

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan: Basic Conditions Statement

Introduction

- 1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
 - i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Adopted July 2016) and the saved policies of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (Adopted July 2011);
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in four sections:
 - Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031(2016) and the saved policies of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (2011); and

- Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters.

4 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Brigstock Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Brigstock which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 11 May 2015. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations (in force at that time), East Northamptonshire Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Brigstock Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The four-week consultation period ended on 27 April 2015. Four representations were received, and none objected to the designation. Brigstock Parish received its Area designation in May 2015.

7 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Brigstock and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.

8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.

9 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan covers the period up to 2011-2031 as does the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 which was adopted July 2016.

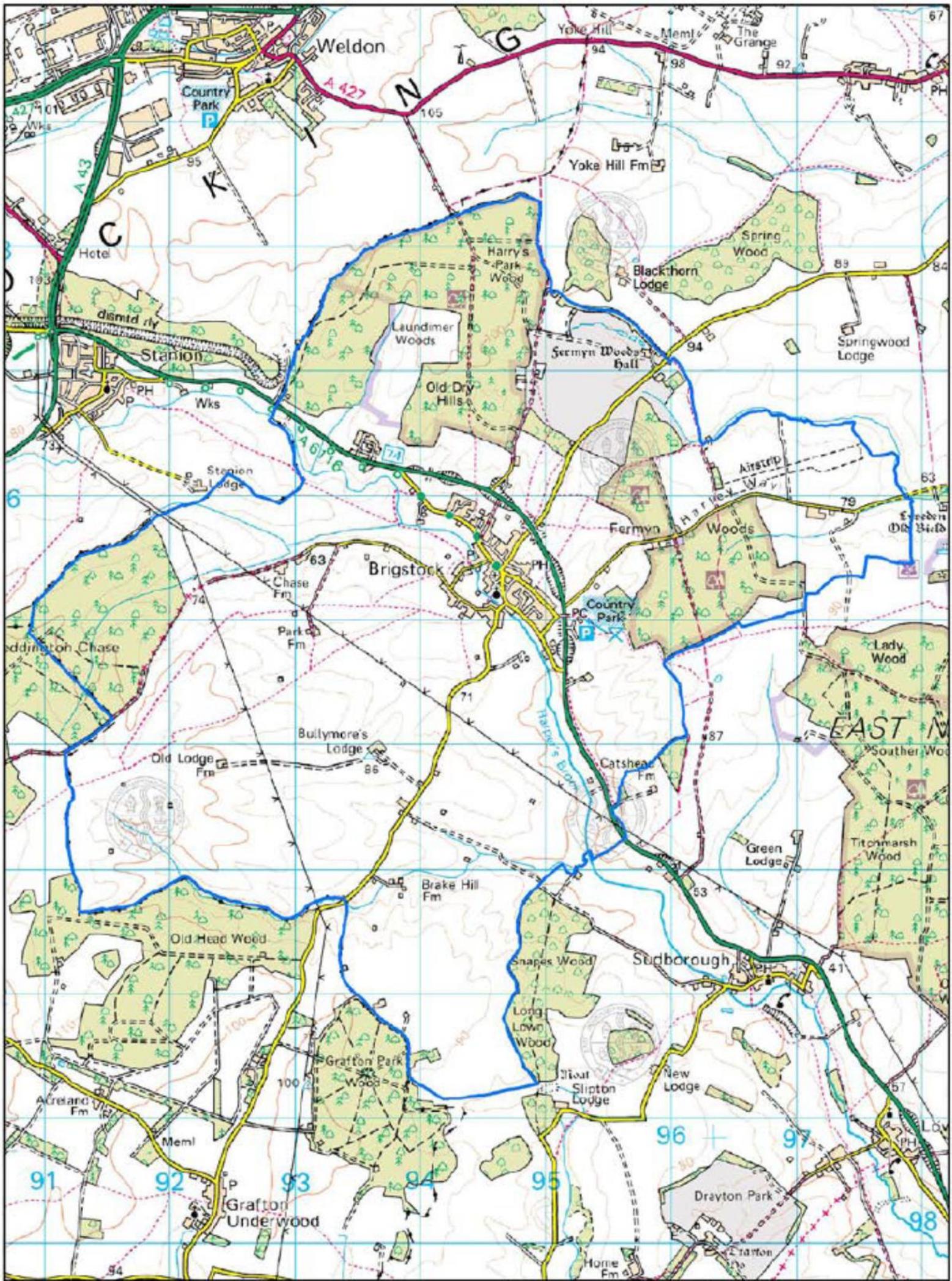
10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Brigstock: Location

