



MEDBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Referendum Version - May 2018 - Updated May 2023

Appendix 1

Basic Conditions Statement

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Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan

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Medbourne
Neighbourhood
Plan 2017-2031
Statement of Basic
Conditions

November 2017

MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Updated May 2023

MEDBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

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1.0 Introduction

This statement has been prepared by Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee to accompany its submission to the local planning authority (Harborough District Council) of the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to development and the use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Plan area only. The plan period for the Neighbourhood Plan is 2017 to 2031 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development, in accordance with the Regulations. The manner in which the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Regulations and the Basic Conditions is set out below.

Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) [excluding 2b, c, 3 to 5 as required by 38(C)] sets out in the following way how the neighbourhood plans must meet the basic conditions:

- 1) The examiner must consider the following:
 - (a) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see sub-paragraph (2))
 - (b) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 61E (2), 61J and 61L, as amended by s38C(5)(b)
 - (c) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates and
 - (d) such other matters as may be prescribed.

- 2) A draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:
 - (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan
 - (b) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - (c) the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)

- (d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and
- (e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.

Section 2 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan complies with the legal requirements of sub-paragraphs 1 (b), (c) and (d). Section 3 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions contained in sub-paragraph 1 (a) and sub-paragraph 2.

2.0 Summary of Submission Documents and Supporting Evidence

In addition to the Basic Conditions Statement, the following documents have been prepared to support the preparation of the Plan and meet the Basic Conditions:

- The Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan 2017 - 2031
- The Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan.

3.0 Legal Requirements

The Plan complies with the provisions of sub-paragraph 1(b) as described below.

3.1 The Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body

The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Medbourne Parish Council, which is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by an Advisory Committee, appointed by and reporting to the Medbourne Parish Council.

3.2 What is being proposed is a neighbourhood plan

The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the Neighbourhood Plan area and has 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.

3.3 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect

The Neighbourhood Plan states that the period which it relates to is from 2017 until 2031. The period has been selected to align with that of the Harborough District Local Plan (as adopted in 2019).

3.4 The policies do not relate to excluded development

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Following consultation, Leicestershire County Council has not raised any concerns relating to the compatibility between the Neighbourhood Plan and the existing adopted Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan.

3.5 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood plan area and there are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The whole parish of Medbourne was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area by Harborough District Council on 16 April 2015.

The Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood plan area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

In relation to sub-paragraph 1(c), it is not considered that there is any benefit or reason for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan area.

In relation to sub-paragraph 1(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

4.0 The Basic Conditions

This section addresses how the Neighbourhood Plan fulfils the basic conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2). The Neighbourhood Plan was originally prepared (issue dated May 2018) having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to the strategic policies contained in the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006–2028, and with reference to the emerging Harborough Local Plan which was subject to consultation through the period of preparing the original Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan review and updating during 2022-23 fully reflects the current NPPF 2021 and the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 that was Adopted in April 2019.

4.1 Having regard to national policies and advice

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed (originally during 2016-2018) and updated (in 2022-23) having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). An explanation of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies show regard to the NPPF (current edition dated 2021) is outlined in table 1 below.

In general terms:

- The local community has been empowered to develop the plan for their neighbourhood and has undertaken creative exercises in identifying ways to enhance and improve the area including questionnaires, open events and establishing theme groups to capture the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Plan policies are based on robust evidence and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made, with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.
- The Plan addresses the District Council's housing requirements as set out in the Harborough Local Plan, whilst putting in place policies to protect the distinctive character of the countryside and the built environment.
- The need for high quality design and good standard of amenity for all existing and future residents is incorporated in the Plan policies.
- The Plan takes into account the role and unique character of the area and includes policies that protect and enhance these qualities, supporting a sustainable level of growth to ensure ongoing viability.
- The Plan supports the transition to a low carbon future by focusing future development within revised and updated Settlement Boundary limits and safeguarding and supporting sustainable local economic development and community facilities, thereby reducing the need to travel outside of the area for work and leisure.
- The Plan recognises and seeks to conserve heritage assets including those which are designated and those that are locally significant.
- The Plan supports local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing by safeguarding and encouraging enhancement of community facilities and opportunities to walk and cycle. The Plan seeks to address traffic issues; reducing congestion and speeding and thereby sustaining good air quality and improving pedestrian safety.

