

Queniborough Parish Council

Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
Submitting Body	2
Neighbourhood Area	2
Queniborough: Location.....	2
Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders	2
2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.....	4
Housing Requirement	5
3. Contributing to sustainable development.....	21
4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan	23
Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2028	23
5. Compliance with European Union obligations.....	27
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement	27
Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement	28
6. Other basic conditions	30
7. Equality Impact Assessment.....	31
8. Conclusions.....	32
Appendix 1: Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment.....	33
Introduction.....	33
Methodology	33
Baseline Data	34
Summary.....	34
Key Issues and Policies of the Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan.....	35
Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics.....	35
Age.....	35
Disability.....	36
Gender reassignment.....	36
Marriage and civil partnership.....	36
Pregnancy and maternity	36
Race.....	37
Religion or belief.....	37
Sex.....	37
Sexual orientation.....	37
Conclusion	37

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011 – 2028) (adopted November 2015). It is acknowledged that Charnwood Borough Council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough for the period 2019- 2036. It published the Draft Charnwood Local Plan and an accompanying Interim Sustainability Appraisal for consultation for a six-week period starting on 4 November 2019 and ending on 16 December 2019. It includes strategic and detailed policies, although at this stage the new Local Plan carries little weight and will not be finalised until the end of 2021;
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in four sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011-2028);
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters;

- Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation; and
 - Section 7 provides an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement (prepared by Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland), Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

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

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Queniborough, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 28 March 2017. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, Charnwood Borough Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application Queniborough Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The statutory six consultation period ended on 23 September 2014. No representations were received to this consultation.
- 1.7 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all the designated area.
- 1.8 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2019 to 2028. This is to align with the adopted Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy 2011-2028).
- 1.9 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Queniborough: Location

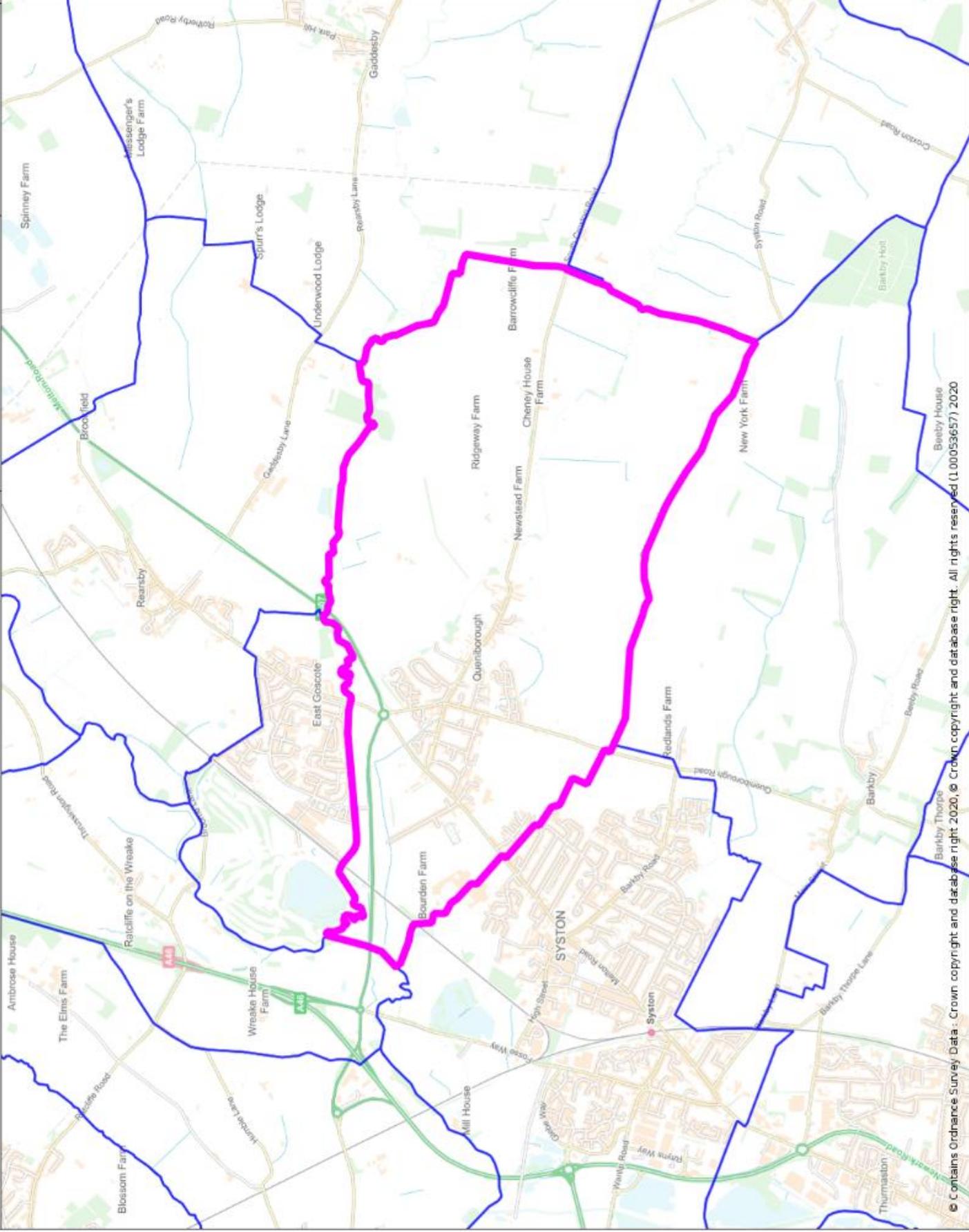
- 1.10 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Development Plan Area comprises the Parish of Queniborough located within Charnwood Borough Council. It is a large rural parish of 894 hectares with a population of 2,326 (2011 Census).
- 1.11 The settlement of Queniborough village is located within the western part of the Parish, within the Wreake Valley, 9.6km to the north east of Leicester City Centre. The village has a basic range of services including a village hall, newsagents, general store and Post Office, schools and pubs. The eastern part of the Parish is more sparsely populated.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.12 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Queniborough Parish Council, supported by the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement.

