

Growing Together
Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

JULY 2016



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this Basic Conditions Statement is to demonstrate how the proposed Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and satisfies other legal requirements.

1.2 There are five basic conditions that are relevant to a neighbourhood plan. In summary, the basic conditions are:

- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area;
- The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and
- Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

1.3 In summary, the legal requirements are:

- The plan is submitted by a qualifying body;
- The neighbourhood plan sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land;
- The neighbourhood plan states the period in which it is to have effect;
- The policies do not relate to excluded development; and
- The neighbourhood plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area.

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Qualifying Body

2.1 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Growing Together, the designated Neighbourhood Forum for the Growing Together Boroughs Neighbourhood Area. On 11 September 2013, Northampton Borough Council formally designated the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area.

Policies for the development and use of land

2.2 All planning policies in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development or use of land and are intended to be used in the determination of planning applications.

2.3 The following policies are plan-wide policies, applicable to the whole of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Area:

- DES1: High quality design
- H1: Housing mix
- H2: Small-scale housing development
- DES1: High quality design
- CO1: Provision of community facilities
- COS2: Loss of community facilities
- OS2: Outdoor amenity space
- T1: Movement and connections

2.4 The following policies are area-based policies and apply to specific locations within the Growing Together Neighbourhood Area:

- DEV1: Priority development areas
- RE1: Neighbourhood centres
- OS1: Local Green Spaces

Plan Period

2.5 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2016 to 2029, as indicated both within section '1 Introduction' of the Plan and also on its front cover. This period has been chosen to align with that of the recently adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS).

Excluded development

2.6 The policies of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan do not relate to excluded development

including county matters (such as mineral extraction and waste development) or Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. Key stakeholders have been consulted during plan preparation process. No respondents objected to the plan in relation to excluded development.

Neighbourhood Area

2.7 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan relates to the designated Growing Together Neighbourhood Area. The plan does not relate to any other Neighbourhood Area.

3 REGARD TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND ADVICE

3.1 The basic conditions require Neighbourhood Plans to have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

3.2 A review of Northampton's Development Plan has been undertaken and is presented as a technical evidence base report alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. The report discussed key issues arising from national policy including the presumption in favour of sustainable development and core planning principles. This review of the policy context directly informed the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum sought advice and direct support from planning professionals including Planning Aid England, Northampton Borough Council and a professional planning consultant.

3.3 The Neighbourhood Plan is positively prepared, reflecting the presumption in favour of sustainable development, but it also seeks to manage development pressures to ensure that, in addition to economic considerations, reasonable environmental and social considerations are taken into account.

Building a strong, competitive economy (NPPF Paragraphs 18 to 22)

3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan pro-actively encourages sustainable economic growth through policy DEV1, which supports development which would provide local employment.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres (NPPF Paragraphs 23 to 27)

3.3 Policy RE1 of the Neighbourhood Plan supports the vitality and viability of the neighbourhood centres. It encourages the progression of proposals which would further contribute to the vitality and viability of the local centres, and resists the loss of existing retail floorspace. It also seeks to ensure that any retail development outside of these local centres is not detrimental to their vitality and viability.

Promoting sustainable transport (NPPF Paragraphs 29 to 41)

3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan promotes the use of sustainable transport. Specifically, policies DES1 and T1 support improvements to and the expansion of the existing pedestrian and cycle network.

Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes (NPPF Paragraphs 47 to 55)

3.5 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of housing-focused policies, which together encourage the development of a wide choice of high quality homes and a sustainable, inclusive and mixed community. Policy H1 encourages the provision of a mix of homes, identifying affordable housing and smaller (1 and 2 bed) dwellings as local priorities.

3.6 Policy H2 positively supports the introduction of small-scale housing development on previously developed sites and on low value, underutilised open space.

3.7 Elsewhere, policy DEV1 identifies the potential for new housing development to be accommodated on some of the Neighbourhood Area's most prominent previously developed sites.

