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INTRODUCTION

This Consultation Statement has been prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Regulation 15(2) of the Regulations sets out what a Consultation Statement should contain:

(a) contains details of the persons and bodies who were consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;

(b) explains how they were consulted;

(c) summarises the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted;

(d) describes how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.

Growing Together has a strong track record of placing community engagement and consultation at the centre of their work. Extensive consultation has formed the basis of the multiple projects now being progressed as part of their Big Local Programme.

Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum has brought a similar ethos to the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, seeking to reach out to all sections of the local community and ensure that the Plan’s content and policies reflect the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and carry out business in the area.

Consultation behind the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan can be divided into 4 stages:

- Big Local consultation, which was progressed across 2012 and early 2013 in advance of the formal designation of the Plan area and Forum, but which has helped to identify a number of key local issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to explore.

- Consultation on the request for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area and Forum, which was led by Northampton Borough Council between May - July 2013.

- Neighbourhood Plan consultation, which was carried out during summer 2014 and focused on planning and land use issues, and sought to build upon the findings of the Big Local consultation.

- Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, carried out between 15th June and 27th July 2015, which also invited comments on the SEA / HRA Screening Assessment Report.

EARLY ENGAGEMENT - BIG LOCAL CONSULTATION (2012 - EARLY 2013)

Progressed by Growing Together as part of their Big Local programme, this consultation came before the formal designation of the Neighbourhood Forum and Area. The primary purpose of this consultation was to inform the development of a business plan (the Big Local Plan) aimed at coordinating the spending of £1 million awarded from the Big Lottery Fund.

The consultation was focused on the same area as that which would ultimately form the Neighbourhood Area, and many of the responses received raised issues of relevance to development and the use of land. Therefore, upon designation, the Neighbourhood Forum decided to revisit the results of this consultation and use the responses to inform their initial ideas about what issues might be addressed within the Plan.

The initial Big Local consultation involved a variety of consultation methods, which were designed to engage with as wide a range of people as possible. These consultation techniques included:

- Public consultation events, some of which were held alongside other major community events, such as the Jubilee celebrations (the Big Lunch) and the passage of the Olympic flame to ensure maximum exposure to the general public.

- Focused consultation events for public and voluntary sector organisations working in the area, including NBC officers and Members, Northampton University, Age UK, Northampton Association of Youth Clubs, the Wildlife Trust, Northamptonshire Police, the Indian Hindu Welfare Association, Brookside Residents Council and Blackthorn Good Neighbours.

- A public suggestions board, where people could note opinions, was maintained and promoted in the Blackthorn Children’s Centre from July 2011 to January 2012.
2.5 The ideas and opinions expressed through the initial consultation programme were then summarised into eight priorities to be used as the basis for wider public consultation.

2.6 During the subsequent wider consultation residents were asked to rank the eight priorities. All preferences were recorded in a spreadsheet, with a top choice scoring 1 and a bottom choice scoring 8. Feedback from this consultation placed the eight themes in the following order (1 being top priority and 8 being of the least importance):

1. Tackling crime and making the area feel safer
2. Providing better opportunities for teenagers
3. Improved facilities and activities for pre-teen children
4. Improving and tidying up the local environment
5. Helping people into employment
6. Advice and support for people on low incomes
7. Activities and facilities to bring the community together
8. Local electricity generation to reduce bills and provide jobs and training

2.7 In addition to ranking the eight priorities, residents were invited to add others or to suggest any important priorities for immediate attention.

2.8 This extensive round of consultation resulted in the completion of 500 questionnaires through door-to-door engagement, interviewing in the Weston Favell shopping centre in the week before Christmas, attendance at events organised by local children’s centres and schools, and two major half-term events in local community centres (February 2013), which also made use of mapping techniques to allow residents to pinpoint problem hot-spots and opportunity sites.

2.9 The Big Local Plan consultation, though progressed in advance of the Forum and Neighbourhood Area designation, highlighted several issues which could be linked to development and the use of land, and potentially addressed through the neighbourhood plan. It therefore provided a valuable platform from which to commence the neighbourhood plan preparation process and to undertake additional, neighbourhood plan-focused community consultation.

3 DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM (SUMMER 2013)

3.1 On the 23rd May 2013, Northampton Borough Council received two applications from Growing Together; one to designate a Neighbourhood Area and the other to designate a Neighbourhood Forum.

3.2 The applications were publicised for six weeks and two days between Wednesday 29th May and Friday 12th July 2013. Attention was drawn to the application via emails and letters (Appendix 1), a public notice in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo newspaper (Appendix 2), a dedicated section on Northampton Borough Council’s website (under the planning policy consultation area), and ‘deposit’ of copies for inspection at local libraries (Weston Favell and Central Library) and the Guildhall one-stop shop.

3.3 A total of 6 responses were received in connection with the consultation. There were no objections. A summary of the responses received
Growing Together Consultation Statement

is included within Appendix 3, along with details of how they have been considered by Northampton Borough Council. The decision to approve the area and Forum designation requests was made on 11th September 2013 by the Borough Council’s Cabinet.

4 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION (SUMMER 2014)

4.1 Building upon the findings of the Big Local Plan consultation, the Forum undertook a community-wide consultation specifically focused on the Neighbourhood Plan during the summer months of 2014.

4.2 As many residents from the Growing Together area have not traditionally been involved in the planning system, and mail or web-based consultation methods have a track record of very poor return rates in this locality, the Forum agreed that a particularly personal and informal approach to consultation was required, where local people could speak to Forum members face-to-face and articulate their aspirations and concerns.

4.3 To facilitate this interactive form of consultation, stalls were set up at the following key local venues:

- 19 July - Blackthorn Community Centre Fun Day
- 21 July - Blackthorn Children’s Centre foyer
- 31 July - Foyer of Lings Forum sports centre and cinema
- 20 August - Weston Favell shopping centre
- 16 and 17 September - Emmanuel Church coffee shop

4.4 The above events were arranged to coincide with popular local events or during times when footfall would be highest. In total, these events represented 32 hours of contact time with the public.

4.5 At these consultation events, members of the public were asked to provide responses to the following four questions:

1. What areas could to be improved so they can serve their current purpose better?
2. What areas could accommodate alternative uses, and what would these uses be?
3. What additional facilities are required to support new / expanded activities?
4. What buildings and open spaces in the area should be retained and protected?

4.6 The responses received to the above four questions highlighted the following issues as being those which people living and working within the Growing Together area wished to see addressed in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan:

- Improvement of existing play spaces, and creation of new play space facilities.
- Enhancement of community spaces, including sports and recreation facilities, and creation of new community facilities (in particular a childcare centre).
- Protection and enhancement of green spaces.
- Enhancement of retail and community facilities within the existing neighbourhood centres.
- Improved pedestrian and cycle links.
- Redevelopment of vacant and derelict sites, including the Silver Horse pub and the school sites (Lings Upper & Emmanuel Middle Schools and Blackthorn Middle School). Suggested uses included residential, community and retail. Opportunities to replace existing garages with new housing were also identified.

4.7 Underpinning much of the above feedback was a general desire for the Neighbourhood Plan to contribute to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour and to create an environment which is safe, pleasant and functional.

4.8 Many of the responses covered similar themes as those raised during the Big Local consultation. This reiteration of similar opinions and concerns provided the Forum with the confidence that they had a clear and accurate understanding of what local people believed were the most pressing planning and land use issues within the Growing
Growing Together area.

4.9 The Forum considered each of the issues raised above and determined that (1) all could be linked to development and the use of land, and (2) each had received sufficient public backing to merit their addressing within the emerging neighbourhood plan.

5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION (SUMMER 2015)

5.1 Following a review of existing evidence and using the consultation feedback provided through the previous consultation exercises, the Forum prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan.

5.2 Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires that as part of the plan preparation process the Neighbourhood Plan be the subject of a formal 6-week consultation before it is finalised and submitted to the local authority for independent examination.

5.3 The Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum published the pre-submission (draft) of their Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation between 15 June 2015 and 27 July 2015. During this consultation period representations (comments) were invited from those who live, work or carry out business within the neighbourhood plan area and from statutory consultation bodies whose interests may be affected by the plan.

5.4 Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum designed the Regulation 14 consultation in a manner which sought to engage and reach out to as broad a cross-section of the local area’s population as possible.

5.5 The strategy involved a number of approaches, including:

- uploading the Plan and supporting documents to both Northampton Borough Council’s and Growing Together’s websites;
- placing printed copies of the Plan in local community buildings, including Blackthorn Community Centre, Brookside Hall, Weston Favell Library, and Lings Primary School;
- producing a summary booklet, which provided an overview of the draft Plan content;
- producing a questionnaire form which allowed for respondents to simply communicate their level of support for the Plan Vision and policies, as well as provide more detailed comments;
- sending a summary booklet and questionnaire form to every household within the Plan area;
- providing an option to respond via an online questionnaire;
- contacting and inviting comments from all relevant statutory consultees and other relevant local organisations via email (see list of contacted organisations at Appendix 4 and email at Appendix 5); and
- holding a series of public events where
people could ask questions about the draft Plan and complete questionnaire forms.

5.6 Copies of the Regulation 14 consultation material, including the response form and summary booklet, can be found at Appendix 6.

5.7 In terms of specific public events, the following were staged during the Regulation 14 consultation process:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 June</td>
<td>6.30-8pm</td>
<td>Blackthorn Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 June</td>
<td>6.30-8pm</td>
<td>Lings Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 June</td>
<td>6.30-8pm</td>
<td>Lumbertubs Primary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19 June</td>
<td>10am-6pm</td>
<td>Weston Favell Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.8 The variety of locations and timings of the above consultation events were chosen to maximise opportunities for local residents and other interested parties to attend.

5.9 A total of 56 representations were received in relation to the Regulation 14 consultation. Of these, 45 were from local residents and 11 were from statutory consultees. It should be noted that 6 of the statutory consultee responses were received following a second invitation for comments in February 2016 (extended only to statutory consultees), which was progressed due to a poor response rate from these statutory bodies during the initial Regulation 14 consultation (see Section 6 ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening consultation’ for more details).

5.10 Upon completion of the Regulation 14 consultation all of the responses were collated and analysed. The following sub-sections of this report

### Reg 14 Consultation: respondent breakdown

#### Age

- 18-30 (2)
- 31-45 (9)
- 46-64 (19)
- 65+ (12)
- Prefer not to say / no response (3)

#### Ethnicity

- White British (33)
- White Other (2)
- Indian (3)
- Other (1)
- Prefer not to say / no response (6)

#### Locality

- Neighbouring locality (outside Plan Area) 1
- Goldings 4
- Overstone Lodge 6
- Lumbertubs 8
- Lings 18
- Blackthorn 8
look at those responses received from the general public and the statutory consultees, and provides details of how the Forum considered them, and where relevant, amended the neighbourhood plan in response.

Responses from the general public

5.11 The below table provides details of the age groups of those who responded, as well as details of their ethnicity and locality. In summary:

- Almost half were aged between 46-64, whilst the remainder were generally aged between 31-45 or over 65. Only two responses were received from individuals aged 30 or less.
- The majority of respondents considered themselves to be White British, with only 6 respondents identified themselves as falling outside of this ethnicity. In addition, 6 respondents preferred not to disclose details of their ethnicity.
- The consultation invited a good spread of respondents from different areas within the Plan area, with responses received from each of the five communities located within the Plan area.

5.12 An overview of those 45 responses provided by the general public in relation to the Regulation 14 version of the Plan is provided across the following pages. The analysis considers both the comments provided in relation to the Vision Statement and also the individual policies. For the Vision Statement and each policy, the following information is provided:

- a breakdown of the ‘tick-box’ responses provided in relation to that particular part of the Plan. Responses ranged from ‘Strongly Agree’ to ‘Strongly Disagree’, and the breakdown gives an indication of the overall level of support for that particular part of the Plan;
- a summary of the comments provided in relation to that particular part of the Plan.
- a summary of the Forum’s response to the comments provided in relation to that particular part of the Plan.
- details of any changes proposed to the Plan as result of the feedback provided in relation to that particular part of the Plan.

5.13 This section does not consider the general comments submitted in the ‘Tell us more!’ section of the response form, but only comments specifically directed towards the Vision Statement or individual policies. However, full details of all the written comments received from the general public, including general comments provided in the ‘Tell us more!’ section of the response form, are contained in the matrix at Appendix 7. This matrix details how

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Vision Statement</th>
<th>Summary of comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response breakdown</strong></td>
<td>Only a single comment was submitted under the Vision Statement section, relating to the need for a non-political person to ‘be in overall charge’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Response to comments</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This single comment was not relevant to Vision Statement or the wider Plan. However, it should be noted that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum, who have prepared the draft Plan, is a non-political organisation formed of local people drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area and from different sections of the community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Changes to the Plan?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strong support communicated by respondents for existing Vision Statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No changes</strong> to Vision Statement arising from general public responses and comments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Policy DES1: High Quality Design**

**Response breakdown**

- **Strongly Agree** = 25
- **Agree** = 14
- **Don’t know / no response** = 5
- **Disagree** = 0
- **Strongly Disagree** = 1

**Summary of comments**

Only a handful of specific comments were provided in relation to Policy DES1, each of which differed in content, with no common opinion. Comments included requests for more eco-friendly housing and for new development to ‘design-out-crime’.

