

NOAK BRIDGE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

SUBMISSION DRAFT

2023-2042

Basic Conditions Statement

Version no. 2.0

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Basic Conditions Statement is one element of the document set needed for formal submission and examination of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan. The following documents will make up the complete Noak Bridge NDP submission.

- The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan 2023 - 2042 including Appendices;
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area;
- This Basic Conditions Statement;
- A Consultation Report detailing the extensive consultation with residents and other local stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process;
- A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as carried out by Basildon Borough Council;
- An evidence base comprising the evidence base documents identified in the NP including:
    - Noak Bridge Character Appraisal
    - Noak Bridge Design Code
    - Local Green Spaces Assessment
    - Community Facilities, Social and Physical Infrastructure List and Assessment
    - Community Consultations and Survey Findings

For additional information please see https://e-voice.org.uk/noakbridgepc/neighbourhood-plan/

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirements of Neighbourhood Plans, and the related procedural obligations, are set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

As part of the process of writing this Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has had regard to the various legal requirements contained in the key legislation. The following paragraphs of this statement describe those requirements and the compliance assessment.

Is Noak Bridge Parish Council a 'Qualifying Body' authorised to act in relation to the Neighbourhood Area?

This requirement is described in Sections 61E(1) / 61E(6) and 61F (1) of the Town & Country Planning Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Noak Bridge Parish Council is a Qualifying Body and is therefore authorised to act in relation to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan covering the Neighbourhood Area.

Has the Neighbourhood Area been designated by Basildon Borough Council?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Area application was submitted on 18th September 2018 and on 23rd November 2018 the Basildon Borough Council Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee designated the area, which covers the whole parish area.

Does the designation follow an application for designation by the 'Relevant Body' (ie Noak Bridge Parish Council)?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1a) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Area application was submitted by the Noak Bridge Parish Council who are the 'Relevant Body' for the purposes of Section 61G(1a).

The designated Neighbourhood Area is indicated below in Figure 1:

Proposed Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Area

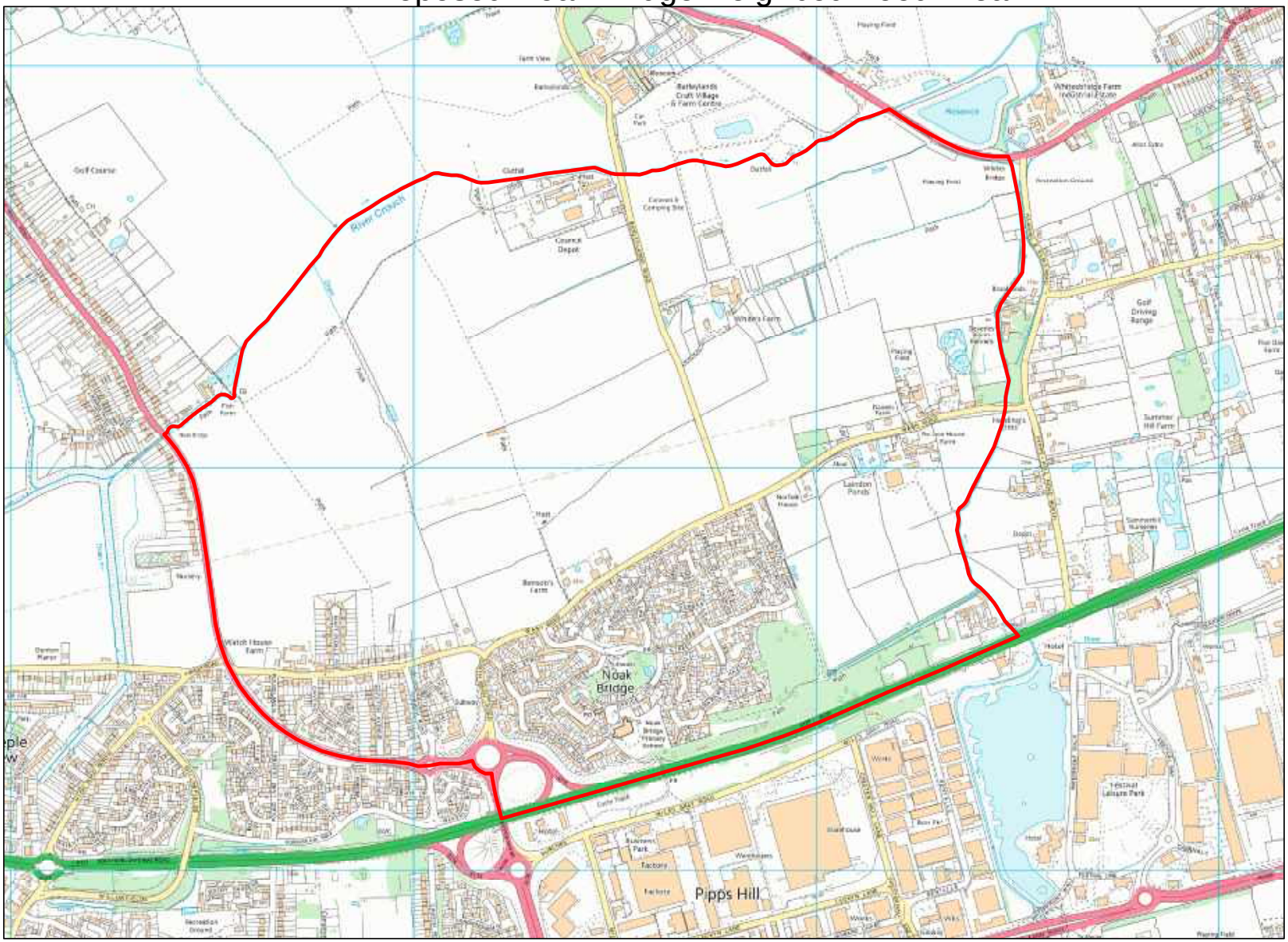

Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Area

Do the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan and Basic Conditions Statement specify the period for which the Plan is to have effect?

