

**Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan
2014 -2031**

Basic Conditions Statement

July 2014

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Statement has been prepared to accompany the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan as required under s15 (1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

In this Statement, the “Neighbourhood Plan” and “HNNP” means the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Statement:

- Confirms the qualifying body
- Confirms that the nature, timescale and coverage of the Neighbourhood Plan meet the legal requirements
- Demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan meets all of the Basic Conditions applicable to Neighbourhood Plans.

1.1 Submitting body

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Hook Norton Parish Council which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011 (confirmed by Cherwell District Council Executive at committee meeting on 3 June 2013).

1.2 Neighbourhood development plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is a Neighbourhood development plan. It relates to the use and development of land in the civil parish of Hook Norton in the county of Oxfordshire. It 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.

1.3 Time period

The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2014 – 2031. The duration was chosen to reflect the Local Plan prepared by Cherwell District Council.

1.4 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.

1.5 Neighbourhood Area

The Neighbourhood Plan relates solely to the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Area which covers the civil parish of Hook Norton. No other neighbourhood development plans relate to the same area.

1.6 Basic Conditions

In order to meet the Basic Conditions, a neighbourhood plan must:

- Have regard to National policy
- Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- Be in general conformity with strategic local policy
- Be compatible with EU obligations.

2. REGARD TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

This section of the Statement demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and that the 12 planning principles have been achieved as set out below.

Principle 1

The Neighbourhood Plan was prepared following consultations with local residents, statutory authorities and other interested parties (HNNP Section 1)

It provides for joint working and co-operation between Hook Norton Parish Council, Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and other agencies in implementation and monitoring (HNNP Sections 3.4, 5.1 and 6).

Principle 2

The Neighbourhood Plan has been created to meet many objectives. It contains policies designed to meet community needs in a way which retains and enhances the character of the physical setting (eg HN-CC1, HN-CC2 and HN-CC3).

HNNP actively provides for an integrated approach in order to achieve sustainable development, advising applicants and decision-makers that they must read the plan and its policies as a whole (Section 1.6). In this way, it seeks to consider elements of location (eg Sections 2 and 4.2), design (eg Sections 2, 4.3 and 4.4) and function (eg Sections 3.1, 3.6 and 4.5), together with temporal factors (Section 4, especially 4.1 and HN-H1) and linkages (Sections 3.3, 3.6 and 5).

Principle 3

As well as providing for sustainable housing development, HNNP includes specific housing policy in relation to affordability (Section 4.5). It also seeks a sustainable community by supporting rural employment (Section 3.6) and provides policies to respond positively to transport and other development needs (Sections 5 and 3.4).

Principle 4

High quality design is an important aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan. HNNP seeks to facilitate a cohesive approach to development which integrates new development into the natural and historic environment (Section 2). The importance of local distinctiveness is recognised (Policies HN-CC2, HN-CC3, HN-H3) and the Neighbourhood Plan provides positively for the use and enjoyment of existing and future generations (eg HN-COM2, Sections 4.4 and 5).

Principle 5

The intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside is one of the key themes in the HNNP (Section 2) and policies are also provided which seek to support the rural community (Sections 3.1, 3.4, 3.6, 4.1, 4.5, and HN-T2)

Principle 6

Climate change, flood risk and the need to reduce carbon and improve energy efficiency are fully recognised in the Neighbourhood Plan and provisions are made as an integral part

of policies (Section 2, specifically Policies HN-CC2, HN-CC4, HN-CC5, Section 3.4, Section 5 specifically HN-H2, and Policy HN-T2).

Principle 7

Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment is an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan. It seeks to enable development which minimises pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment (Section 2, specifically HN-CC1, HN-CC2 and HN-CC3).

The contribution of travel to pollution is recognised and policies provided to enable sustainable housing growth, support local employment and reduce car usage (Sections 3.6 and 4.1, and Policy HN-T2).

Principle 8

The Neighbourhood Plan encourages effective use of land and includes policy relating to re-use of buildings and brownfield land (Policy HN-CC1, Sections 4.1 and 4.2).

Principle 9

HNNP recognises that land can provide multiple benefits such as for wildlife, heritage and recreation (Sections 2 and 3.3). The mixed use of homes as places for work is promoted as part of sustainable development (Section 3.6).

Principle 10

A large part of Hook Norton village is designated as a Conservation Area and the Neighbourhood Plan provides for conservation of the historic environment and heritage assets in Section 2, specifically HN-CC1, HN-CC2 and HN-CC3. Many of the Locally Valued Resources (Section 3.1) are also important heritage assets.