**Response to comments**

The draft policy already promotes eco-friendly housing (see criterion ‘j’) and for new development to ‘design-out-crime’ via the incorporation of ‘Secured by Design’ principles (see criterion ‘g’). Other comments either communicated support for the existing draft policy or lacked sufficient clarity to effectively consider.

**Changes to the Plan?**

Strong support communicated by respondents for existing draft Policy DES1: High Quality Design.

No changes to Policy DES1: High Quality Design arising from general public responses and comments.

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**Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network**

**Response breakdown**

- **Strongly Agree** = 25
- **Agree** = 15
- **Don’t know / no response** = 3
- **Disagree** = 1
- **Strongly Disagree** = 1

**Summary of comments**

Draft policy T1 attracted 8 comments in total. 5 comments related to the maintenance and state of existing pedestrian and cycle routes, with better lighting and trimming/removal of overgrown vegetation noted as priorities. One comment endorsed the gating of walkways which are particularly unsafe and prone to anti-social/criminal activity. The remaining comments ranged from the very general (“less cars on the road”) to extremely specific (“double yellow lines outside Woodvale Academy”).

**Response to comments**

Policy T1 sets out a positive framework for the enhancement of the existing cycle and pedestrian network. Good levels of natural surveillance and lighting are a requirement of Policy T1 for footpaths and cycle ways. In addition, the ‘Enhancement of existing pedestrian and cycle routes and introduction of new connections’ is listed as one of the Priority Projects for which CIL receipts will be used to implement. Whilst the overarching aim of the policy is to grow the cycle and pedestrian network within the Plan area, the policy does allow scope for the removal/gating of certain routes where there is evidence that their design facilitates crime or anti-social behaviour.

**Changes to the Plan?**

Strong support communicated by respondents for existing draft Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network.

No changes to Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network arising from general public responses and comments.
Policy H1: Housing Mix
Policy H2: Small-scale housing development

Response breakdown

Policy H1: Housing Mix

Strongly Agree = 15
Agree = 18
Don’t know / no response = 4
Disagree = 3
Strongly Disagree = 5

Policy H2: Small-scale housing development

Strongly Agree = 15
Agree = 18
Don’t know / no response = 7
Disagree = 1
Strongly Disagree = 4

Summary of comments

9 responses included specific written comments on these housing policies. The majority of these comments endorsed the need for smaller residential units (1 and 2 bed) and affordable units, with specific reference made to the need to meet the housing needs of the both elderly and younger populations. Only 2 responses provided comments communicating opposition to the provision of further affordable housing and the proposed housing preferences. Other individual comments outlined a preference for small-scale housing development and the need to protect existing green spaces from housing development.

Response to comments

The existing steer of policies H1 and H2 are largely supported in comments received, with both smaller units and more affordable housing being seen as priority. Even were there widespread support for no affordable housing development (which there is not), such a policy approach would not be feasible as it would be in conflict with the strategic policies of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (especially, Policy H2 ‘Affordable Housing’).

In relation to the specific comment seeking housing development to be balanced against the protection of green space, the Plan progresses a number of Local Green Space designations, which will protect the most valuable green spaces from development, whilst Policy H2 only identifies ‘low value / underused open space’ as having the potential to accommodate small-scale housing development. This policy approach should protect the most used, higher value open space.

Changes to the Plan?

Strong support communicated by respondents for existing draft policies H1: Housing Mix and H2: Small-scale housing development.

No changes to Policy H1: Housing Mix or H2: Small-scale housing development arising from general public responses and comments.
Policy DEV1: Priority development areas

**Response breakdown**

- **Strongly Agree**: 20
- **Agree**: 19
- **Don’t know / no response**: 4
- **Disagree**: 0
- **Strongly Disagree**: 2

**Summary of comments**

Only 5 specific comments were provided in relation to Policy DEV1, each of which differed in content, with no common opinion. Some related to matters outside the control of the Plan (lowering of business rates and general maintenance / street cleaning). Comments which could be considered included a concern about the parking implications associated with bringing forward development on these sites, an identification of the need for community facilities, and the need to prioritise previously developed land over green space for new development.

**Response to comments**

Parking levels and highways impacts will be considered by Northampton Borough Council in their determination of any planning application for the redevelopment of these sites, with Northamptonshire Highways (part of the County Council) acting as a statutory consultee and considering the suitability of development proposals from a transport perspective.

Policy DEV1 supports the development of community facilities (Use Class D1 and D2) on these priority development sites.

All three of the identified priority development sites consist of previously developed, brownfield land.

Policy RE1: Neighbourhood Centres

**Response breakdown**

- **Strongly Agree**: 22
- **Agree**: 17
- **Don’t know / no response**: 4
- **Disagree**: 1
- **Strongly Disagree**: 1

**Summary of comments**

Only a handful of specific comments were provided in relation to Policy RE1, each of which differed in content, with few common opinions. Two individuals did comment that the Silver Horse pub significantly detracts from Goldings neighbourhood centre, and needs demolished or redeveloped. Other comments included the need for safer, more inviting neighbourhood centres, and the desire for a charity shop in the local area.

**Response to comments**

Policy RE1 set outs a positive framework for the development of new uses which would enhance the existing neighbourhood centres. On this basis, Policy RE1 would support any planning application for the redevelopment / refurbishment of the Silver Horse pub for uses that would contribute to the vitality and viability of these areas. In addition, Policy DEV1 identifies the Silver Horse site as a priority development area, and supports its redevelopment for uses that would meet the needs of the local community.

By supporting the introduction of uses that would contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centres, Policy RE1 aims to help these areas become safer, more pleasant shopping and leisure environments. The policy could also allow for the introduction of a variety of different retail uses, including charity shops, where it can be demonstrated that they will contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centre.
Policy CO1: Provision of community facilities
Policy CO2: Loss of community facilities

Response breakdown

Policy CO1: Provision of community facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Don’t know / no response</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy CO2: Loss of community facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Don’t know / no response</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of comments

Comments were generally supportive of policies CO1 and CO2. Again, a number of comments noted against these policies were not relevant to and could not be dealt with by the Plan. Of those comments of relevance, most provided an indication of the types of community facilities they would like to see come forward, and included a desire for a tennis court in Lings, improvements to the existing Lings Forum Leisure Centre, and more facilities for the elderly.

Response to comments

Policy CO1 supports the provision of new sports facilities, such as tennis courts, and also improvements to existing community and leisure uses. It also encourages proposals or educational facilities to cater for all age groups, including the elderly.

Changes to the Plan?

Strong support communicated by respondents for existing draft policies CO1: Provision of community facilities and CO2: Loss of community facilities.

No changes to Policy CO1: Provision of community facilities or CO2: Loss of community facilities arising from general public responses.
Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces
Policy OS2: Outdoor amenity space

Response breakdown

Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces

- Strongly Agree = 26
- Agree = 13
- Don’t know / no response = 5
- Disagree = 0
- Strongly Disagree = 1

Policy OS2: Outdoor amenity space

- Strongly Agree = 20
- Agree = 12
- Don’t know / no response = 11
- Disagree = 1
- Strongly Disagree = 1

Summary of comments

A number of comments supporting the policy steer of OS1 and OS2 and the need to protect and enhance local green space were received. Other comments noted the need to maintain these spaces. Two comments promoted the development of allotments with the Plan area, and one comment requested the protection of the playing fields between Wellingborough Road and Birds Hill Road.

Response to comments

The comments were generally positive and supportive of policies OS1 and OS2. Matters surrounding the maintenance of green spaces fall outside the control of the Plan. Allotments will be added to the ‘Priority Projects’ list contained in the ‘Next steps and implementation’ part of the Plan. The playing fields between Wellingborough Road and Birds Hill Road are already identified for LGS designation (LGS6 - Lings Playing Fields).

Changes to the Plan?

Strong support communicated by respondents for existing draft policies OS1: Local Green Space and OS2: Outdoor amenity space.

One minor change proposed to the Plan, which is the inclusion to the development of new allotments under the ‘Priority Projects’ section.
the Forum have considered all comments provided, and outlines any required actions arising from the individual comments, including where the Plan should be amended.

**Responses from statutory consultees**

5.14 Of the those organisations consulted (a full list of which can be found at Appendix 4), 11 provided written responses, each of which are reviewed and considered below.

**Marine Management Organisation**

5.15 This representation, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 8, simply confirmed that the Marine Management Organisation have no comments to submit in relation to the Regulation 14 consultation. No amendments were therefore required to the Plan in response to this representation.

**Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning - Northampton Borough Council**

5.16 This represented the most substantial and detailed of statutory consultee responses. The feedback and comment provided within this response was both constructive and helpful, and was welcomed by the Forum. No significant problems were identified with the draft Plan, with the consultee recognising the efforts of the Neighbourhood Forum and congratulating Growing Together ‘on the progress it has made in preparing its Neighbourhood Plan, which presents an effective spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Area’.

5.17 Specifically, this consultee response, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 9, provided three distinct elements of feedback and commentary:

- confirmation of the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS), the strategic policies of which the Plan should be in general conformity with.
- an update on the progress of the emerging Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), including the successful examination of the draft Charging Schedule and its anticipated Autumn 2015 adoption, and details of how the Plan can identify specific priorities for the spending of CIL funds.
- a series of specific comments on the draft Plan, including a number of recommended alterations to its content and the identification of additional evidence requirements.

5.18 In relation to the first point, the Neighbourhood Forum had been aware of the emerging JCS during the preparation of the Plan, and the draft Plan was prepared to achieve general conformity with the emerging strategic policies of the draft JCS. Moving forward, the Forum agreed that it was critical that the Plan continued to be prepared in a manner which would achieve general conformity with the adopted strategic policies of the JCS.

5.19 As regards CIL, the Forum agreed to undertake one final review of the ‘Priority Projects’ (Chapter 12: Implementation) section to ensure that this list was comprehensive, and that as many of those local projects which might draw on CIL funds were identified.

5.20 The specific comments provided within the Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning response are outlined and discussed below.

**Comment 1**

**Plan section:** 1. Introduction (page 5)

**Comment summary:** Update map at Figure 1 to include all locations referred to in text.

**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed-amendment implemented.

**Comment 2**

**Plan section:** 3. Evidence supporting the plan (page 15)

**Comment summary:** Update population profile text to include more accurate population figure for the Plan area.

**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed-more accurate population figures were sought by the Forum, but following further discussions with NBC officers, it was agreed that the current population figure represents a well-considered estimate given that the Neighbourhood Area does not follow any one Ward boundary and cuts across a number of Super Output Areas, making an exact population figure difficult to establish.

**Comment 3**

**Plan section:** 3. Evidence supporting the plan (page
16) **Comment summary:** Acknowledge those 3 Super Output Areas which are partly within the Neighbourhood Area.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - plan updated to include reference and stats on all relevant Super Output Areas.

**Comment 4**
**Plan section:** 3. Evidence supporting the plan (page 18)
**Comment summary:** Investigate whether more up to date information exists in relation to the quality of housing stock and note the new role played by Northampton Partnership Homes as manager of the Council’s housing stock.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - plan updated to note the new role played by Northampton Partnership Homes as manager of the Council’s housing stock. More up to date housing stock information was sought but found to be unavailable.

**Comment 5**
**Plan section:** 4. Policy context (page 21)
**Comment summary:** Insert JCS adoption date in the heading “West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)”.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - amendment implemented.

**Comment 6**
**Plan section:** 4. Policy context (page 22)
**Comment summary:** Replace “Northampton Related Development Area Local Plan” with “Northampton Local Plan Part 2”.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - amendment implemented.

**Comment 7**
**Plan section:** Policy H2: Small-scale housing development (page 33)
**Comment summary:** Clarify purpose of “1-10 dwellings” reference.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - text inserted to clarify that this is intended as a threshold for applying the policy, and threshold amended to 1-9 dwellings for consistency with planning application thresholds (1-9 dwellings being considered as ‘Minor’).

**Comment 8**
**Plan section:** Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces (page 36)
**Comment summary:** Acknowledge those 3 Super Output Areas which are partly within the Neighbourhood Area.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - plan updated to include reference and stats on all relevant Super Output Areas.

41) **Comment summary:** Review proposed Local Green Space (LGS) designations, ensuring that none will undermine the ability to achieve the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole. Prepare additional evidence to support LGS designations.
**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - all LGS designations reviewed to ensure their compatibility with the wider Plan objectives, and additional evidence prepared as requested.

**Comment 9**
**Plan section:** 8. Next steps and implementation (page 47)
**Comment summary:** Clarify Northampton Borough Council’s role in the plan’s implementation, making it clear that the Implementation chapter does not commit the Council and its resources to supporting the policies and proposals in the Plan beyond determining planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan, which when ‘made’ will include the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.

**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - text amended to clarify Northampton Borough Council’s role in the Plan’s implementation.

**Anglian Water**

5.21 This representation, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 10, focused on Policy DEV1: Priority Development Areas. Specifically, it sets out how site drainage should be dealt with during the redevelopment of any of these three previously developed brownfield sites.

5.22 The representation does not request any specific amendments to the plan, but states that Anglian Water would wish to comment further as part of the planning application process should any of these sites come forward for redevelopment.

5.23 The Forum did not identify any requirement to amend the Plan content in response to this representation.

**Northamptonshire Highways (Northamptonshire County Council)**

5.24 This representation from Northamptonshire Highways, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 11, focused on three parts of the plan; the Vision Statement, Policy DES1, and Policy T1.
The representation communicated support for the Vision and also for Objective 5.

