business space within the Neighbourhood Plan Area should include measures to positively enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of the area. In particular developments should where appropriate provide:- a. boundary screen planting that is sympathetic to its setting and uses native plant species; b. multifunctional areas of green space, providing for recreation and also water management and increased opportunities for biodiversity; c. opportunities for innovative areas for green space such as roof gardens and green/living walls; d. opportunities for wildlife such as bat boxes and owl boxes where appropriate. 	NPPF Paragraphs 17,58, 73, 109, 110, 118	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect the natural environment, landscape and habitats so that the rural nature and native species of the community are protected when areas are developed. The following paragraphs confirm the need to protect green space and biodiversity while creating a sense of place. One of the 12 core planning principles is to contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. NPPF110 'the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment'. Paragraph 58 Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments: • will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; • establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit; • optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
	HDC Policies CS8 CS11	In identifying the need to protect natural habitats green space and biodiversity, Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan accords with the following policies Policy CS 8 Green Infrastructure assets will be safeguarded through ensuring that: i) Development does not compromise their integrity or potential value CS 11 All development should respect the context in which it is taking place and respond to the unique characteristics of the individual site and the wider local environment beyond the

7.15 LNP15 Proposals for new residential and business development should look to explore opportunities to provide for and/or enhance access to and views of the open countryside and in particular towards the River Welland, the disused railway line and towards Market Harborough, Bramfield and Gartree.	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 109,110,118	site's boundaries to ensure that it is integrated as far as possible into the existing built form of the District. Core planning principles identify that planning should be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve places, taking account of the different roles and character of different areas. It is also required to take account of and support local strategies.
	HDC Policies CS8 CS17	CS8 Open space provision and improving linkages between current green space assets at the local level is a key element of the District's green infrastructure policy. CS11 Rural development will be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character area in which it is situated. Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan identifies some of the important features that can be protected or enhanced in line with these policies.
 7.16 Policy LNP16 Proposals for new business/employment uses should: a. be of a scale, density and design appropriate to its setting such that it would not cause damage to the qualities, character and amenity of the area and its residents; b. include the provision of adequate vehicle and cycle parking, turning and manoeuvring space; c. incorporate safe and inclusive design and access suitable for all; d. shall include/encourage links to existing walking and cycling networks; 	NPPF Paragraphs 18,29,30,35,36,39	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need to support sustainable economic growth in appropriate places and of a scale and density appropriate to the setting. The policy recognises the need for such developments to be in appropriate places with good design and access standards that take into account the need to contribute to a low carbon community that recognises the need to mitigate the effects of climate change.

 e. on larger developments shall include a framework sustainable travel plan and; f. on larger developments shall explore opportunities for inclusion of electric vehicle charging points. 		
	HDC Policies CS9 CS11 CS12	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan encourages solutions which support reduction of greenhouse gasses, while providing safe attractive places to live. <i>CS9 All new developments within the District incorporate site</i> <i>layout and design principles which reduce energy demands and</i> <i>increase energy efficiency. CS11 Development should be</i> <i>inspired by, respect and enhance local character, building</i> <i>materials and distinctiveness of the area in which it would be</i> <i>situated.</i>
 7.17 Policy LNP17 The conversion or re-use of redundant farm buildings for light industrial, tourism or office purposes will be permitted:- a. where the buildings to be converted or re-used are of a construction that is suitable for the development proposed without the need for major additional construction works; b. where the development will not have an adverse impact on the nature conservation and biodiversity or wildlife of the area; c. where development is in keeping with the scale, form and character of its surroundings; d. where it does not create significant additional traffic movements; e. where it provides a safe and inclusive design and access for all. f. where the noise generated will not have an adverse effect on the surroundings. 	NPPF Paragraphs 17, 18, 28, 29, 118,120,	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need to retain employment opportunities in rural areas and builds upon the local success of small start up businesses that have been able to make use of redundant farm buildings and brownfield sites. This approach accords with national policies in supporting the sustainable growth of business and enterprise in rural areas by utilising redundant buildings both within and around the village.

