

The Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2041 Statement of Basic Conditions

MAY 2026

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2 In order to satisfy Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Parish Council, as the ‘qualifying body’ must include a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 1.3 Paragraph 8 (1) states that 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.
- 1.4 Paragraph 8 (2) states that 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 order would not have the effect of preventing development from taking place which— (i) is proposed in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area), and (ii) if it took place, would provide housing (This replaces the former Basic Condition that the neighbourhood plan be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area.)
 - d) The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations,
 - e) Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan.
- 1.5 A further basic condition related to the new environmental assessment framework commenced, however, until such time as a completed framework for the

implementation of Environmental Assessment Reports is in place, compliance with this basic condition cannot be assessed.

- 1.6 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 Legal Requirements

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

The Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body

The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Bitteswell Parish Council, which is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for the designated Plan area.

What is being proposed is a neighbourhood plan

- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the 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.

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

- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan states that the period which it relates to is from 2022 until 2031. The period has been chosen to align with that of the Harborough Local Plan which was adopted on 30 April 2019.

The policies do not relate to excluded development

- 2.4 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. 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.

- 2.5 The designated Plan area was approved by Harborough District Council on 31 January 2015. The Plan does not relate to more than one Plan area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Plan area.
- 2.6 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 Plan area.
- 2.7 In relation to sub-paragraph 1(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

Levelling up and Regeneration Act

- 2.8 Sections 98 and 99 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 come into force on 25 March 2026 by virtue of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No. 11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026, which were made on 2 March 2025. Sections 98 and 99 amend the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of the legal compliance and the basic conditions requirements. The further legal compliance requirements are as follows:
- so far as the qualifying body considers appropriate, and having regard to the subject matter of the plan, the plan must be designed to secure that the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change; and
 - so far as the qualifying body considers appropriate and having regard to the subject matter of the plan, the plan must be designed to take account of any local nature recovery strategy under section 104 of the Environment Act 2021 that relates to all or part of the neighbourhood plan area. This is achieved through the Environmental policies in the NP.
- 2.9. The Neighbourhood Plan has been designed to secure that the development and use of land in the neighbourhood area contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, particularly through the policies on design (H6), Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity (Env 4), Footpaths and Bridleways (Env 7), Managing Flood Risk (Env 6), Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure (PC1), Electric Vehicles (T2) Home Working (BE3) and Footpaths and Cycle paths (T3)

- 2.10. The Neighbourhood Plan takes account of the North Northamptonshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy that relates in general terms to the Neighbourhood Area.

3.0 The Basic Conditions

- 3.1 This section addresses how the Neighbourhood Plan fulfils the basic conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2). The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 and to the strategic policies contained in the Harborough Local Plan (2019).
- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by the evidence base of the Harborough Local Plan, which was Adopted on 30 April 2019.

Having regard to national policies and advice

- 3.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed having regard to the NPPF amended in 2021. An explanation of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies have shown regard to the NPPF are outlined in table 1 below.
- 3.4 In broad terms the Plan:
- process has empowered the local community to develop the Plan for their neighbourhood and has undertaken a creative and thorough exercise in identifying ways to enhance and improve the area.
 - 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.
 - seeks to deliver homes, businesses and infrastructure through housing allocations, windfall sites, employment policies and developer contributions.
 - seeks to actively manage patterns of growth in the most sustainable locations through the designation of Limits to Development.
 - supports local strategies to deliver sufficient community facilities and services, to meet local needs.
 - contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment through the protection of Local Green Spaces and biodiversity.

