

Babworth Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2038 Statement of Basic Conditions

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Babworth Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2 In order to satisfy Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Parish Council, as the ‘qualifying body’ must include a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 1.3 Paragraph 8 (1) states that the examiner must consider the following:
 - (a) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see sub-paragraph (2))
 - (b) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 61E (2), 61J and 61L, as amended by s38C(5)(b)
 - (c) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates and
 - (d) such other matters as may be prescribed.
- 1.4 Paragraph 8 (2) states that a draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:
 - (a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan
 - (b) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - (c) the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)
 - (d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and
 - (e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.

- 1.5 Section 2 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan complies with the legal requirements of sub-paragraphs 1 (b), (c) and (d). Section 3 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions contained in sub-paragraph 1 (a) and sub-paragraph 2.

2.0 Legal Requirements

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

The Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body

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

What is being proposed is a neighbourhood plan

- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

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

- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan states that the period which it relates to is from 2020 until 2038. The period has been chosen to align with that of the Bassetlaw Local Plan.

The policies do not relate to excluded development

- 2.4 The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the neighbourhood area.

- 2.5 The designated area was approved by Bassetlaw District Council on 24 September 2020. The Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood plan area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the neighbourhood area.

2.6 In relation to sub-paragraph 1(c), it is not considered that there is any benefit or reason for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated neighbourhood area.

2.7 In relation to sub-paragraph 1(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

3.0 The Basic Conditions

3.1 This section addresses how the Neighbourhood Plan fulfils the basic conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2). The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF) and to the strategic policies contained in the Bassetlaw Local Plan Adopted on 29 May 2024.

Having regard to national policies and advice

3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed having regard to the NPPF, updated in December 2024. An explanation of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies have shown regard to the NPPF is outlined in table 1 below.

3.3 In broad terms the Plan:

- process has empowered the local community to develop the plan for their neighbourhood and has undertaken a thorough exercise in identifying ways to enhance and improve the area;
- policies are based on robust evidence and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made, with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
- seeks to deliver locally appropriate homes, businesses and infrastructure through a residential allocation and policies on windfall development, housing mix and affordable housing and employment policies;
- seeks to actively manage patterns of growth in the most sustainable locations through the designation of a Settlement Boundary;
- supports local strategies to deliver sufficient community facilities and services, to meet local needs;
- contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment through the protection of Local Green Spaces biodiversity and a range of environmental protections.

General conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area

- 3.4 Table 1 provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the Bassetlaw Local Plan Adopted on 29 May 2024 and have regard for the NPPF (2024).

<i>Babworth Neighbourhood Plan policies</i>	<i>NPPF para</i>	<i>Regard to NPPF</i>	<i>General Conformity with Local Plan 2020-2038</i>
Policy HBE1: Settlement Boundary	7, 10, 11	One of the core principles of the NPPF is to recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Actively managing patterns of growth, within the Limits to Development seeks to support existing services and facilities and protect the countryside and setting of settlements. Further, Limits to Development facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport with both benefits to the environment and the health of the community, both underlying premises of the NPPF.	The narrative before Policy ST2 allows parishes to establish development boundaries within neighbourhood plans.
Policy HBE2: Residential Site Allocation	7, 10, 11	The inclusion of a housing allocation supports ‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development’ by planning positively, shaping and directing development and providing for, and exceeding, the strategic development needs set out in the evidence base for the Local Plan.	Policy ST2 says ‘Housing growth will be in the form of completed sites, sites with planning permission, site allocations in this Local Plan, site allocations in made neighbourhood plans or unallocated sites which meet the criteria in Part 2’.
Policy HBE3: Housing Mix	61, 91	The policy seeks to support a mix of housing that meets an identified need in the community. The NPPF advocates for inclusive and mixed communities, which will require a mix of housing types based on current and future demographic trends.	Policy ST28 requires development proposals to provide an appropriate housing mix based on evidence of housing need.
Policy HBE4: Affordable Housing	60, 61, 63-66	This policy supports the provision of affordable housing and includes a policy prioritising allocation to local residents. This policy is consistent with the NPPF which outlines the need to widen opportunities for home ownership and create inclusive and mixed communities through amongst other things, supporting affordable housing where there is an identified need	Policy ST27 establishes the policy on affordable housing. The NP Policy HBE4 adds local detail to this.
Policy HBE5: Windfall Housing	70 d), 72	The policy for small scale windfall sites has regard to the NPPF; by seeking to meet any future housing requirements for the area and maintain the vitality of the settlements,	The support of the Neighbourhood Plan for small scale windfall development is in general conformity with the Core Strategy ST2 which supports small-scale development

		whilst protecting their character and setting. This is a positive policy for future housing provision given that this type of development has a proven track record in providing a good source of new housing over recent years in the Parish.	in small rural centres, where allocations through neighbourhood plans are supported..
Policy HBE6: Design	Section 12	The policy outlines several design principles and supports the NPPF principle of requiring good design; and the need to respond to local character and history of the local surroundings. Importantly the policy does not impose architectural styles and hence does not stifle an innovative approach.	Policy ST33 states that all development must be of a high quality design.
Policy ENV 1: Local Green Spaces	106-108	Protection of Local Green Spaces identified as being special by the community is advocated through the NPPF. Proposed designations meet the criteria set out in the NPPF.	Policy ST37 identifies local green spaces as areas to be protected and enhanced whilst Policy ST44 seeks the protection and enhancement of open spaces and green infrastructure, including biodiversity.
Policy Env 2: Important Open Spaces	Section 15,	These policies seek to protect other open space with environmental and historic value on account of their natural and/or historical features. This has regard to the NPPF principles conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. It takes into account the designation hierarchy and the protection is commensurate with their status.	
Policy ENV 3: Sites and Features of natural environmental significance			
Policy ENV 4: Biodiversity and Habitat connectivity	192-193	The policies seek to protect and enhance local biodiversity features and habitats. The policy has regard to the NPPF, which states that the planning system should contribute to enhancing the natural and local environment by minimizing impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible.	
Policy Env 5: Sites of Historical Environment Significance	Section 16	The NPPF requires Plans to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets	