Author:

Date: 30/04/2020



Neighbourhood Area



Parish



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

- 2.1 It is required that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance.
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Effective use of land;
 - Flood Risk and Coastal Change;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Housing for Older and Disabled People;
 - Housing Needs of Different Groups;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Planning Obligations;
 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy;
 - Self-build and custom housebuilding

- Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking
 - Viability and Plan-making
- 2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).
- ### Housing Requirement
- 2.7 Neighbourhood plans are not obliged to contain policies addressing all types of development. However, where they do contain policies relevant to housing supply, these policies should take account of latest and up-to-date evidence of housing need (PPG Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 41-040-20160211).
- 2.8 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan must support the strategic development needs set out in the Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy) including policies for housing development.
- 2.9 Policy CS1 of the Core Strategy makes provision for at least 13,940 homes in the Borough over the period 2011 to 2028. The Core Strategy requires that at least 500 homes are to be provided in 12 'other settlements'- Barkby, Burton on the Wolds, Cossington, East Goscote, Hathern, Newtown Linford, Queniborough, Rearsby, Thrussington, Thurcaston, Woodhouse Eaves and Wymeswold.
- 2.10 Over the period 2011-2018, 580 homes had been built in these 12 'other settlements' and a further 238 homes had planning permission at 31st March 2018. This means that for these places, the minimum Core Strategy housing provision has been met.
- 2.11 In 2019, Charnwood Borough Council published the Draft Charnwood Local Plan 2019-36 and an accompanying Interim Sustainability Appraisal as part of the process it is following to prepare a new local plan. The consultation lasted for six weeks, ending on 16 December 2019. Three housing sites are provisionally allocated in the Neighbourhood Area:
- HS11 Queniborough Lodge: 132 dwellings
 - HS71 Land off Melton Road: 55 dwellings
 - HS72 Land at Threeways Farm: 100 dwellings
- 2.12 Queniborough Parish Council has objected to these proposals.
- 2.13 NPPF paragraph 65 expects Charnwood Borough Council to establish a housing requirement figure for their whole area and, within this requirement, set out a housing requirement for Queniborough Neighbourhood Areas. However, the Draft Charnwood Local Plan 2019-36 does not set out a housing requirement for Queniborough Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.14 Representatives of the Qualifying Body and local planning authority met in February 2020 prior to the submission of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan (2011 – 2028) to discuss the proposed housing provision for the neighbourhood area. The minimum housing provision set by the Core Strategy has been met and although there is no specific requirement to allocate additional housing sites at this time, the Neighbourhood Plan does support the development of

Queniborough Lodge, for some 132 dwellings. The Qualifying Body recognises that once the new Local Plan is adopted, it may have to review the Neighbourhood Plan to make sure it is in general conformity. However, at the present time, the Draft Charnwood Local Plan 2019-36 carries little weight.