Local Plan Policies

- 3.5 Whilst the former Basic Condition that the neighbourhood plan be ‘in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area’ has been replaced by the ‘making of the neighbourhood development plan would not result in the development plan for the area of the authority proposing that less housing is provided by means of development taking place in that area than if the neighbourhood development plan were not to be made’, it is nevertheless helpful to consider the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan policies and the Core Strategy policies for the Area, contained within the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031. The emerging Local Plan for North Northamptonshire is currently at a very early stage, with the Regulation 19 version not due until the autumn, with adoption expected in late 2028.
- 3.6 Whilst there is no requirement to conform to policies of emerging plans, National Planning Practice Guidance says that emerging plans should be taken into account. However the North Northamptonshire Local Plan is at such an early stage, this is not possible.
- 3.7 Table 1 sets out the comparison of Neighbourhood Plan policies with policies from the Local Plan alongside a commentary on the regard the Neighbourhood Plan has for the NPPF (2024). The Qualifying Body considers that the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Core Strategy and the policies have been designed to add local context to the development plan policies of the area. In addition, new basic condition E is fulfilled because i) the making of the Neighbourhood Plan would not have the effect of preventing development from taking place which is proposed in the development plan for the neighbourhood area because it includes allocations for residential development which exceed the identified housing requirement figure for the area, and ii) the NP also has policies which will guide housing to be sustainable and appropriate for Weldon. This is also demonstrated in table 1.

<i>Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan policies</i>	<i>NPPF para</i>	<i>Regard to National Planning Policy</i>	<i>Assessment of how the policies in the NP do not prevent development as set out in the Local Plan.</i>	<i>General Conformity with Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031</i>
Policy H1: Residential Site Allocations	7, 10, 11	The inclusion of a housing allocation policy supports ‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development’ by planning positively, shaping and directing development and providing for, and exceeding, the strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan.	The NP addresses the latest evidence of housing need and exceeds the minimum requirement.	This policy is in general conformity with the settlement hierarchy identified in the Local Plan and the apportioned housing requirements for the parish, as outlined in policies GD1 and H1 which establishes the residential target for Kibworth Villages.
Policy H2: Limits to Development	9, 11, 80	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 Limits to Development seeks to support existing services and facilities and protect the countryside and setting of the settlements. Further, Limits to Development facilitate 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.	The establishment of a Limits to Development helps to ensure that development is in a sustainable location and minimises the impact on the countryside.	The new Local Plan has removed settlement boundaries which were present in the previous Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan satisfies the requirement of policy GD1 of a ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’ and adds limits to development as a matter of local detail to help determine the most appropriate locations for development.
Policy H3: Windfall Housing	69, 71	The policy for small scale windfall sites has regard to the NPPF; by seeking to meet any future housing requirements for the area and maintain the vitality of the settlements, whilst protecting their character and setting. This is a positive policy for future housing provision given that this type of development has a	Having a policy on windfall development supports development and establishes the criteria that is required to meet a local need.	Support for small scale windfall development is in general conformity with the Local Plan (Policies H1 and H5) which identify the need for windfall development where there is evidence of demand.

		proven track record in providing a good source of new housing over recent years in the Parish.		
Policy H4: Building Design Standards	8, 28, 112, section 12	The policy outlines several design principles and supports the NPPF principle of requiring good design; and 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.	The design policy incorporates standards identified as meeting local needs and reflects local and national design standards.	The Local Plan promotes good design and identifies the need for development to 'achieve a high standard of design quality'. These NP policies add local detail to Local Plan policy GD8.
Policy ENV1: Protection of Local Green Spaces	101-103	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.	The protection of the most important environmental areas locally helps to direct development to more sustainable locations.	The principles underpinning the protection of Local Green Spaces are in general conformity to the Local Plan's identification and conservation of 'Local Green Spaces' and adds local detail to policy G14.
Policy ENV 2: Important Open Spaces Policy ENV 3: Sites and features of Natural Environmental Significance	Section 15	These policies seek 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. It takes into account the designation hierarchy and the protection is commensurate with their status.	These policies do not prevent development, but help to ensure that development takes important local environmental features into account.	The Local Plan seeks to protect sites of ecological and geological importance (policy EN2) and encourages the management of land for nature conservation. The Neighbourhood Plan in identifying locally significant sites for protection, adds further detail and value at the neighbourhood level and is in general conformity with the overarching principles contained in policies G12 'open space sport and recreation' and G15 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity'
Policy ENV4: Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity	179	This policy seeks to protect and enhance local biodiversity features and habitats. The policy has regard to the NPPF, which	The policy reflects the requirement from the Framework for development to achieve	Protection and enhancement of designated and non-designated ecological sites suitably conforms with