This requirement is described in Section 38B (1a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Basic Conditions Statement specify the period over which the Plan is to have effect, namely the period 2023 - 2042.

Does the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan include provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). 'Excluded Development' is defined in Section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as development that consists of a county matter (ie minerals and waste matters); or the carrying out of prescribed operations / development / development in prescribed area; development within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; or nationally significant infrastructure projects.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'.

Does the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

As noted above, the Neighbourhood Plan covers the entire area within the parish boundary.

Are there any other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 (as amended).

There are no other 'made' Neighbourhood Plans that cover an area that is located within the Noak Bridge parish boundary and the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Does the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan contain policies that relate to the development and use of land?

The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to the development or use of land and are therefore appropriate for inclusion within a Neighbourhood Plan.

Does the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'Basic Conditions'?

The requirement to meet 'Basic Conditions' is set out in Schedule 4b(8(1a)) to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), with the basic conditions themselves being set out in Schedule 4b(8(2a-g)).

The rest of this Statement is devoted to assessing the degree to which the submission Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4b.

For the sake of completeness, the basic conditions that are relevant to Neighbourhood Plans such as this are as follows:

(a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan

(b) the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

(c) the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (in this case Basildon Borough Council)

(d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as incorporated into UK law

(e) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites (this is a 'Prescribed Condition')

Basic Conditions (d) and (e) are addressed together in Section 6 of this Statement.

Schedule 4b (8(6)) also indicates that it is necessary to consider whether the neighbourhood plan is ''compatible with the Convention rights''. The interpretation section (s.17) in Schedule 4b confirms that ''the Convention rights'' have the same meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998. This will be considered in Section 6 of this Statement.

3 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL POLICY / ADVICE

The Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated December 2023. The Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to the guidance set out on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, published by the Government in 2014 and updated on a rolling basis.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee believes that the Neighbourhood Plan plans positively for future development in the Plan Area and that it is consistent with the provisions of the Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies 2007, adopted on 20th September 2007, whilst also reflecting the direction of travel in the emerging Local Plan too.

Set out in Table 1 overleaf, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF and NPPG. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

NP Policy Number and Title	NPPF / NPPG paragraph	Comment on Conformity
ALL POLICIES	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 12-14, 18, 21, 29-30, 37, 50, 52, 67-68, 71, 105, 132, 145 and 161 (neighbourhood planning).* *NPPG Paragraphs 41-001-20190509-41-107-20200925 (neighbourhood planning).*	The neighbourhood plan has been drafted having regard to the extensive policy and guidance contained in the Government's NPPF and NPPG resources. The policy and guidance has fundamentally informed and shaped the policies in this neighbourhood plan as a result.
Policy NB1 Infill and Redevelopment to Prove New Housing	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 60-73 (housing mix and affordability), 82-84 (rural housing), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 180 (landscape) and 135, 193 (amenity).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-00720190722 (amenity) and 67-00920190722 to 67-010-20190722 (rural housing).*	This policy draws upon the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code to develop a policy approach that is consistent with national planning policy and guidance on infill housing development in within the built part of the settlement of Noak Bridge. It also seeks to build upon the policies of the development plan in maintaining the special character of the settlements in the Plan area and their associated spatial arrangement and appearance.
Policy NB2 Extensions to Existing Dwellings	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 135, 193 (amenity) and 195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (heritage) and 18a-039-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (non-designated heritage assets).*	This policy reinforces paragraphs 131 to 134 of the NPPF which sets out clear design expectations and how these will be assessed. It also refers to evidence contained in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code, which identify the special qualities of each character area and explain how future residential extensions should be reflected in development.
Policy NB3 Replacement Dwellings	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 135, 193 (amenity), 180 (landscape) and 195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (heritage) and 18a-039-20190723 to 18a-041-20190723 (non-designated heritage assets).*	This policy addresses matters which are relevant to the replacement of dwellings in the context of a variety of scenarios and with a variety of impacts that are discussed in detail in both the NPPF and NPPG. In particular, it incorporates a list of circmstances where replacement dwellings will be controlled for landscape and heritage reasons, as set out in the NPPF. It also addresses the potential impacts on existing amenity and environmental considerations associated with replacement dwellings, in a way that reflects the policy in the NPPF as well as the NPPG.
Policy NB4 Housing Mix	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 60-73 (housing mix and affordability), 82-84 (rural housing), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density) and 131-140 (design).* *NPPG Paragraphs 2a-017-20190220 to 2a-024-20190220 (affordable housing need), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 66-005-20190722 (density), 63-001-20190626 to 63-019-20190626 (housing for older and disabled people), 67-001-20190722 to 67-015-20210524 (housing need and affordability) and66-005-20190722 to 66-005-20190722 (density).*	This policy draws upon housing policies in the NPPF as well as Neighbourhood Plan evidence found in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and seeks to develop a policy approach that is consistent with national planning policy and guidance on residential developments. The NPPF also contains detailed guidance on meeting the accommodation needs of communities through the provision of certain forms of housing development where the need is supported by up-to-date evidence. Section 5 of the NPPF and the associated NPPG guidance provide a great deal of detail in this regard and this policy seeks to