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Q1: Parking – Identifies the parking provision, and servicing and manoeuvring arrangements to be provided.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 102 and 105</p>	<p>Why establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 54-001-20141010)</p> <p>What key issues should be considered in developing the transport evidence base to support the Local Plan? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 54-003-20141010)</p>	<p>This policy supports the management of traffic issues and seeks to set parking standards taking into account local circumstances and to minimise the need for on-street parking.</p>
<p>Q2: Identifies Local Green Spaces within Queniborough which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances</p>	<p>Paragraphs 99-101</p>	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p> <p>What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 3: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306)</p> <p>What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306)</p> <p>How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306)</p> <p>How big can a Local Green Space be? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306)</p> <p>Is there a minimum area? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306)</p> <p>What about public access? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306)</p> <p>What about public rights of way? (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>Does land need to be in public ownership? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306)</p>	

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306)</p> <p>Who will manage Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306)</p> <p>Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306)</p>	
<p>Q3: Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 83, 84, 91, 92</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>
<p>Q4: Sport and Recreation – This policy supports the protection and retention of identified sport and recreational facilities, unless they are no longer needed, or a replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision, or development is for an</p>	<p>Paragraphs 83, 91, 97</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy supports the retention of sport and recreational facilities to meet the needs of the community. Allows for opportunities to enable and support healthy lifestyles.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>alternative sports and recreation provision, the benefits of which would outweigh the loss. The provision of a park, including allotments, and facilities for young people will also be supported.</p>			

<p>Q5: Infrastructure – New development will be supported by the provision of new improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for identified off-site infrastructure, where appropriate. To ensure viability of new housing development flexibility will be applied in the application of this policy.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 56, 83, 91, 92 and 94</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for contributions from development are deliverable? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>
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Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Q6: Countryside and Landscape – Supports and protects the character of the landscape and countryside. Regard will be had to Queniborough’s sense of place, identity and local distinctiveness, tranquillity, Areas of Local Separation and support for rural economic development.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 83, 125, 130, 170, 180</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	<p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy.</p>
<p>Q7: Green Infrastructure – Development should seek to conserve and enhance the identified strategic and local green infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 91, 96, 171</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy supports the provision of healthy and inclusive places and takes a positive approach to the maintenance and enhancement of green infrastructure and its network.</p>
<p>Q8: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features for biodiversity gain. If significant harm to biodiversity cannot be avoided, mitigated and</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174, 175</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks?</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
compensated for, planning permission should be refused.		(Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721) What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721) How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)	also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.
Q9: Infill Housing - Permission for housing development within Limits to Development, as defined on the Policies Map, will be supported where they meet the other policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.	Paragraphs 68, 78, 117, 127	How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)	This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that respects the character of the locality. The Neighbourhood Plan defined the Limits to Development which takes into account the character of Queniborough and nearby Syston. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities.
Q10: Queniborough Lodge – Identifies the development of land at Queniborough Lodge for around 132 dwellings. It provides the issues against which a proposal will be assessed, covering matters such a housing mix, self-build, flooding, land contamination, access arrangements and landscaping and biodiversity.	Paragraphs 61, 67, 111, 118, 119, 127, 148, 149, 170, 174, 175, 178, 179	How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722) Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626) What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)	This policy seeks the re-use of previously development land to meet a local housing need, whilst seeking appropriate remediation of any land contamination that maybe present. It plans positively for new homes within the Neighbourhood Area, taking account of local needs and provides opportunities for self-build. The policy has regard to a range of other issues contained within the National Planning Policy