		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.	biodiversity net gain of at least 10% and identifies other locally important biodiversity features.	the strategic policies of the local plan and in particular, G15 which seeks to safeguard, protect and improve biodiversity in new development.
Policy ENV5: Protection of Sites of Historic/environment Significance	Section 15	Policy Env 2 seeks to protect other open space with environmental value on account of their historical features. 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 Env 3 recognises Tugby and Keythorpe’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.		The Local Plan supports development which safeguards green infrastructure assets and avoiding the loss of features of habitats of landscape, historic, wildlife or geological importance, whether of national or local significance. Policy ENV 3 is in general conformity with Local Plan policy HC1, the narrative to which states ‘the character, quality and diversity of the District’s extensive historic environment will be taken fully into account with a view to its conservation and enhancement in the context of the sustainable development of the District’.
Policy ENV 6: Ridge and Furrow	189	This policy seeks to protect ridge and furrow fields and has regard for the NPPF, which considers that non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, of equivalent significance to scheduled	The policy helps to direct development to the most appropriate places.	Policy ENV5 is in general conformity with the Local Plan vision which seeks to improve the diversity and quality of the countryside.

		monuments should be subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.		
Policy ENV 7: Important Views	130	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	The policy does not prohibit development but helps to ensure that the impact on locally important views is mitigated where necessary.	Local Plan policy GD5 supports the location and design of development that is sensitive to its landscape setting including safeguarding important views.
Policy ENV 8: Managing Flood Risk	Section 14	The NPPF seeks to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	The policy helps to direct development to the most appropriate places.	Local Plan Policy CC3 requires development to take place in the areas at lowest risk of flooding
Policy Env 9: Footpaths and Bridleways	Section 9	This policy aims to protect the existing cycle and pedestrian network. In doing so, it has regard to the NPPF in terms of ‘promoting sustainable transport’, reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions and ‘promoting healthy communities’.	The promotion of sustainable transport measures is in line with local and national priorities and encourages development proposals meet these requirements.	Local Plan policy IN2 promotes the use of measures such as walking and cycling links.
Policy CFA1: The Retention of Community Facilities and Amenities	20, 28, 84, 93, 186	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.	By protecting important local community facilities and promoting new ones, the neighbourhood area is better able to meet the needs of its existing community and accommodate additional development.	Policy CFA 1 is in general conformity with Local Plan policy HC2 which supports proposals to protect community facilities. The Neighbourhood Plan provides further detail, by identifying those community facilities that are important to the local community.

Policy CFA2: New or Improved Community Facilities	8, 92, 119	In seeking new or improved community facilities, the policy supports the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities.		Local Plan policy HC2 also seeks to promote new community facilities close to the communities they serve.
Policy CF3: Primary School	94 - 96	Policies to support expansion of schools and the provision of pre-school education will help deliver the local services required to enhance the sustainability of the community. The NPPF notes the importance the Government attaches to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities.		Schools are covered by Local Plan policy HC2 as they are mentioned in the narrative as playing an important role in the life of villages
Policy T1: Traffic Management Policy T2: Public Car Parking	Section 9	The policy seeks to manage potential traffic issues arising from development and has regard for ‘promoting sustainable transport’ and supporting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.	Ensuring that traffic related issues are tackled, helps to make the area function better and be more attractive as a destination.	Local Plan policy IN2 supports the traffic management proposals contained in the Neighbourhood Plan policy TR1
Policy T3: Electric Vehicles	107, 112	The NPPF supports the need to ensure an adequate provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles and that applications for development are designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.	The support for electric car charging facilities helps to provide additional local facilities which helps not only to tackle climate change, but also makes the area a more attractive area to live in.	This policy is in general conformity with Local Plan policies IN2 which address issues concerning energy efficiency/low carbon development and energy generation from renewable and low carbon sources and specifically references the provision of electric vehicle recharging facilities where appropriate.
Policy E1: Support for Existing Employment Policy E2: Support for new Employment Opportunities	9, 20, 28,73, 106, 123	The policies support existing employment and the provision of new employment opportunities through small scale employment premises. Promoting access to employment is a key element in the pursuance of sustainable development as	Protecting existing businesses and promoting new ones helps to ensure that local employment opportunities are available for the local community, thereby improving sustainability.	These policies are in general conformity with the Local Plan which supports employment which diversifies the rural economy or enables the expansion of business. (BE1)