		capture this approach by requiring developers to demonstrate how their residential development proposals meet the speciic needs of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Policy NB5 Green Belt	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development),131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt) and 180 (landscape).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design) and 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt).*	This policy reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and NPPG, which seek to protect the character and openess of the Green Belt from inappropriate development that should only be supported in very special circumstances.
Policy NB6 Landscape Character	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt),180 (landscape), 135, 191 (amenity) and 195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-021-20190723 (historic environment), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	This policy draws on the evidence contained in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code as well as the Landscape Character Appraisal undertaken by Basildon Borough and seeks to ensure that the key characteristics and features that make the landscape valuable are preserved and continue to play an important role in defining the visual setting of the Neighbourhood Plan area. It also seeks to ensure that future development proposals will pay special attention to the sensitivity of these areas and will prioritise their conservation and enhancement, where appropriate.
Policy NB7 Biodiversity	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 180 (landscape) and 20, 96, 159, 181 and 192 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure) and 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape).*	This policy seeks to manage new development proposals in a way that will ensure the preservation and, when appropriate, enhancement of the natural environment with its significant green features, priority habitats and wildlife corridors that have been identified in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around developments that will exceed the statutory mandatory figure of 10% will be strongly encouraged, provided that an appropriate justification is provided.
Policy NB8 Noak Bridge Nature Reserve	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 180 (landscape), 20, 96, 159, 181 and 192 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure) and 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape).*	This policy provides clear guidance about protecting and enhancing the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve SINC.
Policy NB9 Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 180 (landscape), 20, 96, 136, 159, 180-186 and 192 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315(climate change), 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design).*	This policy seeks to protect and support the expansion of the network of the green and blue infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Trees together with blue elements, including ponds and watercourses, are significant features in the landscape throught the Neighbourhood Plan area. The safeguarding of existing trees is central to the policy objectives in paragraphs 180 and 184 of the NPPF. The encouragement of replacement planting is also central to NPPF policy at paragraphs 180, 184 and 186 in particular as well as elsewhere throughout the NPPF in relation to the protection and enhancement of Green Infrastructure.

Policy NB10 Local Green Spaces	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 20, 96, 136, 159, 180-186 and 192 (biodiversity / Net Gain / green infrastructure) and 102-107 (open space and recreation).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure) and 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape).*	This policy draws on the evidence provided in the Local Green Spaces Assessment and seeks to conserve existing green infrastructure that define the unique character of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This policy is considered in general compliance with the requirements set out in the relevant paragrapghs of the NPPF and the associated guidance in the NPPG.
Policy NB11 Important Views	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt), 180 (landscape) and 191(c) (dark landscapes).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt).*	This policy draws on the evidence contained in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal to identify and manage the impact of development on the important key views that are listed, in a way that is consistent with the requirements of NPPF at paragraphs 131-140 by ensuring that the design of development reflects the special qualities of the landscape of the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Policy NB12 Flooding and Drainage	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 165-175 (flood risk) and 186 (natural environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change) and 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk)*	This policy identifies the areas in the Neighbourhood Plan area that are at risk of flooding and highlights that development proposals for new development should be in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF. It is also noted that new development should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, when appropriate.
Policy NB13 Sustainable Development	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design) and 158-164 (climate change).* *NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 7-001-20140306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk) and 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design).*	This policy reflects the guidance provided in the NPPG and paragraphs 158 to 164 of the NPPF and sets out a list of sustainability measures that developers will need to incorpate in their development proposals in order to ensure that effects of climate change are mitigated.
Policy NB14 Air Quality	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 109 (promoting sustainable transport), 180-184 (natural environment) and 192 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure), 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 53-004-20190722 (healthy communities) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	This policy builds upon paragraph 192 of the NPPF and seeks to manage development proposals in a way that will ensure that there will be no harm to air quality of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Development proposals which will provide opportunities to improve air quality will also be strongly supported.
Policy NB 15 Design Principles	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 114-117 (transport), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt), 180 (landscape), 135, 193 (amenity) and 195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt).*	This policy draws primarily from the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and sets out the main requirements that developers need to meet in order to demonstrate a development relates to the character of the Neighbourhood Plan area and it fully accords with the requirements in both the NPPF and NPPG on design.
Policy NB16 Character Areas	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 128-129 (density), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt), 158-164 (climate change), 180 (landscape), 135, 193 (amenity), 188-188 (natural environment) and*	This policy identifies 9 Character Areas, which have been drawn from the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and seeks to ensure that development proposals will directly draw upon the guidance on local distinctiveness contained

	195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment). *NPPG Paragraphs 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity / Net Gain and green infrastructure), 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	in these evidence base documents. It should be noted that the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code also incorporate information from the National Design Guide (2019), National Model Design Code (2020) and Essex Design Guide.
Policy NB17 Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (including the Conservation Area)	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 131-140 (design), 135, 193 (amenity) and 195-214 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	This policy reflects national policy on conserving and enhancing the historic environment, including its heritage assets, in the NPPF. In addition, it is consistent with national policy that focuses on preserving existing designated and non-designated heritage assets and supporting high quality design as set out in the NPPF. This policy also refers to other evidence, such as the emerging Local Plan and the Noak Bridge Conservation Area Appraisal to ensure that this policy reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and asociated guidance in the NPPG.
Policy NB18 Re-use of Rural Buildings	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 82-84 (rural housing), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt), 180 (landscape), 135, 193 (amenity) and 195-214 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	This policy refers to the Noak Bridge Design Code and seeks to guide developers on the main requirements that will need to be met in order to demonstrate that a development proposal comprising the reuse or the conversion of rural buildings can be acceptable in principle. As a consequence, the proposals fully reflect the requirements of NPPF paragraphs and NPPG sections that are listed in the column to the left.
Policy NB19 Dark Night Skies	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 142-156 (Green Belt), 180 (landscape), 191(c) (dark landscapes) and 135, 193 (amenity).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 26-001-2019001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	This policy seeks to encourage good design practices which will minimise light pollution within the Neighbourhood Plan area in order to maintain its tranquil character. This is consistent with the NPPF approach to limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, instrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation (NPPF paragraph 191 (c)), as well as recognising the need for quality design, protecting and enhancing the landscape in the Neighbourhood Plan area and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (NPPF paragraphs 8, 131-140 and 180).
Policy NB20 Rural Economy	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 85-89 (economy), 108-117 (transport), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 142-156 (Green Belt), 180 (landscape), 135, 193 (amenity) and 195-214 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).* *NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 64-001-20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	The NPPF strongly supports employment develompent, which helps to build a strong competitive economy (Section 6) and this policy seeks to support all appropriate proposals for employment opportunities in the Neighbourhood Plan area. This policy sets out a number of criteria, which reflect the points raised in paragraphs 85 to 89 of the NPPF and seeks to support new rural employment opportunities where it can be demonstrated that it will not unacceptably harm the countryside or have adverse traffic impacts.

