
WINCHFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Basic Conditions Statement

October 2022

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Draft

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement has been prepared by Winchfield Parish Council to accompany the submission of the new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan to Hart District Council as required by Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations, 2012 (as amended). Hereafter, referred to as “the Regulations”.
- 1.2 The new Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Winchfield Parish Council, the qualifying body for the Neighbourhood Plan Area and covers the whole of the Parish of Winchfield. The new Neighbourhood Plan will replace the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan that was ‘made’ on 30 March 2017.
- 1.3 The Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Area was first designated on 8 January 2015 by Hart District Council. Hart District Council was notified of the Parish Council’s intention to revise the ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plan in July 2020
- 1.4 The purpose of this Basic Conditions Statement is to demonstrate that the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Regulations and how the Basic Conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.5 The Statement addresses each of the four ‘Basic Conditions’ given by the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 1.6 The new Neighbourhood Plan is accompanied by a Consultation Statement which sets out how the Parish Council and appointed Working Group has undertaken the community engagement requirements in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.7 The new Neighbourhood Plan once ‘made’ (adopted) will form part of the Development Plan for the area and used to determine planning applications in the parish.

2.0 STATEMENT OF GENERAL LEGAL COMPLIANCE

- 2.1 The Parish of Winchfield was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area by Hart District Council on 8 January 2015.
- 2.2 The new Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Winchfield Parish Council, which is a qualifying body within the meaning provided by the Regulations.
- 2.3 The new Neighbourhood Plan is supported by this Basic Conditions Statement, a Consultation Statement and supporting evidence as required by the Regulations.
- 2.4 The new Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan Working Group under the auspices of the Parish Council.
- 2.5 The Parish Council formally approved the Plan for submission to Hart District Council at its meeting on **Day Month** 2022.

3.0 THE BASIC CONDITIONS

- 3.1 The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The basic conditions for Neighbourhood Development Plans are met where:

- the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- due regard has been given to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State,
- 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 (or any part of that area),
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and
- 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.

3.2 The following sections sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan complies with each of the basic conditions.

4.0 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework, 2021 (NPPF) states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

4.2 The NPPF states the Government’s intentions with regards to sustainable development, in particular the need for the planning system to achieve several objectives:

- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive, and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation, and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure,
- **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant, and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
- **an environmental objective** – to protect and enhance our natural, built, and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.3 Table 1 which identifies how the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to each of these objectives.

Table 1: Contribution to Sustainable Development

National Objectives	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	Comments
Economic Objective	5. Support our local economy and sustain our agricultural heritage.	The Neighbourhood Plan objective underpins Government policy in relation to building a strong and competitive economy. NPPF Section 6.

National Objectives	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives	Comments
Social Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Influence the sustainability of our Built Environment for the benefit of all parish residents. 4. Promote health and wellbeing. 6. Ensure that we value and cherish our village, promote a thriving, strong and vibrant community and respond to the needs of our residents. 7. Introduce, promote and monitor safety measures to improve traffic management and reduce rural criminality. 	The Neighbourhood Plan objectives aim to deliver well designed new homes, promote a healthy and safe community, support the provision of high-quality communications and sustainable transport. NPPF Sections 5, 8, 9 10 and 12.
Environmental Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage, support, conserve, protect, and enhance our Natural Environment and the biodiversity of Winchfield. 2. Maintain, sustain, and enhance our Historic Environment. 8. Support Hart District Council initiatives to become a carbon neutral authority by 2035 and a carbon neutral district by 2040. 	The Neighbourhood Plan objectives support national policy on conserving and enhancing the natural environment, the historic environment, and meeting the challenges of climate change. NPPF Sections 14, 15 and 16.

5.0 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

5.1 The policies in the new Neighbourhood Plan have been drafted having regard to the national planning policies set out in the NPPF and associated guidance. Table 2 sets out how each Neighbourhood Plan Policy has regard to national planning policy and guidance. Where existing Neighbourhood Plan policies are to be retained either in their entirety or in part they are shown in brackets.