11 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Area comprises the Parish of Brigstock which is situated in the Rockingham Forest. The parish amounts to 2,487 hectares and is located to the south east of the town of Corby. The parish comprises the village of Brigstock which lies on the west side of the A6116 on Harper's Brook, a main watercourse and tributary of the River Nene.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

12 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Brigstock Parish Council, supported by the Brigstock Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee, with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Summary of Consultee Responses and the Consultation Statement.



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Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and the Planning Practice Guidance

- 13 It is required that the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.
- 14 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all of the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 15 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework specifies that the delivery of sustainable development is to be through the application of 12 core planning principles and the pursuit of 13 sustainability objectives supporting the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The 12 principles are that planning should:
1. be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency;
 2. not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives;
 3. proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities;
 4. always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;
 5. take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green

Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;

6. support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
 7. contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
 8. encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
 9. promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
 10. conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
 11. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
 12. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- 16 This section considers the conformity of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance.
- 17 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
 - Design;
 - Flood Risk;
 - Health and Well Being;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Planning Obligations;
 - Renewable and low carbon energy

- Rural Housing

18 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>B1: Housing Provision - This policy identifies the housing provision for the plan period, to be led by locally identified housing needs and takes into account existing commitments. It does allow for appropriate infill development within the village boundary and identifies a housing allocation site and rural exception site.</p>	<p>17, 47, 50, 54</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Rural Housing</p>	<p>This policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities (Core Planning Principles 3, 8 and 11). It seeks to deliver the housing needs of an area (Core Planning Principle 3). The housing need has been informed by that identified in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.</p>
<p>B2: Infill Development- Identifies the circumstances new housing development within the Brigstock Village boundary will be permitted. The development must be must be in keeping with the scale and character of its surroundings, protect important feature, not adversely affect residential amenity and have a safe and suitable access for all people.</p>	<p>17, 32, 47, 56, 58, 123</p> <p>PPG References Design, Health and Well Being, and, Rural Housing</p>	<p>This policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities (Core Planning Principles 3, 8 and 11). It seeks to deliver the housing that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and with a good standard of amenity and a safe and suitable access for all (Core Planning Principle 4 and 5).</p>
<p>B3: North of Stanion Road – This policy identifies a housing site allocation. It identifies the amount of housing, the housing mix and the required provision of affordable housing, design and highway requirements, landscaping measures, identification of residential amenities to be protected and for the development to incorporate a maintained sustainable drainage system.</p>	<p>17, 29, 32, 37, 50, 58, 94, 109, 121</p> <p>PPG References Design, Flood Risk, Health and Well Being, Natural</p>	<p>This approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed housing needs and provides for the identification of a housing allocation site, having regard to Core Planning Principle 3. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing including affordable housing, a designed development that functions well with regard to the character of the area, protection and enhancement of the existing landscape and positive biodiversity benefits, mitigate and adapting to climate change and the need to protect residential amenity. (Core Planning Principles 4,6 and 7)</p>

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
	Environment, Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities, Public Rights of Way and Local Green Space, and, Rural Housing	
B4: Housing Mix – Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local needs, informed by the most up to date evidence of housing need. Identifies housing needs for older households and smaller, low-cost homes.	17, 47, 50 PPG References Health and Well Being and Rural Housing	The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of homes for older households as well as smaller, low-cost homes. It seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need/demand. (Core Planning Principle 3)
B5: Affordable Housing – Identifies the amount of affordable housing provision to be provided on the plan’s site allocation and windfall sites. Allows for provision to be met through rural exception sites. Seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local connection to Brigstock Parish.	17,32, 47, 50, 54, 56, 58, 123 PPG References Health and Well Being and Rural Housing	The Core Planning Principle 3 identifies requirement to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in its community. It also supports the appropriate application of rural exception sites homes, of a design that reflects the surrounding area and with a good standard of amenity and a safe and suitable access for all (Core Planning Principle 4 and 5).

