

Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031

Basic Conditions Statement

March 2018



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1. INTRODUCTION

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

In this Statement, the “Neighbourhood Plan” and “MCNP” mean the Mid-Cherwell 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 Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum on behalf of Ardley with Fewcott Parish Council which is the qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011. Designation was confirmed by Cherwell District Council’s Executive meeting on 7th April 2015. See Appendix A, in separate document, for the full minutes of the meeting.

1.2 Neighbourhood development plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is a Neighbourhood development plan, as defined in the Regulations. It relates to the use and development of land in the designated area of Mid-Cherwell 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 2018 – 2031. The end date was chosen to reflect the end date of the adopted Local Plan prepared by Cherwell District Council - the Part 1 Cherwell Local Plan (adopted July 2015).

1.4 Excluded development

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with County Council 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 Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Area which covers the eleven civil parishes of Ardley with Fewcott, Duns Tew, Fritwell, Kirtlington, Lower Heyford, Middle Aston, Middleton Stoney, North Aston, Somerton, Steeple Aston, and Upper Heyford. No other neighbourhood development plans relate to the same area. The designated area is shown below in Fig.1 and Fig.2.

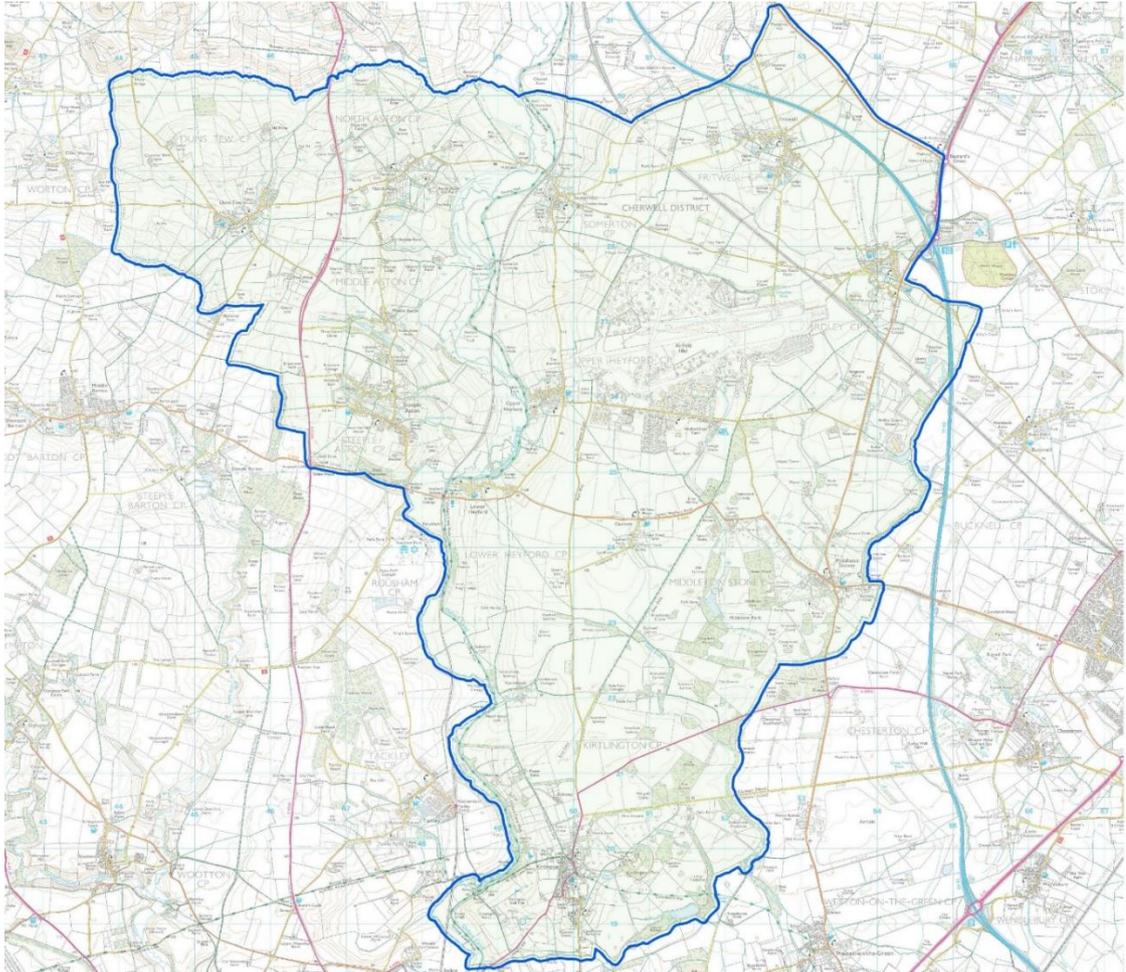
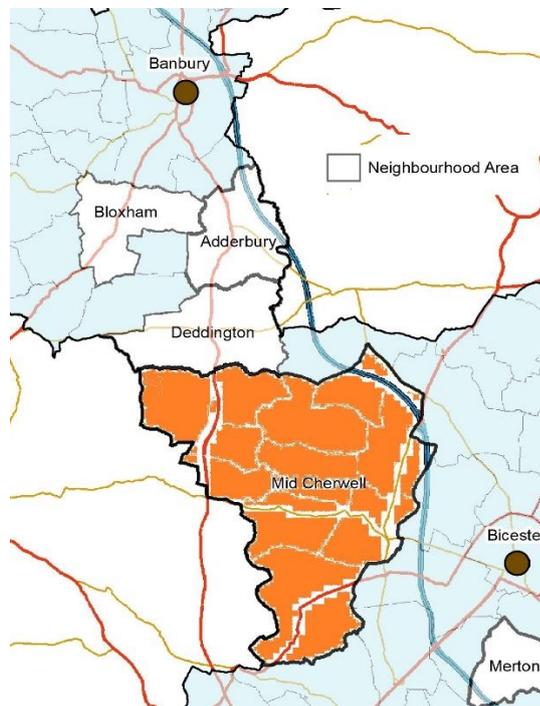