Requiring good design (NPPF Paragraphs 56 to 68)

3.8 The Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of good design. Policy DES1 provides a positive framework for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all development, which will help to establish a strong sense of place and contribute to the creation of a well-functioning, visually attractive, safe and accessible environment.

Promoting healthy communities (NPPF Paragraphs 69 to 78)

3.9 A range of Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to ensure that Growing Together is a healthy, inclusive community. Policies DES1 and T1 promote improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, which will help to encourage people to use these active forms of transportation.

3.10 Policies DEV1 and CO1 support the provision of new community facilities, including those which offer opportunities for sports, recreation and leisure, whilst Policy CO2 seeks to ensure that such existing uses are retained.

3.11 The value of outdoor amenity space to promoting healthy communities is recognised by Policies OS1 and OS2. Policy OS1 protects the most valued and well-used outdoor recreation spaces within the Neighbourhood Area, and Policy OS2 requires new housing development to provide outdoor amenity space to meet the needs of new residents, and to retain existing amenity space which provides opportunities for leisure and recreation.

Meeting the challenge of climate change (NPPF Paragraphs 93 to 108)

3.12 Policy DES1, specifically criterion 'j', supports development which achieves high levels of environmental performance and energy efficiency, and encourages the progression of small scale home energy generation.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (NPPF Paragraphs 109 to 125)

3.13 Policy OS1 seeks to conserve and enhance the local natural environment by protecting valued green space and supports proposals which would enhance biodiversity within these spaces.

Plan making - Neighbourhood Plans (NPPF Paragraphs 183 to 185)

3.14 The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the evidence base and the policies reflect the guidance and advice contained in relevant section of the NPPF.

4 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal. However, the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan has been drafted to conform with the adopted WNJCS, for which a sustainability appraisal has been carried out to help deliver sustainable development to Northampton (and West Northamptonshire). This section of the Statement demonstrates how the Plan fulfils the basic condition that the plan contributes to achieving sustainable development.

4.2 The NPPF identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Each of these dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- **an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.3 The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of the above economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development as follows:

- Contributes to a strong and competitive economy

by identifying suitable previously developed sites for business development (Policy DEV1) and through supporting the viability and vitality of the local centres (Policy RE1).

- Plans positively for further housing development to meet the needs of present and future generations (Policies H1 and H2).
- Supports the provision of services and facilities which meets the community’s needs and which can enhance its health, social and cultural well-being (Policies CO1 and CO2).
- Promotes the improvement and expansion of the existing pedestrian and cycle network (Policies DES1 and T1) to encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport and to enhance connectivity across the Neighbourhood Area and accessibility to local facilities.
- Supports the creation of a high quality, well-connected built environment through good design (Policy DES1).
- Encourages high environmental performance and energy efficiency from new development in response to climate change (Policy DES1), and seeks to protect and enhance the local natural environment through the designation of a number of Local Green Spaces of biodiversity value (Policy OS1).

4.4 Furthermore, the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan are expressed in a positive manner which is compatible with the presumption in favour of sustainable development that is at the heart of the NPPF.

5 CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC POLICIES

West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy

5.1 Throughout the development of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan constant care has been taken to ensure that it is in general conformity with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS) and the relevant Saved Policies from the 1997 Local Plan. The following section summarises the extent to which the policies of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan.

5.2 Prior to work commencing on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan policies, the Planning Policy team at Northampton Borough Council 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 identified those strategic policies with which the Neighbourhood Plan must achieve “general conformity”, and also explored the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan and other documents which comprise Northampton’s Development Plan. The assessment found that most WNJCS policies are ‘strategic policies’.

5.3 The Review of Northampton’s Development Plan report anticipated the adoption of the WNJCS and recommended the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the WNJCS. Therefore, for the most part, though the report was prepared before adoption of the WNJCS, the findings of the review remain relevant. A summary of the relationship between the WNJCS and Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, is provided in the table below.