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>B6: Countryside – Protects the Countryside and development will be limited in this location to that which requires a rural location. Policy provides a list of suitable development.</p>	<p>17, 28</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, Natural Environment, and, Rural Housing</p>	<p>Planning is to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside in accordance with Core Planning Principle 5. This policy mirrors this approach and also has regard to the promotion of the rural economy.</p>
<p>B7: Landscape Buffer – This policy retains the open and undeveloped character of the countryside between the north-eastern edge of the built-up area of Brigstock and the A6116. Protection of the openness of this area not only maintains the visual separation between the road but also provides a link and access to the countryside and supports ecological benefits</p>	<p>17, 69, 73, 109, 114</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Natural Environment</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and characters of areas, as well as recognises that some open land can perform a variety of functions. This policy supports this approach as well as the role of planning in creating healthy and inclusive communities and facilitates access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for recreation. Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement the natural environment and this policy takes a positive approach to ecological connectivity.</p>
<p>B8: Landscape Character and Locally Important Views – This policy supports development that is sensitive to its landscape setting and for development to enhance several identified views and settings.</p>	<p>17, 73, 109</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Natural Environment</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and characters of areas and recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy allows account to be taken of these areas. This policy also has regard to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of importance to them.</p>

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>B9: Rockingham Forest – This policy supports the regeneration of Rockingham Forest and the strengthening of a Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor. This will be done through tree planting to link habitats, supporting appropriate rural economic development, protecting and enhancing tourism and recreation, supporting new green infrastructure and heritage attractions and safeguarding green links.</p>	<p>17, 28, 29, 73, 109, 114, 126</p> <p>PPG References Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, Health and Well Being, and, Natural Environment</p>	<p>This policy has regard to several Core Planning Principles namely 3, 7, 9, 10. It seeks to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. It also takes a positive approach to the protection of the network of green infrastructure. The policy seeks to provide sustainable economic development as well as sustainable tourism, recreation and heritage attractions.</p>
<p>B10: Ecology and Diversity – Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain.</p>	<p>17, 109, 117</p> <p>PPG Reference Natural Environment</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This policy seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes as well as minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>
<p>B11: Local Green Spaces- Identifies Local Green Spaces within Brigstock which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances</p>	<p>17, 76-78</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Open Spaces, sports</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of importance to them. This policy allows account to be taken of the character and role of these areas as detailed in Core Planning Principle 5.</p>

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
	and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space	
<p>B12: Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of existing services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.</p>	<p>17, 28, 70</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, and, Open Space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way, and local green space</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>
<p>B13: Infrastructure – Seeks new development to support the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for education provision, community facilities, sports and recreation provision, bus services and Rockingham Forest Tree Planting.</p>	<p>17, 32, 70, 72, 109</p> <p>PPG References Health and Well Being, Natural Environment, and, Open Space, sports and recreational facilities, public</p>	<p>Core Planning Principles 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. This policy plans positively for the provision of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy has regard to the promotion of healthy communities and the delivery of recreational, educational and community facilities and services that meet the community needs. Core Planning Principle 11 looks to make the fullest possible use of public transport, and Core Planning Principle 7 seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment and reduce pollution.</p>

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
	rights of way, and local green space, and, Planning Obligations	
B14: Wallis’s Mill – This policy seeks the appropriate reuse of a Grade II Listed Building.	17, 126 PPG Reference Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment	This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets as detailed in Core Planning Principle 10. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks the conservation and enhancement of an identified asset.
B15: Features of Local Heritage Interest - The determination of planning applications, which will affect ‘identified’ features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed.	17, 126, 135 PPG Reference Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment	This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets as detailed in Core Planning Principle 10. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Features of local heritage interest are listed within the Neighbourhood Plan.
B16: Design - Supports development which reflects the distinctive traditional character of Brigstock and meets the requirements of the Brigstock Village Design Statement.	17, 56, 58, 60 PPG References Design, and Health and Well Being	Core Planning Principle 4 specifies that planning should always seek to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It provides a robust

