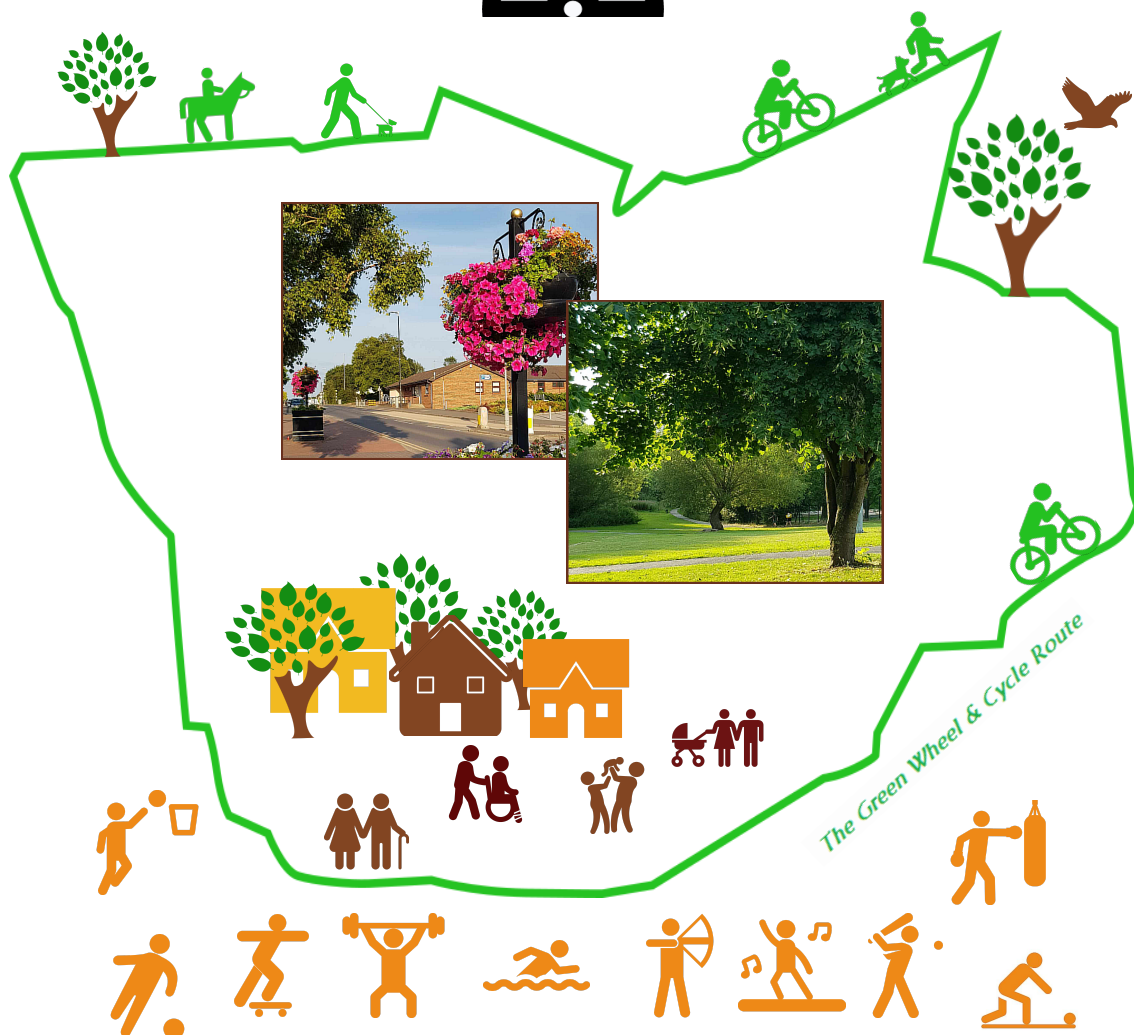


Basic Conditions Statement

Harworth & Bircotes Review

Neighbourhood Plan

2024 - 2038



9 September 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Key Statements.....	3
3. Conformity with National and District Policy	5
4. Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development	10
5. Compatibility with EU Obligations post Brexit	12
6. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening	12
7. General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy	14
8. Conclusion	17
9. Appendix A Sustainability Matrix.....	18

1. Introduction

What is the Harworth and Bircotes Review Neighbourhood Plan?