Fig. 1 The designated Neighbourhood Plan area, and below Fig.2 in its local context



1.6 Basic Conditions

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

- (a) have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State
- (b) have regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any special features of architectural or historic interest
- (c) have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area
- (d) contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- (e) be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area
- (f) not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations
- (g) meet and comply with prescribed conditions.

2. REGARD TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

Table 1 below demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

| NPPF requirement | MCNP Policy | How MCNP policies relate to the NPPF requirements |
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| BUILDING A STRONG AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY (NPPF paras. 18-22) | The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to build a strong and competitive economy: PC1: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS PC2: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT CAP 5.5: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE | These policies meet the NPPF'S aims by supporting economic growth and local businesses within the Neighbourhood area. The Community Action Plan (CAP) is concerned with the provision of effective infrastructure for high speed broadband and mobile phone connectivity for business and to facilitate home working. |
| ENSURING THE VITALITY OF TOWN CENTRES (NPPF paras. 23-27) | The following MCNP policies are relevant: PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES PD2: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY B VILLAGES | The MCNP does not contain a town centre but supports the growth of a sustainable district level centre at Heyford Park. It also supports sustainable growth at the five service and satellite villages in the neighbourhood area, to help support the vitality and vibrancy of retail facilities in those villages. |
| SUPPORTING A PROSPEROUS RURAL ECONOMY (NPPF para. 28) | The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to support a prosperous rural economy: PC1: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS PC2: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT PD5: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS AND VISTAS | Policies PC1 and PC2 support existing businesses in the rural area by supporting appropriate development within the rural areas, encouraging economic growth and tourism. The Oxford Canal, which passes through the MCNP area, is an important contributor to local tourism. Policies PD5 and PD6 aim to protect the |