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
		approach to design and is supported by the Brigstock Village Design Statement.
B17: Construction Method Statement – This policy requires the preparation of a Construction Statement prior to the commencement of non-minor development.	17, 123 PPG reference Health and Well Being	Core Planning Principle 2 identifies planning as a mechanism in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives. This policy seeks to minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life that may arise from new development.
B18: Sudborough Road Employment Area- This policy identifies and safeguards this defined employment area for employment development and identifies future employment development sought, including forestry and agricultural related development.	17, 19, 28 PPG reference Health and Well Being	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with Core Planning Principle 3. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including support for the development and other land-based rural businesses.
B19: Rural Economy – This policy supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses and enterprise through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings, subject to satisfactory impact on the character of the locality, traffic impact and there is a safe and suitable site access.	17, 28, 32, 56 PPG Reference Design	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with Core Planning Principle 3, that is of a high-quality design with a safe and suitable access for all (Core Planning Principle 4). It supports a prosperous rural economy and mirrors the approach contained within the NPPF.
B20: Brigstock Camp – This policy supports the use of the site as a large -scale solar farm for a specified time period, as well as list the suitable uses for the redevelopment of the brownfield	17 19, 35, 93, 97, 109	Core Planning Principle 6 supports the development of renewable energy and this policy identifies a suitable area for renewable energy sources and infrastructure. This policy also supports sustainable economic development in accordance with Core Planning Principle 3. It proactively supports its

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph and Planning Practice references	Commentary Showing Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>part of the site subject to traffic impact, the construction of footpath and cycle links and the incorporation of appropriate landscaping and biodiversity improvement.</p>	<p>PPG References Health and Well Being, Natural Environment, and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p>	<p>growth and provides for the use of sustainable transport modes. It seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment including positive biodiversity benefits (Core Planning Principle 7).</p>

Contributing to sustainable development

- 19 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several 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 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.
- 20 The following section however summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 - Building a strong competitive economy	Supporting housing provision to meet identified requirements, with appropriate infrastructure, and providing for housing that meets local needs. Seeks to retain existing employment opportunities and supports local business and employment. Supporting sustainable economic growth and the rural and tourism economy.
2 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres	Supporting the provision of safe and sustainable links from development. The ambition of the plan is also to see the continuation of a thriving local village community supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
3 - Supporting a prosperous rural economy	Supporting the retention and development of key local services and community facilities. Supporting the local economy including the conversion of existing buildings and the development of new buildings in the countryside. Support new rural economic development within Rockingham Forest as well as its tourism and recreation attractions.
4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport	Supporting a balanced approach to an improved transport infrastructure including highway improvement, providing for bus services, safe and suitable access for all and supporting development within the Brigstock Village boundary with its range of services and facilities.
5 - Supporting high quality communications infrastructure	Not applicable.
6 - Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes	Identifying suitable locations for housing development including the allocation of housing sites. Supporting a supply of housing to meet assessed needs. Seeking a mix of property to address the imbalance in housing stock. Requiring a percentage of new homes on allocated housing sites and windfall sites to be affordable and allow for the development of exception sites.
7 - Requiring good design	Includes policies to require good design and reflect local distinctiveness, including landscape as well as the built environment.
8 - Promoting healthy communities	Requires development to have safe and suitable access for all including footpath link and cycle links protection of the countryside, Green Infrastructure, Local Green Spaces and safeguarding links to open spaces. Supports improvements in sports and recreation provision.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable.
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Safeguards green links and seeks the construction of new footpath and cycle links. Requires the Incorporation a sustainable drainage system within the housing allocation site. Supports the development of a large-scale solar farm.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, key Strategic Green Infrastructure and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development not to harm valued landscapes and to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents the loss of the historic landscape and the preservation and enhancement of heritage assets, including non-designated assets of local importance. Seeks to manage the regeneration of Rockingham Forest through appropriate development.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 21 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy ((Adopted July 2016) and the saved policies of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (Adopted July 2011).
- 22 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the saved policies of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (Adopted July 2011).