5.25 Support was also communicated for Policy DES1: High Quality Design, with the proposed improvements to walking and cycling routes being specifically endorsed. Criterion ‘h’, relating to parking provision and design is broadly supported by Northamptonshire Highways, however they note it would be helpful for the Plan to consider what type of parking layout/schemes would be acceptable for the area. Having considered this response, the Forum agreed that they do not wish to progress a more prescriptive policy, and would rather developers and designers progress bespoke responses to parking provision for individual applications, which consider and respond to the specific site context and the requirements of Policy DES1.

5.26 Finally, Northamptonshire Highways stated that they strongly agree with Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network.

5.27 On the basis of the above, the Forum decided that no changes were to be made to the Plan in response to the Northampton Highways consultation representation.

Planning Services, Northamptonshire County Council

5.28 This representation from Planning Services at Northamptonshire County Council, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 12, focuses on issues around heritage and the historic environment, and provides two specific comments on the Plan; one in relation to Objective 2 and another focused on Policy DES1: High Quality Design.

5.29 In relation to Objective 2 ‘Open Space’, Planning Services points out that enhancement of open space can include the enhancement of the historic environment. The second comment, made in reference to criterion ‘b’ of Policy DES1: High Quality Design, highlights how heritage assets can also include below ground archaeological remains.

5.30 Both comments were considered by the Forum, who agreed that they should be minded when scoping out future projects in the local area and when commenting on future planning applications which might have heritage implications. However, it was agreed that no amendments should be made to the Plan in response to this representation.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

5.31 This representation from the Wildlife Trust, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 13, focuses on issues relating to biodiversity and wildlife habitats. The representation took a particular interest in the proposed Local Green Space designations, and many of the comments provided related to Policy OS1.

5.32 The specific comments provided within the Wildlife Trust representation are outlined and discussed below.

Comment 1
Plan section: Contents page (page 3)
Comment summary: Appendices not listed within Contents.
Neighbourhood Forum response: Agreed amendment implemented with Appendices now listed on within Contents page.

Comment 2
Plan section: 1. Introduction (page 7)
Comment summary: Lings Wood status as a designated Local Nature Reserve should be acknowledged.
Neighbourhood Forum response: Agreed amendment implemented with reference made to Lings Wood being a designated Local Nature Reserve.

Comment 3
Plan section: Policy OS1 (page 41)
Comment summary: Would like to see specific reference made to wildlife or biodiversity.
Neighbourhood Forum response: Disagree - Policy OS1 does not need to refer specifically to wildlife or biodiversity. Details of the wildlife / biodiversity value of the proposed Local Green Spaces is provided as an Appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Comment 4
Plan section: Map of designated Local Green Space (page 42)
Comment summary: Questioned the proposed
boundaries of LGS No.7 ‘Lings Wood’ and identified scope for extending the area to better reflect the Local Nature Reserve boundaries.

**Neighbourhood Forum response:** Agreed - LGS No.7 ‘Lings Wood’ boundary amended, with reference made to area being a designated Local Nature Reserve.

**Comment 5**

*Plan section:* Pedestrian and Cycle routes map (page 45)

*Comment summary:* Observations on the ‘Possible pedestrian links / cycle path upgrades’

*Neighbourhood Forum response:* Noted but no amendments required.

**Comment 6**

*Plan section:* Appendix 1 - Local Green Space Designations (pages 50-56)

*Comment summary:* Observations on the assessment of the proposed Local Green Space Designations, as set out within Appendix 1.

*Neighbourhood Forum response:* Agreed - amendments to be included in revised Appendix 1.

**Environment Agency**

5.33 This representation from the Environment Agency, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 14, focuses on issues around flood risk and surface water drainage. It confirms that most of the Neighbourhood Area falls within Flood Zone 1, with a small area being Flood Zone 3, and outlines the associated probability of flooding within these zones whilst providing high-level guidance on the requirements of new development in relation to flood risk. The representation also includes advice on surface water disposal.

5.34 The representation does not raise any issues with the draft plan, nor does it suggest any specific edits to the plan. Therefore, the Forum did not identify any requirement to amend the Plan content in response to this representation.

**Lead Local Flood Authority (Northamptonshire County Council)**

5.35 This representation from the Lead Local Flood Authority at Northamptonshire County Council, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 15, focuses on flood risk. However, as with the Environment Agency representation, the Lead Local Flood Authority does raise any specific issues in relation to the draft plan, stating that ‘we do not have any specific comments or concerns regarding the plan’. On this basis, the Forum did not identify any requirement to amend the Plan content in response to this representation.

**Historic England**

5.36 This brief representation from Historic England, a full copy of which can be viewed at Appendix 16, simply confirms that the organisation have no comments to make on the draft plan.

**Natural England**

5.37 This representation from Natural England, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 17, does not comment on the content of the draft plan, but rather focuses on the SEA/HRA Screening Report (see details below). On this basis, the Forum did not identify any requirement to amend the Plan content in response to this representation.

**Northamptonshire Police (Crime Prevention Design Officer)**

5.38 This representation, a full copy of which can be found at Appendix 18, was provided by the Crime Prevention Design Officer at Northamptonshire Police. In addition to welcoming the ‘very sound crime prevention focused policies’ (particular praise was given to Policy DES1), the representation also outlined some concerns regarding Policy OS2 ‘Outdoor amenity space’. Specifically, the representation had some reservations about the potential quality and security of any communal open space that might be provided in response to Policy OS2, and suggested some revisions be made to the policy wording to help ensure that any proposed communal open space would be well-designed, safe and secure.

5.39 Having considered this representation, the Forum agreed that Policy OS2 should be altered to include a number of criteria aimed at ensuring that any private communal open space is designed to the highest standards and does not lend itself to opportunities for crime or anti-social activity. The revised policy was then provided to the Crime Prevention Design Officer, who confirmed that she was supportive of the amendments and comfortable with the overall content of Policy OS2.
6 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING

6.1 In parallel with the Regulation 14 consultation, NBC progressed the consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report. This was distributed by email to those organisations listed at Appendix 4, with links to all draft NP documents, on 15th June 2015. As with the Regulation 14 consultation, comments were accepted for a six week period until 27th July 2015.

6.2 This first round of pre-submission consultation on the SEA / HRA Screening Report saw a poor response rate from statutory consultees. However, given the number of green spaces, the quality of the natural environment and the proximity of the Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA to the Neighbourhood Area GTNF and Northampton Borough Council were keen to engage with them. Therefore, statutory consultees were invited to comment on the SEA / HRA Screening Report (and the draft Plan) for a second time in February 2016.

6.3 Following the second round of consultation on the Screening Report and draft Plan, two statutory consultees, the Environment Agency and Natural England, provided specific comments on the Screening Report.

6.4 The Environment Agency agreed that the Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects. Natural England in their response confirmed that:

- They checked their records and that in their view the Plan’s proposals/allocation will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect;
- They are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the Plan; and
- They are in agreement with the conclusion of the Screening Report in relation to HRA as the location and scale of development included within the Plan would not represent a likely significant effect to any European Site.

6.5 In their response, Natural England highlighted the need to contact local advisers on ecology and biodiversity. The Wildlife Trust were contacted as the relevant wildlife body in their response the Trust did not raise any issue with the Screening Report’s conclusions.

6.6 However, Natural England also noted that given the relatively small scale residential development that would be promoted in the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan and its distance to the SPA it is considered unlikely that the plan would contribute significantly to recreational pressure within the SPA.

6.7 Following public consultation, the findings of the Screening Report, which stated that GTNP does not require a full SEA or HRA, were not disputed by the consultation bodies or other technical stakeholders.
APPENDIX 1

AREA / FORUM DESIGNATION:

CONSULTATION EMAIL AND LETTER
BY EMAIL:

Application for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas and Neighbourhood Forum:

This email is to inform you, or your organisation, about progress in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan within Northampton and forms part of the council’s duty under regulation 6 (Neighbourhood Area) and regulation 9 (Neighbourhood Forum) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. These applications are being publicised between 29th May 2013 and 5pm on 12th July 2013. Please feel free to forward this email to interested groups within your local area to help raise awareness of the application.

- “Growing Together” - Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs

On the 22nd May 2013, applications were received from Growing Together requesting the designation of the organisation as a Neighbourhood Forum, and requesting the designation of the four estates of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs as a Neighbourhood Area. This application is deemed to have met the requirements of regulation 5 (area) and regulation 8 (forum) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

In respect of the Forum, if approved, Growing Together will become the ‘Qualifying Body’ for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area and no other organisation may be designated within any part of the area until such time as the designation expires (five years) or is withdrawn. A copy of the relevant applications (which include maps of the area), and a covering letter which provides further information on the process, is attached.

Copies of all the applications in addition to a response form are available to view and download online at: http://www.northampton.gov.uk/homepage/465/neighbourhood_planning or inspect in Northampton Borough Council’s One-Stop-Shop (planning area) and Northampton Central Library during normal opening hours. In addition, copies of the application for Duston can be inspected in Duston Library, and Growing Together in the Weston Favell Library. Paper copies of the applications and response forms will be sent on request from the Planning Policy Team by telephoning 01604 838306 or emailing neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk. When requesting copies, please specify which application you would like a copy of.

Representations on the proposed Neighbourhood Area and proposed Neighbourhood Forum for “Growing Together” should be made:

By email: neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk
By post: Planning Policy
Northampton Borough Council
FREEPOST MID17237
Northampton
NN1 1WJ

Please note, under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, any comments received may be inspected by members of the public and cannot be treated in confidence. Comments will also be published on the Council’s website but any personal information will be removed, (except for respondent’s names).

If you have any queries with regards to the application, or would like to know more about Neighbourhood Planning, please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Gingell, Senior Planning Officer on 01604 838 306 or email to neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Paul Lewin
Planning Policy and Conservation Manager

Please note: You are receiving this email as you are either registered as a statutory consultee, or have previously registered an interest in planning policy updates for this geographical area. If you no longer wish to receive information such as this, please let us know so that we can remove you from our database.

Please note that the contents of this e-mail, including any attachments thereto, may contain information which is confidential or privileged, and which is solely for the use of the recipient named above. The information contained in this e-mail, and in your reply, may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legislation, and its confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, Northampton, United Kingdom, NN1 1DE +44 (0)300 330 7000 www.northampton.gov.uk

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Dear «title» «familyName»

Application for the designation of Neighbourhood Areas and Neighbourhood Forum:

This letter is to inform you, and your organisation, about progress in the preparation of two Neighbourhood Development Plans within Northampton.

**Duston Civil Parish**
On the 21st May 2013, an application was received from Duston Parish Council requesting the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for Duston parish. This application is deemed to have met the requirements of regulation 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and will now be publicised for public consultation.

**“Growing Together” - Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs**
On the 22nd May 2013, applications were received from Growing Together requesting the designation of the organisation as a Neighbourhood Forum, and requesting the designation of the four estates of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs as a Neighbourhood Area. This application is deemed to have met the requirements of regulation 5 (area) and regulation 8 (forum) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

In respect of the Forum, if approved, Growing Together will become the ‘Qualifying Body’ for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the area and no other organisation may be designated within any part of the area until such time as the designation expires (five years) or is withdrawn.

**Publication**
As part of the Council’s obligations under regulation 6 (Neighbourhood Area) and regulation 9 (Neighbourhood Forum) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Northampton Borough Council is required to draw to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the area, in a manner that it considers appropriate that these applications have been made. This letter forms part of that duty. The formal publicity period will run between:

**Wednesday 29th May to Friday 12th July 2013 (5pm)**

During this period, representations are invited on whether the proposed Neighbourhood Areas and proposed Neighbourhood Forum are appropriate for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning.

www.northampton.gov.uk
Copies of all the applications are available to view and download online at http://www.northampton.gov.uk/homepage/465/neighbourhood_planning or inspect in Northampton Borough Council’s One-Stop-Shop (planning area) and Northampton Central Library during normal opening hours. In addition, copies of the application for Duston can be inspected in Duston Library, and Growing Together in the Weston Favell Library.

Paper copies of the applications and response forms are available on request from the Planning Policy Team by telephoning 01604 838306.

Representations on the proposed Neighbourhood Area for Duston, and proposed Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area for Blackthorn, Golcings, Lings and Lumbertubs should be made:

By email: neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk

By post: Planning Policy
Northampton Borough Council
FREEPOST MID17237
Northampton
NN1 1WJ

Please note, under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, any comments received may be inspected by members of the public and cannot be treated in confidence. Comments will also be published on the Council’s website but any personal information will be removed, (except for respondent’s names).

If you have any queries with regards to the application, or would like to know more about Neighbourhood Planning, please do not hesitate to contact Ellie Gingell, Senior Planning Officer on 01604 838 306 or email to neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

Paul Lewin
Planning Policy and Conservation Manager
Additional Information:

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?
A Neighbourhood Development Plan is a new type of planning document introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It can set out a vision for an area and planning policies for the use and development of land. If prepared in accordance with the relevant Planning Regulations, it will form part of the statutory planning framework for the area, and the policies and proposals contained within it will be used in the determination of planning applications.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan has to support the overall development needs of the wider area. It must therefore be in general conformity with the policies and proposals in the emerging West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. However a Neighbourhood Development Plan can influence where development can go and what it might look like as well as other land-use topics that are important to the local community.

Who can prepare a neighbourhood plan?
Where they exist, a town or parish council is the only body that can prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan in their area.