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| | PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION | special qualities of the Canal and other attractive features of the NP area. |
| PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT (NPPF paras. 29-41) | The MCNP sets out the following policies that relate to the promotion of sustainable transport across the neighbourhood area: PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN PH6: PARKING FACILITIES FOR EXISTING DWELLINGS PT1: TRAVEL PLANS CAP 5.1: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT | The development of sustainable transport infrastructure is supported through policies PT1, PD5 and PH6. For example, PD5 requires new development to be linked by footpath to village facilities, and PH6 requires facilities for cycle storage in new development. The Community Action Plan refers to the importance of improving rural public transport, the potential to enlarge the station car park at Heyford Station, and measures to increase walking and cycling. |
| SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE (NPPF paras. 42-46) | The MCNP sets out the following Community Action Plan policy: CAP 5.5: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE | The policy aims to support high quality communication infrastructure across the neighbourhood area. |
| DELIVERING A WIDE CHOICE OF HIGH QUALITY HOMES (NPPF paras. 47-55) | The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes across the neighbourhood area: PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES PD2: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY B VILLAGES PH1: OPEN MARKET HOUSING SCHEMES PH2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON RURAL EXCEPTION SITES PH3: ADAPTABLE HOUSING PH4: EXTRA-CARE HOUSING CAP 5.2: HOUSING | These policies meet the NPPF'S aims by supporting and promoting potential locations for the development of new homes at Category A and B villages, including rural exception sites for local people. The MCNP, importantly, also supports the ongoing development of 1,600 new homes at Heyford Park. These policies fully support Local Plan policies. The MCNP policies particularly promote a range and mix of type and tenure of housing to meet need across the neighbourhood area, including the needs of the young and an ageing population. No housing sites are however specifically allocated in the Plan. The Community Action Plan also supports self-build housing in the neighbourhood, and the setting-up of a Community Land Trust to develop local housing schemes. |

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| <p>REQUIRING GOOD DESIGN (NPPF paras. 56-68)</p> | <p>The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to deliver good quality design across the neighbourhood area:</p> <p>PD4: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS</p> <p>PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN</p> <p>PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION</p> <p>PH5: PARKING, GARAGING AND WASTE STORAGE PROVISION</p> | <p>Policy PD5 meets the NPPF’s aims by supporting schemes that demonstrate that they reflect local distinctiveness and character in their execution. Appendix K draws attention to the Heritage and Character Assessment of neighbourhood villages as context for this. The policy is supported by a rationale that includes a definition of a “high standard of design”.</p> <p>Policies PD4, PD6 and PH5 address specific aspects of the impact of development, in support of good design.</p> |
| <p>PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (NPPF paras. 69-78)</p> | <p>The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to promote healthy communities:</p> <p>PD7: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>PC3: HEALTH FACILITY</p> <p>CAP 5.3: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE</p> | <p>These policies meet the NPPF’s aims by encouraging walking, cycling and open-air recreation through protection of important open green spaces for local communities. This encourages not only movement and exercise for physical health but social cohesion and space for community activities, which in turn help to reduce social isolation and promote mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Policy PC3 encourages the development of an integrated health centre at Heyford Park which would provide new health services and facilities in a sustainable location for the existing and emerging Heyford Park community and the surrounding rural hinterland in the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>The Community Action Plan supports the creation of new rights of way and improved connectivity for non-motorised users, and contains a commitment to engage with decision-making about local health services.</p> |
| <p>PROTECTING GREEN BELT LAND (NPPF paras.79-92)</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>None of MCNP area lies within the Oxford Green Belt.</p> |
| <p>MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (NPPF paras. 93-108)</p> | <p>The MCNP has no specific climate change policies, relying instead mainly on those in the CDC adopted Local Plan Part 1.</p> | <p>The MCNP Community Action Plan addresses proposals for traffic mitigation and increased use of public transport.</p> |

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| | MCNP Policy PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION, however, makes specific reference to the use of energy-efficient lighting. | |
| CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (NPPF paras. 109-125) | <p>The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to conserve and enhance the natural environment:</p> <p>PD3: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO HEYFORD PARK</p> <p>PD4: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS AND VISTAS</p> <p>PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN</p> <p>PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION</p> <p>PD7: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> <p>CAP 5.4: ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY</p> | <p>These policies meet the NPPF's aims by safeguarding important views within the landscape (PD4); encouraging the protection of traditional stone walls (PD5), and protecting the night-time darkness of countryside - important for foraging nocturnal fauna (PD6).</p> <p>Local green space which has community significance is also protected (PD7), as is the character of rural roads and verges (PD5), and open countryside adjacent to Heyford Park (PD3).</p> <p>The Community Action Plan seeks opportunities to enhance green infrastructure and promote biodiversity, wildlife and natural habitats, and aims to establish nature reserves and woodlands. The scale of this NP area makes the development of green infrastructure policy a major task that is ongoing.</p> |
| CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (NPPF paras. 126-141) | <p>The MCNP sets out the following policies that aim to conserve and enhance the historic environment:</p> <p>PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES</p> <p>PD3: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO HEYFORD PARK</p> <p>PD4: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS</p> <p>PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN</p> <p>PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION</p> <p>PD7: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES</p> | <p>These policies meet the NPPF's aims by safeguarding important historic views, which include those around three listed parks and views of church towers, as well as seeking to ensure that new development in the neighbourhood area pays due regard to existing conservation areas in villages, and those of Rousham and Heyford Park.</p> <p>Appendix K, the Heritage and Character Assessment, draws attention to the Conservation Areas and the many Listed Buildings, which are set out in Appendix G.</p> <p>Policy PD3 aims to avoid coalescence of development at Heyford Park with existing historic settlements.</p> |
| FACILITATING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS | N/A | The MCNP does not address any matters relating to the extraction or use of minerals. |