Principle 11

The Neighbourhood Plan actively seeks to manage growth in a sustainable way. As well as considering the type and nature of growth, HNNP addresses locations and local need (Section 4).

The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that the car is the principal mode of transport but provides policies to promote non-car transport in HN-T2. The retention of local services, employment, and provision of infrastructure is also relevant (Sections 3.1, 3.4 and 3.6).

Principle 12

HNNP seeks to support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all residents and provides positively for community facilities in Section 3.

Safe access by cycling and walking is encouraged through Policy HN-T2, which also seeks to promote non-car links between Hook Norton and towns offering a range of services and facilities.

Social and cultural wellbeing is promoted by the emphasis on a measured approach to development (as set out in Sections 1.6 and 4.1). Policies HN-CC3, HN-CC2, HN-H1 are designed to provide development at a 'human' scale and Sections 4.4 (Policy HN-H4) and 4.5 (Policy HN-H5) make provision to reflect changing life styles and local need.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This has helped ensure that the principles of sustainable development have been included during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

An SA Scoping Report was submitted to the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, and Environment Agency) and their comments taken into account. An SA Report was prepared to accompany the consultation on the Pre submission Neighbourhood Plan. This report provided an assessment of how the HNNP would help progress towards the achievement of meeting a series of sustainability objectives. Consultation comments were taken into account in the preparation of the Submission SA Report and Non-Technical Summary, which are submitted in support of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Some of the ways in which the Neighbourhood Plan guides development to sustainable solutions are by:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment of Hook Norton
- Supporting rural services and facilities, which contributes to both the local economy and local community
- Providing for measured housing growth which reflects local circumstances and accords with the spatial strategy set out by Cherwell District Council
- Reducing the need to travel and promoting non-car transport, which promotes a healthy community
- Requiring resource efficient design.

The HNNP addresses all three roles of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic.

4. GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC LOCAL POLICY

The adopted Local Plan for the Cherwell District is the Cherwell Local Plan, 1996, from which many policies have been 'saved' for use until replaced by a new plan. The proposed replacement, the Cherwell Local Plan 2006-2031, commenced Examination in June 2014 and is due to recommence in December 2014.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan of 1996 and with the emerging strategic policies of the proposed replacement, the Cherwell Local Plan 2006-2031. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat National or Cherwell policies but, where appropriate, to add local detail to those policies.

Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is considered below in relation to the adopted Local Plan, together with reference to the emerging strategic policies.

Policy HN - CC 1: Protection and enhancement of local landscape and character of Hook Norton

The importance of countryside and character is a fundamental theme and reflected in many policies in the adopted Local Plan, for example: C7; C8; C9; C13; C18; C21; C 23; C27; C28; C38; C39.

This HNNP policy also accords with the 2006-2031 Local Plan, see for example Policy ESD13 and the principles of BSC2.

Policy HN - CC 2: Design

The adopted Local Plan requires all development to be of a high standard and sets out expectations relating to a range of factors including materials, appearance, and sympathy with context, in C28. Other relevant policies refer to the type, size and scale of development, for example C9; C27; C30; C31 and C33. It also considers the siting, form, bulk and design, for example in H19, AG2, and EMP4

The HNNP policy is also in conformity with the 2006-2031 Local Plan, see for example Policy ESD13 and ESD16.

Policy HN - CC 3: Local distinctiveness, variety, and cohesiveness

The HNNP policy supports and adds local detail to the adopted Local Plan – relevant policies include: EMP4; C9; C13; C18; C23; C27; C28; C30; C31; C33; C38.

It also conforms with the 2006-2031 Local Plan, see for example Policy ESD16 and ESD13.

Policy HN - CC 4: Resource efficient design

The adopted Local Plan does not specifically address this issue. The policy fits with the spirit of resource efficiency as set out in the 2006-2031 Local Plan policy ESD3 in relation to construction and ESD8 in relation to water resources.

Policy HN - CC 5: Lighting

Lighting is not specifically considered in the adopted Local Plan. The policy accords with Policies ESD13 and ESD16 of the 2006-2031 Local Plan.

Policy HN - COM 1: Protection of Locally Valued Resources

Cherwell District Council recognises the importance of village services in both adopted and emerging Local Plans – Policy S29 of the adopted Local Plan, and Section C5 of the 2006-2031 Plan refer.

Policy HN - COM 2: Public Rights of Way

The adopted Local Plan is silent on PROW as Policy R4 was not saved. The 2006-2031 Local Plan recognises the importance of PROW, particularly in relation to green infrastructure (ESD18).