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031

- 23 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy 1:	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
Policy 2:	Historic Environment
Policy 3:	Landscape Character
Policy 4:	Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy 5:	Water Environment, Resources and Flood Risk Management
Policy 6:	Development on Brownfield Land and Land affected by Contamination
Policy 7:	Community Services and Facilities
Policy 8:	North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles
Policy 11:	The Network of Urban and Rural Areas
Policy 13:	Rural Exceptions
Policy 15:	Well Connected Towns, Villages and Neighbourhoods
Policy 19:	The Delivery of Green Infrastructure Special policy areas
Policy 21:	Rockingham Forest
Policy 22:	Delivering Economic Prosperity
Policy 25:	Rural Economic Development and Diversification
Policy 26:	Renewable Energy
Policy 28:	Housing Requirements and Strategic Opportunities
Policy 29:	Distribution of New Homes
Policy 30:	Housing Mix and Tenure

24 Policy 1 is the overarching Joint Core Strategy and takes a proactive approach to delivering sustainable development within the context of North Northamptonshire (the Local Plan area). This is a theme that runs throughout the Joint Core Strategy and reflects the presumption on favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It is considered that this theme runs throughout the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan and this is demonstrated in the above section of this Basic Conditions Statement. The Neighbourhood Plan is therefore considered to be in conformity with Policy 1 of the Joint Core Strategy.

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
B1: Housing Provision	Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 29, Policy 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the provision of housing and the location of development as contained within the Joint Core Strategy ▪ Neighbourhood Plan identifies sites including an exception site, to help meet locally identified needs ▪ Levels of growth suitable for the level of services and facilities in Brigstock ▪ Allows small scale infill development ▪ Allows for a small number of market homes on the allocated rural exception site to make delivery of affordable units viable
B2: Infill Development	Policy 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy supports small scale development within the Brigstock Village boundary, where it would be in keeping with the character of the settlement and not adversely impact on residential amenity. ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan defines a village boundary to support this policy.
B3: North of Stanion Road	Policy 4, Policy 5, Policy 7, Policy 8, Policy 11, Policy 19, Policy 29, Policy 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports housing provision in accordance with the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy ▪ Provides for the provision of 40% affordable housing ▪ Provides for a housing mix to meet local need ▪ Seeks satisfactory means of access

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks biodiversity improvements ▪ Provides for new accessible new community services ▪ Incorporates a sustainable Drainage System
B4: Housing Mix	Policy 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides for a mix of housing types and reflects the mix contained in the Joint Core Strategy ▪ Identifies specific requirements for Brigstock to meet local need and address identified gaps in house types
B5: Affordable Housing	Policy 13, Policy 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On windfall developments of 11 or more dwellings the minimum affordable housing provision is 40% ▪ Allows for rural exception sites within the Brigstock Village boundary, to meet a local need, where the development is in keeping with the scale and character of the village, protects residential amenity, and, with safe and suitable access ▪ When affordable housing is allocated, priority will be given to people with a local connection to Brigstock Parish.
B6: Countryside	Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 25, Policy 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to protect and retain the character and role of the countryside as defined in the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy ▪ Supports agricultural and forestry enterprises and other appropriate rural businesses ▪ Supports opportunities for diversification including re-use of buildings, new tourism, recreation and renewable energy activities ▪ Supports flood risk management in the countryside

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports rural exception sites that meet an identified need
B7: Landscape Buffer	Policy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies and protects a landscape buffer zone that contributes to the setting of Brigstock Village and the transition from the settlement to the countryside. ▪ Protects tranquillity from excessive levels of noise
B8: Landscape Character and Locally Important View	Policy 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its setting and where possible enhance its distinctive qualities ▪ Safeguard and where possible, enhance important views and vistas. ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of important view and vistas to be safeguarded and/or enhance.
B9: Rockingham Forest	Policy 19, Policy 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the regeneration of Rockingham Forest, new tree planting and linking fragmented habitats ▪ Supports rural economic development, protecting or enhancing tourism and recreation attractions, ▪ Supports new green infrastructure and appropriate heritage attractions ▪ Seeks an appropriate balance between visitor numbers and biodiversity, landscape, local amenity and heritage interests ▪ Safeguards and enhances green links ▪ Safeguards Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure
B10: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats. ▪ Seeks to protect these features and ensure new development does not harm these feature.