Policy NB21 Noak Bridge Primary School	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 34 (development contributions), 99-100 (promoting healthy and safe communities), 127 (viability) and 135, 193 (amenity).* *NPPG Paragraphs 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability), 23b-001-20190901 to 23b-038-20190901 (planning obligations), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 53-007-20190722 to 53-008-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity) and planning for schools development: statement.*	This policy seeks to support the expansion of Noak Bridge Primary School by requiring all new major residential development proposals to provide financial contributions towards the creation of new education facilities within the Neighbourhood Plan area, where justified.
Policy NB22 Health Facilities	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 55, 57-58 (planning obligations), 96-101 (promoting healthy and safe communities) and 135, 193 (amenity).* *NPPG Paragraphs 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs) and 53-001-20190722 to 53-005-20190722 (achieving healthy and inclusive communities).*	This policy seeks to ensure that, where justified, all new major residential developments will provide appropriate mitigation in the form of financial contributions towards healthcare in order to ensure that the pressure created on existing heathcare facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be minimised.
Policy NB23 Community Facilities	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 55, 57-58 (planning obligations), 85-89 (economy), 96-97, 99 (healthy / safe communities), 102-103 (open space / recreation), 127 (viability) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 37-003-20140306 (open space / recreation), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability).*	This policy draws upon the Community Facilities assessment and seeks to protect the existing important community infrastructure and facilities that have been identified and support their reuse when appropriate. It therefore accords with the paragraphs of the NPPF and sections of NPPG that are listed in the left column.
Policy NB24 Funding New Facilities / Infrastructure	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 55, 57-58 (planning obligations), 96-97, 99 (healthy / safe communities), 127 (viability) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 10-007-20190509 to 10-028-20180724 (viability), 23b-001-20190901 to 23b-038-20190901 (planning obligations), 37-003-20140306 (open space and recreation), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs) and 53-007-20190722 to 53-008-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places).*	This policy seeks to secure appropriate contributions from developers in order to ensure that development will not have an unacceptable impact on existing community facilities. It also sets out a list of funding priorities, where the financial contributions from S106 agreements and CIL will be allocated to. This is central to the Government's theme for supporting and encouraging healthy communities (section 8 of the NPPF) and it follows the policy approach for planning obligations that are set out in paragraphs 55, 57 and 58 of the NPPF.
Policy NB25 Highways, Safety and Sustainable Travel	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 96, 101 (healthy communities), 108-117 (transport), 131-140 (design) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 53-004-20190722 (healthy communities) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).*	The criteria contained in this policy echo the national policy objectives for road safety, appropriate mitigation and the promotion of sustainable transport methods at paragraphs 108 and 114 to 116 of the NPPF, whilst also referencing good practice in designing for alternative sustainable modes of transport. In addition, this policy specifically identifies roads and junctions where there are particular highway safety concerns and a high number of road traffic accidents to evidence the need for the policy.
Policy NB26 Parking	*NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 96, 101 (healthy communities), 108-117 (transport), 131-140 (design) and 193 (pollution).* *NPPG Paragraphs 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 26-001-20191001*	This policy seeks to promote sustainable travel and prioritise pedestrian safety and improve the provision of cycling facilities by requiring from new development proposals to provide adequate number of vehicle and cycle parking spaces.

	to 26-023-20191001 (design), 53-004-20190722 (healthy communities) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).	This policy accords with paragraphs 96, 110 and 116 of the NPPF which seek to improve road safety.

4 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are three over-arching objectives to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental (see NPPF paragraph 8). The three objectives are mutually dependent.

In addressing the above basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Development Plan pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that

"Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but on doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area".

When testing the policies set out in the NDP the following three categories have been assessed and the conclusions are summarised below.

Sustainable Development Category	Responsibility
Economic (Econ)	The Plan encourages and supports rural businesses, employment of local people and development which have a tangible benefit to community infrastructure and services.
Social (So)	The Plan's policies recognise the social dimension seeking to preserve and enhance community facilities and promoting active and sustainable travel. Emphasis has been placed on the need to manage traffic and pedestrian safety and improve cycling facilities in the Plan area. The Plan also identifies proposed Local Green Spaces and a green infrastructure network, which are valued for their social benefits.
Environmental (En)	The Plan encourages development to respect the local character, landscape, biodiversity, heritage and a range of other environmental attributes of the Parish, as well as protecting the identity of individual settlements by using appropriate landscape and design policies.

The following table shows how the NDP objectives relate to the more detailed sustainability themes.

Sustainability Theme	Categ.	General sustainability Appraisal Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objective
1. Biodiversity	En	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	EGS1, EGS2, EGS3, EGS4, EGS5, EGS6, DC4, EHS2
2. Water resources and flood risk	En	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner	EGS7, DC5
	En	Protect people and property from risk of flooding	EGS7
3. Climatic Factors	En	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	DC5, EHS2
4. Landscape and Townscape	En	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Noak Bridge NP's rural and urban landscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	H1, EGS1, EGS2, EGS3, EGS4, EGS5, EGS6, DC1, DC2, DC3, DC4, EHS2
5. Healthy Communities	So	Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	H1, H3, H4, EGS3, DC4, DC5, EHS8, TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4, TR5
6. Education and Skills	So	Raise educational attainment and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills	EHS1, EHS4, EHS5, EHS7
7. Economy and Enterprise	Econ	Encourage a vibrant and diversified local economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	EHS1, EHS3, EHS6, EHS7
	Econ	Ensure adequate provision of employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	EHS1, EHS3, EHS7
8. Land and soil resources	En	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	H2, H3, H4, DC1, EHS5, EHS6, EHS7

The degree to which policies meet key sustainable development objectives is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
++	The policy will result in **a very positive effect** on the sustainability objective in question
+	The policy will result in **a positive effect** on the sustainability objective in question
0	The policy will result in **a neutral effect** on the sustainability objective in question
-	The policy will result in **a negative effect** on the sustainability objective in question
–	The policy will result in **a very negative effect** on the sustainability objective in question

The following table shows how these conclusions have been reached. The Plan's policies have been assessed in terms of how they will deliver sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability and the assessment shows that the Plan's policies address all three objectives in clear and logical ways.