For all other areas, the application must be prepared by a designated Neighbourhood Forum.

What is the required statutory process?
The process starts when a parish council or a group capable of becoming a Forum, formally submits a neighbourhood area application to the Borough Council which sets out the proposed boundary of the Neighbourhood Area.

Where there is no Parish Council, a group must also make an application to become a Designated Neighbourhood Forum. This means that they become a “qualifying body”, giving them the legal right to prepare the plan as a Forum.

The Borough Council is required to publicise applications (Area or Forum) for a period of six weeks and invite comments. Depending on the views of local people and other stakeholders Northampton Borough Council will either:

- Designate the Neighbourhood Area
- Designate the Neighbourhood Area with amendments; or
- Refuse the Application

In respect of the Forum, Northampton Borough Council must either Designate or Refuse the application.

If approved work may formally start on a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will build on the consultation work and the views already gathered from the local community.

A draft plan must then be submitted to Northampton Borough Council, who will formally publicise the proposals for six weeks. An independent examiner will then be appointed to consider any representations and check it conforms to national and local policy.

Once satisfied with the plan the Borough Council will organise a local referendum. A majority of people voting must support the plan if it is to then be adopted by the local planning authority.

Further information on neighbourhood planning can be found on Northampton Borough Council’s website.
APPENDIX 2

AREA / FORUM DESIGNATION:

PUBLIC NOTICE IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER
NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GROWING TOGETHER CONSULTATION STATEMENT

The Borough Council is committed to ensuring that its plans and decisions are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the local community. To this end, the Council has launched the Growing Together Consultation Statement, which aims to gather the views and feedback of residents on a range of local issues and plans.

The consultation statement covers a number of key areas, including planning, housing, transport, and the environment. It is an opportunity for residents to have their say on matters that affect their daily lives and to shape the future of their community. The Council welcomes all comments and suggestions, and will take them into consideration as it develops its plans and policies.

The consultation statement is available on the Council's website, and hard copies can be obtained from the Council offices. The closing date for submissions is [insert closing date].

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Council's customer service team. We value your input and are committed to engaging with the local community to create a better future for everyone.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
APPENDIX 3

AREA / FORUM DESIGNATION:

CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND NBC CONSIDERATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Transcript or summary of comments</th>
<th>Action / Officer comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr David Mackintosh</td>
<td>As Borough and County Councillor for part of the area covered by this, I am supportive of the proposal.</td>
<td>Noted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>James Ogle, Senior Officer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Regeneration Northampton Council</strong></td>
<td>Request the constitution be amended by agreement of Growing Together in accordance with comments to remove reference to former Lumbertubs Ward, and provide greater clarity of the boundary of the proposed Neighbourhood Area. [subsequently agreed in writing and change made]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the proposed Neighbourhood Forum constitution the proposed area covered is suggested to be the former Lumbertubs Ward (pre-may 2013 electoral ward) which is not coterminous with the map shown. The map however is the area I understand as the Neighbourhood Plan area. The former Lumbertubs area (in fact the new wards where in place for the Local election May 2011) cuts out Overstone Lodge and the top part of Goldings as well as the East of Blackthorn. I would therefore suggest a minor amendment is made and reference to the former Lumbertubs ward removed from the constitution and application. Suggest area referred to as: The area encompasses the six residential estates of Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge and the open spaces within the locality, but excluded the non-residential commercial area of the Weston Favell District Centre.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerrie Ginnis, Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor, Environment Agency</td>
<td>Summary of comment: The Environment Agency, in its response, supplied some useful information to assist in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan to 'help maximise environmental gain from future development and to reduce its environmental impact.' The Environment Agency is responsible for: 1. Flood risk management 2. Water quality and water resources 3. Waste management 4. Land contamination and soil 5. Environmental permitting and other regulation There are no main rivers within the proposed Neighbourhood Area. The Billing Brook runs through the area, however it as a 'non-main river' in this location. A flood map is available for the Billing Brook and can be viewed on the EA website or on the West Northamptonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Non main rivers are the</td>
<td>Noted. The response provides a useful summary to inform the next stages of plan-making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent</td>
<td>Transcript or summary of comments</td>
<td>Action / Officer comments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Growing Together Consultation Statement</strong></td>
<td>responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). It is recommended that NCC are consulted on this Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Area extends into the reservoir breach area of the Overstone reservoir. Reservoir maps can be viewed on the EA website. Recommend that future developments consider space for water and roll development from all watercourses. Naturalisation of watercourses is also promoted. Any culvert or works that may impede the flow of any watercourse (non main river) will require Flood Defence Consent form the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council. The Neighbourhood Area borders critical drainage area with Boothville and Weston Favell. Attenuation SuDS techniques should be considered at an early stage in the site layout process to ensure that it can be accommodated on site. The Neighbourhood Plan should be informed by the Water Cycle Study regarding water supply and waste water capacity. Currently Great Billing WWTW has headroom capacity, in terms of permitted Dry Weather Flow, to enable development in the proposed Neighbourhood Area. Should consider setting high standards for new development regarding water use to deliver sustainable development. There may be a need to seek to prevent groundwater pollution. The EA can provide further guidance on this. Implement the waste hierarchy - reduce, re-use, recycle. Reinforces the importance of early pre-application discussion on all proposals to ensure that any initial issues can be resolved and subsequent planning application run smoothly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Ansell, Housing Services Manager, Northampton Borough Council</td>
<td>From a boundary point of view both applications make sense i.e. one is an existing parish council and the second one deals with estates/neighbourhoods in a specific geographic area of the town each of which face similar issues</td>
<td>Noted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Berry, Development Plans Team Leader, West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit</td>
<td>Thank you for consulting the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) on the Application for Neighbourhood Areas (Duston &amp; Northampton East) and Neighbourhood Forum. The JPU is content with all three applications.</td>
<td>Noted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Mizon, resident and employee within the Neighbourhood Area</td>
<td>I agree with the proposed forum and area. These are similar areas with similar issues and by taking it all into account will ensure it thrives and nothing is duplicated.</td>
<td>Noted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4

REGULATION 14 + SEA/HRA SCREENING CONSULTATION:

LIST OF CONSULTED ORGANISATIONS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email1</th>
<th>Email2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (b) - Local Planning Authority</td>
<td>Steven Boyes</td>
<td>Director of Regeneration, Enterprise &amp; Planning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve@northampton.gov.uk">steve@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (b) - County Council</td>
<td>Mark Chant</td>
<td>Head of Planning Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mchant@northamptonshire.gov.uk">mchant@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (b) - Any adjoining parish council</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (c) - The Coal Authority</td>
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<td>Schedule 1 (d) - The Homes and Communities Agency</td>
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<td>Schedule 1 (e) - Natural England</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (f) - The Environment Agency</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (g) - English Heritage</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Healthcare PCT</td>
<td><a href="mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk">planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:e-mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk">e-mail@homesandcommunities.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>Western Power Distribution</td>
<td><a href="mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk">consultations@naturalengland.org.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:planningpartnership@environment-agency.gov.uk">planningpartnership@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Schedule 1 (n) - Gas companies</td>
<td>National Grid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e-mails@historicengland.org.uk">e-mails@historicengland.org.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:railwayplanningNW@northwell.co.uk">railwayplanningNW@northwell.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>see sewerage undertaker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PlanningEngland@englishwater.co.uk">PlanningEngland@englishwater.co.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:planningRM@highways.gsi.gov.uk">planningRM@highways.gsi.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (p) - Water undertaker</td>
<td>see local organisations below</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@monocorporatepartnerships.com">info@monocorporatepartnerships.com</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@marinemanagement.org.uk">info@marinemanagement.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (q) - bodies which represent different racial, ethnic or national groups</td>
<td>Cllr Christopher Malpas</td>
<td>Councillor Co-Chair of Northampton Diverse Communities Forum</td>
<td>email1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule 1 (r) - bodies which represent different religious groups</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership</td>
<td>Councillor Co-Chair of Northampton Disabled People's Forum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cllr Phil Larratt</td>
<td>Interim Housing Asset Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cllr.larratt@northampton.gov.uk">cllr.larratt@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northampton Borough Council - Housing Assets</td>
<td>Tim Bruce</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maintenance@northampton.gov.uk">maintenance@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lplastics@northampton.gov.uk">lplastics@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Northampton Borough Council - Asset Management</td>
<td>Andrew Meakin</td>
<td>Corporate Asset Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ameneticatalk@northampton.gov.uk">ameneticatalk@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northampton Borough Council - Housing and Wellbeing</td>
<td>Cllr Phil Larratt</td>
<td>Interim Head of Housing and Wellbeing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cllrlarratt@northampton.gov.uk">cllrlarratt@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northampton Borough Council - Customers &amp; Communities</td>
<td>Julie Seddon</td>
<td>Director of Customers and Communities</td>
<td><a href="mailto:liseddond@northampton.gov.uk">liseddond@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Northampton Partnership Homes</td>
<td>Mike Kay</td>
<td>Chief Executive</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kaygm@northamptonpartnershiphomes.org.uk">Kaygm@northamptonpartnershiphomes.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>Northamptonshire County Council - Education</td>
<td>Ben Hunter</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bhunter@northamptonshire.gov.uk">bhunter@northamptonshire.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Northamptonshire County Council - Transport</td>
<td>Chris Wragg</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Daventry District Council</td>
<td>Richard Wood</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rewood@westnorthants.gov.uk">rewood@westnorthants.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>South Northants Council</td>
<td>Andy Darv</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andy.darv@northnorthants.gov.uk">andy.darv@northnorthants.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Borough Council of Wellingborough</td>
<td>Maxine Simmons</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmsimmons@wellingborough.gov.uk">jmsimmons@wellingborough.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit</td>
<td>Colin Staves</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership</td>
<td>Sharon Henley</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>Clinical Commissioning Group</td>
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<td>Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr Janice Duffy</td>
<td>Talavera Ward</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cllr.janiceduffy@northampton.gov.uk">cllr.janiceduffy@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr Dennis Meredith</td>
<td>Talavera Ward</td>
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<td>Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr Clement Changa</td>
<td>Brookside Ward</td>
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<td>Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr James Hill</td>
<td>Rectory Farm Ward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjoining Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr Andrew Kilbride</td>
<td>Billing Ward</td>
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<td>Adjoining Ward Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr Christopher Malpas</td>
<td>Billing Ward</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cllr.christophermalpas@northampton.gov.uk">cllr.christophermalpas@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Cllr Stephen John Hibbert</td>
<td>Riverside Ward</td>
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<td>Cllr Mary Markham</td>
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<td>County Councillors</td>
<td>Cllr David Mackintosh</td>
<td>Billing and Rectory Farm</td>
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<td>David Mackintosh MP</td>
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<td>MP - Northampton North</td>
<td>Michael Ellis MP</td>
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<td>Cllr Anna King</td>
<td>Councillor Co-Chair of LGBT&amp;Q forum</td>
<td>cllra.anna <a href="mailto:king@northampton.gov.uk">king@northampton.gov.uk</a></td>
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<td>Councillor Co-Chair of LGBT&amp;Q forum</td>
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<td>Priya Chaudhury</td>
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<td>Blackthorn Good Neighbours</td>
<td>Margaret Pritchard, secretary</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td><a href="mailto:margaret.pritchard@hotmail.com">margaret.pritchard@hotmail.com</a></td>
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APPENDIX 5

REGULATION 14 + SEA/HRA SCREENING CONSULTATION:

EMAIL TO CONSULTEES
Dear Consultee

Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum has published a pre-submission (or draft) Neighbourhood Plan for public consultation. I am writing on behalf of Growing Together to invite you to comment on the draft plan. This email explains where you can read the draft plan and how you can have your say. Hyperlinks to key documents are provided in this email, alternatively visit -

- Northampton Borough Council’s website: http://www.northampton.gov.uk/gtnp; or

About the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-submission)

"Growing Together" is the name of the Neighbourhood Forum for the estates of Blackthorn, Golding, Lings and Lumbertubs located in the east of Northampton. The project is led by a local charity, Blackthorn Good Neighbours. In September 2013, Northampton Borough Council designated Growing Together as a Neighbourhood Forum and the Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs estates as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

The draft plan presents an important stage in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, offering local people, businesses and other organisations the opportunity to shape the document before it is submitted to Northampton Borough Council. An independent examination and a local referendum will follow. If successful, the plan will be used in the determination of planning applications by Northampton Borough Council. The Neighbourhood Plan addresses the following issues through planning policies:

- Design quality;
- Housing;
- Regeneration opportunities;
- Community uses;
- Retail and neighbourhood centres;
- Open space, play and recreation;
- Movement and connections; and
- Plan implementation.

In addition to policies, the draft Plan includes a summary of the background research undertaken and sets out a Vision and objectives for the area.

How to read the plan and have your say

You can download the draft Neighbourhood Plan and respond via the online questionnaire available at www.northampton.gov.uk/gtnp.

All responses must be received on or before Monday 27 July 2015.

For general enquiries about the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, email: neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk; or telephone:

- Peter Strachan, Programme Coordinator - 07581813137; or
- Edward Dade, Senior Planning Officer (Policy) – 01604 837326

Forthcoming events

Growing Together invites you to find out more about the draft Plan and fill out a questionnaire at the following events:
• Wed 17 June - 6.30 to 8 pm - Blackthorn Community Centre;
• Thursday 18 June - 6.30 to 8 pm - Lings Primary School;
• Wednesday 24 June - 6.30 to 8 pm - Lumbertubs Primary School; and
• Friday 19 June - 10am to 6pm - stall in Weston Favell Centre (outside Greggs/Tesco).

