

SCRAPTOFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

Introduction

- 1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 as amended by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
 - i. the draft 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 Harborough District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028;
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 3 This basic conditions statement addresses these requirements in four sections:
 - Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework;
 - Section 3 shows how the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;

- Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan with the Harborough Core Strategy; and
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters.
- 4 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 5 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Scraptoft Parish Council, which is a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011. The Parish Council has been assisted by the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Neighbourhood Area

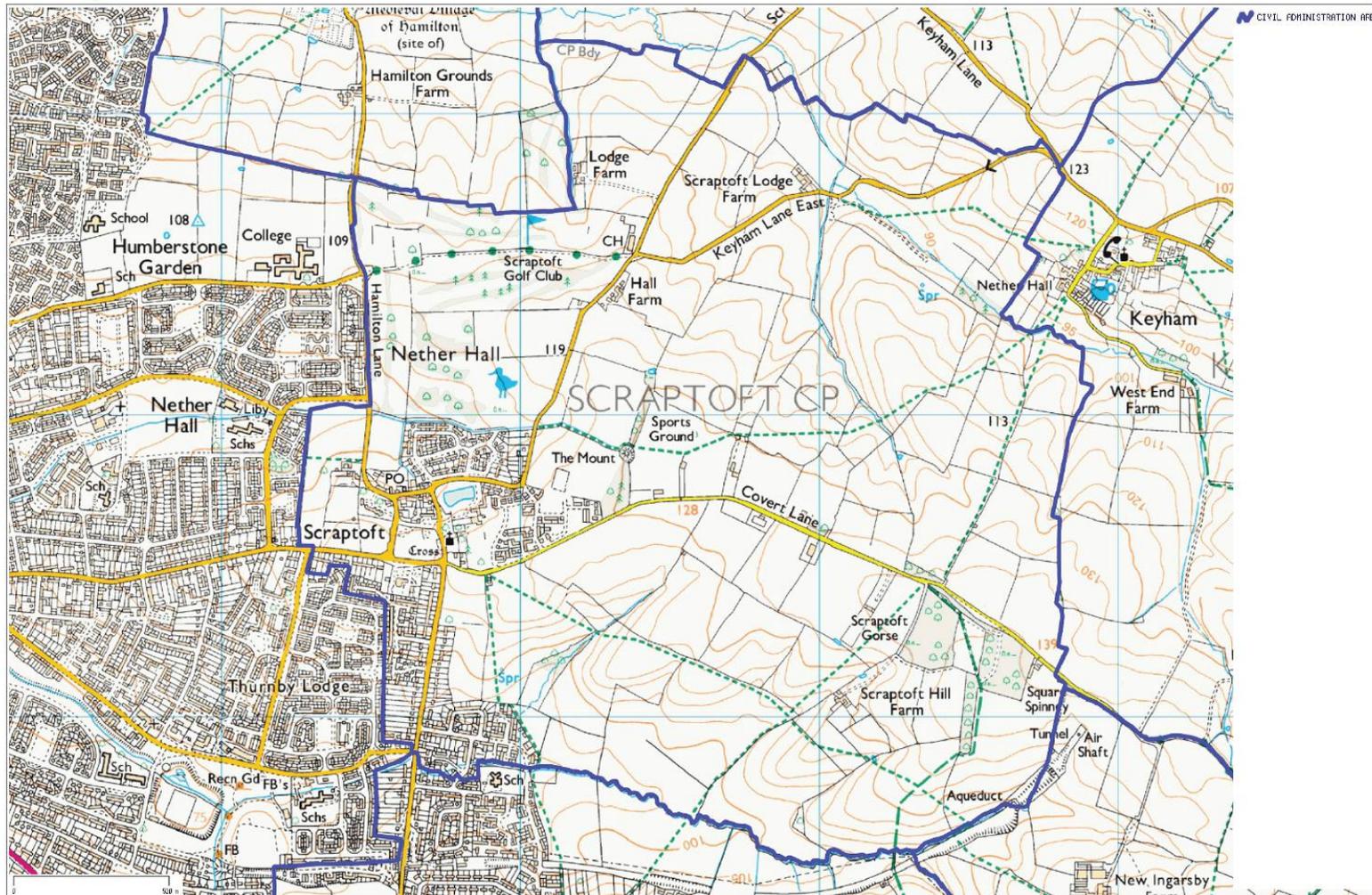
- 6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Scraptoft, which was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 29 October 2012. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations, Harborough District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the application from Scraptoft Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The consultation period ran from 12 July to 23 August 2012. No objections were received during the consultation period. The Executive of Harborough District Council approved the application and Scraptoft Parish was designated as the Neighbourhood Area.
- 7 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Scraptoft and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 9 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan covers the same period as the Harborough Core Strategy i.e. to 2028.
- 10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Scraptoft: Location