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New development should conserve and enhance these features ▪ Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.
B11: Local Green Spaces	Policy 3, Policy 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan has identified these areas for their recreation and amenity value, based on local evidence ▪ Protects Brigstock's unique and distinctive character
B12: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Brigstock ▪ Facilities will be safeguarded unless it can be demonstrated they are no longer viable, are no longer needed by the community, are not needed by any other community use or the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision ▪ The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded
B13: Infrastructure	Policy 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for infrastructure requirements/contributions to be applied flexibly should there be viability issues so that development is not inhibited unnecessarily
B14: Wallis's Mill	Policy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the conservation and enhancement of the area's heritage assets ▪ Provides a flexible solution to the re-use of a Grade II Listed Building.
B15: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the conservation and enhancement of the area's heritage assets
B16: Design	Policy 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires new development to reflect the distinctive, traditional character of Brigstock and meet the requirements of the Brigstock Village Design Statement

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 Core Strategy	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seeks to protect the Brigstock’s local distinctiveness with a strong, positive sense of place
B17: Construction Method Statement	Not applicable	Not applicable
B18: Sudborough Road Employment Area	Policy 11, Policy 22, Policy 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports a prosperous rural local economy ▪ Safeguards an existing employment site for employment use ▪ Supports development and diversification of the rural economy ▪ Seeks to complement and support the ongoing viability of existing businesses
B19: Rural Economy	Policy 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy, of an appropriate scale, whilst respecting the environmental quality and character of the rural area
B20: Brigstock Camp	Policy 4, Policy 6, Policy 15, Policy 25, Policy 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports renewable energy development with provision made for its removal and reinstatement of the land once the installations are removed. ▪ Supports development and diversification of the rural economy, and includes the development of sustainable transport links ▪ Create a safe crossing point on a major road ▪ Seeks the suitable reuse of previously developed land ▪ Seeks landscape and biodiversity improvements

The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (Adopted 2011)

25 The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (RNOTP) was adopted July 2011. Many policies of the RNOTP were replaced by the new Joint Core Strategy Policies, with effect from 14 July 2016. Those ‘saved’ policies of the RNOTP that were not replaced form, along with the Joint Core Strategy policies, form the statutory Local Plan for East Northamptonshire. Where

there is not a relevant saved policy as it has been replaced by policies in the Joint Core Strategy it is noted in the table below that the RNOTP is not applicable.

- 26 The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Remaining/extant strategic RNOTP policies:

Policy 15: Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities

Policy 23: Rural Buildings - General Approach

Policy 24: Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside

Remaining non-strategic RNOTP policies:

Policy 2: Windfall Development in Settlements

Policy 4: Green Infrastructure

Policy 5: Transport Network

Policy 9: Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest

Policy 12: Considerate Construction

Policy BC1: Brigstock Camp

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan
B1: Housing Provision	Not applicable	
B2: Infill Development	Policy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy allows for windfall development within the settlement boundary
B3: North of Stanion Road	Not applicable	
B4: Housing Mix	Not applicable	
B5: Affordable Housing	Not applicable	
B6: Countryside	Policy 23, Policy 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy allows for the re-use or adaptation of rural buildings for appropriate purposes, including employment generating, tourism and residential use Allows for replacement dwellings in the open countryside
B7: Landscape Buffer	Not applicable	
B8: Landscape Character and	Not applicable	

Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Policy	The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan	Explanation of Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan
Locally Important View		
B9: Rockingham Forest	Policy 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports Green Infrastructure links ▪ Improve connectivity through the provision of foot and cycle routes ▪ Supports the provision of green economic uses
B10: Ecology and Biodiversity	Not applicable	
B11: Local Green Spaces	Not applicable	
B12: Community Services and Facilities	Not applicable	
B13: Infrastructure	Policy 5, Policy 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports improvements to the bus transport network ▪ Supports the improvement of sports and recreation provision in Brigstock
B14: Wallis's Mill	Not applicable	
B15: Features of Local Heritage Interest	Policy 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the conservation and enhancement of the area's non-designated local heritage assets
B16: Design	Not applicable	
B17: Construction Method Statement	Policy 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach seeks to mitigate the short term local impact of development whilst construction is underway
B18: Sudborough Road Employment Area	Not applicable	
B19: Rural Economy	Policy 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy, through the adaptation or re-use of buildings in the countryside for employment generating or tourism uses
B20: Brigstock Camp	Policy BC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports office development on the brownfield element of Brigstock Camp subject to the construction of a footpath/cycle link to the Corby-Station former ironstone railway path and/or a safe crossing of the A6116

Compliance with European Union obligations

- 27 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:
- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
 - Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

- 28 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan (October 2017) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Statement provides a screening opinion as to whether the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- 29 The outcome of this assessment concludes that whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the neighbourhood plan, including in relation to the majority of the SEA 'topics', it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA directive. Therefore, it is considered that the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken. The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Assessment and their responses are summarised below:
- Historic England - Advice is confined to the question 'Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?' in respect of cultural heritage. No significant effects have been identified with respect to cultural heritage.