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment**

Northampton Borough Council has prepared a [Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report](www.northampton.gov.uk/gtnp) on behalf of Growing Together. The Screening Report is published alongside the draft Neighbourhood Plan and is available to download from [www.northampton.gov.uk/gtnp](www.northampton.gov.uk/gtnp). The purpose of the Screening Report is to identify if the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or full Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The Council invites the Consultation Bodies and other technical stakeholders to comment on the Screening Report and its findings.

Please provide comments on the SEA & HRA Screening Report on or before Monday 27 July 2015, via email: neighbourhoodplanning@northampton.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Edward Dade MSc MRTPI
Senior Planning Officer (Policy)

Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
1st Floor, Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton, NN1 1DE

Tel: 01604 837326
Email: edade@northampton.gov.uk

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APPENDIX 6

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

CONSULTATION MATERIAL (SUMMARY BOOKLET AND RESPONSE FORM)
Growing Together

Consultation on a Neighbourhood Plan for Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge 2015-2029

See inside to find out how to have your say on...

... what happens to YOUR neighbourhood

(... and what doesn’t happen!)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THIS INFORMATION IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE OR ANOTHER FORMAT PLEASE CONTACT PETER STRACHAN ON 075-8181-3137 or email peter.strachan@blackthorncommunity.org.uk
A note from the Chair of Growing Together

What’s this all about?

Growing Together started up in 2012 when the communities of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge were given £1 million by the Lottery. Since then we’ve been busy finding the best ways to spend this money on improving the environment and the quality of life here. *We aren’t a closed group and if you’d like to join us then please get in touch through any of the channels listed on page 6.*

Over the past eighteen months, we have also been working with the Borough Council to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. **None of the Lottery money has been spent on this work.** Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Government in 2011 to give local residents a say in what is and isn’t given planning permission in their neighbourhood. Once approved, a Neighbourhood Plan is part of the planning system and can’t be ignored by the Council. Written by the local community, Neighbourhood Plans are a powerful tool to ensure that we get the right kind of development and in the right place.

We’ve come together with the Police, the voluntary sector (e.g. youth groups, Age UK and the Wildlife Trust) and the Borough Council to create a Neighbourhood Forum to make this happen. Local residents form a clear majority on this Neighbourhood Forum.

We want to ensure that new housing and other developments in the area are to the best designed and most up to date standards. We want to see new opportunities for employment, shopping and community activities for young and old. We want to make it easier for you to get around and between the estates and to travel elsewhere in Northampton and beyond. And we want to bring all this here without losing the open and green environment that characterises the Growing Together estates and that we all enjoy.

We’ve consulted widely to bring together the ideas we’re now sharing with you, but we know that we haven’t reached everyone. So we’re now posting this booklet to every single household in the area so that everyone can tell us whether they think we’ve got it right.

Please have a look at what we’re suggesting for the area on the centre pages and then tell us what you think by completing the questionnaire. You can find out more about the Plan at a number of local events being held over the next few weeks – I look forward to seeing you there!

*Andrea McAuliffe*

*Chair of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum*
How has Growing Together come up with the ideas in the draft Neighbourhood Plan?

The work towards this draft Neighbourhood Plan has been based on finding answers to four key questions:

1. Which spaces in our area should be protected?
2. Which spaces in our area need to be improved?
3. Which spaces in our area need to have a change of purpose?
4. What new things do we want for which we need to find space?

We held several meetings to come up with our thoughts on these questions. Then we took our answers out to test them with the wider community.

- We ran a stall at the Blackthorn Community Centre Fun Day
- We spoke to people using Blackthorn Children’s Centre
- We spent a day talking to people using Lings Forum Sports Centre and Cinema
- We ran a stall in Weston Favell Shopping Centre
- We spoke to people using Emmanuel Church Coffee Shop on days when the Age UK lunch club and the Food Bank were at work

In total we spent 32 hours speaking to local residents at these events and we used their ideas to develop our thinking further and to come up with what you now have.

**This time we’re asking everyone!**
What does the draft Neighbourhood Plan say?

You can download a full copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan from www.growingtogethermn3.org.uk or pick up a printed copy from Blackthorn Community Centre, Brookside Hall, Weston Favell Library or Lings Primary School.

Our Vision

This describes what the Plan will do for the area.

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan will conserve what is best about the existing built and natural environment and will encourage development that contributes to making the area a better place in which to live and work for all residents and businesses.

It will ensure that the area’s network of green spaces, which offer significant educational, health and recreational benefits to the locality, remain the area’s defining characteristic, whilst encouraging development which brings forward quality housing that responds to local need, increased employment opportunities, and a wider range of recreation, retail and community facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan also recognises that the Growing Together area is not an island, and therefore supports development that will enhance the area’s reputation and improve links with the wider community of Northampton and beyond.

The policies

The planning policies suggested by the draft Neighbourhood Plan will be used by Northampton Borough Council when they are making decisions about planning applications. This section summarises what these policies say. You can read them in full in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

High quality design (Policy DES1)

This policy ensures that new developments are designed to the highest standards, giving full consideration to how crime and anti-social behaviour can be discouraged and ensuring that our streets and open spaces are safe, attractive and easily accessible on foot and by bike as well as by car. It sets standards for refuse storage and parking space and requires that all new developments must fit in with the size and spacing of existing buildings.

The policy also protects historical buildings and their settings and preserves the most attractive and important trees so that we keep our leafy natural environment.

We also want developments in the area to start adapting to our changing energy needs and will encourage proposals that build in local generation of sustainable energy.

Housing mix (Policy H1) and Small-scale housing development (Policy H2)

The Plan says that new housing should provide a mix of homes suitable for local people, including the highest possible number of affordable homes. We want the priority to be for more socially rented homes (Council or Housing Association) and we would particularly welcome proposals to build more 1- and 2-bed affordable homes.

We support housing developments of up to 10 homes, so long as they fit in with surrounding properties and don’t reduce the quality of the living environment for existing residents. Developments of this sort could take place on sites such as redundant garage sites and underused open space.
Priority regeneration areas (Policy DEV1)

This policy encourages the conversion of vacant and derelict sites to provide new community facilities and employment opportunities that are suitable for residents of the five estates.

Provision of new community facilities (Policy CO1) and Loss of community facilities (Policy CO2)

We want the Council to support planning applications to create new youth, play or community leisure facilities, so long as they don’t create a nuisance for surrounding homes.

We oppose proposals that take away existing community leisure facilities, unless they are no longer being well used or the developer provides new and better replacement facilities within the area.

Neighbourhood Centres (Policy RE1)

We want to improve the shopping centres at Blackthorn, Goldings and Billing Brook Road. The Plan will protect existing shops and encourage new businesses to move in to make these centres better.

Local Green Spaces (Policy OS1) and Amenity and play space Policy OS2)

The Plan would provide the highest level of protection against development to the most important and best used green spaces in the area: Billing Arbour, Swanhaven Park, Lodge Farm fields, the green space between the Police Station and Penistone Road, the new play area on Bird's Hill Road and its surrounding green area, Lings Wood, Foxcovert Wood, the woodland on Overstone Lane, Blackthorn Recreation Ground and the green space between Blackthorn shops and Community Centre and Blackthorn School.

In addition, we’d require new housing developments to include good quality outdoor spaces as part of their design. This would include private space such as gardens, terraces or balconies, as well as communal gardens and shared play spaces for younger children.

Pedestrian and cycle network (Policy T1)

We’d protect existing foot and cycle paths, except where they are poorly used or unsafe, and would encourage the extension of this network. We’d make sure that new routes around the area were well lit and clearly visible to others so that users feel safe and secure.
What to do now...

It’s easy to have your say. Simply fill out the questionnaire provided on the next page and return in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope.

Alternately, you can return your completed questionnaire to Weston Favell Library, Blackthorn Community Centre or Lings Primary School.

You can download the full Plan from the Growing Together website www.growingtogethernn3.org.uk

Paper copies of the Plan are available at the following local venues:

Blackthorn Community Centre
Brookside Hall
Weston Favell Library

You can comment online at www.growingtogethernn3.org.uk
or via email to growing.together@blackthorncommunity.org.uk

All comments must be received by 27 July 2015

You can drop in, meet Growing Together members and find out more about the draft Plan at the following events:

Blackthorn Community Centre, 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Wednesday 17 June 2015
Lings Primary School, 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Thursday 18 June 2015
Lumbertubs Primary School, 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Wednesday 24 June 2015

or visit our exhibition at Weston Favell Centre on Friday 19 June 2015 from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Next steps

Growing Together will consider all the responses it receives on the draft Neighbourhood Plan before 27 July 2015. We’ll make appropriate changes to the Plan before we submit it to Northampton Borough Council.

Following an independent inspection of the draft Plan, the Council will organise a local referendum at which you can vote for whether or not you want it to become part of the planning system. If a majority of those voting do support it, the Neighbourhood Plan will thereafter be used by Northampton Borough Council in deciding upon planning applications for new development in the Growing Together area.
Questionnaire – Have your say on the draft Plan

You should refer to the draft Neighbourhood Plan in completing this questionnaire. This page can be cut out and returned using the supplied pre-paid envelope.

Have we got it right?

Complete this questionnaire by ticking the boxes next to each policy. Comments can be provided below each question or in the space overleaf.

Please tick the answer which best describes how you feel about each policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Vision Statement**

Comments:

**Policy DES1: High quality design**

Comments:

**Housing policies**

Policy H1: Housing mix
Policy H2: Small-scale housing development

Comments:

**Policy DEV1: Priority development areas**

Comments:

**Community facilities policies**

Policy CO1: Provision of community facilities
Policy CO2: Loss of community facilities

Comments:

**Retail and Neighbourhood Centres**

Policy RE1: Neighbourhood Centres

Comments:

**Open space, play and recreation**

Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces
Policy OS2: Amenity and play space

Comments:

**Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network**

Comments:
Tell us more!

Please use this space to tell us more. You can add another sheet of paper if we haven't given you enough space on this form.

Your details

Important legal note:
All responses to this consultation will be published, as required by law. This means we cannot accept anonymous responses. We won't publish your personal details such as address, e-mail, age and ethnicity.

Your name:

Address:

Email:

Age (please circle): Under 18 18-30 31-45 46-64 65+ Prefer not to say

Ethnicity (please circle): White British Other White Mixed Indian Pakistani/Bangladeshi Black/Black British Other Prefer not to say

Please tick this box if you would like to be kept up to date with the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan (email address required)

CONSULTATION CLOSES ON MONDAY 27 JULY 2015

Pre-submission consultation and publicity of a Neighbourhood Development Plan proposal (Reg. 14, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)
APPENDIX 7