Policy HN - COM 3: Developer Contributions to Community Infrastructure

The adopted Local Plan saved policies refer to infrastructure in relation to transport funding (TR1) and telecommunications structures (C39). The 2006-2031 Local Plan includes INF1 which considers infrastructure at District level. This HNNP policy seeks involvement at Neighbourhood level in identifying needs and how they may best be met through developer contribution.

Policy HN - COM 4: Broadband

The adopted Local Plan is silent on broadband distribution although it refers to telecommunications in C39. Telecommunications infrastructure is considered in relation to strategic allocations in the 2006-2031 Local Plan (B.157). The HNNP seeks to realise a sustainable solution to a rural area.

Policy HN - COM 5: Retention of Local Employment

The adopted Local Plan recognises the importance of retaining village services – which provide both services and employment – in S29, and seeks to encourage economic activity in rural areas in EMP4. This HNNP policy also accords with SLE1 of the 2006-2031 Local Plan.

Policy HN - H1: Sustainable housing growth

The adopted Local Plan directs development to the urban centres. It includes policies which identify the types of development which are considered appropriate, for example H4; H5;

H6; H12; H13; H17; H18; H19; H20 and H21. Policies C9 and C30 particularly address the scale of development compatible with a rural location, and TR7 limits development in relation to traffic on minor roads.

The 2006-2031 Local Plan spatial strategy focuses housing to Banbury and Bicester and provides for some housing development within rural areas to meet local needs. Particularly relevant parts of the 2006-2031 Local Plan are: Policy BSC1; Vision and Strategy for Villages and Rural Areas; Section C5.

Policy HN - H2: Location of housing

The adopted Local Plan proposals inset map identified three "committed housing sites" within Hook Norton which have now been built out. In relation to other locations, the following Policies relate to the area covered by the HNNP: H6; H13; H17; H18; H19 H20 and H21. The HNNP policy is in general conformity with these policies and with the spatial strategy set out in the 2006-2031 Local Plan.

Policy HN - H3 : Housing density

In the adopted Local Plan, Policy C27 addresses settlement pattern and form, C30 requires new housing to be compatible with the density of existing dwellings in the vicinity, and C33 considers important gaps. The 2006-2031 Local Plan similarly (in BSC2) allows for densities to reflect the local situation. HNNP policy accords with these policies.

Policy HN - H4: Types of housing

The adopted Local Plan considers some types of housing required in Policy H4 and the 2006-2031 Local Plan goes further (in BSC4) in the context of the District as a whole. The HNNP provides policy at Neighbourhood level.

Policy HN - H5: Provision and retention of affordable housing

In the adopted Local Plan, Policies H5 and H6 refer. The 2006-2031 Local Plan provides for affordable housing in BSC3 and Policy Villages 3 specifically relates to Rural Exception sites. The HNNP policy makes provision at Neighbourhood level.

Policy HN - T1: Access and parking

There are no specific parking requirements set out in the adopted Local Plan, but limits are placed in relation to traffic on minor roads (TR7). The HNNP policy accords with ESD16 of the 2006-2031 Local Plan.

Policy HN - T2: Non-car transport

Reference is made in the adopted Local Plan to public transport as a key factor in locating housing for elderly and disabled people (Policy H4). In the 2006-2031 Local Plan there is a specific Strategic Objective (SO13) which seeks to reduce dependency on the private car. The HNNP policy is consistent with both adopted and emerging Local Plan policy.

5. COMPATIBLE WITH EU OBLIGATIONS

Natural environment

Hook Norton does not contain a European site for nature conservation and the nearest European site is over 20 miles from the Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan will therefore not impact the integrity of a European site.

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment were major considerations in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and reflected the concerns of people living in the Plan area. Section 2 of the Plan particularly refers.

Human Rights

The Plan does not diminish the human rights of either Hook Norton residents or others who may be affected by it, but seeks to enhance them (eg Sections 1.5, 3.3 and 4.4).

Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was submitted to the statutory environmental bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, and Environment Agency) and to the Local Authority and their comments taken into account. An SA Report was prepared to accompany the consultation on the Pre submission Neighbourhood Plan. Comments on this second consultation were also taken into account.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SA that was undertaken also meets the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive).

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This Basic Conditions Statement is submitted to accompany the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan.

It sets out the information as required under s15 (1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The Statement shows that in each regard, the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements and it is therefore concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan should progress to Referendum.