- 1.1 The Neighbourhood Plan for Harworth and Bircotes Town Council has been prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011, the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Plan establishes a vision of the future for the Town Council and sets out how that vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change.
- 1.2 The Plan relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning (general) Regulations 2012.

What is the Basic Conditions Statement?

- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Harworth and Bircotes Review Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter the H&BRNP). Paragraph 8 (2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires that a Neighbourhood Development Plan meets each of the following Basic Conditions¹:
 - I. has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan,
 - II. contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
 - III. is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
 - IV. does not breach and is otherwise compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations,
 - V. does not breach the requirements of chapter 8 part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017,
 - VI. having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that it is made.
- 1.4 This document outlines how the H&BRNP meets the Basic Conditions.

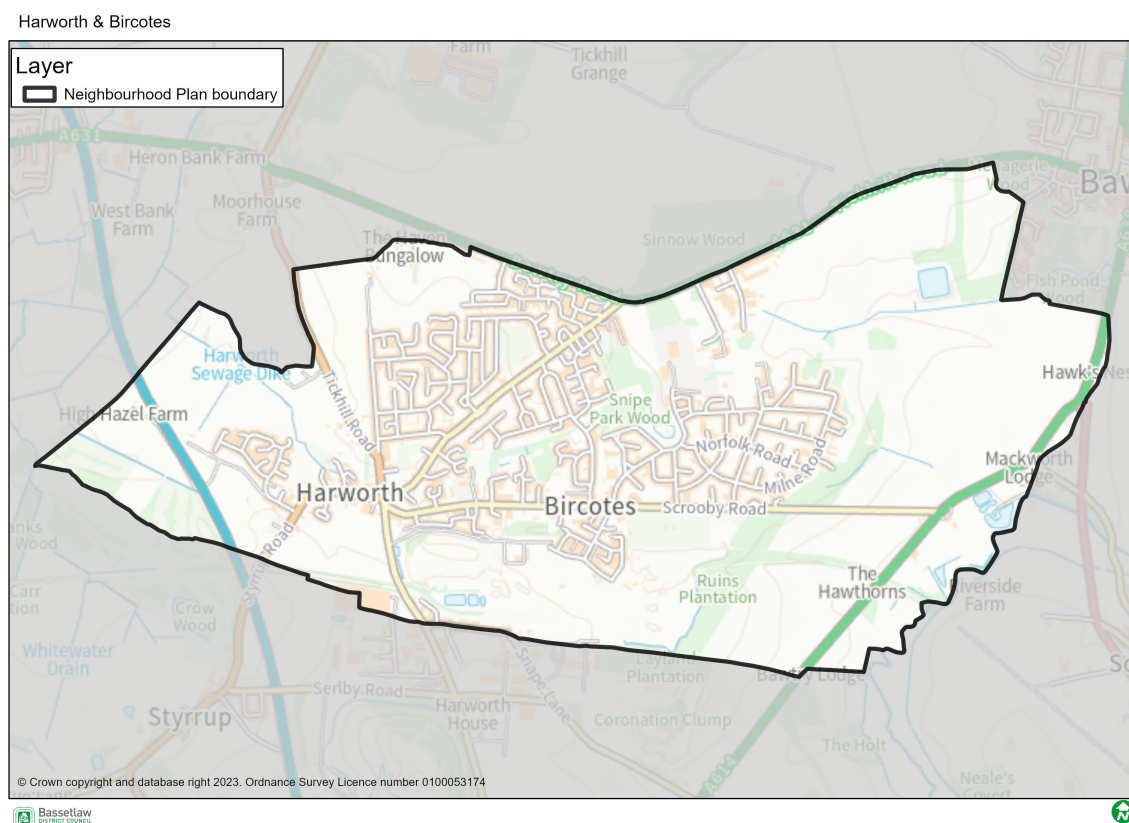
2. Key Statements

- 1.5 The Plan area covers Harworth and Bircotes Town Council and was designated a neighbourhood plan area on 27th June 2013.
- 1.6 The H&BRNP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the Neighbourhood Area. Harworth and Bircotes Town Council are the qualifying body for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

¹ See national planning practice guidance Paragraph: 065 Reference ID: 41-065-20140306