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| (NPPF paras. 142-149) | | |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS (NPPF paras 183-185) | All MCNP policies | The MCNP is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area, is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, and its policies plan positively to support them. MCNP does not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. |

3. REGARD TO HERITAGE ASSETS

The MCNP has had regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any special features of architectural or historic interest, and also to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area.

Section 1.9 of the Plan gives recognition to the importance of the built heritage in the Mid-Cherwell neighbourhood area – acknowledging its 239 listed buildings, 11 conservation areas, scheduled monuments, listed garden and non-statutory heritage assets. The former RAF Upper Heyford is also recognized as a site of international heritage importance.

Appendices G and H provide detail of the heritage assets of the neighbourhood, and details of all finds in the Historic Environment Record are provided in Appendix L. An analysis of many of the historic villages is provided in Appendix K, a Heritage and Character assessment commissioned specifically for the neighbourhood plan.

Policies PD1, 3, 4,5 and 6 and PC2 all make specific reference to heritage-related issues.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The MCNP has been written to be in general conformity with the adopted Cherwell Local Plan (Part1) (July 2015). The Cherwell Local Plan has a spatial strategy that promotes sustainable development, makes the best use of brownfield land and focuses major growth to strategic locations within the District, such as Heyford Park, while allowing small scale growth at Category A (service) villages.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Strategic Environmental Appraisal (SEA) screening: see separate document.

The MCNP addresses all three roles of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic, as demonstrated in Table 2 below.

Table 2

| | MCNP POLICIES | HOW THE POLICY CONTRIBUTES TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT |
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| Environmental | PD3: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO HEYFORD PARK | Encourages development on brownfield sites and seeks to maintain the discrete character of existing historic settlements. |
| | PD4: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS AND VISTAS | Aims to ensure that development has only a beneficial impact on the villages and countryside. |
| | PD5: BUILDING AND SITE DESIGN | Seeks high quality design in new development, the making and improving of footpaths and cycleways, and offsetting any losses in biodiversity. |
| | PD6: CONTROL OF LIGHT POLLUTION | Aims to diminish this undesirable side-effect of new development. |
| | PD7: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES | Ensures long-term protection of 30 open spaces considered to be demonstrably special to their local communities, each providing environmental benefits. |
| | PH6: PARKING FACILITIES FOR EXISTING DWELLINGS | Aims to address the impact of car parking on historic villages and the quality of life of their inhabitants. |
| | PT1: TRAVEL PLANS | Seeks to promote sustainable travel resulting from new development. |
| | PC2: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT | Reduces the need to travel. |
| | CAP 5.1: TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT | Promotes use of buses, trains and cycling. |
| Social | PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES | Provides for measured housing growth which reflects local circumstances. Attempts to find the correct level of sustainable development for each of three villages. |
| | PD2: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY B VILLAGES | Supports limited development in these villages, subject to criteria. |
| | PD7: DESIGNATION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACES | Ensures long-term protection of 30 open spaces considered to be demonstrably special to their local communities, and providing social benefits such as improved health. |
| | PH1: OPEN MARKET HOUSING SCHEMES | Encourages an emphasis on houses with fewer bedrooms, to provide for the needs of local residents, old and young. |
| | PH2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON RURAL EXCEPTION SITES | Aims to provide more affordable dwellings in suitable locations, to ensure that this aspect of housing need nationally is addressed. |
| | PH3: ADAPTABLE HOUSING | Supports disabled and older people to remain in their community. |
| | PH4: EXTRA-CARE HOUSING | Aims to ensure that this type of housing is available to the wider community. |