	HDC Policies CS7 CS9	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan supports the reuse of disused farm buildings for business and employment purposes rather than conversion to residential use to ensure continuity of employment opportunities in rural areas. CS7 Support employment development within the countryside, beyond towns and villages, only where it; contributes to the retention and viability of rural services or land based businesses, aids farm diversification, or promotes the conversion and re-use of appropriately located and suitable constructed existing buildings (particularly those adjacent to or closely related to towns and villages).
 7.18 Policy LNP18 Business/employment developments that would result in the loss of a community building or site, or one last used for the provision of community facilities, services, leisure or cultural activities will be supported only if; a. an assessment has taken place that demonstrates that there is an excess of such provision and the site or building is not needed for any other community facility or; b. alternative provision of at least an equal standard is made in its place. 	NPPF Paragraph 17, 28,156, 160	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises to need to protect community assets to maintain the vitality of the community and the health and wellbeing of the community. This policy seeks to protect these assets from development and ensure they are retained for community use. NPPF Paragraphs 28 promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
	HDC Policies CS1 CS12	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan preparation identified the strong support for community assets in the Parish and the important role they play in shaping the community and enhancing community spirit. The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) vision seeks to preserve and enhance the very best of the District, as an attractive place to the live, work and do business. This Vision flows through into the strategic objectives, which emphasise the need to protect and enhance the District's built heritage, distinctive rural landscape and community facilities and

 7.19 Policy LNP19 Exceptionally some limited employment/business development may be supported on environmentally acceptable sites in Gartree if; a. It will have no adverse effects upon the living conditions of nearby residents by reason of noise nuisance, odour nuisance, likely excessive disturbance or traffic generation and; b. It will contribute to the retention and viability of rural services or land based businesses, aids farm diversification, or promotes the conversion and re-use of appropriately located and suitable constructed existing buildings and; c. it will enhance the viability and vitality of the community and it will provide/enhance links to community facilities/services and; d. will contribute to upgrading the roads and paths in and around the settlement at a level proportionate to the impacts of and made necessary by the development. 	NPPF Paragraphs 28, 175	Infrastructure, whilst protecting and promoting the economic viability of the towns and rural centres and meeting the strategic housing requirement in sustainable locations. Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan supports economic growth where it does not have an adverse effect on local residents and may contribute to the vitality of the community. The plan recognises the closeness of the Gartree settlement to Foxton Village and its range of facilities, also its closeness to a major employment site (Gartree Prison). It recognises that Gartree could accommodate some small employment/ business units. NPPF Paragraph 28 <i>support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;</i>
	HDC Policies CS7	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan preparation identified the need to enhance the vitality of the Gartree settlement this policy provides opportunity for some small scale growth in the area which can help to address this issue. CS7 Supports employment development within the countryside, beyond towns and villages, only where it; contributes to the retention and viability of rural services or land based businesses, aids farm diversification, or promotes the conversion and re-use

		of appropriately located and suitable constructed existing buildings (particularly those adjacent to or closely related to towns and villages).
 7.20 Policy LNP20 Any proposed expansion of the Bramfield Mobile Home Park site beyond its existing boundaries into the surrounding countryside shall be strictly controlled and shall only be permitted if; a. it will provide for/enhance links to community facilities/services, and; b. the visual impacts of the development are mitigated by appropriate landscaping and screening and; c. it will contribute towards upgrading the roads and paths in and around the site; and d. it would have no adverse effects on highway safety. 	NPPF Paragraphs 34, 176,	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises the constraints of the Bramfield site and its lack of community facilities. It's poor access to footpaths and footways and limited bus service and the access onto a major A road with national speed limit. NPPF 176 Where safeguards are necessary to make a particular development acceptable in planning terms (such as environmental mitigation or compensation), the development should not be approved if the measures required cannot be secured through appropriate conditions or agreements.
	HDC Policies CS8	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognised the poor access to footpaths linking Bramfield with the rest of the village and the road safety aspect of any further development in this area. This policy seeks to limit development surrounding the site. CS8 This policy seeks to secure a high quality, accessible and multifunctional green infrastructure network across both rural and urban areas of Harborough district, which contributes to healthy lifestyles and a rich, diverse natural environment.
 7.21 Policy LNP21 The continued provision of the Greenacres site for its present use is supported. Any proposed expansion of the site beyond its existing boundaries into the surrounding countryside shall be strictly controlled and shall only be permitted if; a. the need for additional gypsy and traveller 	NPPF Paragraphs 4,17,	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises the need to ensure that the traveller community that has occupied this site for many years is catered for and has access to a range of services that they generally access in Market Harborough.