- 1.7 The H&BRNP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Area is shown on the map accompanying the neighbourhood designation application and the designated area is aligned with the Town Council boundary.
- 1.9 The H&BRNP covers the period from 2024 to 2038 matching the timeframe of the Bassetlaw Plan.
- 1.10 The Plan proposals do not deal with mineral extraction and waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'excluded development'.
- 1.11 The H&BRNP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and covers only the Town Council area of Harworth and Bircotes as shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Harworth Review Neighbourhood Plan Area



- 1.12 There are no other Neighbourhood Plans in place for this area.
- 1.13 The Pre-Submission Draft H&BRNP was made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations from 6th May 2025 until the 24th June 2025. Amendments have been made to the document based on all the comments received and these are summarised in the document entitled 'Consultation Statement'.

3. Conformity with National and District Policy

- 1.14 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)². Paragraphs 29 to 31 and footnote 17 of the NPPF refers to Neighbourhood Plans requiring them to have regard to the policies in the NPPF.
- 1.15 The NPPF provides a framework within which local communities can produce Neighbourhood Development Plans for their area and sets out how planning should help achieve sustainable development (see paragraphs below relating to achieving sustainable development).
- 1.16 The NPPF also refers to the need for Neighbourhood Plans to be in general conformity with strategic policies in any Development Plan that covers the area, which is the Bassetlaw Plan adopted in May 2024.
- 1.17 Town Council area-based studies have been commissioned and are available on the Neighbourhood Plan tab at
<https://www.harworthandbircotestowncouncil.org.uk/?pagename=NeighbourhoodPlan&id=11>
- Harworth Design Codes and Guidance AECOM 2024
 - Housing Needs Assessment AECOM 2023
- 1.18 In addition, the NPG have done their own assessment of Local Green Spaces, Key Views and Areas of Landscape Sensitivity. This involved a walkabout and discussion with the AECOM consultants as part of the Design Code work and the same with the planning consultant supporting the group to write the Neighbourhood Plan. The NPG then met with maps to agree the Local Green Spaces, Key Views and Areas of Landscape Sensitivity based on criteria provided by the planning consultant.
- 1.19 Table 1 sets out how the H&BRNP is in general conformity National Policy.

² All references are to the NPPF 2024

Table 1: Assessment of how each policy in the H&BRNP conforms to the NPPF.

NP Policy No.	Policy Title	NPPF (para.)	Ref	Commentary
1	Sustainable Development, and the Development Boundary	7,8, 129		The NPPF enshrines sustainable development at the heart of planning. Policy 1 defines what sustainable development is in the context of the Plan Area and establishes a Development Boundary for Harworth and Bircotes. This provides certainty in respect of the suitable locations for development, the need to protect valued open spaces, the areas of nature conservation and open countryside in accordance with the NPPF. The NPPF para 129 notes that planning policies should take into account ' <i>the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting (including residential gardens)</i> '. Policy 1 is based on local analysis to provide a policy framework to ensure all development on allocated sites and infill is sensitive to the local character.
2a	Achieving Well Designed Places	131, 132, 134		The NPPF sees good design as a key aspect of sustainable development (para 131) and para 132 notes that design policies should be developed with local communities. Para 134 supports the production of Design Guides for neighbourhood areas and Policy 2 is underpinned by the Harworth and Bircotes Design Codes and Guidance. In accordance with NPPF para 131 Policy 2 is clear about the design expectations and how these will be tested. Policy 2 is based on robust local evidence, has involved the community in its preparation and sets out a framework for developers.
2b	Designing Out Crime	96b, 135f		The NPPF requires developments to create safe places where crime and disorder and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion. This is integral to achieving well designed places and promoting healthy and safe communities. Policy 2b sets