Table 1: Neighbourhood Plan Policies regard to NPPF

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
Policy H1: New Dwelling Provision	Para. 11	Inclusion of a target number for new dwellings supports ‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development’ by providing for the strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan.
Policy H1: Site Allocations	Para. 11 & 60	Inclusion of residential site allocations with support from the community supports ‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development’ by planning positively and shaping and directing development. The policy in identifying sites to deliver new housing targets utilising evidence underpinning the Local Plan, supports the NPPF aims of delivering a wide choice of quality homes.
Policy H2: Settlement Boundary	Para. 15, 16 & 105	One of the core principles of the NPPF is to recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Actively managing patterns of growth, within the current built up area of Medbourne, seeks to ensure that sufficient sites for new homes and economic activity are available in locations that will not adversely affect the countryside and setting of the village. A Settlement Boundary facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport with both benefits to the environment and the health of the community, both underlying premises of the NPPF.
Policy H3: Housing Mix	Para. 8	The policy seeks to support a mix of housing that meets an identified need in the community. The NPPF advocates for inclusive and mixed communities, which will require a mix of housing types based on current and future demographic trends. The policy supports the provision of affordable housing where there is an identified need. The policy is consistent with the NPPF which outlines the need to widen opportunities for home ownership and create inclusive and mixed communities.
Policy H4: Windfall Sites	Para. 69 & 70	The policy for small scale windfall sites has regard to the NPPF; by seeking to meet the identified housing requirements for the area, maintain and enhance the vitality of the villages, whilst protecting their character and setting.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
Policy H5: Design Principles	Para. 129	This policy outlines a number of design principles and supports the NPPF principle of requiring good design and in particular the need to respond to local character and history of the local surroundings. Importantly the policy does not impose architectural styles and hence does not stifle an innovative approach.
Policy ENV1: Local Green Space	Para. 101	Protection of Local Green Spaces identified as being special by the community is advocated through the NPPF. Proposed designations meet the criteria set out in the NPPF.
Policy ENV2: Other Sites of Environment Significance	Para. 174	This policy seeks to protect environmental features of other open space with environmental value on. This has regard to the NPPF principles conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. It takes into account the designation hierarchy and the protection is commensurate with their status.
Policy ENV3: Other Important Open Space	Para. 174	This policy seeks to protect other open space with environmental value on account of their natural and/or historical features. This has regard to the NPPF principles conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment.
Policy ENV4: Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors	Para. 179	The policy seeks to protect local habitats and species and where possible create new habitats. The policy has regard to the NPPF, which states that the planning system should contribute to enhancing the natural and local environment by minimizing impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible.
Policy ENV5: Non-designated Heritage Assets	Para. 128 & 203	This policy recognises Medbourne’s historic character as one of its most important assets and seeks to protect and enhance it. It has regard to the NPPF with regards to identifying non-designated heritage assets for protection. The policy supports the protection of heritage assets and their setting, a core principle of the NPPF.
Policy ENV6: Ridge and Furrow Fields	Para. 128 & 203	This policy seeks to protect ridge and furrow fields and has regard for the NPPF with regards to identifying and assessing heritage assets that may be affected by proposed developments. The policy supports the protection of heritage assets and their setting, a core principle of the NPPF.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
Policy ENV7: Important Views	Para. 174	The policy seeks to protect views identified as being significant to the community. In accordance with the NPPF, the planning system should contribute to and where possible; enhance the landscape. Views are a key component of the landscape.
Policy ENV8: Renewable Energy Generation Infrastructure	Para. 153 & 155	The policy supports the NPPF aim of meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting the delivery of renewable energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily.
Policy ENV9: Ground Instability & Groundwater	Para. 183	The NPPF requires planning policies to ensure sites are suitable for its new use taking account of ground conditions and land instability. The policy seeks to ensure development is not undertaken in known high risk zones without suitable mitigation measures and that ground instability and flooding risk is not increased elsewhere.
Policy CF1: Retention of Existing Community Facilities and Amenities	Para. 84 & 93	This policy seeks to protect key community facilities. This has regard for the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities through, amongst other things, planning positively for community facilities and guarding against their unnecessary loss.
Policy CF2: New and Improved Community Facilities	Para. 84 & 93	In seeking new or improved community facilities, the policy supports the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities.
Policy CF3: Pedestrian Pavements and Footpaths	Para. 100 & 105	This policy aims to protect and improve pedestrian pavements and footpaths. In doing so, it has regard to the NPPF in terms of ‘promoting healthy communities’ and ‘promoting sustainable transport’ to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.
Policy TR1: Transport, Roads and Parking	Para.104	The policy seeks to introduce traffic management solutions to address the impact of increased traffic. This policy represents an important response to identified issues, which will improve safety and amenity of the parish.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
Policy E1: Support for Existing Employment Opportunities	Para. 84	This policy seeks, where viable, to safeguard existing employment sites. This has regard for the NPPF in terms of supporting a prosperous and rural economy.
Policy E2: New Employment Opportunities	Para. 8, 84 & 85	The policy supports new employment opportunities through small scale new build and/or small-scale expansion of existing employment premises. ‘Making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages’ is a key element in the pursuance of sustainable development as outlined in the NPPF. The policy aims to support a prosperous rural economy, to grow and where possible, diversify the local economy, providing local employment opportunities. Further, the policy has regard for the need to promote sustainable transport by minimising journey lengths for employment.
Policy E3: Reuse of Agricultural and Commercial Buildings	Para. 84 & 120	Re-use of agricultural buildings for small businesses, recreation or tourism further supports a prosperous rural economy and the transition to a low carbon future by encouraging the use of existing resources.
Policy E4: Visitor Economy	Para. 84	The policy in supporting development proposals for tourism and leisure facilities recognises the role that the area can play in ‘building a strong, competitive economy’ and ‘supporting a prosperous rural economy’ through sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments.’
Policy E5: Communication Infrastructure	Para. 114 & 115	This policy recognises the need for super-fast broadband service and improved mobile telecommunications network for sustainable economic growth in the area. The NPPF advocates planning that supports high quality communications infrastructure.