 sites within the neighbourhood plan area is demonstrably proven and; the visual impacts of the development are mitigated by appropriate landscaping and screening and; it will provide/enhance links to community facilities/services, or; contribute to upgrading the roads and paths in and around the site. 		
	HDC Policies CS4	CS 4 The GTAA states that new site provision should seek to meet Gypsy and Traveller preferences as well as needs so that sites will be fully used and deter future unauthorised development. According to the assessment there is a preference for 'edge of settlement' locations along with private family owned sites. No need was identified through consultations for an expansion of the site and no land was put forward for extension of the site.
7.22 Policy LNP22 The provision of an agricultural showground is supported if planning conditions mitigating the impacts of the development and controlling its use are imposed at application stage.	NPPF Paragraphs 17,28	This site has already been granted planning permission although no showground activity has yet taken place. The policy notes the agricultural use for which the site has been granted permission. Should uses other than for agricultural purposes be proposed applications will be required and each will be looked at on its own merits and where necessary conditions will apply.
	HDC Policies CS7	The showground is a site that has long been identified for this purpose – it is providing for employment and business development and for tourism. Although not yet operational, this supports the delivery of an existing site with planning permission and supports strategic directive 12 – promote sustainable growth of tourism and access to the countryside. It is considered that any new applications for activities on the site other than for an agricultural show will need to be considered at application stage.

7.23 LNP 23 Telecommunications developments that would improve internet and mobile telephone services within the Neighbourhood Plan Area will be supported unless they would have a seriously adverse effect upon the landscape or the setting of heritage assets	NPPF Paragraphs 28, 42,43	In rural areas the need for good communications methods is essential, in some parts of the Parish Broadband and telephone signal is poor - any enhancements that do not detract from the landscape setting and heritage are supported in line with NPPF paragraph 43.
	HDC Policies CS11 CS12	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan identified the poor standard of internet and mobile phone connections as a barrier to some individuals and business. This policy seeks to provide opportunities for enhancements in line with CS17 <i>Increasing</i> <i>opportunity for home and village delivery of services and</i> <i>promoting the ability for people to work and shop from home</i> <i>using digital connectivity with equality in speed and reliability to</i> <i>urban centres will also assist in this objective.</i>
 7.24 LNP24 New residential and business developments within the Neighbourhood Plan Area shall incorporate a range of sustainability measures where viable including, but not limited to, the following initiatives; 1. low energy public street lighting and time controlled street lighting allowing the lighting to be switched off/reduced for periods where a road safety audit allows. 2. small-scale renewable energy technologies such as photo-voltaic installations; 3. use of sustainable drainage systems; 4. grey-water recycling and rain water harvesting; 5. Specification of energy efficient and water efficient appliances. 	NPPF Paragraph 17, 29, 30,93 – 97	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan supports the move to a low carbon future by actively encouraging measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and actively support energy and water efficiency, where small scale efficiencies are required but also larger scale schemes that do not impact on landscape and other amenities are also supported. This accords with NPPF paragraphs 93 – 97.

HDC Policies CS8 CS9 CS10 CS11	Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan recognises a need to reduce energy usage while still enabling new developments to be provided with the features that residents have come to expect. Flooding is an issue in some places in the Parish and beyond and the community is keen that new developments do not exacerbate these problems by using suitable drainage systems and rainwater harvesting. This policy supports CS 8 <i>Opportunities for the mitigation of</i> <i>climate change</i> CS 9 <i>The use of sustainable materials and</i> <i>construction methods is supported and encouraged.</i> CS10 <i>All</i> <i>new development will be expected to ensure that it does not</i> <i>increase the level of flooding experienced in other areas of the</i> <i>District. Surface water run off in all developments should be</i> <i>managed, to minimise the net increase in the amount.</i>
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8. COMPLIANCE WITH EUROPEAN UNION (EU) OBLIGATIONS

- 8.1 A neighbourhood plan 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:
 - I. 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.
 - II. Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
 - III. 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.
- 8.2 Notice was taken of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Plan, as prepared by Harborough District Council (April 2013), so as to be compatible with EU obligations. The Report concluded that, under Habitat Regulations, there are no European sites that would be affected by the Plan proposals and that 'the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan with its current proposals does not require a full SEA to be undertaken'.
- 8.3 The Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the Policies of Harborough Core Strategy, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. The purpose of this is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are considered throughout the plan-making process and that it has considered all aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability in its production.
- 8.4 The following advice was given from the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2012 in regard to Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan. Sustainability Appraisals apply only to Development Plan Documents; since Neighbourhood Plans are not Development Plan Documents, Neighbourhood Plans do not require a Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken. It is therefore believed that Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Sustainability Appraisal.
- 8.5 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.)

8.6 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 considered to be met by the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented.
- 9.3. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 4a) 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 believed to have been met.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1. Paragraphs 14-16 of the NPPF set out the prescription in favour of sustainable development, which is at the centre of national policy. Lubenham Parish Council considers that the draft Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by addressing the five principles and three critical roles for sustainable development contained within the NPPF.
- 10.2. 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 considered to be met by the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 10.3. It is therefore respectfully suggested that the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act and contributes to Sustainable Development.