NP Policy No.	Policy Title	NPPF (para.)	Ref	Commentary
				out a design approach that will minimise the opportunity for criminal behaviour.
3	Protecting Landscape Character	135, 187		The landscape character of the area is valued by the local community. The NPPF at para 135a requires planning policies to ensure that developments will <i>'function well and add to the overall quality of the area not just in the short term but over the life time of the development'</i>. The NPPF at para 187 requires planning policies to <i>'contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes'</i>. The H&BRNP has focused on defining the quality and location of Areas of Landscape Sensitivity to ensure this is taken into account in decision making. Policy 3 defines the overall approach to protecting landscape character and provides a framework to show how the allocated sites and any infill development should be designed to minimise the impact on the landscape. Policy 3 is based on an understanding and evaluation of the defining characteristics of the Plan Area undertaken for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Harworth Design Code and Guidance combines an assessment of the surrounding built environment and landscape setting (in accordance with NPPF para 135c). The identification of the areas of landscape sensitivity, the key views and local green spaces, contributes to this analysis, providing local input in establishing where the landscape is locally valuable.
4a and 4b	Protecting and enhancing biodiversity Greening the Streets	125, 136, 256, 192		At para 192 of the NPPF plans are required to <i>'map and safeguard components of local wildlife rich habitats'</i> The NPPF at para 125 states that planning policies should <i>'achieve net environmental gains such as developments that would enable new habitat creation....'</i>. Policy 4a provides a clear policy framework to show how the impact on biodiversity of

NP Policy No.	Policy Title	NPPF (para.)	Ref	Commentary
				development will be assessed, how the uplift will be measured and how it can be mitigated. The NPPF para 136 states that <i>'Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure new streets are tree lined and..... existing trees are retained wherever possible.'</i> Policy 4b emphasises the importance of the trees and other planting in the Town and development proposals to protect the existing trees where possible and to include additional planting in landscape schemes.
5	Designation of Local Green Spaces	106,107		The NPPF encourages communities to identify, for special protection, green areas of particular importance. Policy 5 identifies 20 green spaces of tranquillity and community value that will be protected from development.
6a	Improving and Extending Walking and Cycling Routes	96,109		The NPPF supports the promotion of sustainable transport like cycling and walking in planning policies to achieve healthy inclusive and safe places (para 96) and to consider the location of development to encourage walking and cycling (para 109). There is potential to enhance the network of walking and cycling routes through the Plan Area and connect them to wider cycling and other active travel routes. The Green Wheel was a policy in the last NP that has been successful and the work supporting Policy 6 has identified the opportunities to extend this route and encourages its enhancement. The NPPF sees the enhancement of walking and cycling routes as a way of encouraging healthy, inclusive and safe places.

NP Policy No.	Policy Title	NPPF Ref (para.)	Commentary
6b	Improving Public Transport	115, 116	The NPPF prioritises sustainable transport And requires development to facilitate access to high-quality public transport. Transport assessments are required for Major developments generating significant amounts of movement policy 6A supports an improvement to public transport as being an important component of ensuring development is sustainable.
7a, 7b	Improving the Town Centre's Public Realm and the Development of land south of Scrooby Road	90, 91	The NPPF Requires planning policies to support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities. Policies should promote their long-term vitality and viability Policies 7a and 7b identify ways in which the public realm can be enhanced (to encourage additional shoppers and to extend dwell time) and sets out to design framework for a currently developed site in the centre of the town. In combination these policies seek to provide an economic boost to the Town Centre.
8a, 8b	Housing Type and Size, Affordable Housing,	62,63,64,65	Para 62 supports the use of local housing needs assessments to inform policy. The H&BRNP is supported by a specific HNA. Policy 8a supports development that meets local housing need in accordance with District and local analysis from the HNA and a housing size mix is identified. The use of up-to-date evidence is in accordance with the NPPF. This creates a policy framework that identifies different house sizes and types and encourages a range of development to meet this need - (see NPPF para 63). NPPF para 64 states that where a need is identified (including for affordable housing) this should be reflected in planning policy <i>'where a need for affordable housing is</i>

NP Policy No.	Policy Title	NPPF (para.)	Ref	Commentary
				<i>identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required’.</i> Policy 8a and 8b is a response to the HNA findings.
9	Protecting and Enhancing Community Facilities and Services	88		The NPPF states that planning policies should <i>‘plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship).</i> The Harworth and Bircotes Plan Area has a wide range of facilities that are highly valued and vital to providing community cohesion in a community that is rapidly expanding. The gaps in provision are also identified, and Policy 9 supports the need to protect and improve these community facilities and services.
10	Traffic, Speeding and Pedestrian Safety	96, 113, 117		The NPPF requires street layouts to allow easy pedestrian and cycle connections with clear legible pedestrian routes. Accessibility for pedestrians in town centres is a duty on local authorities and first priority should be given to pedestrian and cycle movements when considering applications for development. Policy 10 identifies the streets and junctions where development will provide an opportunity for enhancement.

4. Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development

- 1.34 The NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three overarching objectives *‘which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives)’*.³ The H&BRNP recognises that this is a balancing act and the objectives of the Plan comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental objectives.

³ NPPF para 8

- 1.35 The **economic** goals relate to the emphasis on supporting sustainable economic development. The H&BRNP supports the redevelopment of a prime site on Scrooby Road for a mix of town centre uses and investment in the public realm to make the town centre more attractive for shoppers and investors.
- 1.36 The **social** goals are to maintain a thriving community, recognising that the community and its needs change over time. The Housing Needs Assessment commissioned for the H&BRNP provides local analysis and is used to support policies to ensure that house types meet local need ensuring that the community remains cohesive as it expands.
- 1.37 Community facilities and services are vital to provide social cohesion and these are protected. Where there is a shortfall in provision this is identified and development to secure the expansion of facilities supported. The H&BRNP recognises the value the community place on the quality of outdoor recreation as well.
- 1.38 The H&BRNP identifies some outdoor areas of community value as Local Green Spaces (LGS). These Local Green Spaces have a social value (for leisure and recreation) as well as for their tranquillity and environmental value. The identification of opportunities to expand the Green Wheel demonstrates the value of this route and the potential it provides to significantly enhance how people can move around and out into the countryside.
- 1.39 The H&BRNP has included detailed analysis of the existing design of the area and the NPG has been actively involved in considering the policy framework for new development. This should ensure that growth is in keeping with the local character.
- 1.40 The H&BRNP has been prepared on the basis that local people can inform planning policy in their neighbourhood at the pre-application engagement stage (see Key Principle). By enabling people to become more actively involved in the decision-making process the Neighbourhood Plan has assisted in building social capacity.
- 1.41 The **environmental** goals are to protect the natural and built environment. The H&BRNP policies ensure that proposals protect and where possible enhance valued landscapes and the heritage of the Parish. The H&BRNP provides locally specific policies based on the Harworth Design Code to assist to developers to understand on what constitutes sustainable development in Harworth and Bircotes. The identification of Areas of Landscape Sensitivity, Local Green Spaces and Key Views based on landscape analysis is an important part of this process to provide clarity to decision makers and developers about the sensitivity of these spaces within and adjoining the Development Boundary.
- 1.42 A sustainability matrix of the policies in the H&BRNP has been produced to assess the policies against sustainability criteria - see Appendix A. There is no legal requirement for neighbourhood plans to have a Sustainability Appraisal but the Sustainability Matrix concluded that the H&BRNP policies would mostly have a positive benefit and occasionally a neutral impact.

5. Compatibility with EU Obligations post Brexit

- 1.43 The European Withdrawal Act 2018 (EUWA) provides a new constitutional framework for the continuity of retained EU law in the UK, replacing the EU treaties that had until that point applied in the UK. Section 7 of the EUWA 2018 states that *'Anything which was immediately before exit day, primary legislation of a particular kind, subordinate legislation of a particular kind or another enactment of a particular kind and continues to be domestic law on and after exit day continues to be domestic law as an enactment of the same kind'*⁴.
- 1.44 The references below are to EU directives and regulations because *'there is no official record of which EU treaty rights were incorporated into UK law'*⁵ but the EUWA accepts that the same environmental standards remain.
- 1.45 *'The EU (Withdrawal) Bill incorporates the existing body of EU environmental law into UK law, making sure the same protections have effect in the UK and laws still function effectively after the UK leaves the EU'*⁶.
- 1.46 On the basis of the foregoing the H&BRNP has been assessed in accordance with extant EU regulation that has been incorporated into UK law.

6. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening

- 1.47 The environmental assessment of plans with a significant environmental impact is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 1.48 A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in significant negative effects on protected European Sites as a result of the Plan's implementation⁷.
- 1.49 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was undertaken on behalf of the NPG in November/December 2024 to determine whether or not the H&BRNP (Submission Draft) required a SEA and HRA. In accordance with regulations Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England were consulted.
- 1.50 The SEA Screening process identified that one was not required. See extract below from the SEA/HRA Screening Statement and the full report at <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans/all-neighbourhood-plans/harworth-bircotes-neighbourhood-plan/>

⁴ See <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/16/section/7>

⁵ See <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/guides/retained-eu-law-uk-after-brexite>

⁶ EU Withdrawal Bill Fact sheet 8 Environmental Principles. EU Withdrawal Bill came into force in January 2020

⁷ Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

SEA/HRA Screening Conclusions

6 Conclusions

Consultation

- 6.1 As required by the regulation, a draft version of this report was issued for the purposes of consultation with the statutory bodies, specifically the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. On conclusion of the five-week consultation (31 July to 4 September 2025), responses had been received from all three bodies. The responses are included in full at Appendix 1, and can be summarised as follows:

Environment Agency: no formal comments for this consultation.