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

GENERAL PUBLIC RESPONSES MATRIX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy / section</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Forum Response (actions in italics)</th>
<th>Changes to Plan?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RE1</td>
<td>Something needs to be done with the old Pub on Goldings. It is an eye sore and encourages drug users.</td>
<td>The Silver Horse Pub is identified as a priority development site in Policy DEV1, which supports it's redevelopment.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>More people would use footpaths if trees and bushes were cut down and they were better lit. Cyclists need to use them as roads today are just not safe for them.</td>
<td>Policy T1 requires new footpaths and cycle ways to benefit from natural surveillance and satisfactory lighting. The matter of maintaining existing vegetation along footpaths will be referred to Northampton Borough Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO1/CO2</td>
<td>More for elderly.</td>
<td>Policy CO1 encourages proposals for educational facilities to cater for all age groups, including the elderly.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Is this another waste of money to.</td>
<td>The matters of maintaining existing vegetation, removing rubbish and repairing pavements will be referred to Northampton Borough Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>A non political orientated person should be in overall charge.</td>
<td>The Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum, who have prepared the draft Plan, is a non-political organisation formed of local people drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area and from different sections of the community.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES1</td>
<td>More eco friendly, carbon negative housing required.</td>
<td>Criterion ‘j’ requires new development to achieve high levels of environmental performance and energy efficiency.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>More 1 and 2 bedroomed flats, less car parking spaces.</td>
<td>1 and 2 bed homes are encouraged by Policy H1. Car parking standards are set by Northamptonshire County Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEV1</td>
<td>Seriously drop the business rates for town centre offices.</td>
<td>Outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO1/CO2</td>
<td>Lack of planning by politicians who don’t understand business.</td>
<td>Outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE1</td>
<td>Lower charge rates per properties. Greater coordination by all concerned.</td>
<td>Outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS1/OS2</td>
<td>More allotments to grow food, trees and shrubs on old middle school sites.</td>
<td>Allotments to be added to Priority Projects list.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>Less cars on the roads please!!!</td>
<td>Policy T1 aims to facilitate increased levels of sustainable movement (walking and cycling) and reduce local reliance on cars.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>The housing policy has to be targeted at the one and two bedroomed flat sector which is where the greatest demand in the town centre. The proposed clearance of Park Campus is completely wrong by a considerable amount of the town’s. Both sites should be kept in existence as a major academic institution for the training of all people. Both sites can be focal points for entrepreneurs not career orientated local politicians like. Employ more “born and bred” Northamptonians, like myself, in the higher NBC positions so that the town centre redevelopment can be fully coordinated and integrated into one homogeneous body. Piece meal is NOT the answer.</td>
<td>1 and 2 bed homes are encouraged by Policy H1. Park Campus is outside of the Neighbourhood Area. Northampton town centre redevelopment falls outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>This is unfair when direct neighbours are not consulted.</td>
<td>The Neighbourhood Plan has been through a number of consultations, including this Regulation 14 consultation, which has provided residents with the opportunity to comment on the Plan’s content. In addition, Northampton Borough Council will carry out consultation on individual planning applications, as detailed in their Statement of Community Involvement (2006), which will allow individuals to comment on specific development proposals.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy / section</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Forum Response (actions in italics)</td>
<td>Changes to Neighbourhood Plan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEV1</td>
<td>This will disrupt and cause problem with some areas like parking etc.</td>
<td>Any application for the redevelopment of these priority development areas will need to demonstrate that their highways and transport impacts are acceptable.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I’ve been informed that the area next to my house between me and No4 is being built on into 6 flats. Now this is a concern to our privacy and will it effect light in our gardens etc. Also it is used for No 5-1 for parking and means we will have no places to park as grass banks in front of properties etc. I asked if grass in front of my house could be made into parking bays and was told no.</td>
<td>Comments on the application should be provided to Northampton Borough Council. <em>Growing Together will provide respondent with contact details for Northampton Borough Council planning department.</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE1</td>
<td>I would like to see Silver Horse knocked down its a eye sore.</td>
<td>The Silver Horse Pub is identified as a priority development site in Policy DEV1, which supports its redevelopment.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES1</td>
<td>Well thought of.</td>
<td>Noted.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO1/CO2</td>
<td>About time something done about the Silver Horse pub disgusting, an eye sore.</td>
<td>The Silver Horse Pub is identified as a priority development site in Policy DEV1, which supports it’s redevelopment.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I have been on to the council since October 2014 about a large Chestnut tree outside our bungalow the problem is we have to have our lights on in kitchen all the summer which is costing us money, also when the tree is moulting we get all the leaves covering the footpaths covered in leaves and the front garden we don’t get any council cleaners brushing or cleaning the paths I use to do it myself but my age is telling on me now, as I am 86 years old. Also referring to the car park around, we have no paving slabs on the kerbs which when we get out the car we have step in mud pot holes when it rains. I wonder if you could spend some of the £1,000,000 pounds you have got for the problems I have wrote about. P.S I think the Silver Horse pub is disgusting to look at about time something should be done about it.</td>
<td>The matters of maintaining existing vegetation and repairing pavements will be referred to Northampton Borough Council. The Silver Horse Pub is identified as a priority development site in Policy DEV1, which supports it’s redevelopment.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Small business’s should be encouraged to move into shopping areas without fear of retribution. Security and safety must be taken into consideration i.e. trees pruned and taken down where necessary i.e. backing onto peoples property.</td>
<td>Policy RE1 supports the introduction of uses which would contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centres, which should in turn help to create safer and more pleasant shopping environments.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>Hope you keep your word.</td>
<td>Noted.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES1</td>
<td>The design is totally wrong.</td>
<td>Comment lacks sufficient detail to properly consider.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>Housing mix not suitable.</td>
<td>Comment lacks sufficient detail to properly consider.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>Housing development poor.</td>
<td>Policy H1 does not specify a precise housing mix, but endorses a flexible approach to housing mix, which takes into account identified housing need and changes in population profile.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEV1</td>
<td>Priority is to clean up all areas.</td>
<td>General maintenance and cleaning of the Plan Area outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO1/CO2</td>
<td>Very poor.</td>
<td>Comment lacks sufficient detail to properly consider.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE1</td>
<td>Rubbish.</td>
<td>Comment lacks sufficient detail to properly consider.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy / section</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Forum Response (actions in <em>italics</em>)</td>
<td>Changes to Neighbourhood Plan?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS1/OS2</td>
<td>Very poor.</td>
<td>Comment lacks sufficient detail to properly consider.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>All areas dangerous and overgrown.</td>
<td><em>The matter of maintaining existing vegetation along footpaths will be referred to Northampton Borough Council.</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>As a homeowner in Nether Jackson Court we are fed up with people driving their vehicles onto the play area. We’ve asked before for a solution i.e. bollards but it falls on deaf ears. When cars are driven over pathways who will pay for broken pipes? Also the trees are overgrown.</td>
<td><em>The matter of maintaining existing vegetation will be referred to Northampton Borough Council, as will the issue of vehicles being driven on the play area at Nether Jackson Court.</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>Small scale housing could be sheltered elderly.</td>
<td>Noted.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>Affordable rented homes for young people in the area who have lived in the area all their lives.</td>
<td>Policy H1 welcomes proposals for small affordable homes.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES1</td>
<td>Would like examples of how this would be met.</td>
<td>Policy DES1 sets out the key design principles new development within the Growing Together area should seek to adhere to. Proposals which fail to meet these requirements can be refused by Northampton Borough Council on the basis of this policy.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>As long as grass areas are a priority.</td>
<td>Only low value / underused open space is deemed potentially suitable for housing development. The wider strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan is to protect and enhance valued green spaces.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEV1</td>
<td>Vacant areas should be developed first before building on grass land.</td>
<td>Only low value / underused open space is deemed potentially suitable for housing development. The wider strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan is to protect and enhance valued green spaces.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO1/CO2</td>
<td>A tennis court would be appreciated in Lings.</td>
<td>New community facilities, including leisure and recreation facilities are identified as priority projects.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RE1</td>
<td>A charity shop would benefit this area.</td>
<td>Policy RE1 supports the introduction of uses which would contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centres.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS1/OS2</td>
<td>Green space must be protected.</td>
<td>Policy OS1 protects the most valued green spaces.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>More lighting on public routes please.</td>
<td>Policy T1 requires new footpaths and cycle ways to benefit from satisfactory lighting.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>We desperately need somewhere safe for teenagers to hang out. The old Silver Horse pub could be turned into a community cafe with upstairs being used as a music room in the evenings for teenagers and during the day for people who can help members of the community e.g. counselors, local officers, alcohol/drug abuse advisers, health visitors, healthy eating on a budget classes etc. Could be staffed voluntarily by unemployed residents to help give work experience to build up CV.</td>
<td>The Silver Horse Pub is identified as a priority development site in Policy DEV1, which supports it’s redevelopment for mixed use development which meet the needs of the local community, with community facilities being considered as one such suitable use. In addition, new community facilities, including education, leisure and recreation facilities are identified as priority projects.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>There are unsafe pathways in Lings that need to sealed off with fencing to prevent crime. I live in South Priors Court, Lings, the 2 exit points into field need sealing off. We have had numerous burglaries in the court and would appreciate this being done.</td>
<td><em>The matter of unsafe pathways will be referred to Northampton Borough Council and the police.</em></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>I disagree with providing affordable housing.</td>
<td>Affordable housing requirements are set at local plan level by Northampton Borough Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy / section</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Forum Response (actions in <em>italics</em>)</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I have lived on several estates on the eastern district and remember the development corporation in 1975 when I moved to Northampton as a 14 year old girl. Everywhere was tidy and green and living by the lake on Lings was so lovely. There were so many places to sit around and a lovely boat painted blue on the other side. It has been left to ruin over the years and the trees and shrubs on the island have been allowed to merge with the land until you can’t see the water. It used to be dredged and cleared but now is a pit for any kind of rubbish. If only the sitting areas on to peoples back gardens were good and functional again and the boat was made good to go and watch the birds again. From the road the sign of swanhaven is mowed and well kept but the real beauty is buried. Make Lings more beautiful again please. The alleys and walkways behind the houses on Lumbertubs are in a dreadful mess. Rubbish and falling down fences, fly tipping and overgrown un-kept shrubbery is make our homes look a mess. The Eastern District has a bad enough reputation as it is. It started off so well. Private landlords should be made to keep the trees and shrubs in check. Quarter croft at Pyramid Close is a great idea and I lived there for a while. Housing of this nature for local young people who work but can’t afford to buy is priority.</td>
<td>The matter of maintaining existing vegetation and clearing rubbish will be referred to Northampton Borough Council. 1 and 2 bed affordable homes are encouraged by Policy H1.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I’d only moved into the area 4 weeks ago and I feel there is nothing for the teens to keep there self out of trouble. The parks are ok just need more active stuff around there are no community centres for the teens just either chilling or activities i.e. dance, arts and crafts and fun days out etc. I’d like my children to be safe and not scared having seen elder children roaming up and down on motorbikes staying out till good knows what time.</td>
<td>New community facilities, including leisure and recreation facilities are identified as priority projects. Policies CO1 and CO2 support both the introduction of new community facilities and the protection of such existing uses.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>There is a pathway running all along the field. The alleyways into North Priors Court and South Priors Court need to be BLOCKED OFF as they have done in Bellinge as it prevents unnecessary crime! PLEASE look into this- ask all residents in these court’s as I’m sure it will be welcomed.</td>
<td>The matter of unsafe pathways will be referred to Northampton Borough Council and the police.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>When my children were small I had a problem to find safe playground for them in my area. Years passed and I still don’t see improvement. The new playgrounds are lovely, but there is no place where the mothers and babies can play. Lack of benches and litters on playgrounds is another issue.</td>
<td>The matters of clearing litter will be referred to Northampton Borough Council. The matter of providing new seating at playground areas will be explored further by Growing Together and respondent contacted to discuss.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I spoke about doing the garden on the green behind Blackthorn Center really good idea. Anything to improve the shopping facilities would be welcomed. The kids need play space somewhere safe, maybe park keepers like we used to have?</td>
<td>Policy RE1 supports the introduction of uses which would contribute to the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centres. The employment of park keepers outside is the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. The potential for a garden on the green is noted.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS1/OS2</td>
<td>Green spaces need to be kept clean to.</td>
<td>The matters of clearing litter and maintaining green spaces will be referred to Northampton Borough Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>I would like to see more and better maintained footpaths by roads so pedestrians do not feel they have walk on the roads, and someone should nag the Council about rubbish collection on a windy day, the whole area becomes one big tip, and some of the planting and trees need a good seeing to.</td>
<td>The matters of maintaining existing vegetation, removing rubbish and repairing pavements will be referred to Northampton Borough Council.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1/H2</td>
<td>Affordable plus socially accessible 1-2 beds.</td>
<td>1 and 2 bed affordable homes are encouraged by Policy H1. Affordable housing includes social rented housing.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 8

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION RESPONSE
17 June 2015

Dear Mr Dade,

Re: Growing Together Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan consultation

Thank you for inviting the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to comment on the above consultation. I can confirm that the MMO has no comments to submit in relation to this consultation.

If you have any questions or need any further information please just let me know. More information on the role of the MMO can be found on our website www.gov.uk/mmo

Yours sincerely,

Susan Davidson
Communications Assistant

Email stakeholder@marinemanagement.org.uk
APPENDIX 9

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

DIRECTORATE OF REGENERATION, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING
(NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL)
RESPONSE
1. Introduction

1.1. This consultation response is provided on behalf of Northampton Borough Council’s Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning.

1.2. Section 2 of this note outlines a recent change to the strategic policy context, with the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. Section 3 provides an update on the progress of CIL which, if adopted, could provide resource to enable the delivery of community infrastructure to support the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Section 4 provides specific comments on the content of the Pre-submission Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

2.1. The ‘basic conditions’ for neighbourhood planning require neighbourhood plans to be prepared in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority.

2.2. In December 2014 the partner authorities of Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council adopted the JCS. The JCS forms a part of the Local Plan for Northampton and sets out the long-term vision, objectives and strategic policies for West Northamptonshire over the plan period to 2029. The adopted version of the Joint Core Strategy is available to download from the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit’s (WNJPU) website www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org.

2.3. The Planning Policy team provided Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum with a review of the Planning Policy context in autumn 2014 (titled “Review of Northampton’s Development Plan”). The Review of Northampton’s Development Plan report included an assessment of the JCS to identify strategic policies. The assessment found that most JCS policies are ‘strategic policies’.

2.4. The Review of Northampton’s Development Plan report anticipated the adoption of the JCS and recommended the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the JCS. Therefore, for the most part, the findings of the review remain relevant and should continue to be referred to in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. Successful Examination of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (CIL)

3.1. Northampton Borough Council prepared a CIL Charging Schedule jointly with its partner authorities in West Northamptonshire. CIL is a new planning charge placed on new development to contribute towards providing the infrastructure needed to support development.

3.2. In May 2015, Northampton’s CIL Draft Charging Schedule was examined (at a joint examination with the partner authorities). In July 2015, the Council published the Examiner’s Report. The examiner recommended that the Charging Schedule be approved. Northampton Borough Council is expected to take a decision on the adoption of CIL in Autumn 2015.

3.3. Part of the funds raised from CIL can be used by local communities to support development within their neighbourhood. In areas with an adopted Neighbourhood Plan (and no Parish or Town Council), Northampton Borough Council has a duty to spend 25% of CIL raised from development in the area in accordance with the community’s priorities. The Review of Northampton’s Development Plan report recommended the Neighbourhood Plan consider identifying the community’s priorities to enable the Council to spend CIL funds effectively. It is noted that the pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan (Chapter 12: Implementation) includes a list of priority projects.

4. Specific comments on content of Pre-Submission Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan (PS GTNP)

4.1. This section provides comments on specific sections and policies in the PS GTNP. The comments are intended to be helpful, to aid in ensuring the PS GTNP is a robust, effective and legally compliant document.