4.2 Achieving sustainable development

The Neighbourhood Plan is positively prepared, reflecting the presumption in the NPPF in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the Plan supports the strategic development needs in the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031, shaping and directing development in the area that is outside of the strategic elements of the Local Plan.

The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with regard to these principles and has jointly sought environmental, economic and social gains.

The principal ways in which the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to achieving sustainable development are set out below:

- Encouraging the effective use of land by supporting the re-use of land that has been previously developed.
- Safeguarding and enhancing existing open space, community facilities and pedestrian and cycling facilities for the health, social and cultural wellbeing of the community.
- Protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of the built and natural environment through high quality design and maintenance of important views and open space around and within villages to retain their setting.
- Supporting strong, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities by making provision for a supply of housing of the right type and in the right place which meet identified need.
- Supporting the transition to a low carbon future through actively managing patterns of growth within existing settlements, maintaining and enhancing footpaths and supporting local employment opportunities.
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy through the protection of existing employment sites, supporting small scale business development including working from home and supporting the provision of high quality communications infrastructure.
- Contributing to conserving and enhancing the natural environment by minimising the impacts and where possible improving biodiversity and important habitats.
- Contributing to conserving and enhancing the historic environment by seeking to reduce adverse effects on heritage assets and their setting.

4.3 Conformity with the strategic policies of the district development plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was originally developed during 2016-2018 (issue dated May 2018) in general conformity with the saved strategic policies of the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028, and with reference to the emerging Harborough Local Plan which was undergoing consultation through the period of preparing the original Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan review and updating during 2022-23 fully reflects the current Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 which was adopted in April 2019.

To meet the basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan has to demonstrate general conformity with the adopted Local Plan. Table 2 below provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the Strategic Policies of the Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 (Adopted in April 2019).