Policy Ref	Policy Title	Strategic Policy? (Y/N)	Directly affects Growing Together
SA	Presumption in favour of sustainable development	Y	✓
S1	The Distribution of Development	Y	✓
S2	Hierarchy of centres	Y	✓
S3	Scale and Distribution Of Housing Development	Y	✓
S4	Northampton Related Development Area	Y	✓
S5	Sustainable Urban Extensions	Y	✓
S6	Monitoring and Review	Y	

S7	Provision of Jobs	Y	✓
S8	Distribution of Jobs	Y	✓
S9	Distribution of Retail Development	Y	✓
S10	Sustainable Development Principles	Y	✓
S11	Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	Y	✓
C1	Changing Behaviour and Achieving Modal Shift	Y	✓
C2	New Developments	Y	✓
C3	Strategic Connections	Y	✓
C4	Connecting Urban Areas	Y	✓
C5	Enhancing local and neighbourhood connections	Y	✓
C6	High Speed Rail 2	N	
RC1	Delivering Community Regeneration	Y	✓
RC2	Community Needs	Y	✓
E1	Existing Employment Areas	Y	✓
E2	New Office Floorspace	Y	✓
E3	Technology Realm, SEMLEP Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone	Y	
E4	Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT)	Y	
E5	Silverstone Circuit	Y	
E6	Education, Skills and Training	Y	✓
E7	Tourism, Visitor and Cultural Industries	Y	✓
E8	Northampton Junction 16 Strategic Employment Site	Y	
H1	Housing Density and Mix and Type of Dwellings	Y	✓
H2	Affordable Housing	Y	✓
H3	Rural Exception Sites	Y	
H4	Sustainable Housing	Y	✓
H5	Managing the Existing Housing Stock	Y	✓
H6	Gypsies, Travellers And Travelling Showpeople	Y	✓
BN1	Green Infrastructure Connections	Y	✓
BN2	Biodiversity	Y	✓
BN3	Woodland Enhancement And Creation	Y	✓
BN4	Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area	Y	
BN5	The Historic Environment	Y	✓
BN6	Weedon Depot	Y	
BN7a	Water Supply, Quality and Wastewater Infrastructure	Y	✓
BN7	Flood Risk	Y	✓
BN8	The River Nene Strategic River Corridor	Y	✓
BN9	Planning for Pollution Control	Y	✓
BN10	Ground Instability	Y	✓
INF1	Approach To Infrastructure Delivery	Y	✓
INF2	Contributions To Infrastructure Requirements	Y	✓
N1	The Regeneration of Northampton	Y	✓
N2	Northampton Central Area	Y	
N3	Northampton North SUE	Y	✓
N4	Northampton West SUE	Y	
N5	Northampton South SUE	Y	
N6	Northampton South Of Brackmills SUE	Y	

N7	Northampton Kings Heath SUE	Y	
N8	Northampton North Of Whitehills SUE	Y	
N9	Northampton Upton Park SUE	Y	
N9A	Northampton Norwood Farm/ Upton Lodge SUE	Y	
N10	Convenience Shopping needs Outside Northampton Town Centre	Y	
N11	Supporting Areas Of Community Regeneration	Y	✓
N12	Northampton's Transport Network Improvements	Y	✓
D1	The Regeneration Of Daventry Town	Y	
D2	Daventry Town Centre	Y	
D3	Daventry North East Sustainable Urban Extension	Y	
D4	Supporting Areas Of Community Regeneration: Southbrook	Y	
D5	Daventry's Transport Network Improvements	Y	
T1	Spatial Strategy For Towcester	Y	
T2	The Town Centre And Moat Lane Regeneration Area	Y	
T3	Towcester South Sustainable Urban Extension	Y	
T4	Transport Improvements For Towcester	Y	
T5	Towcester Racecourse	Y	
B1	Spatial Strategy For Brackley	Y	
B2	Brackley East Sustainable Urban Extension	Y	
B3	Brackley North Sustainable Urban Extension	Y	
B4	Transport Improvements For Brackley	Y	
R1	Spatial Strategy For The Rural Areas	Y	
R2	Rural Economy	Y	
R3	A Transport Strategy for The Rural Areas	Y	

5.4 The below assessment explores the extent to which the policies of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan.