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| | PC3: HEALTH FACILITY | Supports location of such provision where it can provide for a largely new population, reducing the need to travel. |
| | PC4: NEW CEMETERY | Addresses a need relating to the growth of the local community. |
| | CAP 5.3: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE | Protects and enhances the natural and historic environment by supporting rural services and facilities, which contribute to both the local economy and local community. |
| Economic | PD1: DEVELOPMENT AT CATEGORY A VILLAGES | Supports limited growth in villages where some services are available, to encourage long-term vibrancy without placing undue demands on infrastructure, such as road and parking capacity. |
| | PH1: OPEN MARKET HOUSING SCHEMES | Aims to ensure that a range of different family sizes can be accommodated in the local area, thereby supporting the local economy. |
| | PH2: AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON RURAL EXCEPTION SITES | Aims to provide more affordable dwellings in suitable locations, to ensure that this aspect of housing need nationally is addressed. |
| | PC1: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS | Encourages the application of funds to meet social and economic needs in the locality. |
| | PC2: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT | Supports the continuation of and establishment of new small businesses supporting the local economy. |
| | CAP 5.5: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE | Supports the provision of adequate utility services and high-quality communications infrastructure. |

5. GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC LOCAL POLICY

The adopted Local Plan for the Cherwell District is the Cherwell Local Plan, 2015-2031. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in general conformity with this adopted Local Plan; it does not seek to repeat National or Cherwell policies but, where appropriate, to add local interpretation and detail to those policies.

Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is considered in Table 3 below in relation to the policies of the adopted Local Plan.

Table 3

| MCNP POLICY | CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN POLICY | HOW MCNP POLICY IS IN GENERAL CONFORMITY |
|---|---|---|
| PD1: Development at Category A Villages | Villages 1; Villages 2 | <p>Assists in application of policy Villages 1 by defining built-up areas on settlement area maps for the 3 villages.</p> <p>Supports policy Villages 2 with local detail specific to the three villages, which aims to limit the numbers of additional dwellings to a sustainable level proportionate to the size and nature of each village – supporting detail is given on p.29 of the Plan.</p> <p>It is considered that the use of the word “indicative” allows flexibility in permitting windfall development within the settlement areas.</p> <p>The policy also supports possible development adjacent to the settlement areas subject to certain specific criteria. These are worded slightly more restrictively than the (similar) criteria in CDC’s policy Villages 2, in order to provide emphasis on their importance in maintaining the character of the villages. This character is described in Appendix K.</p> <p>It is considered that this policy, whilst not in precise conformity with CDC’s policy, is in general conformity, fully supports the spirit of that policy, and has the effect of providing specific local detail appropriate to the villages concerned, based on local knowledge and experience.</p> |
| PD2: Development at Category B Villages | Villages 1 | <p>Fully conforms to CDC policy, but goes further by allowing for the possibility of small-scale development. As stated in the Rationale for the policy, this possibility is considered by CDC in para. C 268 of the adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Justification for the wording of the criteria in this policy is as above for PD1.</p> |
| PD3: Development adjacent to Heyford Park | Villages 5; ESD 13; Saved policy C15 | <p>The concept of non-coalescence conforms with saved policy C15, and the preference for development to be within the strategic site is in conformity with the place-shaping principles set out in policy Villages 5.</p> |
| PD4: Protection of Important Views and Vistas | ESD15 | <p>Supports references in ESD15 to respecting skylines,.....features or views.....within conservation areas and their setting. Provides locally-specific detail for applying this policy.</p> <p>Makes submission of an HIA in certain circumstances a requirement.</p> |