4.2. 1. Introduction (p5) – The first paragraph refers to a number of locations within the Neighbourhood Area. Figure 1 provides a map of the Neighbourhood Area. To aid understanding of the area, all locations referred to in the supporting text should be indicated on the map in figure 1.

4.3. 3. Evidence supporting the plan, Population Profile (p15) – The population profile provides an approximate population figure is provided. It is likely that better quality information about the total population of the area is available in the public domain.

4.4. 3. Evidence supporting the plan, Quality of life issues (p16) – The quality of life section states that the “area consists of 6 Super Output Areas (SOAs)“. Whilst there are 6 SOAs within the Neighbourhood Area, there are 3 additional SOAs which are partly in the Neighbourhood Area.
4.5. **3. Evidence supporting the plan, *Quality of housing and mix* (p18)** – The Quality of Housing and Mix section refers to the Stock Condition Survey 2010. Growing Together should investigate whether more up to date information on the quality of the Neighbourhood Area’s housing stock is available.

4.6. The quality of housing and mix section indicates that Northampton Borough Council remains by far the largest landlord. The management of the Council’s housing stock is now the responsibility of Northampton Partnership Homes.

4.7. **4. Policy context (p21)** – in the heading “West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS)” insert the year the plan was adopted — 2014. The purpose of this change is to help the reader understand that the JCS was recently adopted and likely to be up to date.

4.8. **4. Policy context (p22)** – Replace “Northampton Related Development Area Local Plan” with “Northampton Local Plan Part 2”. The purpose of this change is to avoid confusion over the potential boundary of the forthcoming Local Plan.

4.9. **Policy H2: Small-scale housing development (p33)** – The policy states “Proposals for small-scale housing development (1 – 10 dwellings), will be supported...”. It is not clear whether the reference to “1 – 10 dwellings” is intended as a threshold for applying the policy, or is simply an example of what the plan mean’s by the term “small-scale”.

4.10. **Policy OS1: Local Green Spaces (p41)** – The policy proposes designation of a number of Local Green Spaces. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para. 76) enables local communities through neighbourhood plans to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. The Local Green Space designation is an extremely powerful tool for resisting development. As stated by the NPPF (para. 76), by designating land as Local Green Space local communities rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. This means that Northampton Borough Council will likely be unable to grant planning permission for new development on Local Green Spaces.

4.11. The draft Neighbourhood Plan proposes the designation of a large number of Local Green Spaces. The NPPG\(^1\) indicates that “designating Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area”. Growing Together should ensure it is satisfied that the designation of Local Green Spaces does not undermine the ability to achieve the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole.

4.12. Due to the high level of protection designation offers, the proposed Local Green Spaces should be justified by a robust evidence base. The *Directorate of Regeneration & Enterprise* welcomes the inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices 1 & 2. However the *Directorate* believes that further evidence may be required. Such additional evidence should include:

\(^1\) Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306
• A review of any planning permission granted on proposed Local Green Spaces. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that “Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development”; and

• A detailed analysis of each site, including a review of boundaries and the implications for existing buildings/sites located within or adjoining the proposed Local Green Spaces.

4.13. **8. Next steps and implementation, Working in Partnership (p47)** – The Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning welcomes the addition of the Next Steps and Implementation chapter, which is likely to prove particularly useful in helping the Council and other agencies in understanding local priorities as they interact with the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.14. In principle, the Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning is supportive of the approach to partnership working set out in the Next Steps and Implementation chapter. To avoid confusion the plan should make it clear that the Implementation chapter does not commit the Council and its resources to supporting the policies and proposals in the plan beyond determining planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan, which if ‘made’ will include the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.

4.15. It is suggested that after “The main organisations and the roles that they can play are summarised below” the following sentence be inserted: “This list of organisations reflects local aspirations for partnership working and does not constitute or suggest agreement with those organisations.”

4.16. The second bullet point refers to “Northampton Borough Council – Planning Policy, Development Management, Economic Development, Open Spaces, Recreation and Community Facilities” as a main partner organisation and its roles. To avoid implying commitment to fund or act upon such roles by internal Council teams, the plan should avoid referring to internal teams and roles and list the names of potential main partner organisations.

4.17. **8. Next steps and implementation, Funding (p47)** – The paragraph states that “Funding will be sought from developers through a combination of S106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for infrastructure and local facilities...”. This is potentially misleading about how these different funding sources may be used to fund infrastructure. The phrase “a combination of S106 Agreements and” should be replaced with “either S106 obligations or”.

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2 Paragraph: CC9 Reference ID: 37-009-2014C3C6
5. Conclusions

5.1. Following adoption of the JCS, the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan should ensure its policies achieve general conformity with the JCS, continuing to refer to the *Review of Northampton’s Development Plan* report.

5.2. Following the successful examination of CIL, Northampton Borough Council will take a decision on the adoption of the Charging Schedule later this year. If adopted and where new developments take place in the Neighbourhood Area, CIL would provide a source of funding to support the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.3. Section 4 sets out a number of specific comments on the plan’s policies and content. The most significant of which includes a request for additional evidence to support the designation of Local Green Spaces.

5.4. The *Directorate of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning* congratulates Growing Together on the progress it has made in preparing its Neighbourhood Plan, which presents an effective spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Area.
APPENDIX 10

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

ANGLIAN WATER RESPONSE
Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Growing Together Pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Please find enclosed comments on behalf of Anglian Water which have been submitted via the on-line consultation form. I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this response.

Policy DEV1: Priority Development Areas

It is proposed that three previously developed sites should be redeveloped for a mix of uses.

All brownfield sites which are identified for redevelopment must take the opportunity to completely remove any surface water flows found to be currently discharging to the foul or combined sewerage network. The demolished site should be, where practical, treated as if it was greenfield. Brownfield sites must still follow the surface water management hierarchy to determine whether infiltration techniques or a connection to a watercourse can be utilised prior to the consideration of a connection to a dedicated public surface water sewer where capacity is available. This ensures there is a sustainable drainage strategy for the lifetime of the development and reduces the risk of pollution and flood risk.

Policy DEV1 outlines criteria which will be used to determine planning applications for development on these sites.

However at this stage the precise mix of use(s) which is likely to come forward is currently unknown. Therefore Anglian Water would wish to comment further as part of the planning application process on any proposals which may come forward on these sites.

Regards,

Stewart Patience
Planning Liaison Manager
E-mail: sPatience@anglianwater.co.uk
Office: 01733 414690 Mobile: 07764989051
Thorpe Wood House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6WT
APPENDIX 11

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

NORTHAMPTON HIGHWAYS
(NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)
RESPONSE
#35

Collector:  Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started:  Wednesday, July 15, 2015  4:02:43 PM
Last Modified:  Wednesday, July 15, 2015  4:32:24 PM
Time Spent:  00:29:41
IP Address:  195.195.5.207

Growing Together Draft Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan

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PAGE 1

Q1: Complete this questionnaire by ticking the boxes next to each policy. Comments can be provided in the box below each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Vision Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Northamptonshire Highways support the vision and objective 5 for the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy DES1: High quality design</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Improvement to walking and cycling routes is supported within policy DES1. Bullet h - With regards parking. Generally the points made about parking are supported, however instead of talking about the visual impact of parked vehicles, it would be helpful to consider what type of parking layout/schemes would be acceptable for the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy T1: Pedestrian and cycle network</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q2: Please use this space to tell us more

If you have any queries about the comments I have made on your plan, please contact me.

Penny Mould
Principal Transport Planner
Northamptonshire County Council
01604 364312

Q3: This is a statutory planning consultation. All responses will be published and anonymous responses cannot be accepted, although address and email details will be redacted for publication. If you do not wish to make a comment but would like to be notified of the Council's decision please leave the comments box empty and check the box for question 15, below. If you make no comments, your personal details will be stored on an NBC database which will not be shared with third parties and will not be published as part of the Examination). Please enter your contact details in the boxes below.

Name: Penny Mould
Address: Northamptonshire Highways
Address 2: Riverside House
Address 3: Bedford Road
Post Code: NN1 5NX
Email Address: pmould@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Q4: Please indicate your age range below: Respondent skipped this question

Q5: Please tick the box which most appropriately describes your ethnicity: Respondent skipped this question
| Q6: If you would like to be notified of the Council’s decision, please tick this box. | Please tick this box if you would like to be notified of the Council's decision |
APPENDIX 12

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

PLANNING SERVICES
(NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)
RESPONSE
Q1: Complete this questionnaire by ticking the boxes next to each policy. Comments can be provided in the box below each question.

The Vision Statement Comment: Agree
p26 objective 2 Open Space -enhancement can also include that of the historic environment including information on what has survived and what was there before the area was developed. Further information can be obtained from the County Historic Environment Record.

Policy DES1: High quality design Comment: Agree
p30 Policy DES1 High Quality Design b) Respect and protect local heritage assets and their settings. Heritage assets can also include below ground archaeological remains as detailed in the County Historic Environment Record.

Q2: Please use this space to tell us more

Respondent skipped this question

Q3: This is a statutory planning consultation. All responses will be published and anonymous responses cannot be accepted, although address and email details will be redacted for publication. If you do not wish to make a comment but would like to be notified of the Council's decision please leave the comments box empty and check the box for question 15, below. If you make no comments, your personal details will be stored on an NBC database which will not be shared with third parties and will not be published as part of the Examination). Please enter your contact details in the boxes below.

Name Lesley-Ann Mather
Address Planning Services
Address 2 Guildhall Road
Address 3 Northampton
Post Code NN11AX
Email Address lmather@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Q4: Please indicate your age range below:

Respondent skipped this question

Q5: Please tick the box which most appropriately describes your ethnicity:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6: If you would like to be notified of the Council's decision, please tick this box.

Please tick this box if you would like to be notified of the Council's decision
APPENDIX 13

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RESPONSE
From: Alan Smith [mailto:Alan.Smith@wildlifebcn.org]
To: Emma Arklay
Subject: Feedback from The Wildlife Trust - as at 09/05/16 - RE: Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.
Importance: High

Dear Emma,

Hello there once again. Hope that you are keeping well, and doing just fine, at the present time - and that you also had a great, sunny, weekend too.

Thank you very much indeed for having kindly given me the, extended period of time and, opportunity to, finally !!, review and provide some comments in respect of the above matter and its related geographical site area coverage in the eastern part of Northampton town itself.

Therefore, having now had a look through the relevant report document, entitled “Draft Neighbourhood Plan”, Pre-Submission version, dated June 2015, as prepared on behalf of the Lumbertubs, Blackthorn, Goldings and Lings “Growing Together” Community Groups, please note the following comments:

- On Page 3; in the relevant portion of the “Contents” list shown there: Please note that there are no listings included here for the Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 parts of this same overall report document.

- On Page 7; in the relevant portion of the first full paragraph on this same page: Since this is the first ( ?? ) mention / entry in the overall document that is referring the designated site area at “Lings Wood”, might it also be a good idea here to say that it is a statutorily-designated site - being a Local Nature Reserve ( LNR ) ??

- On Page 41; for the content of the ‘policy box’ itself for “Policy OS1 : Local Green Spaces” : Although I suspect that it may well have something to do with the definition of just what the term “Local Green Space” actually is, but, please note that I am still a bit ‘concerned’ to see that this particular Policy Statement here itself does not currently include any specific reference to wildlife or biodiversity, etc.
- On Page 42; for the relevant content of Figure 17: Can I please just ask why the southern ‘tail’ of the “Lings Wood” LNR site area - the thinner / narrow section which runs all the way down to meet the A4500 Wellingborough Road highway - is not also included in this same Figure 17; shaded-in in green and identified / labelled as a part of the overall No.7 site area ??

- Again on Page 42; for the relevant content of Figure 17: Can I please just ask why the roughly ‘rectangular’ portion of the “Lings Wood” LNR site area, which extends to the westwards to meet the Lings Way highway, about halfway down the ‘northern half’ of the LNR, and immediately adjacent to the south side of the Prentice Court ‘Special Needs School’ site area, is not also included in this same Figure 17; shaded-in in green and identified / labelled as a part of the overall No.7 site area ??

- On Page 45; for the relevant content of Figure 18: As feedback received from my colleague here at The Wildlife Trust, Jane Pearman, who is the Northants County Nature Reserves Manager, please note the following points :

  ➢ For the dark-blue coloured dashed-line symbol, which is depicting the “Possible pedestrian links / cycle path upgrades :

  ▶ For the portion / length of this possible route that runs down the eastern side of the “Lings Wood” LNR site area, entering it from the northern end, and then turns and cuts across the ‘middle’ of the LNR in a roughly ‘south-westerly’ direction, then please note that this is on, part of, an existing surfaced and lit ( circular ) pathway anyway.

  ▶ For the portion / length of this possible route that continues on ‘southwards’, down through the southern ‘tail’ of the “Lings Wood” LNR site area, then please note that this is likely to be on an existing muddy, un-surfaced and un-lit, fairly narrow ( and with several protruding tree roots too ) route.

  ▶ Please note that, if the dark-blue coloured dashed-
On Page 51; for the statements made at the bottom of the same page here; ‘underneath’ the content of the Table included as Appendix 1 to this report document: Please note that I am afraid that I do not think that these remarks are correct - and / or that there has been some ‘confusion’ concerning the sizes of the various site areas. For instance, the site known as “Billing Arbours” measures 9.07 hectares in overall area size; and this is an area size which is equivalent to 22.41 acres ( when converted ). Therefore, I recommend that the area sizes and the area units ( conversion calculations ) for all of the identified sites illustrated on Figure 17, on Page 42, and as listed in this same Table in Appendix 1, should be re-visited - and then the wording of these same statements at the bottom of Page 51 should be re-considered.