- 11 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Area is situated in the north of Harborough District in Leicestershire, on its boundary with Leicester City. Scraptoft lies on the built-up edge of Leicester on the east side of the City and the north of the A47.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

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



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Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework

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

6. support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy);
7. contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;
8. encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value;
9. promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production);
10. conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations;
11. actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and
12. take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

16 This section considers the conformity of the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and supporting commentary.

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
<p>S1: Housing Provision - Scraptoft has met its required provision for the plan period and this policy seeks to ensure new housing development within the Limits to Development is satisfactory in terms of the character of the area, amenity and suitable access arrangements.</p>	<p>17, 55, 184</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 5 recognises the character of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within in. This policy also has regard to the effective use of brownfield land and promotes sustainable development through seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.</p>
<p>S2: Housing Reserve Site- This policy identifies the circumstances an identified housing reserve site should be made available or development such as a shortfall in housing, replacement development plan. It then goes on to identify the provision of affordable housing and facilities that would need to be provided, as well as the necessary footpath links, landscaping measures, Sustainable Drainage System and proximity to public transport links.</p>	<p>14, 21, 29, 30, 47, 50, 70, 94, 109, 153</p>	<p>This flexible approach has regard to the need to meet objectively assessed needs and provides for the identification of a potential house site should certain conditions arise. The policy has regard to a range of issues contained within the National Planning Policy Framework, including providing for a mix of housing including affordable housing, provision of community facilities, protection of landscape and biodiversity benefits, mitigate and adapting to climate change and encouraging the use of sustainable transport. The policy also responds to Core Planning Principle 3.</p>
<p>S3: Housing Mix - Seeks a mix of housing types responsive to local needs with particular mention made of the housing needs of older person households.</p>	<p>17, 50, 54</p>	<p>The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.</p>

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
S4: Affordable Housing - Seeks to ensure that when affordable homes are allocated, priority will be given to those people with a local connection to Scraptoft Parish.	17, 50, 54	The Core Planning Principle 3 requires the need to objectively identify and meet the housing needs of an area. The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and this policy supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in its community.
S5 Landscape - Seeks to protect the historic and surrounding landscape and topography	17, 109, 110, 126	The Core Planning Principle 5 recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework with respect to planning contributing and enhancing the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. It also supports the aim of conserving and enhancing the natural environment to minimise adverse effects on the local and natural environment. In addition regard is had to the role of planning in supporting the conservation and enjoyment of heritage assets.
S6: Green Wedge - Retains the open and undeveloped character of the defined Leicester/Scraptoft Green Wedge. These designations not only prevent the coalescence of settlements but also provide recreational facilities and access to the countryside, also with potential for contributing to green infrastructure provision.	17, 69, 73, 74, 114	The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, as well as recognise that some open land can perform a variety of functions. This policy supports this approach as well as the role of planning in creating healthy and inclusive communities, and facilitating access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for recreation. It also takes a positive approach to the protection of networks of green infrastructure.
S7: Areas of Separation -Maintains an Area of Separation to ensure the retention of the identity of Scraptoft and prevent its coalescence with the villages of Thurnby and Bushby.	17	The Core Planning Principle 5 specifies that development should take account of the different roles and character of different areas. This policy would prevent coalescence and facilitate the retention of the character and identify of Scraptoft.