Policy Env 6: Footpaths and other walking routes	Section 9	This policy aims to protect the existing pedestrian network. In doing so, it has regard to the NPPF in terms of ‘promoting sustainable transport’, reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions and ‘promoting healthy communities’, whilst also meeting requirements for promoting healthy communities	Policy ST53 promotes sustainable transport and active travel and seeks to encourage active travel through measures including connection to, and extension of, existing pedestrian and cycle networks.
Policy Env 7: Flood Risk Resilience.	Section 14	The NPPF seeks to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	Policy ST50 requires proposals to consider and where necessary mitigate the impact of flood risk on development.
Policy Env 8: Renewable Energy Generation Infrastructure.	Section 14	The policy supports the NPPF aim of meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting the delivery of renewable energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily.	Policy ST49 covers the issue of renewable energy infrastructure which the Neighbourhood Plan Policy Env8 adds local detail to.
Policy CF 1: The retention of Community Facilities and Amenities	20, 29, 88, 98, 200	These policies seeks to protect and promote key community facilities. This has regard for the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities through amongst other things, planning positively for community facilities and guarding against their unnecessary loss. In seeking new or improved community facilities, the policy supports the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities.	Policy ST43 seeks to protect and enhance community facilities. NP Policy CF1 adds local detail to this policy.
Policy E1: Employment Development	20, 77, 111, 128	<p>The policy supports new employment opportunities through small scale employment premises. Promoting access to employment is a key element in the pursuance of sustainable development as outlined in the NPPF. The policy aims to support a prosperous rural economy, to grow and where possible, diversify the local economy.</p> <p>Re-use of agricultural buildings for small businesses, recreation or tourism further support a prosperous rural</p>	Policy ST8 is on rural; economic growth and economic growth outside employment areas. It supports diversification of the rural economy.

		economy and the transition to a low carbon future by encouraging the use of existing resources.	
Policy E2: Reuse of Agricultural and Commercial Buildings.	20, 77, 111, 128	<p>The policy supports new employment opportunities through small scale employment premises. Promoting access to employment is a key element in the pursuance of sustainable development as outlined in the NPPF. The policy aims to support a prosperous rural economy, to grow and where possible, diversify the local economy.</p> <p>Re-use of agricultural buildings for small businesses, recreation or tourism further support a prosperous rural economy and the transition to a low carbon future by encouraging the use of existing resources.</p>	
Policy E3: Tourism	88	The policy in supporting development proposals for tourism and leisure facilities recognises the role that the area can play in ‘building a strong, competitive economy’ and ‘supporting a prosperous rural economy’ through sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments.’	Policy ST10 on the Visitor Economy promotes Bassetlaw as a destination for visitors.
Policy E4: Broadband and Mobile Phone Infrastructure	119	The NPPF advocates planning that supports high quality communications infrastructure.	Policy ST55 on the digital infrastructure requires broadband to be supplied to new dwellings
Policy T1: Traffic Management	Section 9	The policies seek to manage potential traffic issues arising from development and has regard for ‘promoting sustainable transport’ and supporting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.	Policy ST53 promotes sustainable transport and active travel and seeks to encourage active travel through measures including connection to, and extension of, existing pedestrian and cycle networks.

Achieving sustainable development

- 3.7 The Neighbourhood Plan is positively prepared, reflecting the presumption in the NPPF in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the Plan supports the strategic development needs in the emerging Local Plan, shaping and directing development in the area that is outside of the strategic elements of the Local Plan.
- 3.8 The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with regard to these principles and has jointly sought environmental, economic and social gains.
- 3.9 The policies contained in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute to achieving sustainable development by seeking positive improvements to the quality of the natural, built and historic environment, as well as in people's quality of life, including:
- supporting strong, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities by facilitating the right mix of housing (including affordable housing) to meet local need.
 - supporting the transition to a low carbon future through actively managing patterns of growth within existing settlements, supporting sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy generation and local employment opportunities.
 - protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of the built and natural environment through high quality design, protection of important local green space and protection of important views.
 - conserving and enhancing the natural environment by protecting and supporting a net gain in biodiversity and important habitats.
 - supporting a strong economy through the protection of existing employment sites and support for new businesses including farm diversification.
 - safeguarding and enhancing existing open space, community facilities and pedestrian facilities for the health, social and cultural wellbeing of the community.

EU obligations

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

3.10 In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects, it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment under the relevant EU Directive. DCLG planning guidance suggests that whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

3.11 A Screening opinion was issued by Bassetlaw District Council which determined that a full SEA would not be required.

Habitats Directive

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

Convention on Human Rights

3.13 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Statement of Consultation. Considerable care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups.

3.14 There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the community has been consulted on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. Responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the appendices to the Statement of Consultation. The Statement of

Consultation has been prepared by the Advisory Committee and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met by the Babworth Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.2 The Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the saved strategic policies in the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2017 and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 4.3 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Babworth Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.