Does the NP policy achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan?		
NP Policy	Relevant strategic policies from WNJCS	How the policy achieves general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan
DES1: High Quality Design	<p>Policy SA: Presumption in favour of sustainable development</p> <p>Policy S10: Sustainable Development Principles</p> <p>Policy S11: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy</p> <p>Policy N11: Supporting Areas of Community Regeneration</p>	<p>WNJCS Policy SA reflects the NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of achieving sustainable development through Policy DES1, which sets out a number of sustainable development and design principles (the NPPF recognises good design as a key aspect of sustainable development), which all new development should achieve.</p> <p>The principles contained in Policy DES1 complement those Sustainable Development Principles contained in WNJCS Policy S10.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy S11 promotes the provision of low carbon and renewable energy. Criterion 'j' of Policy DES1 complements WNJCS Policy S11, providing a local interpretation to address specific issues affecting the Growing Together neighbourhood.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy N11 includes a number of key principles for the community regeneration of Northampton East. Neighbourhood Plan Policy DES1 provides detail on how some of those principles should be applied to the Growing Together neighbourhood.</p>

Does the NP policy achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan?		
NP Policy	Relevant strategic policies from WNJCS	How the policy achieves general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan
H1: Housing Mix	<p>Policy S1: The distribution of development</p> <p>Policy S3: Scale and distribution of housing development</p> <p>H1: Housing density and mix and type of dwellings</p> <p>H2: Affordable housing</p>	<p>WNJCS Policy S1 concentrates new development, and specifically housing development (through Policy S3) to locations in and adjoining Northampton’s urban area. Policy H1 identifies Growing Together as a location for new residential development and sets out specific local housing needs.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy H1 requires new developments to provide for a mix of house types, sizes and tenures, which cater for a variety of accommodation needs. Neighbourhood Plan Policy H1 prioritises proposals which contribute to rebalancing the housing stock to ensure Growing Together offers a range of dwelling types, sizes and tenures, specifically encouraging small affordable units.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy H2 requires development proposals which exceed a threshold of 15 or more units to provide affordable housing of at least a 35% proportion of the total number of dwellings to be delivered on the site. Neighbourhood Plan Policy H1 encourages proposals which provide affordable housing, but does not alter the policy requirement set out by WNJCS Policy H2.</p>
H2: Small-scale housing development	<p>Policy S1: The distribution of development</p> <p>Policy S3: Scale and distribution of housing development</p> <p>N1: The regeneration of Northampton</p>	<p>WNJCS Policy S1 identifies that new development will be concentrated primarily in and adjoining the principal urban area of Northampton, whilst Policy S3 identifies Northampton Borough for 18,870 net additional new dwellings. Policy H2 identifies opportunities for new small-scale housing development within the Growing Together area and will enable new housing development.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy N1 recognises the opportunity for new housing development within the existing urban area through urban capacity infill, an approach which is endorsed and expanded upon within Policy H2 through the identification of specific types of sites which could accommodate small-scale housing development.</p>