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>New development should also be focused in the form of brownfield development and improve the form of the existing lodge.</p>		<p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p> <p>How can relevant authorities increase the number of planning permissions which are suitable for self-build and custom housebuilding? (Paragraph: 025 Reference ID: 57-025-201760728)</p> <p>What evidence can be used to help determine whether land should be reallocated for a more deliverable use? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 66-001-20190722)</p> <p>Planning and Flood Risk (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p> <p>What are the ‘areas at risk of flooding’ mentioned in paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 7-003-20140306)</p>	<p>Framework, including development not to be located in those areas at highest risk of flooding, the protection and enhancement of the existing landscape and positive biodiversity benefits.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p>	
<p>Q11: Homes in the Countryside – Outside the Limits to Development will be limited to Rural Exception Housing, rural worker accommodation and individual buildings of exceptional design/quality and the re-use and/or adaptation of rural buildings.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 77, 78, 79, 108, 117, 127, 180</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can the need for isolated homes in the countryside for essential rural workers be assessed? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 67-010-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities.</p> <p>The policy avoids the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless special circumstances apply and supports the re-use of redundant or disused buildings and allows for replacement dwellings, in conformity with the NPPF.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Q12: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings – This policy identifies the circumstances the re-use and adaptation of redundant or disused buildings will be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 77, 79, 117, 127, 130, 174</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy supports the re-use of redundant or disused buildings, encourages the use of high-quality design and the protection of habitats and biodiversity.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Q13: Housing Mix – Seeks a mix of housing to meet the needs of older households and/or the need for smaller, low-cost homes for sale.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need.</p>
<p>Q14: Non-designated Heritage - The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of the proposed development against the significance of the</p>	<p>Paragraphs 185, 189, 197</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets?(Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Designated heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
asset and the extent which it will be harmed. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of Features of Local Heritage Assets.		How are non-designated heritage assets identified?(Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)	
Q15: Design - Supports development which reflects the distinctive and traditional character of Queniborough will be supported. Development must be in keeping with the scale, form and character of its surroundings, protect important features and residential amenity, have a safe and suitable access and not lead to adverse traffic impacts.	Paragraphs 108, 124, 125, 127, 131	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and with a good standard of amenity with a safe and suitable access for all.
Q16: Water Management - Development should take account of flood risk, including from rivers, groundwater and overland flow. The sequential test should be applied and the Exceptions Test if necessary. Mitigation measures are to be	Paragraphs 148, 149, 155, 163, 165	<p>Planning and Flood Risk (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p> <p>What are the ‘areas at risk of flooding’ mentioned in paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 7-003-20140306)</p>	This policy seeks to deal with the challenges of climate change. Regard is had to national policy which seeks to avoid inappropriate development at areas at risk of flooding. Policy also gives consideration to the effect of flood risk elsewhere and supports the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems.

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>provided in flood risk areas and opportunities should be taken to reduce flood risk elsewhere. Surface water run off management for Greenfield sites includes the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).</p>			
<p>Q17: Renewable Energy - This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. It also states that wind farms and wind turbines do not have the backing of local people.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 148, 151, 154</p>	<p>How can local planning authorities identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618)</p> <p>How are 'suitable areas' defined in relation to wind energy development? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 5-032-150618)</p> <p>What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013-20150327)</p> <p>Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618)</p>	<p>The NPPF supports and encourages the use of renewable resources including the development of renewable energy and planning is recognised as having a key role to play in the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure. This policy supports the NPPF in that it includes a policy relating to the provision of such infrastructure whilst ensuring adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. It also supports the view that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities. The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to.</p> <p>In the case of wind turbines, a planning application should not be approved unless the proposed development site is an area identified as</p>

Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
			suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan. There is little local community support for wind turbines and the policy reflects this.
Q18: Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Non-residential developments providing 10 car parking spaces ore more should deliver suitable electric vehicle charging points	Paragraphs 105 and 110	Not applicable.	This policy seeks the adequate provision of spaces for the charging of plug-in vehicles.
Q19: Queniborough Industrial Estate – Safeguards this site for employment development. Expansion of existing business and new employment development on this site will be supported.	Paragraphs 83 and 84	Not applicable	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including the protection and expansion of existing businesses.
Q20: Business conversion of rural buildings – Supports the re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for business use	Paragraph 83	Not applicable.	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas.

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) 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 coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) 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 a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section however summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs, including the needs of older households and the need for smaller homes.
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local businesses and employment, including the safeguarding and expansion of existing business establishments. Supports sustainable economic growth including through the business conversion of rural buildings. Seeks the protection of community services and facilities, supporting the viability of the community.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The ambition of the plan is also to see the continuation of a thriving local village community supporting the retention of existing services and facilities

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, local green spaces, green infrastructure, and sports and recreation facilities as well and provision of recreation facilities and community infrastructure improvements. Providing opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports infill housing development within the defined Queniborough Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth and the provision of rural worker accommodation.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Queniborough Limits to Development, the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and the setting of Queniborough.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Supports the conversion and re-use and adaptation of existing buildings. Supports the development of a solar photovoltaic farm subject to specific criteria. Seeks to prevent and reduce flood risk and seeks the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems for Greenfield sites.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space and Green Infrastructure. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy which was adopted 9 November 2015.
- 4.2 Charnwood Borough Council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the Borough for the period 2019- 2036 and they have published the Draft Charnwood Local Plan and an accompanying Interim Sustainability Appraisal. This was consulted on for the six weeks starting on 4th November 2019 and ending on 16th December 2019. It includes strategic and detailed policies however at this stage the new Local Plan carries little weight and will not be finalised until the end of 2021
- 4.3 Therefore, the following section identifies how the Policies of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy.

Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy 2011-2028

- 4.4 The Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Charnwood Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy CS1: Development Strategy

Policy CS2: High Quality Design

Policy CS3: Strategic Housing Needs

Policy CS10: Rural Economic Development

Policy CS11: Landscape and Countryside

Policy CS12: Green Infrastructure

Policy CS13: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Policy CS14: Heritage

Policy CS15: Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation

Policy CS16: Sustainable Construction and Energy

Policy CS18: The Local and Strategic Road Network

Policy CS24: Delivering Infrastructure

Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Charnwood Local Plan 2011-2028 Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy
Q1: Parking	Policy CS18	Supports the provision of an efficient and effective transport network to minimise the need for on-street parking.
Q2: Local Green Spaces	Policy CS15	Policy supports the protection of local green spaces when done through a Neighbourhood Plan
Q3: Community Services and Facilities	Policy CS1	Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in the settlement of Queniborough.
Q4: Sport and Recreation	Policy CS15	Supports the safeguarding of open space, sport and recreational facilities unless they are surplus to requirements or replacement provision of at least an equal quantity and quality will be made in a suitable location. This policy also responds positively to development which would contribute to the provision of new open space and recreation provision.
Q5: Infrastructure	Policy CS24	Facilitates the provision of infrastructure which is considered necessary to serve a proposed development. Facilitates the impacts of development to be mitigated through the provision of infrastructure. Allows issues of viability to be taken into account when considering the cost of infrastructure provision
Q6: Countryside and Landscape	Policy CS11	Seeks to protect and enhance the character of the local landscape, reinforces a sense of place and local distinctiveness, protects tranquillity, maintains the separate identity of Queniborough, protects the character of Areas of Separation and supports rural economic development.
Q7: Green Infrastructure	Policy CS12	Supports the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure assets for their community. economic and environmental values.

Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Charnwood Local Plan 2011-2028 Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy
Q8: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy CS13	Seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment. Supports development that protects biodiversity and those that enhance biodiversity.
Q9: Infill Housing	Policy CS1	<p>Queniborough is identified as a 'Other Settlement' in the Charnwood Local Plan (Core Strategy) and provides for at least 500 new homes within the settlement boundaries of all the Borough's 'Other Settlements'.</p> <p>This policy conforms with this principle and supports residential development within the Queniborough Limits to Development.</p> <p>It is intended that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan defines the limits to development to replace the Charnwood Local Plan equivalent and the Charnwood Settlement Limits to Development Assessments 2018. The reasons for doing so, along with the methodology used, is set out in a supporting background paper 'Limits to Development'. It is suggested that the community is best place to recognise and identify this settlement boundary and has been done so in consultation with Charnwood Borough Council.</p>
Q10: Queniborough Lodge	Policy CS1, Policy CS2, Policy CS3, Policy CS13, Policy CS1	<p>Supports the provision of housing and the location of development as contained within the Core Strategy Local Plan.</p> <p>Supports the provision of development which responds to local priorities as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Supports the effective use of previously developed land and addresses contamination issues.</p> <p>Directs development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding.</p>

Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Charnwood Local Plan 2011-2028 Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy
		Seeks landscaping and biodiversity improvements.
Q11: Homes in the Countryside	Policy CS1, Policy CS3, Policy CS11	Allows for housing in the countryside to deliver small; scale rural exception sites. Supports housing that has a relationship with the operational requirements of agriculture.
Q12: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy CS14	Supports development which would re-use buildings of architectural or historic interest.
Q13: Housing Mix	Policy CS3	Seeks an appropriate mix of housing types having regard to identified housing needs.
Q14: Non-designated Heritage Assets	Policy CS14	Supports the conservation and enhancement of the borough's heritage assets
Q15: Design	Policy CS2	Requires development to be of a high quality and make a positive contribution to the character of Queniborough, as well as protecting residential amenity.
Q16: Water Management	Policy CS16	Directs development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding. Confirms the application of the Sequential Test, and Exception Test where appropriate. Seeks to reduce the flood risk and no increase in the rate of surface water run-off from Greenfield sites.
Q17: Renewable Energy	Policy CS16	Seeks to address and reduce the impact of climate change and supports the provision and use of renewable energy.
Q18: Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	Not applicable	Not applicable
Q19: Queniborough Industrial Estate	Policy CS10	Supports the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses in rural areas.
Q20: Business conversion of rural buildings	Policy CS10	Supports sustainable growth of the rural economy through the conversion of existing buildings.