Table 2: Compliance with national planning policy and guidance

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy and Guidance	Comments
Policy NE1 - Landscape Character	Para 174	Policy NE1 accords with the provisions of the NPPF
Policy NE2 - Protection of Key Views	Para 174	Policy NE2 accords with the provisions of the NPPF
Policy NE3 – Brenda Parker Way	Para 174	Policy NE3 accords with the provisions of the NPPF
Policy NE4 – Trees, Woodland, and Hedgerows	Para 131	Policy NE4 accords with the provisions of the NPPF

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy and Guidance	Comments
Policy NE5 – Dark Skies	Para 185(c)	Policy NE5 accords with the provisions of the NPPF
Policy NE6 - Biodiversity protection and enhancement	Paras 179 to 182	Policy NE7 supports the provisions of the NPPF
Policy NE7 - Energy Efficiency and Generation	Paras 152 to 158	Policy NE7 supports the provisions of the NPPF
Policy HE1 - Heritage Assets	Paras 194 to 206	Policy HE1 supports the provisions of the NPPF
Policy HE2 – Non-designated Heritage Assets	Paras 194 to 206	Policy HE2 supports the provisions of the NPPF
Policy BE1 – New Development	Para 17 and Paras 20 to 23	Policy BE1 conforms with the NPPF and the strategic policies in the Hart Local Plan in relation to the location of new development.
Policy BE2 - Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites	Paras 78 and 79	Policy BE2 accords with the provisions of the NPPF and is supported by the findings of the Winchfield Housing Needs Survey.
Policy BE3 (A3) – Housing Mix and Appearance	Paras 78 and 79	Policy BE3 (A3) supports the provisions of the NPPF.
Policy BE4 - Development Design Considerations	Paras 126 to 135 and 185 (c)	Policy BE3 supports the provisions of the NPPF in relation to the creation of well-designed places.
Policy BE5 (A2) – Residential Parking	Paras 107 and 110	Policy BE5 has regard to local circumstances as required by the NPPF.
Policy P&C1 – Public Rights of Way	Para 100	Policy P&C1 supports the provisions of the NPPF.
Policy P&C2 - New Businesses and Employment Development	Paras 84 and 85	Policy P&C2 accords with the provisions of the NPPF
Policy P&C3 - Protecting existing services and facilities	Para 84(d) and Para 93	Policy P&C3 supports the provisions of the NPPF.

6.0 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

6.1 The relevant Development Plan for the Neighbourhood Plan area comprises the:

- Hart Local Plan 2014 – 2032 adopted April 2020
- South-East Plan – Policy NRM6: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area
- Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) 1996 – 2006 – saved policies

– Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013

6.2 Hart District Council has identified the strategic development plan policies for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. See Appendix A.

6.3 In preparing the new Neighbourhood Plan, regard has been had to the content of the strategic Development Plan policies. Table 3 sets out how the new neighbourhood plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic development plan policies. Not all the strategic development plan policies are relevant to the policy topics included in the new neighbourhood plan. Table 3 therefore focuses upon the policy linkages between the new neighbourhood plan and the policies in the Hart District Local Plan and the Hart Local Plan. It will be noted that the new neighbourhood plan policies complement or support the Local Plan policies.