- Natural England - On the basis of the consultation material supplied, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, advise that there are unlikely to be significant effects from the proposed plans.
- Environment Agency - On the basis of the consultation material provided, we consider that Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant adverse environmental effects on the aspects of the environment we cover.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 30 A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement (October 2017) was also produced to assess whether there are likely to be significant effects on European Sites as a result of the merging policies set out in the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan that would necessitate the production of a full Habitat Regulations Assessment. This report assesses whether there are likely to be any significant effects on the qualifying feature of European Designated Sites within or relatively proximate to the approved Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 31 The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment makes it clear that the focus for Habitats Regulations Screening in connection with the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan should be the potential for the Plan, by itself or in combination with other Plans, to give rise to significant adverse impacts upon the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and the Nene Washes SAC. Accordingly, the assessment looks at this in detail and its outcome suggests that there are likely to be no significant negative effects on the European Designated Sites resulting from the Policies detailed within the draft Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, based on the submitted draft, a full Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required.
- 32 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan.

Other basic conditions

- 29 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.
- 30 As set out in paragraphs 23 to 27, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 31 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
- 32 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

Conclusions

- 33 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan - Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Brigstock for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 1,537 people living in Brigstock Parish. 49.5% were Male and 50.85% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

16.5% of the population was 0-15 years old and 21.1% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

0.9% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

69.2% of the population was Christian and 0.6% other religions including Jewish and Muslim. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

7.0% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 9.2% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

54.0% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is slightly higher than the national picture, common with rural suburbs on the edge or fringe of larger cities.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural suburbs on the edge or fringe of larger cities.

The proportion of Christians is higher to the national average, whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

Key Issues and Policies of the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Brigstock;

Meeting local housing needs

Protecting the countryside

Better public transport

Protecting green areas in the village

More local employment opportunities

Local parking problems and traffic congestion

Improving or retaining local services and facilities

Conserving local heritage

These issues are reflected in the Vision for Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan;

Brigstock in 2031:

Stronger Relationship with the Rockingham Forest

Local jobs Safeguarded

Brigstock's unique character and heritage is conserved

Important views, valued landscapes and green spaces are protected

The character and beauty of Brigstock's country and its natural environment are safeguarded

Local housing needs are met

Local services, facilities and infrastructure needs are met

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 20 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy B4 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing types to reflect evidence of need, noting in particular the need to demonstrate how the housing needs of older households and smaller-low cost homes will be met. Policies B1, B3 and B5 seek a supply of affordable housing in the village; and for priority to be given to people with a local connection to Brigstock when allocating affordable housing. There is a strong potential for positive impacts on in particular young or new households or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy B11 requires local green spaces to be protected and enhanced and development will not normally be supported on these spaces. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit, in particular,

the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. In addition, several designated local green spaces are in use as allotments and their protection could have benefit for the older generation in the village, although it is acknowledged that the protection of these spaces could be of benefit a range of ages. Policy B3 makes provision for a local area for play which is also likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play.

Policy B13 of makes provision for new or improved infrastructure, including additional school places, provision of facilities for young people, sports and recreation provision and subsidised bus service. These improvements are considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and are considered to have a positive impact.

Policy B12 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Brigstock. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of Brigstock's services include a primary school, GP surgery, convenience store and village shop, public houses, allotments and a multi-use games area. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Disability

Policies B2 and B5 requires new development, including affordable housing to have a safe and suitable access to the site for all and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy B4) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy B4 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policies B9 and B20 require the retention and provision of some footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy B16 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision, such as improved/new plays areas (Policies B3, B12), provision of facilities for young people (Policy B13), additional school places (Policy B13), improved sport and recreation facilities (Policy B13); a village hall with multi-use facilities including a playgroup and for housing to meet local needs including family accommodation (Policy B4). These impacts might be considered to be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities (Policy B12), including Brigstock village hall with multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy B16 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and as a consequence this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and with young children, disabled people and those with limited mobility.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of racial or religious groups, or transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.