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan (March 2020) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects and will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- 5.3 The outcome of this assessment, having taken into account the proposed Limits to Development, the Neighbourhood's Plan housing allocation, its support for business development, and effects on the natural environment, heritage assets and ecology, concludes that whilst environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the neighbourhood plan, it is considered unlikely that there will be any significant effects arising from the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, it is considered that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan is not subject to the requirements of the Directive 2001/41/EC, the 'SEA Directive' and accompanying regulations and therefore will not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken.
- 5.4 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:
- Historic England – No comments received.
 - Natural England – Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan - Strategic Environmental Assessment . We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.

- Environment Agency – No comments received.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.5 Alongside the SEA screening process there is also a need to assess whether the Neighbourhood Plan would have an adverse impact upon internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive. The Screening Report also included an assessment of the likelihood of the proposals within the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan having an adverse impact upon the internationally designated wildlife sites, as required by the European Habitats Directive.
- 5.6 The Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy was accompanied by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report to examine whether the plan would have a significant effect upon any European (Natura 2000) site. The final report, published in March 2013, concluded that the Core Strategy *“is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site, including River Mease SAC and Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.”*
- 5.7 There are no European sites within the boundaries of Charnwood Borough; however, the HRA Screening Report did examine the River Mease SAC, which lies to the west of the Borough, and the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site, which lies to the east. The HRA Screening Report considered that the Core Strategy would be unlikely to have a significant effect on these sites due to a lack of pathway for effects arising from development in Charnwood to reach and affect the River Mease and the level of management measures implemented for the Rutland Water SPA/Ramsar Site.
- 5.8 The HRA Screening Report concluded that, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect upon any European site.
- 5.9 The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Given this requirement and the limited scale of development proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, it is not considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will further affect any European site in addition to the impacts identified in the HRA Screening Report undertaken in 2013 for the Core Strategy. Therefore, the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report on the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan (March 2020) concludes that a full Appropriate Assessment is not deemed to be required.

5.10 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- 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;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Harborough Local Plan Habitats Regulation Assessment.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

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

8. Conclusions

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

Appendix 1: Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

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

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

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Baseline Data

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

In 2011 there were 2326 people living in Queniborough Parish, 48.4% were Male and 51.7% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

13.8% of the population was 0-15 years old and 27.5% were 65% or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

3.2% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

70.0% of the population was Christian and 2.3% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

8.0% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 10.4% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

66.1% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

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

Summary

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

The proportion of older people is noticeably higher than the national picture, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds is lower.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

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

Key Issues and Policies of the Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key issues for Queniborough that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address;

- Transport
- Green Spaces
- Facilities and Services
- Countryside
- Housing
- Countryside Access
- Heritage and Design
- Flooding
- Renewable Energy
- Employment and Business

These issues are reflected in the Vision for the Queniborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan;



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

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy Q13 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households and the need for smaller

homes, low-cost homes. There is a strong potential for positive impacts on young or newly formed households or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy Q2 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. This is supplemented by Policy Q7 which seeks to protect and enhance Green Infrastructure, including designated Local Green Space.

Policy Q3 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Queniborough. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population and lower mobility levels, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Parish facilities include a primary school, general store, village hall and post office. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Policy Q4 makes provision for the retention of sport and recreational facilities, which make a valuable contribution to a person's quality of life and is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in such activities. There is also support for the provision of a park, to include open space, allotment, and facilities for young people. Such provision is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive benefit. Policies Q3 and Q4 is supplemented by Policy Q5 which seeks infrastructure improvements with respect to improvements to the primary school and the village hall, and the provision of a new park and amenity space.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy Q13) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy Q13 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy Q15 requires all new development to have a safe and suitable access and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy Q15 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision, such as the

village halls (Policy Q3). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities and their potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision (Policy Q3), including the Village Hall with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy Q15 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

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

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

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