Table 3: Conformity with Relevant Strategic Development Plan Policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hart District Local Plan Saved Polices	Hart Local Plan 2020	Comments
Policy NE1 - Landscape Character	CON 10 - Basingstoke Canal	Policy NBE2 - Landscape	Policy NE1 provides additional support to saved Policy CON 10 and Policy NBE2 in the Hart Local Plan and is underpinned by the Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment.
Policy NE2 - Protection of Key Views	---	Policy NBE2 - Landscape	Policy NE2 complements Policy NBE2 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy NE3 – Brenda Parker Way	---	Policy NBE2 - Landscape	Policy NE3 complements Policy NBE2 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy NE4 – Trees, Woodland, and Hedgerows	CON 8 – Trees, Woodland, and Hedgerows: Amenity Value	Policy NBE2 - Landscape	Policy NE4 complements Policy NBE2 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy NE5 – Dark Skies	---	Policy NBE11 – Pollution	Policy NE5 complements Policy NBE11 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy NE6 - Biodiversity protection and enhancement	---	Policy NBE3 – Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Policy NBE4 – Biodiversity	Policy NE6 adds further detail to Policies NBE3 and NBE4 in the Hart Local Plan to protect and enhance habitats in Winchfield and promote biodiversity.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hart District Local Plan Saved Polices	Hart Local Plan 2020	Comments
Policy NE7 - Energy Efficiency and Generation	---	Policy NBE10 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Policy NE7 supports Policy NBE10 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy HE1 - Heritage Assets	---	Policy NBE8 – Historic Environment	Policy HE1 provides additional support to Policy NBE 8 in the Hart Local Plan in the interests of safeguarding the significance of designated heritage assets and their settings.
Policy HE2 - Non-designated Heritage Assets	---	Policy NBE8 – Historic Environment	Policy HE2 identifies the importance of non-designated heritage assets and provides additional support to Policy NBE 8 in the Hart Local Plan.
Policy BE1 – New Development	---	Policy SS1 Spatial Strategy and Distribution of Growth. Policy NBE1 – Development in the Countryside	Policy BE1 complements Policies SS1 and NBE1 in the Hart Local Plan to promote the principles of sustainable development.
Policy BE2 - Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites	---	Policy H3 – Rural Exception Sites	Policy BE2 supplements Policy H3 in the Hart Local Plan and reflects the findings of the Winchfield Housing Needs Survey.
Policy BE3 (A3) – Housing Mix and Appearance	---	Policy H1 – Housing Mix: Market Housing	Policy BE2 (A3) supplements Policy H1 in the Hart Local Plan and reflects the findings of the Winchfield Housing Needs Survey.
Policy BE4 - Development Design Considerations	GEN 1 – General Policy for Development	Policy NBE9 – Design Policy NBE11 – Pollution Policy INF3 – Transport	Policy BE4 complements saved Policy GEN1 and Policies NBE9, NBE11, INF3 and INF6 in the Hart Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hart District Local Plan Saved Polices	Hart Local Plan 2020	Comments
		Policy INF6 – Broadband or Successor Services	
Policy BE5 (A2) – Residential Parking	GEN 1 – General Policy for Development	---	Policy BE5 supplements saved Policy GEN 1 and provides additional guidance that is germane to Winchfield.
Policy P&C1 – Public Rights of Way	CON 23 - Development affecting Public Rights of Way	---	Policy P&C1 provides additional support to saved Policy CON 23.
Policy P&C2 - New Businesses and Employment Development	RUR 34 – Horse Related Development	Policy ED1 – New Employment Policy ED3 – The Rural Economy	Policy P&C2 supplements saved Policy RUR 34 and Policies ED1 and ED3 in the Hart Local Plan
Policy P&C3 - Protecting existing services and facilities	GEN 2 – General policy for changes of use	Policy ED2 – Safeguarding Employment Land and Premises Policy INF5 – Community Facilities	Policy P&C3 supplements saved Policy GEN 2 and Policies ED2 and INF5 in the Hart Local Plan

7.0 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS AND HABITATS REGULATIONS

- 7.1 In October 2022 Winchfield Parish Council made a request to Hart District Council (as the responsible authority) to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was required for the new neighbourhood plan. Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted in accordance with the Regulations. The District Council concluded that:

Summary of findings to be inserted when they are provided

8.0 HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The overall purpose of the new Neighbourhood Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living and working in Winchfield now and in the future from an environmental, social, and economic point of view. The policies in the new Neighbourhood Plan have been formulated in response to local people's views and in the light of evidence gathered for the parish, to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified.

The new neighbourhood plan is considered to have met the following Human Rights Articles:

- Article 1 – Protection of property
- Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life
- Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination
- Protocol 12 – Article 1 – General prohibition of discrimination.