Does the NP policy achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan?		
NP Policy	Relevant strategic policies from WNJCS	How the policy achieves general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan
DEV1: Priority development areas	<p>Policy S1: The distribution of development</p> <p>Policy S4: Northampton Related Development Area</p> <p>RC1: Delivering Community Regeneration</p> <p>E6: Education, Skills and Training</p> <p>N11: Supporting areas of community regeneration</p>	<p>WNJCS Policy S1 identifies that new development will be concentrated primarily in and adjoining the principal urban area of Northampton. Policy DEV1 identifies three previously developed sites within the Growing Together area that could accommodate new development.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy S4 states that Northampton’s housing and employment needs will be met primarily within Northampton’s existing urban area and at the sustainable urban extensions within the Northampton Related Development Area. Policy DEV1 acknowledges Growing Together’s position within the Northampton Related Development Area and supports the intentions of Policy S4 by enabling opportunities for new housing and employment development within the neighbourhood plan area.</p> <p>Policy DEV1 Seeks to bring three derelict sites back into use, for purposes which would meet the needs of the local population and promote the regeneration of the Growing Together area, in line with the overarching aims of WNJCS Policy RC1.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy E6 encourages the development of new educational facilities at sites which are accessible by sustainable transport modes. Policy DEV1 presents opportunities for the development of such educational facilities through the identification of three previously developed sites that are accessible via sustainable transport modes and which are suited to educational (D1) uses.</p> <p>WNJCS Policy N11 supports the regeneration of Northampton East, and identifies the provision of quality local recreational facilities and the creation of local opportunities for employment and business development as key principles of delivering inclusive, sustainable communities. Policy DEV1 identifies specific sites which would be suitable for the provision of new local recreational facilities and local employment / business development.</p>
CO1: Provision of community facilities	RC2: Community Needs	WNJCS Policy RC2 relates to the provision of community facilities. Policy CO1 supports the provision of new or improved community facilities, and provides details of the types of community facilities which would particularly address local needs.
CO2: Loss of community facilities	RC2: Community Needs	Policy CO2 resists the loss of existing community facilities, an approach which is consistent with the steer of WNJCS Policy RC2.
RE1: Neighbourhood centres	S2: Hierarchy of centres	The Weston Favell Centre, which is located adjacent to the Neighbourhood Area boundary, is identified as a “District Centre” by WNJCS Policy S2. Policy RE1 seeks to maintain and enhance the role of the Weston Favell Centre by resisting development outside of existing retail areas.

Does the NP policy achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan?		
NP Policy	Relevant strategic policies from WNJCS	How the policy achieves general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan
OS1: Local Green Spaces	RC2: Community Needs BN2: Biodiversity BN3: Woodland enhancement and creation	WNJCS Policy RC2 resists the loss of existing areas of open space, unless it can be demonstrated that the space is surplus or little used. Policy OS1 reflects this steer towards retaining open space, focusing on those local open spaces which are demonstrably special to the local community and have a particular local significance, and seeks to protect them from inappropriate development through designation as Local Green Spaces. Policy OS1 identifies a number of spaces of biodiversity value and areas which are formed of existing woodland, and seeks to protect and enhance these spaces in accordance with WNJCS Policies BN2 and BN3.
OS2: Outdoor amenity space	H4: Sustainable Housing	WNJCS Policy H1 supports the provision of housing which meets the needs of older people and vulnerable groups. Through requiring the provision of good quality amenity space within new residential developments, Policy OS2 helps to ensure that future residents, regardless of their age or mobility can access outdoor amenity space.
T1: Pedestrian and cycle network	C2: New Developments C5: Enhancing Local and Neighbourhood Connections Policy N12: Northampton's Transport Network Improvement's	Policy T1 seeks to protect and add to the existing pedestrian and cycle network found within the Growing Together area and identifies possible upgrades and new links, reflecting the steer of WNJCS Policies C5 and N12 which promote improvements to cycling and walking networks. WNJCS Policy C2 requires new development to maximise travel choices from non-car modes, an approach which is supported by Policy T1, which supports proposals which would add to or improve the existing network of cycle routes and footpaths.

Northampton Local Plan 1997 (Saved Policies)

5.5 The Northampton Local Plan was adopted in 1997. A number of the policies were 'saved' in 2007 to ensure they remained part of the development plan and could continue to be used in determining planning applications. Other policies were not saved and ceased to have effect after 2007.