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| PD5: Building and Site Design | ESD15; ESD13. | Supports policy ESD15, with additional reference to mitigating any loss of biodiversity and specific mention of retention of traditional stone walls. |
| PD6: Control of Light Pollution | ESD15; ESD13 | Supports policy ESD15 which states that new development should limit the impact of light pollution. PD6 provides detail appropriate to the very rural location of the MCNP and its particular topography. It also reflects a particular local concern regarding unnecessary street lighting in traditional villages. |
| PD7: Designation of Local Green Spaces | BSC10 | The designation of 30 local green spaces across the eleven parishes conforms to para B159 in the rationale to CDC's policy BSC10. NPPF para. 76 empowers neighbourhood plans to so designate. Care has been taken to ensure that all nominations meet the criteria, and detail of each proposed site is provided in Appendix D. |
| PH1: Open Market Housing Schemes | BSC4 | Policy PH1 on the mix of new housing conforms with the aims of BSC4, and provides specific detail on the number of bedrooms, in response to evidence in Oxfordshire SHMA (2014) and para. B123 of the Local Plan. The policy aims to redress a particular imbalance in the MCNP area as evidenced in Appendix E. |
| PH2: Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites | Villages 3 | Supports policy Villages 3 and also supports the use of a Local Letting Scheme which would permit an emphasis on meeting local need from within the NP area. |
| PH3: Adaptable Housing | BSC4 | Policy PH3 conforms to the encouragement given in BSC4 for housing for those with specific living needs. The encouragement given in PH3 is worded so that it is not mandatory. |
| PH4: Extra-care Housing | BSC4; Villages 5 | Provides locally-specific emphasis in support of BSC4 on provision at Heyford Park (referred to in policy Villages 5), with a reference to demand from the whole plan area. The policy also allows for the possibility that extra-care housing could be located at Category A villages in the plan area. |
| PH5: Parking and Garaging Provision | ESD15 and emerging SPD Cherwell Design Guide | Supports the general principles of good parking design set out in the emerging SPD Design Guide. |
| PH6: Parking Facilities for Existing Dwellings | ESD15 and emerging SPD Cherwell Design Guide | PH6 is concerned with the character of existing historic villages and the impact that increased on-street parking may have. This conforms to the spirit of ESD15 and a reference in the emerging CDC Design Guide that "parking should not compromise the public realm". |
| PT1: Travel Plans | SLE4; SLE1 | PT1 supports policies SLE1 and 4 in promoting sustainable travel, and requires identification of |

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| | | the impact on specific existing traffic hot-spots within the MCNP area. A requirement for developers to fund mitigation works is in line with CDC policy SLE4. |
| PC1: Developer Contributions | SLE4; Villages 5 | PC1 aims to focus developer contributions made to CDC to the benefit of the MCNP area as a whole, where appropriate, in order to achieve the most effective outcome. Policy Villages 5 has a requirement in relation to development at Heyford Park for contributions towards infrastructure provision, both on- and off-site. A requirement for developers to fund mitigation works is in line with CDC policy SLE4. |
| PC2: Local Employment | SLE1 | Supports SLE1's policies on rural employment with respect to proposals for establishment of small businesses. The policy also encourages continuation of existing businesses providing local employment. |
| PC3: Health Facility | BSC8; Villages 5 | Provision of a health facility at Heyford Park strongly supports the intention of BSC8 regarding a sustainable location. It also conforms to the place-shaping principles set out in policy Villages 5. The rationale for PC3 provides evidence in support of need. |
| PC4: New Cemetery | BSC9 | Para. B152 of the Local Plan recognises the need for additional burial grounds in some locations. The rationale for PC4 explains why a new cemetery is necessary to meet local need, exacerbated by the growth of Heyford Park. The successful delivery of that strategic site requires provision of this additional local public service, in line with BSC9. |

6. COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS AND PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

6.1 Natural environment

The Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Area does not contain a European site for nature conservation and the nearest European designated sites (Cotswold AONB, Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, and Oxford Meadows SAC) are situated over 10km from the Plan area. There are five SSIs within the NP area (see para. 1.5.3 of the Plan document), none of which is considered to be adversely affected by any NP policy. The Neighbourhood Plan will therefore not impact on the integrity of a European site, and for the purpose of the EC Habitats Directive 1992 and the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010, it is concluded that an HRA is not required. This also fulfils the requirement that prescribed conditions are met.

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, as referenced in Plan Objectives relating to Development (see para. 3.2 of the Plan), and in Plan policies.

6.2 Human Rights

The Plan does not diminish the human rights of either Mid-Cherwell residents or others who may be affected by it, but seeks to enhance them (eg policies PD3, PD6, PH3, PH5, and PC4).

6.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

An SEA Screening report has been completed, following consultation with the statutory consultees. It is concluded that the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan does not require an SEA.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This Basic Conditions Statement is submitted to accompany the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan.

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

It is considered that the Statement shows that in each regard, the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements and can therefore progress to submission (Reg 15) stage.