The Equality Act 2010 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. "Protected characteristics" are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

To confirm that the new Neighbourhood Plan does not have any unintended consequences for specific groups the strategic aims and the policies in the plan have been systematically scrutinised to ensure that they do not disadvantage any potentially vulnerable groups. The outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment is contained in Appendix C.

9.0 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 This Statement has demonstrated that the Basic Conditions as specified by planning law have been met by the new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan.
- 9.2 The new neighbourhood plan will promote the principles of sustainable development and in reviewing its policies against national planning policy and the strategic policies in the Development Plan for the area no conflict has been identified.
- 9.3 The Basic Conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 have therefore been satisfied.

APPENDICES

A Strategic Development Plan Policies

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Strategic Policies of the Hart Development Plan for Neighbourhood Planning purposes

Background context

National planning guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which includes reference to Neighbourhood Plans being an appropriate mechanism to more detailed policy guidance.

Paragraph 29 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that: “*Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area ...neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the areas, or undermine those strategic policies*”. This requires policies and proposals to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of any development plan that covers the area.

Basic conditions

Only a draft Neighbourhood Plan that meets each of the set of basic conditions can be put to a referendum and be made. The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The basic conditions for *Neighbourhood Development Plans* are:

- Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- That the plan contributes to sustainable development;
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- Be compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations and
- Not breach the requirement of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017.

National planning policies for traveller sites are contained in the [Planning Policy for Traveller Sites \(PPTS\)](#) which should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

National planning practice guidance is contained in the [Planning Practice Guidance \(PPG\)](#).

- The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) includes (Reference ID: 41-074-20140306) advice that the basic condition relating to ‘general conformity’ with strategic policies contained in the Development Plan should consider the following:

- whether the neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal supports and upholds the general principle that the strategic policy is concerned with;
- the degree, if any, of conflict between the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal and the strategic policy;
- whether the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal provides an additional level of detail and/or a distinct local approach to that set out in the strategic policy without undermining that policy;
- the rationale for the approach taken in the draft neighbourhood plan or Order and the evidence to justify that approach.

The Development Plan in Hart

Legislation (Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) requires that decisions are made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Development Plan comprises:

- Hart Local Plan 2032 – adopted April 2020
- The South East Plan - partially revoked on 25th March 2013 but Policy NRM6 that deals with the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area remains in place.
- Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) 1996 – 2006 - Saved Policies
- Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013

Hart District Strategic Policies (for Neighbourhood Planning purposes)

SD1 Sustainable Development

SS1 Spatial Strategy: Scale and Distribution of Growth

SS2 Hartland Village

H1 Housing Mix

H2 Affordable Housing

H3 Rural Exception Sites

H4 Specialist Housing

H5 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

ED1 New Employment

ED2 Safeguarding Employment Land and Premises

ED3 The Rural Economy

ED4 Town, District and Local Centres

NBE1 Development in the Countryside

NBE2 Landscape

NBE3 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

NBE4 Biodiversity

NBE5 Managing Flood Risk

NBE6 Water Quality

NBE8 Historic Environment

NBE10 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

NBE11 Pollution

INF1 Infrastructure
INF2 Green Infrastructure
INF3 Transport
INF4 Open Space, Sport and Recreation
INF5 Community Facilities
INF7 Phoenix Green Flood Alleviation
INF8 Safeguarded Land for Education

South East Plan:

‘Saved Policy’ NRM6 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area

Hart Local Plan ‘saved’ policies

GEN1 General Policy for Development
GEN2 General Policy for Changes of Use
GEN6 Policy for noisy/un-neighbourly developments
CON7 Riverine Environments
CON8 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows: Amenity Value
CON10 Basingstoke Canal
CON23 Development affecting Public Rights of Way
RUR1 Definition of areas covered by RUR policies
RUR8 Advertisements in the countryside
RUR10 Telecommunications
RUR32 Basingstoke Canal
RUR33 Camping and Caravanning
RUR34 Horse Related Development
RUR36 Motor Sports
RUR37 Use of dwellings for B1 use
URB1 Definition of areas covered by URB policies
URB11 Shop fronts
URB18 Residential densities in North Fleet Conservation area
URB19 Yateley conservation areas
URB24 Signs and advertisements
T6 Safeguarding land for schemes

Other matters

By law Neighbourhood Development Plans cannot deal with minerals or waste issues.