		outlined in the NPPF. The policy aims to support a prosperous rural economy, to grow and where possible, diversify the local economy.		
Policy E3: Home Working	106	This policy supports the use of part of a dwelling for office or light industrial use in order to facilitate working from home. Working from home further supports employment activities; thus, contributing to a prosperous rural economy. It also supports the transition to a low carbon future by reducing the dependency of the car for journeys to employment sites outside of the Parish.	Enabling and facilitating home working helps to ensure that people wanting to move to the area and who work from home are able to extend their house to enable this to happen.	The growing trend for home working is highlighted on page 150 of the Local Plan which identifies the need for high speed broadband. NP policy BE3 is also in general conformity with Local Plan policy CC1 in helping to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions caused by travel to work.
Policy E4: Farm Diversification	20, 73, 106, 123	Re-use of agricultural buildings for small businesses, recreation or tourism further support a prosperous rural economy and the transition to a low carbon future by encouraging the use of existing resources.	Supporting farm diversification helps to ensure that local employment opportunities are available for the local community, and promotes farming activities, thereby improving sustainability.	Local Plan policy GD3 promotes the diversification of farm buildings and farm diversification more generally.
Policy E5: Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure	Para. 42 & 43	The NPPF advocates planning that supports high quality communications infrastructure.	The NPPF advocates planning that supports high quality communications infrastructure.	Local Plan policy IN3 supports adequate broadband infrastructure.

4.0 Achieving sustainable development

- 4.1 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 Local Plan, shaping and directing development in the area that is outside of the strategic elements of the Local Plan.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to achieving sustainable development by seeking positive improvements to the quality of the natural, built and historic environment, as well as in people's quality of life. This is achieved by:

NPPF (2021) Sustainability Objectives sections 5-17	Kibworth Review Policies in support of NPPF objectives
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	The NP allocates sites for residential development and includes policies on Limits to Development and windfall development, to meet local housing needs.
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Policies relating to home working, farm diversification help achieve this requirement
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The NP has policies relating to the retention and enhancement of community facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	The Plan promotes the protection of the countryside, local green spaces, as well as the protection and other environmental enhancements including footpaths which are recognised as a recreational resource and have potential to improve quality of life. The Plan seeks the retention of key local facilities, providing opportunities for people to meet

	and protect quality of life and has policies relating to health care provision.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	The residential allocations and limits to development helps to ensure that development is located in the most sustainable areas.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	A policy on broadband connectivity has this criterion in mind.
7 – Making effective use of land	The Plan supports infill development and residential allocations.
8 – Achieving well designed places	A policy on design helps to ensure that this requirement is satisfied.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	The Plan addresses issues relating to flooding and promotes the use of electric cars by supporting charging points.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	A range of policies protecting Local Green Spaces, open spaces, sites of natural environment significance and biodiversity are included in the NP
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	A policy on sites of historic environment significance help to achieve this.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

5.0 EU obligations

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

5.1 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.

5.2 A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council which determined that a full SEA would not be required. The statutory consultees concurred with this conclusion.

Habitats Directive

5.3 Harborough District Council undertook a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening of the Neighbourhood Plan and concluded that an HRA was not required. The statutory consultees concurred with this conclusion.

Convention on Human Rights

5.4 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.

5.5 There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the community has been consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, 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.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 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 Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.2 The Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 6.3 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Bitteswell Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.