Policy Number, Category and Description		Achievement of Sustainable Development		
Housing Theme		**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
Policy NB1	Infill and Redevelopment to Provide New Housing	+	++	0
Policy NB2	Extensions to Existing Dwellings	+	++	0
Policy NB3	Replacement Dwellings	+	++	0
Policy NB4	Housing Mix	+	++	0
Environment and Green Space Theme		**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
Policy NB5	Green Belt	0	++	++
Policy NB6	Landscape Character	0	++	++
Policy NB7	Biodiversity	0	++	++
Policy NB8	Noak Bridge Nature Reserve	0	++	++
Policy NB9	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	0	++	++
Policy NB10	Local Green Spaces	0	++	++
Policy NB11	Important Views	0	++	++
Policy NB12	Flooding and Drainage	0	++	++
Design and Conservation Theme		**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
Policy NB13	Sustainable Development	++	+	++
Policy NB14	Air Quality	0	++	++
Policy NB15	Design Principles	+	++	++
Policy NB16	Character Areas	0	++	++
Policy NB17	Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (including the Conservation Area)	+	++	++
Policy NB18	Re-use of Rural Buildings	+	++	++
Policy NB19	Dark Night Skies	0	++	++
Local Economy, Education, Health and Other Local Services Theme		**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
Policy NB20	Rural Economy	++	++	0
Policy NB21	Noak Bridge Primary School	0	++	+
Policy NB22	Health Facilities	++	++	+
Policy NB23	Community Facilities	++	++	0
Policy NB24	Funding New Facilities / Infrastructure	++	++	+
Transport and Roads Theme		**Economic**	**Social**	**Environmental**
Policy NB25	Highways, Safety and Sustainable Travel	0	++	++
Policy NB26	Parking	0	++	++

5 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

The Development Plan in the Basildon Borough Council consists of the Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies 2007, which was adopted on 20th September 2007.

The policies of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan can be seen in the table below. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is accompanied by a statement describing the 'general conformity' with strategic policies of the Development Plan and objectives of the Basildon Borough Council emerging Local Plan.

The Development Plan stategic policies that have not been included in the table below are not considered to be directly relevant to the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan.

NP Policy Number and Title	Basildon District Local Plan Saved Policies 2007	Basildon Borough Local Plan Issues and Options Strategic Objectives 2023	Comment on Conformity
Policy NB1 Infill and Redevelopment to Provide New Housing	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASS5: Affordable Housing (1999 Alterations) and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Place - Delivering new homes*	This policy draws from the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and seeks to build upon the policies of the development plan, which are listed in the column to the left, by maintaining the special character of the settlements in the Plan area. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in BDLPSP policies BASGB1, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASS5 and BASBE12.
Policy NB2 Extensions to Existing Dwellings	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Place - Delivering new homes*	This policy seeks to ensure that future development proposals will be designed by taking into account the guidance contained in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code. This reflects the policy approach in saved policies BASGB1, BASGB4, BASGB5 and BASBE12 of the BDLP, and therefore is considered to be in general conformity with the above saved policies.
Policy NB3 Replacement Dwellings	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Place - Delivering new homes*	This policy draws from the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and deals with a number of matters, such as heritage, landscape and amenity. It seeks to protect the heritage assets (designated/non-designated) that are found to be in the best condition from replacement, and to allow the replacement of other dwellings of heritage / landscape / design value provided that they comply with several criteria, such as the avoidance of giving rise to adverse amenity impacts. As a consequence, it is considered that policy NB3 is in conformity with BDLPSP policies BASGB1, BASGB3, BASGB5 and BASBE12.

Policy NB4 Housing Mix	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASS5: Affordable Housing (1999 Alterations) and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Place - Delivering new homes*	This policy draws from the latest South Essex Housing Needs Assessment and information provided by the Basildon Council Housing Department and requires developers proposing residential schemes for 10 or more dwellings to use them in order to justify the mix of dwelling types, tenures and sizes they are proposing. This approach is considered to be consistent with both national and development plan policies, which seek to promote high quality design and healthy communities. It is therefore considered that this policy is in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASGB1, BASGB5, BASS5 and BASBE12.
Policy NB5 Green Belt	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASBE12: Development Control; BASR1: Open Space and BASBE19: Advertisements - Green Belt.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	This policy seeks to preserve the openess and maintain the unique and key characteristics of the Green Belt, which washes over the undeveloped part of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in BDLPSP policies BASGB1, BASGB3, BASGB4, BASGB5, BASGB, BASGB7, BASBE12, BASBE19.
Policy NB6 Landscape Characters	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASR1: Open Space; BASBE12: Development Control; and BASBE19: Advertisements - Green Belt.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	This policy seeks to preserve the openess and maintain the unique and key characteristics of the Green Belt, which washes over the undeveloped part of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in BDLPSP policies BASGB1, BASGB3, BASGB4, BASGB5, BASGB, BASGB7, BASBE12, BASBE19.
Policy NB7 Biodiversity	*BDLPSP: BASC1: Protected Areas - SSSI's, SNIC's & important wildlife habitats; BASC2: Country Parks - protects Country Parks from adverse development; BASC5: Trees and Woodlands - Protection of Ancient Woodlands; BASC13: Water Wildlife; BASR1: Open Space and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	The Neighbourhood Plan area contains the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve and numerous priority habitats (ponds, woodlands etc). This policy seeks to identify and protect these from any unacceptable harm. This policy also encourages new developments to deliver a biodiversity net gain of at least 10%, which is in line with the requirements contained in Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021), as well as according with paragraphs 180(d), 185(b) and 186(d) of the NPPF.