5.6 Many of those policies originally saved in 2007 have subsequently been replaced following the adoption of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Northampton Central Area Action Plan.

5.7 Northampton Borough Council's Planning Policy team have recently commenced work on the

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2). This document will make site allocations and include Development Management policies. Once adopted, the document will replace the remaining Saved Policies of the Local Plan 1997.

5.8 Since the Northampton Local Plan 1997 was adopted, national and local planning objectives have changed significantly. An assessment of the Saved Policies for compatibility with the NPPF was presented to Northampton Borough Council's Planning Committee on 10 June 2014. This assessment demonstrated that some policies are now considered to be non-compliant, or no longer relevant, as policies had been directly superseded by more up to date policy or evidence, or were no longer required. Other policies may play a minor

role in decision-taking, and therefore moderate or limited weight may be applied in decision-taking. No saved policies were identified as carrying significant weight.

5.9 Due to the diminished status the Northampton Local Plan (1997) Saved Policies hold in decision-taking, NBC confirmed that the remaining saved policies are “non-strategic” i.e. the policies of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan are not required to achieve general conformity with those policies to meet the basic conditions.

Supplementary Planning Documents

5.10 Supplementary Planning Documents provide guidance to assist in the implementation of planning policies. SPDs are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and the following provide a context for the Neighbourhood Plan, but they are not considered to be part of the formal Strategic Policy context:

- Residential Extensions and Alterations Design Guide (2011)
- Northampton Shopfront Design Guide SPD (2011)
- Planning Obligations SPD (2013)

Conclusions on the policy context for the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

5.11 The adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy provides the strategic planning policy framework for the area. The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan is aligned with the strategic policies for the area, providing more detailed policies to address planning matters affecting the neighbourhood. In conclusion, the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan achieve general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan for the area.

6 Compatibility with EU obligations

Strategic Environmental Assessment

6.1 In some limited circumstances, where a Neighbourhood Plan could have significant environmental effects it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Similarly, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) may be required

where the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site or a European offshore marine site.

6.2 NBC undertook a screening assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and prepared a SEA & HRA Screening Report. The Screening Report was published for consultation with the consultation bodies and other technical stakeholders.

6.3 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, NBC has prepared a SEA Determination Statement (combined with the HRA Determination Statement), taking into account the findings of the Screening Report and representations made during consultation. The Determination Statement sets out the Council’s decision in respect of SEA and a copy was provided to statutory consultees in accordance with Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations.

6.4 The Determination Statement concluded that the making of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to result in likely significant effects on the environment and does not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment or Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Habitats Directive

6.5 NBC undertook a screening assessment to identify whether the ‘making’ of the proposed Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan would result in likely significant effects on European Sites. A SEA & HRA Screening Report was prepared and published for consultation with the consultation bodies and other technical stakeholders.

6.6 Following publication of the combined SEA & HRA Screening Report, the Council issued a SEA & HRA Determination Statement which concluded that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not expected to result in likely significant effects on European Sites and that a full Habitats Regulation Assessment is not required.

Human Rights

6.7 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The main issues for

planning in the context of human rights are:

- Right to respect for private and family life and homes;
- Prohibition of discrimination in the exercise of rights; and
- Protection of property.

6.8 The Neighbourhood Plan identified a shortage of smaller sized, affordable homes to suit the needs of small families. In response, the plan supports new development which provides a mix of homes, and is especially welcoming of proposals which deliver small (1 and 2 bedroom) affordable units.

6.9 The Neighbourhood Plan supports the regeneration of the Growing Together community in a manner which benefits the community as a whole, encouraging development which offers benefits to people of all ages.

6.10 The inclusive nature of the preparation of the Plan is a further positive. Throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan efforts have been made to engage with a broad mix of individuals of different age groups, genders and belonging to different ethnic groups. Full details of the extensive community consultation undertaken as part of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found in the accompanying Consultation Statement.