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
S8: Countryside - Protects the Countryside and development within this designation will be limited to that which requires a rural location.	17, 28	Planning to recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside in accordance with Core Planning Principle 5. The policy mirrors this approach and also has regard to the promotion of the rural economy in that it would support the diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.
S9: Local Green Spaces - Identifies Local Green Spaces within the defined Limits to Development which will be protected and enhanced.	17, 76-78	Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for protection green areas of particular importance to them. It is suggested that these designations would not preclude ability to meet the identified housing requirements.
S10: Design – Seeks development to reflect the distinctive character of Scraptoft as demonstrated by the traditional architectural features and building materials evident within the Conservation Area.	54, 60	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 also facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. See Core Planning Principle 4.
S11: Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm, as well as maintain ecological and landscape features and corridors. The retention and improvement of Scraptoft Local Nature Reserve is supported.	17, 109, 117	The Core Planning Principle 7 seeks the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. This policy seeks to protect and enhance valued landscapes as well as minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has regard to the identification of locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity or wildlife corridors.
S12: New Community Hall - Supports the provision of a new Community Hall that will provide a multi-use facility for Scraptoft.	17,70, 156, 162	The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. In this respect policies should plan positively to the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy has

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
		regard to the promotion of healthy communities and the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs.
S13: Allotments- Supports the provision of community allotments	17,70	The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. In this respect policies should plan positively to the provision and use of share space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy has regard to the promotion of healthy communities and the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs.
S14: Infrastructure - Seeks new development to support the provision of new improved infrastructure including education provision, community and healthcare facilities and sports and recreation provision	17,70, 156, 162, 173	The Core Planning Principle 12 states that planning should deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. In this respect policies should plan positively to the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy has regard to the promotion of healthy communities and the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs. The policy has also had regard to issues of viability.
S15: Village Centre Parking - Supports the redevelopment of the existing village hall as an off-street car park.	28, 29, 30, 40	This policy seeks to deal with the provision of off-road parking to address traffic congestion and its impact on highway safety and the conservation area. Regard is had to wider sustainability and health objectives in accordance with Core Planning Principles 11 and 12. It would also help to improve parking opportunities within the settlement and access to, and support for, existing village services and business.
S16: Parking Standards - Identifies the amount of parking that should be provided for new residential development.	39	Given the rural nature of Scraptoft transport is an important aspect of life with access to public transport being limited, which means there is a reliance of private car usage. This policy has regard to the need to take into

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph	Regard to National Planning Policy Framework
		account the characteristics of the area when setting local parking standards. Regard is had to wider transport sustainability objectives in accordance with Core Planning Principles 11.
S17: Travel Packs - This policy encourages the use of sustainable transport through the provision of Travel Packs for the occupants of new residential development.	17, 29, 30	The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan is keen to encourage the use of sustainable transport and seeks to facilitate a reduction of the emissions of greenhouse gases i.e. reduction in reliance on private cars and make the fullest possible use of public transport. Regard is had to wider transport sustainability objectives in accordance with Core Planning Principles 11.

Contributing to sustainable development

- 17 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The Scraptoft 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 a number of roles:
- an economic role - contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements including the provision of infrastructure;
 - a social role - supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - an environmental role - contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 18 The following section however summarises how the relevant sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 - Building a strong competitive economy	Supporting housing provision to meet identified requirements, with appropriate infrastructure, and providing for housing that meets local needs.
2 - Ensuring the vitality of town centres	Supporting the provision of sustainable links from new residential development to the centre of Scraptoft, and improving parking arrangements within the village centre.
3 - Supporting a prosperous rural economy	Supporting the retention and development of local services and community facilities in the village. Seeks to improve parking within the village and access to local services and facilities.

National Planning Policy Framework Sustainability Objective	How the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
4 - Promoting Sustainable Transport	Supporting a balanced approach to an improved transport infrastructure including improving road safety, supporting development within the existing Limits to Development where village facilities are located, facilitating opportunities to use bus services, and providing for pedestrian links and cycleways to the village and community facilities from new residential development.
5 - Supporting high quality communications infrastructure	Not applicable
6 - Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes	Identifying suitable locations for housing development and the identification of a housing reserve site. Seeking a mix of property types and tenure mix based on demographic projections and local evidence of housing need. Requiring 40% of new homes on a specified site to be affordable.
7 - Requiring good design	Includes policies to require good design and reflect local distinctiveness.
8 - Promoting healthy communities	Requires development to have safe pedestrian access providing easy access to village facilities, the identification of Local Green Space and protecting access to open space with recreation opportunities. Supporting proposal for additional community facilities, encouraging their shared use and seeking developer contributions for additional community facilities.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Seeks to improve off-road parking arrangements, facilitate the use of bus services and locate new homes close to bus services, with new and improved pedestrian links. Requires developers to provide a sustainable drainage system on a particular site.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside and networks of Green Infrastructure and protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development not to harm valued landscapes and to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents the loss of the historic landscape, new development to reflect the character of Scraftoft Conservation Area and seeks to reduce the detrimental impact of traffic on the Conservation Area.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable

Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

- 19 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 Harborough District Council Local Plan 2001 and the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028.
- 20 The following section identifies how the policies of Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Harborough Core Strategy and Local Plan
- 21 The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Harborough Core Strategy and Local Plan. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Core Strategy 2006-2028

CS1: Spatial Strategy for Harborough

CS2: Delivering New Housing

CS3: Delivering Housing Choice and Affordability

CS5: Providing Sustainable Transport

CS8: Protecting and Enhancing Green Infrastructure

CS9: Addressing Climate Change

CS10: Addressing Flood Risk

CS11: Promoting Design and Built Heritage

CS12: Delivering Development and Supporting Infrastructure

CS15: Leicester Principal Urban Area

CS17: Countryside, Rural Centre and Rural Villages

Local Plan 2001

There are no retained strategic policies.

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
S1: Housing Provision	CS1, CS2, CS11, CS15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to meeting the identified housing requirements for the district and those to be located within the Principal Urban Area ▪ Supports development of new housing within the defined Limits to Development

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development in keeping with the scale and character of Scraptoft ▪ Provision of safe and suitable access ▪ Protect amenities of residents
S2: Housing Reserve Site	CS1, CS2, CS5, CS8, CS9, CS10, CS11, CS12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to the District's housing requirement ▪ Recognises that additional land may need to be identified and developed over those currently benefiting from planning permission. ▪ Provides for the housing needs of the community ▪ Housing types to be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence ▪ Facilitates the impacts of development to be mitigated through the provision of infrastructure. ▪ Makes for the provision of Sustainable Drainage Systems ▪ Facilitate and encourage travel by non-car modes and support the aims of sustainable travel ▪ Make provision for new landscaping and contribute to biodiversity improvements.
S3: Housing Mix	CS1, CS2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides for the housing needs of the community ▪ Housing types to be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence
S4: Affordable Housing	CS1, CS2, CS3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides for the housing needs of the community ▪ Housing types to be informed by the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment and local evidence ▪ Support the providing of identified affordable housing need.

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
S5: Landscape Protection	CS8, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguarding areas of historic landscape ▪ Supports protection and enhancement of green infrastructure
S6: Green Wedge	CS1, CS8, CS15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the designation of the Green Wedge ▪ Retains the open and undeveloped character of the Green Wedge between Scraptoft and Leicester, to prevent coalescence of the two settlements
S7: Area of Separation	CS1, CS8, CS15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguards the individual character of Scraptoft by maintaining a separation from the villages of Thurnby and Bushby and preventing coalescence ▪ Facilitate the provision and enhancement of Green Infrastructure
S8: Countryside	CS17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New development in the countryside will be restricted to those developments which require a rural location
S9: Local Green Space	CS8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for open space within villages to be protected for their contribution to the form and character of the settlement or locality.
S10: Design	CS1, CS2, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development which enhances the District's built heritage and ensuring it is in keeping with the scale and character of Scraptoft and consistent with its Conservation Area ▪ Development which respects and enhances the local character and distinctiveness of an area.
S11: Biodiversity	CS1, CS8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting existing assets as a resource for biodiversity conservation and enhancement

Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Harborough Core Strategy Policies	Explanation of Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Harborough Core Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to the protection, management and enhancement of the District's biodiversity
S12: New Community Hall	CS12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of development to be mitigated through the provision of infrastructure.
S13: Allotments	CS12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The impacts of development to be mitigated through the provision of infrastructure.
S14: Infrastructure	CS12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the impacts of development to be mitigated through the provision of infrastructure. ▪ Allows for the effects of viability on a development scheme to be taken into account.
S15: Village Centre Parking	CS5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This policy seeks to reduce the congestion levels and improve highway safety.
S16: Parking Standards	CS5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows parking provision to be applied flexibly, taking into account issues such as the location of the development, and the availability of parking in the locality.
S17: Travel Packs	CS5, CS11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate and encourage travel by non-car modes and support the aims of sustainable travel

Compliance with European Union obligations

- 22 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.
- 23 The Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the Policies of Harborough Core Strategy, which has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. The purpose of this is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are considered throughout the plan-making process and that it has considered all aspects of economic, social and environmental sustainability in its production.
- 24 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. The outcome of this assessment concluded it is unlikely that there will be any significant environment effects arising from the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan, which were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy. As such, the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.
- 25 The Assessment also concluded that the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on the Natura 2000 network of protected sites. A full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report was carried out as part of the Core Strategy preparation process in 2011. The report concludes that the Harborough Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have an adverse impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites within approximately 25kms of the boundary of the district.
- 26 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 Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan.