			It is accordingly considered that policy NB7 is in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BAC1, BASC2, BASC5, BASC13, BASR1 and BASBE12.
Policy NB8 Noak Bridge Nature Reserve	*BDLPSP: BASC1: Protected Areas - SSSI's, SNIC's & important wildlife habitats; BASC2: Country Parks - protects Country Parks from adverse development; BASC5: Trees and Woodlands - Protection of Ancient Woodlands; BASC13: Water Wildlife and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	The Noak Bridge Nature Reserve has been designated as a local Nature Reserve due to the significant habitat it provides for a number of protected species, such as birds, amphibians, reptiles etc which can frequently be found within the Nature Reserve. The Noak Bridge Nature Reserve brings significant educational, recreational and environmental value to the Neighbourhood Plan area and its local community and this policy seeks to ensure that any effects arising from new development proposals will not have an unacceptable harm on it. This policy is considered to reflect the approach that has been adopted by BDLPSP policies BASC1, BASC2, BASC5, BASC13 and BASBE12.
Policy NB9 Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	*BDLPSP: BASC1: Protected Areas - SSSI's, SNIC's & important wildlife habitats; BASC2: Country Parks - protects Country Parks from adverse development; BASC5: Trees and Woodlands - Protection of Ancient Woodlands; BASC13: Water Wildlife; BASR1: Open Space and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	Trees, hedgerows, ponds and watercourses are considered significant local assets in the Neighbourhood Plan area and this policy seeks to protect these features from development that would have an unacceptable harm on them. It also provides additional information on proposals for the replacement or the planting of new trees. Therefore, it is considered that policy NB9 is in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASC1, BASC2, BASC5, BASC13, BASR1 and BASBE12.
Policy NB10 Local Green Spaces	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASC5: Trees and Woodlands - Protection of Ancient Woodlands; BASC13: Water Wildlife; BASR1: Open Space and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	The policy reflects national policies and lists a number of green spaces that are proposed for designation, due to their compliance with the criteria set out in the NPPF and the benefits they provide to the local community. This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the BDLPSP policies that are set out in the column to the left.
Policy NB11 Important Views	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASR1: Open Space and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	Policy NB11 identifies locally important views and seeks to ensure that development proposals within the setting of these areas responds in a positive manner. This reflects the policy approach in policies BASGB1, BASR1 and BASBE12, and therefore this policy is considered to be in general conformity with the aforementioned saved policies.
Policy NB12 Flooding and Drainage	*BDLPSP: BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	This policy seeks to direct development away from those areas that have been identified, as shown on the detailed maps in the Neighbourhood Plan, to be liable to flooding. It also provides additional information in connection with the dischargement of surface water.

			This policy is considered essential, as it lists those affected areas, therefore it is considered to be in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASGB5 and BASBE12.
Policy NB13 Sustainable Developme nt	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates; BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - new primary & community facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	This policy reflects the latest Government policy and guidance on climate change and seeks to encourage new development proposals to incorporate measures that will mitigate the effects of climate change and help Basildon Borough Council with meeting their sustainability objectives. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the following BDLPSP policies: BASGB3, BASGB4, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASE4, BASE7, BASE10, BASSH6, BASBE12, BASBE21 and BASBE22.
Policy NB14 Air Quality	*BDLPSP: BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - new primary & community facilities.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	This policy draws from public roadside data to identify the parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, which suffer from poor air quality due to high volumes of traffic and congestion and seeks to manage development proposals in a sustainable way that will ensure the protection, and when possible the improvement, of the air quality of those areas. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with BDLPSP policies: BASGB5, BASE4, BASE10, BASBE12 and BASBE21.
Policy NB15 Design Principles	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates; BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - new primary & community facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment; Place - Creating vibrant and thriving town centres*	This policy draws upon the evidence contained within the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code and seeks to create a design framework, which will preserve and improve the locally specific features that positively enhance the local character of the Neighbourhood Plan area. Therefore, this policy is considered to be in general conformity with the following BDLPSP policies: BASGB3, BASGB4, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASE4, BASE7 BASE10, BASSH6, BASBE12, BASBE21 and BASBE22.

	Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.		
Policy NB16 Character Areas	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates; BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - new primary & community facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment; Place - Creating vibrant and thriving town centres*	Policy NB15 identifies 9 Character Areas based on the distinctive features and key characteristics, which have been identified in the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code. This policy also seeks to preserve the openess of the Green Belt and maintain the unique identity of each Character Area. This approach is considered to be consistent with the saved policy approach in the BDLPSP policies that are listed in the column to the left.
Policy NB17 Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (including the Conservation Area)	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4: Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment; Prosperity - Capitalising on local tourism opportunities*	This sets out what will be required from development proposals in order to demonstrate that the setting and significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets and of the Noak Bridge Conservation area are conserved and when possible enhanced. Consequently, it is considered that policy NB17 is in general conformity with the saved policies of the BDLP that are set out in the column to the left.
Policy NB18 Re-use of Rural Buildings	*BDLPSP: BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt; Place - Minimising our impact on the environment; Prosperity - Strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy; Prosperity - Capitalising on local tourism opportunities*	This policy seeks to support proposals for the reuse or conversion of rural buildings, provided that their design is informed by the Noak Bridge Character Appraisal and Design Code. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the following BDLPSP policies: BASGB5, BASGB7, BASE4, BASE7, BASE10, BASSH6 and BASBE12.
Policy NB19 Dark Night Skies	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB4:*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Protecting and enhancing the quality of the local environment; Place - Improving the quality and value of the Green Belt;*	The Neighbourhood Plan area has been identified as suffering from increased levels of light pollution over the last 10 years, and consequentially the local community are unable to enjoy relatively tranquil and dark skies at night.