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot require a Local Authority to make designations or exercise particular powers. Such examples include: serving a compulsory purchase order (CPO), listing an asset of community value, designating or extending a conservation area, putting a building on the local list, serving a tree preservation order (TPO).

Neighbourhood planning has its own set of Regulations which set out the legal matters relating to the neighbourhood planning process. These are [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012](#) and [The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#).

B Policy Linkages

Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Policies	National Planning Policy Framework 2021	Hart District Local Plan saved policies and Hart Local Plan 2020
1. Encourage, support, conserve, protect and enhance our Natural Environment and the biodiversity of Winchfield	Policy NE1 - Landscape Character	Para 174	CON 10 - Basingstoke Canal and Policy NBE2 -Landscape
	Policy NE2 - Protection of Key Views	Para 174	Policy NBE2 -Landscape
	Policy NE3 – Brenda Parker Way	Para 174	Policy NBE2 -Landscape
	Policy NE4 – Trees, Woodlands, and Hedgerows	Para 131	CON 8 – Trees, Woodland, and Hedgerows: Amenity Value and Policy NBE2 -Landscape
	Policy NE5 – Dark Skies	Para 185(c)	Policy NBE11 – Pollution
	Policy NE6 - Biodiversity protection and enhancement.	Paras 179 to 182	Policy NBE3 – Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and Policy NBE4 – Biodiversity
2. Maintain, sustain and enhance our Historic Environment	Policy HE1 - Heritage Assets	Paras 194 to 206	Policy NBE8 – Historic Environment
	Policy HE2 - Non-designated Heritage Assets	Paras 194 to 206	Policy NBE8 – Historic Environment
3. Influence the sustainability of our Built Environment for the benefit of all parish residents	Policy BE1 – New Development	Para 17 and Paras 20 to 23	Policy SS1 Spatial Strategy and Distribution of Growth and Policy NBE1 – Development in the Countryside

Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Policies	National Planning Policy Framework 2021	Hart District Local Plan saved policies and Hart Local Plan 2020
	Policy BE2 - Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites	Paras 78 and 79	Policy H3 – Rural Exception Sites
	Policy BE3 (A3) – Housing Mix and Appearance	Paras 78 and 79	Policy H1 – Housing Mix: Market Housing
	Policy BE4 - Development Design Considerations	Paras 126 to 135 and 185 (c)	GEN 1 – General Policy for Development, Policy NBE9 – Design, Policy NBE11 – Pollution, Policy INF3 – Transport, and Policy INF6 – Broadband or Successor Services.
	Policy BE5 (A2) – Residential Parking	Paras 107 and 110	GEN 1 – General Policy for Development
4. Promote health and wellbeing	Policy P&C1 – Public Rights of Way	Para 100	CON 23 - Development affecting Public Rights of Way
5. Support our local economy and sustain our agricultural heritage	Policy P&C2 - New Businesses and Employment Development	Paras 84 and 85	RUR 34 – Horse Related Development, Policy ED1 – New Employment and Policy ED3 – The Rural Economy
6. Ensure that we value and cherish our village, promote a thriving, strong vibrant community and respond to the needs of our residents.	Policy P&C3 - Protecting existing services and facilities	Para 84(d) and Para 93	GEN 2 – General policy for changes of use, Policy ED2 – Safeguarding Employment Land and Premises and Policy INF5 – Community Facilities
7. Introduce, promote, and monitor safety measures to	---	---	Policy NBE9 – Design

Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Policies	National Planning Policy Framework 2021	Hart District Local Plan saved policies and Hart Local Plan 2020
improve traffic management and reduce rural criminality.			
8. Support Hart District Council initiatives to become a carbon neutral authority by 2035 and a carbon neutral district by 2040	Policy NE7 - Energy Efficiency and Generation	Paras 152 to 158	Policy NBE10 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

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C Equality Impact Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public authorities to actively consider equality when exercising their functions to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool for identifying the potential impact of the strategies, policies, services, and functions on the wider population. Where any adverse impact is identified, mitigating actions must be considered. It helps to:

- Demonstrate due regard for the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Identify possible negative impacts of decisions on individuals and groups with protected characteristics and plan mitigating action accordingly.
- Identify additional opportunities to advance equality within policies, strategies, and services.

It involves:

- Considering the aims of the duty in a way that is proportionate to the issue at hand
- Ensuring that real consideration is given to the aims and the impact of policies with rigour and with an open mind in such a way that it influences the final decision

Due regard should be given before and during policy formation and when a decision is taken including cross-cutting ones as the impact can be cumulative.

The following commentary summarises the outcome of the EIA conducted for the new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan using a Toolkit provided by Hart District Council which has been adapted for use.

1. Who will the project/policy/strategy/change impact on?

Residents and businesses in Winchfield and the wider community.

2. Summary of the proposal.

The Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by a Steering Group made up of local volunteers under the auspices of Winchfield Parish Council – the qualifying body responsible for preparing a neighbourhood plan for the Parish. A neighbourhood plan sets out a locally distinct policy framework for planning decisions allowing local people to influence what type of development they would like to see in their neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Plan includes locally distinctive policies to protect the special character of the parish and encourages

sustainable development proposals that will benefit the local community. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the whole of the parish of Winchfield. The Plan is supported by evidence which can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website. Once 'made' (adopted) the Neighbourhood Plan will be part of the Development Plan for Hart.

The Neighbourhood Plan has 17 policies covering a range of topics such as climate change; landscape character important views; affordable housing and development design considerations.

3. Summarise findings of any data, research or consultation used to inform your assessment of impacts.

The Neighbourhood Plan is supported by evidence, including a Housing Needs Survey, and other key documents that will shape future development in the Parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan process requires that extensive community and stakeholder participation and consultation is undertaken, the evidence for which is set out in full in the Consultation Statement. This includes a comprehensive list of all the activities undertaken including community engagement events.

4. Will the project/policy/strategy have a differential* impact (actual or potential) on any of the groups below?

Protected characteristic group		Impact	Comment
Sex	Men	Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group. The policies cover both men and women.
	Woman	Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group. The policies cover both men and women.
Race		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Disability		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Age	Children and Young People	Neutral / Positive	The NP contains policies that support health and well-being of this and older age groups.
	Working Age Adults	Neutral / Positive	The NP contains policies relating to the rural economy and retention of services and facilities.
	Older Adults	Neutral / Positive	The NP supports the provision of accommodation that is suitable for older people.
Sexual Orientation		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Religion or Belief		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.

Protected characteristic group		Impact	Comment
Gender Reassignment		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Pregnancy and Maternity		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
Other Groups	Low Income/ Benefits/Unemployed	Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
	Unpaid Careers	Neutral	The NP makes no specific reference to this group.
	Living in a Rural Area	Neutral / Positive	The NP contains policies which seek to support rural enterprises and the retention of existing services and facilities.

5. Action Plan

It is recommended that the content of this EqIA is reviewed following the completion of the Regulation 14 consultation to be undertaken by Winchfield Parish Council, the completion of the Regulation 16 consultation to be undertaken by Hart District Council and finally upon receipt of the Examiners Report. The latter two stages are to be undertaken by Hart District Council.

6. Summary of findings for reporting purposes (briefly say what was assessed, what the findings were and note any actions).

There are no specific actions to be noted at this stage.

7. What course of action does this EqIA suggest you take?

The EqIA assessment of the NP does not reveal any potential for discrimination.

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