Historic England: concurs with the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required and does not disagree that a HRA is not required, but defers to other consultees on this matter.

Natural England: agrees with the conclusion that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely, and significant effects on habitats sites, either alone or in combination, are unlikely. |



SEA Screening

- 6.2 On the basis of the SEA Screening Assessment set out in this document, the conclusion is that the reviewed Harworth and Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations, and therefore **does not need to be subject to a full SEA**.

HRA Screening

- 6.3 The HRA Screening Assessment concludes that no significant effects are likely to occur with regard to the integrity of the Thorne and Hatfield Moor SPA, Hatfield Moor SAC, and the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a consequence of the implementation of the Plan. As such, **a full HRA is not required to be undertaken**.

Other EU obligations

- 1.51 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the **European Convention on Human Rights**. Whilst an Equality Impact Assessment Report has not been specifically prepared, great care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups.
- 1.52 The main issues for planning are the right to family life and in preventing discrimination. The H&BRNP makes positive contributions, such as promoting environmental enhancements to the town centre to boost the offer in the town centre, protecting the landscape and countryside of the Plan area, supporting the improvement of walking and cycling routes, promoting housing to meet local needs and protecting and improving community facilities. The population profile has revealed that there are

not significant numbers of people who do not speak English (as a first language) and it has not been necessary to produce consultation material in other languages.

- 1.53 The H&BRNP has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement.⁸ There was consultation and engagement early on in the process and residents were encouraged to participate throughout. The draft H&BRNP has been consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement. The Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

7. General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

- 1.54 To meet the Basic Conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan is required to demonstrate general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan, here the Bassetlaw Plan. Bassetlaw Plan strategic policies provide detailed guidance on where new development can take place. They set out the factors that will be considered by BDC when considering all proposals for development.
- 1.55 The H&BRNP has been developed to be in general conformity with these strategic policies. Table 2 provides a summary of how each of the H&BRNP policies are in general conformity with BDCs strategic policies.

Table 2: Assessment of how the policies in the H&BRNP are in general conformity with the Strategic Policies in the Bassetlaw Plan

Bassetlaw Plan	Harworth Review Neighbourhood Plan
ST1 Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy	The H&BRNP reflects the scale of growth for Harworth and Bircotes as defined in the Bassetlaw Plan. The development boundary in the H&BRNP includes the sites allocated in the previous Core Strategy but that are not yet built out. In relation to windfall sites the development boundary also assists in guiding development (see Policy 1) in accordance with ST1.
ST11 Town Centres, Local Centres, Local Shops and Services, ST12 management of Town Centres	Policy ST11 supports development that maintains or enhances the vitality and viability of Harworth and Bircotes. The H&BRNP has specific policies 7a and 7b that supports investment in the town centre to attract more shoppers and businesses. The H&BRNP provides more detail about the preferred development of the site on Scrooby Road and the areas of public space in the town that could be improved based on local analysis. This provides a locally specific element in the context of the objectives of ST11 and ST12.

⁸See Consultation Statement

<https://www.harworthandbircotestowncouncil.org.uk/?pagename=NeighbourhoodPlan&id=11>