	Extension to dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASC1: Protected Areas - SSSI's, SNIC's & important wildlife habitats; BASC2: Country Parks - protects Country Parks from adverse development; BASR1: Open Space; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises and BASBE12: Development Control.	*Place - Minimising our impact on the environment*	The aim of this policy is to guide the design of new development proposals by preventing excessive light spill in areas that are dark at night in order to ensure that the tranquil character of the Neigbhbourhood Plan area is protected and enhanced. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the following BDLPSP policies: BASGB1, BASGB3, BASGB4, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASC1, BASC2, BASR1, BASE7 and BASBE12.
Policy NB20 Rural Economy	*BDLPSP: BASGB1: The Definition of the Green Belt; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASC1: Protected Areas - SSSI's, SNIC's & important wildlife habitats; BASC2: Country Parks - protects Country Parks from adverse development; BASR1: Open Space; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: Place - Creating vibrant and thriving town centres; Prosperity - Strengthening the competitiveness of the local economy; Prosperity - Capitalising on local tourism opportunities*	The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a number of small businesses that can be found within the village of Noak Bridge and in the Industrial Estates located within the Green Belt. Policy NB20 seeks to encourage opportunities for the improvement and expansion of existing businesses and the creation of new small-scale business opportunities in the whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area, provided that development proposals can met a specific list of criteria that will ensure that there will be no unacceptable harm to the rural environment, including Green Belt, the historic environment and the local townscape. This approach is considered to be consistent with the saved policy approach in the BDLPSP policies that are listed in the column to the left.
Policy NB21 Noak Bridge Primary School	*BDLPSP: BASBE12: Development Control and BASBE24: Crime Prevention.*	*BBLPIOSO: Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	Policy NB21 seeks to improve existing educational facilities, as well as encouraging provision of new facilities provided that the new or improved educational facilities are required to directly mitigate the impact of new major residential development. Therefore, this policy is considered to be in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASBE12 and BASBE24.
Policy NB22 Health Facilities	*BDLPSP: BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.*	*BBLPIOSO: Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	This policy seeks to protect existing health facilities by requiring new development proposals to engage with the health authority at the early stages of the development in order to ensure that any impacts on existing health care services and facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area are mitigated. It is accordingly considered that this policy isbe in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASBE12, BASBE21 and BASBE22.
Policy NB23 Community Facilities	*BDLPSP: BASR1: Open Space; BASR16: Noisy and Disturbing Sports; BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments*	*BBLPIOSO: Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	This policy seeks the improvement, reuse and retention of existing community facilities within the Plan area and makes clear that development proposals for the loss of a community facility will only be permitted if it can be

	- Extensions to Hospital facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.		demonstrated that the facility is no longer financially viable, or the asset is not valued by the community or the proposed development can be carried out via the General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended) Rights. This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the saved policies of the BDLP that are listed in the column to the left.
Policy NB24 Funding New Facilities / Infrastructure	*BDLPSP: BASBE12: Development Control; BASBE21: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities and BASBE22: Healthcare Developments - Extensions to Hospital facilities.*	*BBLPIOSO: Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	This policy identifies a list of important community facilities in the Neighbourhood Plan area and highlights that new major development proposals will be encouraged to prioritise their funding. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the following BDLPSP policies: BASBE12, BASBE21 and BASBE22.
Policy NB25 Highways, Safety and Sustainable Travel	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	This policy sets out a number of criteria that development proposals will need to meet in order to promote sustainable travel and to ensure that they will have no adverse impact on highway safety. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASGB3, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASE4, BASE7, BASE10, BASSH6 and BASBE12.
Policy NB26 Parking	*BDLPSP: BASGB3: Replacement dwellings in the Green Belt; BASGB5: Definition of a Dwelling; BASGB6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings; BASGB7: Re-use of Buildings in the Green Belt; BASE4: Existing Employment Areas; BASE7: Alternative Uses of Industrial Premises; BASE10: General Employment Policy; BASSH6: Retailing on Industrial Estates and BASBE12: Development Control.*	*BBLPIOSO: People - Enhancing the quality of life for all; Prosperity - Securing the delivery of supporting infrastructure*	This policy deals with parking, accessibility and safety matters. It also identifies a number of areas were parking issues have been identified and requires new development proposals in these locations that they provide adequate numbers of vehicle and cycle parking spaces in order to ensure that the safety of road users and the character of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is preserved. It is accordingly considered that policy NB26 is in general conformity with BDLPSP policies BASGB3, BASGB5, BASGB6, BASGB7, BASE4, BASE7, BASE10, BASSH6 and BASBE12.

6 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS (AS INCORPORATED INTO UK LAW) / PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

The EU Directives (as incorporated into UK law) that are of most relevance to the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC
- The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- The Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
- The Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)

The above have been transposed into UK law in the following ways:

- The SEA Directive is transposed into UK legislation by way of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
- The Habitats and Wild Birds Directives have been transposed into UK legislation by way of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
- Air Quality Standards Regulation 2010 (as amended)

Other Directives that are not directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU
- The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

The above have been transposed through the following main legislative tools (which may be subject to further amendments):

- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (Waste Regulations 2011), SI 2011/988; Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020/904
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

Furthermore, it is necessary to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Convention on Human Rights (EHCR) obligations which are the same as those set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Human Rights Act 1998

Dealing with this last matter first, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, being cognisant of the obligations in relation to Human Rights, have sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

These rights can be summarised as follows:

- The right to life
- The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment
- Protection against slavery and forced labour
- The right to liberty and freedom
- The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law
- Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry
- Freedom of thought, religion and belief
- Free speech and peaceful protect
- No discrimination
- Protection of property
- The right to an education
- The right to free elections

The process of developing this Neighbourhood Plan has involved a significant amount of public consultation, seeking to engage with as full a range of consultees as possible to ensure the greatest opportunity for discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (see Consultation Report for details).