Table 2: Assessment of how each policy of the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to the saved strategic policies of the Harborough Local Plan

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Local Plan Policies	Commentary
Policy H1: New Dwelling Provision	SS1, GD2 & H1	<p>The Harborough Local Plan designates a minimum housing target of 30 new dwellings for the Parish over the plan period 2011 to 2031. The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the Spatial Strategy of the Local Plan given the position of the settlement and its role in the settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>Medbourne is identified as a Selected Rural Village with development that should be on a scale reflecting the size and character of the village and level of service provision. In this regard, the identified level of housing provision in the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategies and housing need in the Harborough Local Plan. The NP positively addresses the issue of housing numbers by exceeding the designated target.</p>
Policy H1: Site Allocations	SS1, GD2, GD3, GD4, H1, H2, H5 & GI2	<p>This policy identifies sites for development that help to ensure that the needs of the community are met through sustainable growth and suitable access to services. It also seeks to accommodate growth sensitively and to provide an appropriate mix of housing in line with the strategies and policies in the Harborough Local Plan.</p>
Policy H2: Settlement Boundary	SS1, GD2, GD3, GD4 & H3	<p>Local Plan policies including Policy GD2 are clear that development sites must be directed towards appropriate locations. This also includes considering the nature, form and character of the settlement and its distinctiveness. The designation of a settlement boundary for Medbourne as a Selected Rural Village is in line with the Local Plan strategies and policies in supporting development within the defined settlement boundary and having strict criteria to limit development in outlying countryside areas.</p>
Policy H3: Housing Mix	CS1, CS3 H2	<p>The Local Plan supports development that provides for the varied housing needs of the community.</p>
Policy H4: Windfall Development	GD2, H1, H4 & H5	<p>Policy H3 is in general conformity with GD2 which supports small scale development in Selected Rural Villages located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting.</p>