ST27 Affordable Housing and ST28 Housing Mix	The H&BRNP Policy 7a and 7b supports housing development that is based on an up to date assessment of local need based on an understanding of existing housing stock, income levels and demographic projections in Harworth and Bircotes. Policy 7a and 7b align with ST27 and ST28.
ST33 Design Quality	The H&BRNP is supported by the Harworth Design Codes and Guidance which provides local detail - an approach supported at para 8.1.12. ST33 provides an overarching comprehensive policy for the District covering local character and settlement form, architectural quality and materials, landscaping, the environment, private amenity space and accessibility. Policy 2a provides the locally specific detail and translates ST33 into a Town Council specific policy. <i>'The Council encourages communities preparing neighbourhood plans to consider what the positive features are in their local area and identify them as part of a made Plan and/or design code. Where these local features have been identified as part of a made neighbourhood plan, proposals should demonstrate that they have been incorporated into the design.'</i>
ST35 Landscape Character and ST36 Green Gaps	Para 8.3.7 notes that national policy provides strong support towards protecting valued landscapes. The landscape around Harworth is "valued" and the H&BRNP identifies areas of nature conservation, key views and areas of landscape sensitivity to provide a robust evidence base to justify the policy approach taken. The H&BRNP Policy 3 takes a similar approach to ST35 but with the key views and area of landscape sensitivity analysis it provides an understanding of the landscape sensitivity at the local scale across the Plan Area. The green gap definition at para 8.4.6 is <i>'Green Gaps are intended to enable high quality development to continue to be proposed in appropriate locations in and adjoining these settlements, but to identify and protect the development of land which is integral to the character and identity of that settlement.'</i> This is the same approach taken to identifying areas of landscape sensitivity. Policy 3 takes the same principles as ST35 but applies it to the Plan Area. (Note that the Local Plan does not identify Green Gaps around Harworth).
ST37 Green and Blue Infrastructure, ST38 Biodiversity	The H&BRNP reflects the feedback from the community consultation about the value people place on their access to a high-quality natural environment. The H&BRNP is in

and Geodiversity. ST 39 Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	conformity with ST37-ST39 as policies 3, 4a and 4b seek to minimise the harm to the natural environment caused by the location of development and require development to enhance biodiversity. Tree planting as part of enhancing biodiversity is especially supported. The Green Wheel is an important element of green infrastructure, and its extension is supported in Policy 6a.
ST40 The Historic Environment and ST41 Designated and Non Designated Heritage Assets	The archaeological heritage of the Parish is valued by local people as are the heritage assets that cluster around All Saints Church. Policy 3 includes a requirement to take into account any archaeological evidence prior to development and Policy 2a (12) highlights the heritage assets in character area 8 and the requirement to reflect their significance in accordance with ST40 and 41.
ST42 Promoting Healthy, Active Lifestyles	H&BRNP Policy 6a identifies the network of existing walking and cycling routes and identifies where links can be made to enhance this network. Development is required to protect these routes and where possible and proposals that extend them as shown on the map is supported. The protection of Local Green Spaces (Policy 5) and Policy 9, Protecting and Enhancing Community Facilities and Services also contributes to this strategic policy objective.
ST43 Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities ST45 Promoting Sport and Recreation	In accordance with the requirements of ST43, Policy 9 of the H&BRNP identifies and protects the community facilities and services in the Plan Area and seeks their enhancement where gaps in provision are evidenced e.g. the need for an additional 3G pitch.
ST53 Promoting Sustainable Transport and Active Travel	ST53 requires development to <i>'assist in the improvement of transport infrastructure to help all communities ...travel without a car for everyday journeys'</i> and <i>'to provide safe and convenient access for all, giving priority to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists...'</i> . Policy 10 identifies how proposals can improve pedestrian safety and reduce speeding in Harworth and Bircotes.

8. Conclusion

- 1.56 It is the view of Harworth and Bircotes Town Council that the foregoing has shown that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to be met by the H&BRNP and all the policies therein.
- 1.57 The H&BRNP has appropriate regard to the NPPF, will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and is in conformity with the
- strategic policies contained in BDCs adopted Bassetlaw Plan
 - meets relevant EU obligations that have been transferred into UK Law.
- 1.58 On that basis, it is respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the H&BRNP complies with Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