This engagement with the local community (through consultation with a wide array of individuals, businesses, landowners and community organisations) has provided many opportunities for the community to feedback and be involved in the process. This has meant that in having the opportunity to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to seek to influence it where appropriate, respondents have been able to ensure, through discussion and feedback, that those rights identified above have been protected throughout the process.

In addition, as Appendix A to this Statement demonstrates, an Equalities Impact Assssment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been carried out to ensure that no groups or individuals are

disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements.

Other EU Obligations as Transposed into UK Legislation

Furthermore, the Plan does not contain policies which would have implications for water or waste and it is therefore compatible with the EU Directives dealing with those matters, as transposed into UK legislation. It should be noted that the Plan does contain a policy which would have implications for air quality, but the policy does not breach the EU Obligations as transposed into UK law.

Finally, the Plan does not propose individual projects or projects of a scale which would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and therefore the Plan is also compatible with EIA Directive as transposed into UK legislation.

Prescribed Conditions

The fifth Basic Condition requirement that 'Prescribed Conditions' are met, means - for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan - that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan must not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulations assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

This requirement was introduced by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee submitted a formal Screening Opinion request to Basildon Borough Council in relation to the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the draft Neighbourhood Plan on 20th June 2024.

The Screening request concludes that it is the view of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan will not lead to significant effects that could require a Strategic Environmental Assessment and / or Habitat Regulations Assessment to be carried out. As a consequence, it is considered that the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and indeed it is compatible with, the SEA, Habitats, Wild Birds and Air Quality Directives, and that the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species

Regulations 2017 (as amended), are met.

Equality

Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements; and that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the policies of the Neighborhood Plan is provided at in Appendix A to this document. The assessment demonstrates that the policies in the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan submission will generally lead to positive results for one or more of the protected characteristics. In other cases the policies will have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Having undertaken an analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan in the preceding sections of this Statement, it is concluded that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

APPENDIX A EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The explanatory notes to the Equality Act 2010 explain that the Act *"…. has two main purposes - to harmonise discrimination law, and to strengthen the law to support progress on equality."*

The notes go on to explain that the Act combines a number of Acts of Parliament and sets of Regulations dating back to 1970. It places various duties on public bodies and identifies a series of 'protected characteristics' that could either accidentally or deliberately be discriminated against during the course of decision making or policy processes. Theses protected characteristics are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion and belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation; and
- Gender reassignment.

The purpose of this section is to assess the submission draft of the Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan against the above protected characteristics. If policies are found to have a negative effect on a protected characteristic then this can be used to identify necessary amendments to policies or to inform the consideration of potential amendments during the examination into the submission Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The degree to which policies meet equality characteristics is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
+	The policy will result in **a positive effect** on the equality characteristic in question
0	The policy will result in **a neutral effect** on the equality characteristic in question
-	The policy will result in **a negative effect** on the equality characteristic in question

This assessment is intended as a final check in the process of preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan for submission. Earlier consultation exercises with the local community have engaged with a range of individuals and groups, providing an opportunity for them to comment on all aspects of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, including whether the draft Neighbourhood Plan supports equality.

The table on the next page identifies each policy and assesses the policy against each of the protected characteristics. The final row of each table is for comments including any actions arising from the assessment of each specific policy.

Policy reference	Policy Description	Age	Disability	Gender reassignment	Marriage and civil partnership	Race	Religion and belief	Sex	Sexual orientation	Pregnancy and maternity	Comments
Housing Theme											
Policy NB1	Infill and Redevelopment to Provide New Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB2	Extensions to Existing Dwellings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB3	Replacement Dwellings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB4	Housing Mix	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy has the potential to provide housing that meets local needs, including where a housing need for retirement purposes or for those with additional needs / supporting living as required is identified.
Environment and Green Space Theme											
Policy NB5	Green Belt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB6	Landscape Character	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB7	Biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB8	Noak Bridge Nature Reserve	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy protects a Nature Reserve with environmental, educational and recreational value, which is available to various age groups and those with disabilities.
Policy NB9	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscaping and Planting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB10	Local Green Spaces	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy protects valued spaces / recreation facilities, which are available to various age groups and those with disabilities.
Policy NB11	Important Views	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB12	Flooding and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Design and Conservation Theme											
Policy NB13	Sustainable Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB14	Air Quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB15	Design Principles	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the provision of improved access and accessibility to new development and requires from developers to demonstrate strict adherence to local and national design standards.
Policy NB16	Character Areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB17	Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (including the Conservation Area)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB18	Re-use of Rural Buildings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Policy NB19	Dark Night Skies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Local Economy, Education, Health and Other Local Services Theme											
Policy NB20	Rural Economy	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the creation of new businesses, which are designed to meet local needs.
Policy NB21	Noak Bridge Primary School	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports improved access to educational facilities.
Policy NB22	Health Facilities	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	Policy supports improved access to health facilities.
Policy NB23	Community Facilities	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Policy supports improved access to facilities.
Policy NB24	Funding New Facilities / Infrastructure	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Policy supports improved access to facilities.
Transport and Roads Theme											
Policy NB25	Highways, Safety and Sustainable Travel	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy has the potential to promote sustainable travel, and improve road safety for all road users including those with a disability.
Policy NB26	Parking	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy supports the provision of improved access, accessibility and vehicle and cycle parking.