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Local Plan Policies	Commentary
Policy H4: Windfall Development	GD2, H1, H4 & H5	Policy H3 is in general conformity with GD2 which supports small scale development in Selected Rural Villages located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting.
Policy H5: Design Principles	GD2, & GD8	The pursuance of high quality design is consistent across both the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan and the Harborough Local Plan. where design policies particularly emphasize and support the requirement for development to respect local character and distinctiveness.
Policy ENV1: Local Green Spaces	GI1, GI2, GI4	The policy to protect local green space is in general conformity with Local Plan strategy and policies which seek to ensure a high quality, accessible and multi-functional green infrastructure network across rural areas.
Policy ENV2: Other Sites of Environment Significance	GI1, GI2 & GI4	Policies ENV2, ENV3 and ENV4 seek to preserve and where possible, enhance the natural environment for biodiversity, geodiversity, heritage and recreation, including support for proposals that protect and increase wildflower meadows, wetland and woodlands. These policies are in general conformity with the Local Plan policies in seeking to protect and enhance green infrastructure, which contributes to healthy lifestyles and a rich, diverse natural environment.
Policy ENV3: Other Important Open Spaces	GI2, GI3 & GI4	
Policy ENV4: Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors	GI5 & GD8	
Policy ENV5: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	HC1 & GD8	The Local Plan supports development which protects, conserves and enhances heritage assets and their setting, including non-scheduled nationally important archaeological remains and areas of historic landscape. Further, it supports the identification of heritage assets of local importance.
Policy ENV6: Ridge and Furrow	GD5 & HC1	The Local Plan supports development which protects, conserves and enhances heritage assets and their setting, including non-scheduled nationally important archaeological remains and areas of historic landscape. Further, it supports the identification of heritage assets of local importance.
Policy ENV7: Important Views:	GD5	Important views are an intrinsic element of the character of the landscape and their identification and protection is consistent with the aims of Local Plan policies in general and in conformance with policy GD5 in particular.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Local Plan Policies	Commentary
Policy ENV8: Renewable Energy Generation Infrastructure	CC1 & CC2	This policy seeks to support renewable energy generation at a level appropriate to the community. This is compatible with Local Plan policies CC1 and CC2 which support development which adapts to climate change and helps to reduce carbon emissions.
Policy ENV9: Ground Instability and Groundwater	CC3 & CC4	No policies of the Local Plan conflict with policy ENV9 which seeks to avoid development where ground conditions are unsuitable. Furthermore, the policy is in conformity with Local Plan requirements that new development does not increase the level of flooding experienced in other areas and that surface water run-off is managed.
Policy CF1: Retention of Existing Community Facilities and Amenities	HC2 & HC3	Policy CF1 has the principle aim of retaining and enhancing community facilities by requiring specific criteria are met for development to be permitted. The policy therefore conforms with Local Plan policies HC2 and HC3 which support the protection of existing services in smaller settlements and recognises the valuable contribution that public houses, post offices and village shops make in meeting the needs of local communities.
Policy CF2: New and Improved Community Facilities	HC2 & HC3	Policy CF2 supports development that improves the quality and range of community facilities and conforms with Local Plan policies HC2 and HC3 which supports development of existing community facilities that provide improved accessibility and diversification where this would help to sustain the future of the facility. Development of new facilities is supported where they add to community amenity and are within easy and safe walking distance of the community they seek to serve.
Policy CF3: Pedestrian Pavements and Footpaths	GI1 & IN2	The Local Plan supports maintaining, improving and increasing the green infrastructure network to facilitate increased opportunities for public access to the countryside and potentially reducing car journeys. Multi-use Greenways, including existing bridleways and public rights of way, are identified as important strategic green infrastructure in the Harborough Local Plan.
Policy CF3: Pedestrian Pavements and Footpaths	GI1 & IN2	The Local Plan supports maintaining, improving and increasing the green infrastructure network to facilitate increased opportunities for public access to the countryside and potentially reducing car journeys. Multi-use Greenways, including existing bridleways and public rights of way, are identified as important strategic green infrastructure in the Harborough Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Local Plan Policies	Commentary
Policy TR1: Transport, Roads and Parking	IN2	Policy TR1 is in general conformity with Local Plan policy IN2 which supports the need to travel for jobs and mobile delivery in rural areas where maintaining access to services is vital. Local Plan emphasis on sustainable transport also aims to reduce the negative impact of the transport system on the environment and communities, which is further supported through policies that control rural development.
Policy E1: Support for Existing Employment Opportunities	HC2, HC3 & RT4	Policy E1 is in general conformity with the Local Plan policies supporting the retention of service and amenity business that are essential for the community and which also provide local employment opportunities. In so doing, these local service and tourism business also reduce the need for travel and meet sustainability objectives of other Local Plan policies.
Policy E2: New Employment Opportunities	BE1(2), HC3 & RT4	Policy E2 is consistent with the Harborough Local Plan support for sustainable development which delivers local employment opportunities and diversifies the rural economy through Policy BE1(2) and also policies HC3 and RT4 which permit development of community based and rural businesses under specific limiting criteria.
Policy E3: Re-Use of Agricultural and Commercial Buildings	GD3, BE1 (2) & RT4	Policy E3 is consistent with and supported by the Local Plan policies that support sustainable economic growth in rural areas by promoting the development and diversification of agricultural and other rural businesses, and supporting sustainable rural tourism that respects the character of the countryside.
Policy E4: Visitor Economy	GD3 & RT4	Policy E4 conforms with a key objective of the Local Plan to maximize the potential of tourism and leisure opportunities for visitors, implemented through policies that support the retention, enhancement and expansion of existing tourism leisure attractions and accommodation and allow development of new facilities for these purposes subject to limiting criteria.
Policy E5: Communication Infrastructure	IN3	Policy E5 is in conformity with Local Plan policy IN3, which recognises that high speed digital connectivity is no longer merely desirable but is essential in ordinary daily life and for businesses, particularly in rural areas, and supports the provision of telecommunication enhancements and new technologies whilst ensuring adverse impacts on the character of the environment are minimised.

4.4 EU obligations

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects, it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment under the relevant EU Directive. DCLG planning guidance suggests that, whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. This determined that “it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Medbourne’s Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Draft as submitted at the date of this assessment, that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and the subsequent interim Sustainability Appraisal for the emerging New Local Plan. As such, the Medbourne’s Neighbourhood Plan has not required a full SEA to be undertaken.”

Habitats Directive

The Neighbourhood Plan area does not include or is not close to a European site that would require a Habitat Regulation Assessment.

A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required under Habitat Regulations. The consultation bodies were asked to comment and no concerns were raised.

Convention on Human Rights

The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Statement of Consultation. Considerable care has been taken

throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups. There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the draft Neighbourhood Plan is being consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the appendices to the Statement of Consultation. The Statement of Consultation has been prepared by the Advisory Committee and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

5.0 Conclusion

The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met by the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 Adopted in April 2019 and meets relevant EU obligations.

It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.