On Page 52; for the entries in the relevant Column Headings for the content of the Table included as Appendix 2 to this report document: Can I please just ask what the asterisk suffixes are meant to be denoting on the headings for “Site ID”, Open space type”, “Hectares”, “Quality %” and “Accessibility %” ?

On Pages 52 through to 56, inclusive; for the relevant content of the Table included as Appendix 2 to this same report document, please now note the following points:

- Billing Arbour is all designated as a Local Wildlife Site ( LWS ) too.
- Swanhaven Park includes at is northern end, for the lake area immediately to the east of Billing Arbour, an ex-LWS area, which is currently a “No Status” site area, and also includes at its southern end, for the lake area just to the north of the Northampton Academy main buildings, a Potential Wildlife Site ( PWS ) area too.
- Lings Wood ( the ‘extended’ footprint area for it !! ) is not only designated as an LNR, but the same footprint as that is also a LWS area too; and, furthermore, the majority of the
Growing Together Consultation Statement

➢ Foxcovert Wood is a PWS area.

Emma, I do hope that the above feedback and observations on behalf of The Wildlife Trust can still prove to be of some interest and use to you, and any other relevant colleagues within NBC, in respect of the above same matter.

If you do have any questions about any of the above items, then, of course, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Many Thanks & all the best,

Alan.

Alan Smith
Planning and Biodiversity Officer

Direct line: 01604 774046
Office: 01604 405285

Tweet: @wildlifebcn
Like: www.facebook.com/wildlifebcn
Visit: www.wildlifebcn.org

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Lings House, off Lings Way
Billing Lings
Northampton
NN3 8BE
United Kingdom

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire works to make our three counties a place where nature matters, where wildlife can flourish and enrich the lives of the people who live here: with your help we care for local wildlife. Ninety five per cent of the local population live within five miles of one of our 126 reserves and contributions of time or money will directly benefit local wildlife www.wildlifebcn.org
APPENDIX 14

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESPONSE
Dear Emma

Growing Together Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan consultation (Reg. 14)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Growing Together Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan and associated Screening Report for the SEA / HRA.

We have reviewed the information submitted and consider the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, which comprises the communities of Blackthorpe, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lingswood Park, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge, is unlikely to result in significant environmental impacts.

As the plan is required to be in general conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, we do not consider that we are able to provide you with further advice at this stage until we are consulted on individual planning applications by your Authority. However, we can offer the following comments which may be of use.

Plan Area Constraints

Flooding Risk

The Plan area falls mostly within Flood Zone 1, defined by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) as having a low probability of flooding. Drainage from new development must not increase flood risk either on-site or elsewhere. Government policy strongly encourages a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) approach to achieve these objectives. Guidance on how to address specific local surface water flood risk issues may also be available through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment or Surface Water Management Plans produced by your Authority.

A small area falls within Flood Zone 3, defined by the PPG as having a high probability of flooding. Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

All development proposals in this zone should be accompanied by a flood risk

Environment Agency
Nene House, (Pytchley Lodge Industrial Estate),
Pytchley Lodge Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6JQ
Email: planning.kettering@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Our ref: AN/2012/114000/SE- 01/DS1-L01
Your ref:
Date: 11 March 2016
Prior to investing resources in completing a FRA, applicants are advised to contact the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and discuss how the flood risk Sequential Test as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will affect the proposed development. It is possible that the development will be inappropriate and be refused planning permission irrespective of any FRA.

There are no main rivers within the Neighbourhood area of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs. The Billing Brook runs through area however it is classified as a non main river at this location.

A flood map is available for the Billing Brook as we produce flood maps for main rivers and non main watercourses where the catchment is greater than 3km. The flood map can be viewed on Figure E-49 of the West Northamptonshire Strategic Flocc Risk Assessment (http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/gf2.ti/f/278178/6412997.1/pdf/-/sfra_l1_v1.pdf) or our website at ‘what’s in your backyard?’.

Non main rivers and surface water drainage are now the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in this case Northamptonshire County Council. It is recommended that LLFA is consulted on this Neighbourhood plan.

The Neighbourhood Area extends into the reservoir breach area of the Overstone Reservoir. Reservoir maps can also be viewed on ‘what’s in your backyard’.

We would recommend that future developments consider space for water and roll back development from all watercourses (main and non-main rivers). Naturalisation of any watercourse is also promoted for example removal of sections which are culverted.

**Surface Water Drainage**

The Neighbourhood Area borders critical drainage area within Boothville and Western Favell see Figure F-1 of the Northampton SFRA level 2 (http://www.westnorthamptonshirejpu.org/gf2.ti/f/278178/6369637.1/pdf/-/5_northampton_level2_SFRA.pdf).

Approved Document Part H of the Building Regulations 2000 establishes a hierarchy for surface water disposal, which encourages a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) approach. Under Approved Document Part H the first option for surface water disposal should be the use of SuDS, which encourage infiltration such as soakaways or infiltration trenches. In all cases, it must be established that these options are feasible, can be adopted and properly maintained and would not lead to any other environmental problems. For example, using soakaways or other infiltration methods on contaminated land carries groundwater pollution risks and may not work in areas with a high water table. Where the intention is to dispose to soakaway, these should be shown to work through an appropriate assessment carried out under Building Research Establishment (BRE) Digest 365. Second tier is discharge to water course. Only if infiltration and connection to watercourse are not possible should discharge to sewer be considered.

Table 5-7 of the Northampton SFRA level 2 states “Attenuation SuDS techniques should be considered at an early stage in the site layout process to ensure that it can be accommodated on site”.

Further information on SUDS can be found in:
- Northampton SFRA Level 2 chapter 9 and Section 12.5.3 to 12.5.22.
- CIRIA C522 document Sustainable Drainage Systems-design manual for
England and Wales

- CIRIA C697 document SuDS manual
- the Interim Code of Practice for Sustainable Drainage Systems. The Interim Code of Practice provides advice on design, adoption and maintenance issues and a full overview of other technical guidance on SuDS.

**Preliminary Opinion**

We are able to provide a free preliminary opinion to a developer/applicant per site. This will outline our position and highlights any key environmental risks that we are concerned about as a statutory consultee and provide developers with an idea of what we would expect to receive within a planning application.

**Charged Service for Planning Advice**

If further bespoke advice is required outside of a formal planning application then this will form part of our charged for planning advice service. Please note that this response is based on the information provided at this time and if this changes in the future we would need to consider our position again. We trust that the above information is of assistance.

If you would like to discuss our response further, or would like more information about our charged for planning advice service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Kerrie Ginns**

**Sustainable Places - Planning Adviser**

Direct dial 02030253304
Direct e-mail kerrie.ginns@environment-agency.gov.uk

Awarded to the Environment, Planning and Engagement Department, Lincolnshire & Northamptonshire
APPENDIX 15

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY
(NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)
RESPONSE
Dear Emma Arklay

Re: Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for consulting the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) on the above named plan.

As the LLFA, we do not have any specific comments or concerns regarding the plan, however the following advice and guidance can be provided.

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their Neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. Communities can also ensure that new development adequately plans for flood risk. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community.

A Neighbourhood plan should therefore incorporate evidence from the community to provide safe, sensible and sustainable development that manages and reduces flooding by;

1. Providing local knowledge about historic local flooding, the areas affected, source of flooding, depth and duration. Allowing mitigation measures to be included within future development proposals.

2. An assessment of local flood risk should be carried out for the Neighbourhood Plan area. The relevant Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should be the primary source of flood risk information in considering whether particular Neighbourhood planning areas may be appropriate for any type of future development, redevelopment or regeneration.

3. Other important sources of information include the interactive flood maps and advice and guidance provided on the Northamptonshire Flood Toolkit.

Flood and Water Management
Planning Policy
County Hall, Room 271
The Gulchall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Tel: 01604 366014
Our ref: GT NF
Your ref: N/A
Date: 27.4.16
It is important that the correct consents and permissions are obtained before any works or improvements are made to any water bodies within the Neighbourhood Plan area. If a watercourse is disturbed it can cause flood problems. Therefore ensuring the correct consent and permission is obtained will mean the flood risk has been assessed. More information can be found at: http://www.floodtoolkit.com/planning/consenting/

When considering community infrastructure in relation to flooding, the following should be considered:

- Whether the infrastructure in the community is sufficient in the event of a flood, and to what flood event extent. For example flooding may be acceptable for a highway if it only connects to a recreation field, but the highway leading to a school should be far more resilient.
- Have plans been made for inspection and maintenance of water courses within the area? (in line with riparian rights and responsibilities)?
- Is there a highway gully inspection or gully watch regime to ensures a robust reporting mechanism is in place?
- Is there a community flood warden and Emergency Flood Plan in place? and have they had any training?
- Is there a flood store in the neighbourhood? If not would the community benefit from one?

**Community Emergency Flood Plans**

A Community Emergency Flood Plan is a tool that can be used to help the community prepare for the emergencies. The Plan should be undertaken by the community and coordinated by a community Flood Warden. More information on how to produce a Community Emergency Flood Plan and what should be included can be found [here](#).

Householders who are aware that they are in an area at risk of flooding should also have a Household Flood Plan to set out the best emergency actions. It should include who does what when flooding is forecast and emergency contact numbers.

**New Development**

Flood risk management basically interacts with spatial planning in two main ways:

1. Using the planning system to avoid locating unnecessary new development in areas of high flood risk.
2. Mitigating the surface water run-off impacts of new development on downstream areas through planning policies.

Specific policy relating to flood and water management in Northamptonshire is set out in our [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#). The county council is developing local standards for sustainable drainage design in Northamptonshire to complement national guidance. In the mean time, see our [Surface Water Drainage Guidance](#) for more information.

Yours sincerely,

Josie Bateman
Flood and Water Manager
Northamptonshire County Council
APPENDIX 16

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

HISTORIC ENGLAND RESPONSE
Dear Emma,

Thanks for your call earlier – I called back but couldn’t get hold of you. I’ve taken a look at the plan and can confirm that Historic England has no comments.

Best regards,

Clive
APPENDIX 17

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

NATURAL ENGLAND
RESPONSE
Date: 27th July 2015
Our ref: 156718

Edward Dade
Senior Planning Officer
Northampton Borough Council
BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Edward

Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan (Pre-submission) and SEA/HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 15th June 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance¹. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance 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.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals/allocations contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies/proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.
Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Natural England is in agreement with the conclusion of the screening report in relation to HRA as the location and scale of development included within the plan would not represent a likely significant effect to any European Site.

The main policies requiring consideration are H2: small scale housing development and Dev 1: priority development areas which are considered in relation to the potential for increased recreational disturbance at the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA. As stated in the HRA report these policies do not allocate sites for development but do none the less promote residential development within the plan area and steer it towards certain locations. Given the relatively small scale of residential development that would be promoted and its distance to the SPA Natural England considers it unlikely the plan would contribute significantly to recreational pressure within the SPA. The closest part of the plan area is approx. 2.4km from the nearest entrance point to the SPA. The results of a visitor access study to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA indicate that a development of 100 houses at 2km from the site would generate 0.3 additional visits per day. The majority of the plan area is over 3km from the SPA and the access study concludes that visitor rates are very low beyond this distance.

We note that the HRA relies on the conclusion of the West Northants Joint Core Strategy HRA as any residential development promoted by the plan would fall within the housing numbers within the Northampton Related Development Area promoted by the Core Strategy. We would caution against over reliance on the HRA for this higher tier plan for two reasons. Firstly the JCS HRA assessed housing numbers across the NRDA (as well as SUEs) which included a significant element of uncertainty in the eventual locations for much of the housing which means that lower tier plans or planning applications introducing housing close to the SPA could still result in a likely significant effect. Secondly significant new evidence in the form of a visitor access study of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA has been produced since the completion of the JCS HRA which changes our understanding of issues such as how far residents are likely to travel to visit the SPA.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Ross Holdgate on 0300 060 4657. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ross Holdgate

Essex, Herts, Beds, Cambs and Northants Area Team.
APPENDIX 18

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION:

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE
(CRIME PREVENTION DESIGN OFFICER)
Peter,

Firstly apologies for not submitting these comments prior to yesterday’s meeting and I hope that they are not too late. I have read the document and am very pleased to see some very sound crime prevention focussed policies in the Neighbourhood Plan – especially DES1. I did note something in policy OS2 which I have some concerns about.

Often developers provide no private space for houses with doors leading straight from a communal parking area into the building. They suggest that by putting a square of grass in one corner of said parking area that that constitutes a shared residential amenity space. I would therefore suggest that the policy is reworded to state that new residential development should provide good quality outdoor amenity space in the form of private gardens including roof gardens, terraces or balconies. Shared communal amenity space should only be allowed around blocks of flats where it is private to the block and is provided as a buffer for ground floor residents. A lot of the issues we have across the town is due to the inappropriate use of communal space which is not private to a specific user.

It does state in the ‘intent’ that this policy is seeking to provide adequate private amenity space but the actual wording allows for ambiguity and experience of dealing with big volume housebuilders would indicate there should be nothing ambiguous to provide a loop hole.

Sharon

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