Other basic conditions

- 27 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out another basic condition in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. This is that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). (See Schedule 2 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in relation to the examination of neighbourhood development plans.)
- 28 As set out in paragraphs 24 and 25, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 29 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.
- 30 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 Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

Conclusions

- 31 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 considered to be met by the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Scraftoft 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 Scraftoft 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 exist, 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 Scaptoft for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 1,804 people living in Scaptoft. 50.3% were Male and 49.7% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

17.1% of the population was 0-15 years old and 18.9% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

18.5% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%.

55.7% of the population was Christian and 13.5% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, 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.

7% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 9.1% 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).

55.4% 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 higher than the national picture, common with rural suburbs on the edge or fringe of larger cities.

The proportion of BMEs is higher than the national picture, reflective of the influence of the city, itself a multi-cultural environment.

The proportion of Christians is more closely aligned to the national average, albeit marginally lower, whilst the proportion of other religions is higher, again perhaps reflective of the influence and relationship with the City.

Key Issues and Policies of the Scraftoft Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies four key issues for Scraftoft;

Housing - development pressure, with a need for decent homes that local people can afford and for the size, type, tenure and range of those homes to reflect local needs.

Local Identity - protecting the identity of Scraftoft and prevent it from merging with surrounding settlements as well as conserving its heritage, protecting green areas and improving the design of new development so it reflects local character.

Services and Facilities - access to basic services and facilities without the need to travel by car. Whilst the village has good facilities, including a church and village hall, there are no healthcare facilities.

Transport - traffic passing through the village, along narrow roads with sharp corners and a one way system, leading to congestion and a desire for better bus services; particularly in the evening and on Sundays when there are no services.

The Neighbourhood Plan includes a vision which is reflective of these issues and a suite of 17 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy S3 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing types to reflect evidence of need, noting in particular the needs of older households. Together with Policies S2 and S4 which seek 40% affordable housing and for priority to be given to local people when allocating affordable homes there is a strong potential for positive impacts on, in particular, young or newer households who may be seeking a starter home or the elderly seeking to address their needs.

Policy S9 requires local green spaces to be protected and enhanced and prevents development which is harmful to those spaces. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit, in particular, the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Policy S12 makes provision for a community hall (also required as part of any development delivered under the provisions of Policy S2 and referenced in Policy S14) and for that hall to incorporate recreation facilities and be capable of hosting a branch GP surgery. This has a strong potential to benefit the young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact. Due to the uncertainty of the GP surgery being delivered the potential impact from implementation of Policy S3 might only be considered to be neutral, but the potential nevertheless should be noted.

Policy S14 seeks school places and the improvement, remodeling or enhancement of sports and recreation facilities - as well as including reference to the surgery noted above. These are considered to have potential for positive impacts on this characteristic.

Disability

Policy S1 requires new development to have safe and suitable access to the site for all and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy S3) 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 S3 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

The requirement for a community hall, with the capability to accommodate a GP surgery (Policies S2, S12 and S14) has the potential to benefit those with a disability. However, the uncertain prospects for delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Policy S17 requires new residential development to provide travel packs to occupiers that would include information on bus routes and two six-month bus passes per home. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy S10 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 improved play areas (Policy S9); a community hall with multi-use facilities including recreation and the potential for hosting local groups as well as the capability for a GP surgery (Policies S2, S12 and S14); and for housing to meet local needs including family accommodation. These impacts might be considered to be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the provision of a community hall with multi-use facilities including opportunities for multi-faith worship (Policies S2, S12 and S14). However, the uncertain prospects for 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 S10 may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic the potential for tangible impacts is unknown and as a consequence this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Scraptoft Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community as a whole 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 affordable housing and a range of housing types, and seeks improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. It also seeks to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

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