9. Appendix A Sustainability Matrix

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
Policy 1 Sustainable Development, and the Development Boundary	Positive Impact Minimises the impact of development on the environment by requiring development to be sustainable and defining what that means for Harworth and Bircotes. Defines the extent of the Development Boundary.	Positive Impact Sets out clear guidelines for the location of new development. Ensures that the impact of new development avoids harm to the local character of the Plan Area. Protecting the quality of the place will ensure the Town Council remains a desirable and economically attractive place to live/work.	Positive Impact Sets out clear guidelines for sustainable development to provide assurance to existing and future generations that the attributes that make the Town special will be protected and that the scale of growth is in accordance with what the community supports.
Policy 2a Achieving Well Designed Places	Positive Impact Minimises the impact of development on the environment by setting out design guidelines that ensure development will blend with the existing built form and landscape. Ensures that development will reinforce existing character.	Positive Impact Ensures a high-quality design that will have community support and that will increase the attractiveness of the area as somewhere to live and work.	Positive Impact Ensures that new development integrates with the existing, creating high-quality buildings. Provides existing and future residents with confidence that future development will be of the highest design quality.
Policy 2b Designing Out Crime	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Crime and the fear of crime makes people reluctant to invest in a place. Ensuring Harworth and Bircotes feels a safe place to live and work is vital in retaining the economic vitality of the area.	Positive Impact Social cohesion comes from living in a community that feels safe and where the fear of crime is minimal.
Policy 3 Protecting the Landscape Character	Positive Impact Requires development to protect the local landscape, provides a	Positive Impact The rurality of the Harworth and Bircotes and yet its	Positive impact The quality of the landscape is a valuable attribute. This policy

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
	detailed understanding of this landscape and why it is important (the sense of openness around the Town and the contribution made by the areas of landscape sensitivity and key views are highlighted.)	connectivity to walks and cycle routes is an attribute that attracts people to live and work in the Parish.	provides assurance that the landscape around the Harworth and Bircotes settlements will remain largely unchanged for the duration of the Plan period.
Policy 4a Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Policy 4b Greening the Streets	Positive impact Highlights the specific quality of the Town environment and requires development to make a net contribution to biodiversity. The policy identifies areas of nature conservation and specific actions that would enhance biodiversity in the Plan Area. Requires development to retain existing trees and have a landscape plan that enhances the greenery along boundaries, along streets within the Town and within development sites.	Positive impact The quality of the natural environment is an attribute that attracts people to living in Harworth.	Positive impact The undeveloped expanse around Harworth and Bircotes and the access to nature are valuable attributes; residents enjoy the quality and accessibility of nature. This policy provides assurance that the environment will not be eroded and may be enhanced over the Plan period.
Policy 5 Designation of Local Green Spaces	Positive impact The designation of Local Green Spaces highlights the value of these spaces to local people and affords them additional protection from development.	Neutral Impact	Positive impact These Local Green Spaces have been put forward by local people and are very important to them; their designation provides assurance that they will be protected from development for the duration of the Plan period. The focus on them may enable improved maintenance of them to enhance their form and function.

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
Policy 6a Improving Walking and Cycling Policy 6b Improving Public Transport	Positive impact Reducing car useage by improving active travel and increasing the use of buses has multi benefits for the environment.	Neutral Impact Improving public transport allows more people to access employment opportunities.	Positive impact Cycling and walking is good for health and will improve the well-being of residents. These routes provide important leisure and recreational opportunities linking to the wider area – they enable healthy active travel. Improving access to public transport can significantly enhance the quality of life of residents for work and the access to local services.
Policy 7a Improving the Town Centre's Public Realm Policy 7b Development of land south of Scrooby Road	Positive impact The environmental enhancements proposed will increase tree coverage.	Positive impact Increasing dwell time in the town centre will correlate to an increasing investment by businesses and spending by shoppers.	Positive impact The town centre plays an important role as a community hub. Development that makes it more pleasant to shop should increase social cohesion.
Policy 8a Housing Type Policy 8b Affordable Housing	Neutral impact	Positive Impact Seeks to address the need for 2 and 4 bed dwellings and properties for older people, reflecting community feedback, findings from the HNA and an understanding of the existing housing stock. Housing to meet local need will ensure local people can remain in the Plan Area.	Positive impact Seeks to provide new houses that will meet local needs and varying local income levels taking into account changes over time.
Policy 9 Protecting and Enhancing Community Facilities and Services	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact A good range of community provision creates a more vibrant neighbourhood where people want to live and work.	Positive Impact Access to a range of indoor and outdoor community facilities is vital to foster a sense of community cohesion and well-being in the Parish.

Policy	Environmental Impact	Economic Impact	Social Impact
Policy 10 Traffic, Speeding and Pedestrian Safety	Positive Impact Reducing traffic speeds and making travel safer for pedestrians and cyclists will enhance the environment.	Neutral Impact	Positive Impact Reducing traffic speeds, reducing car usage and making travel safer for pedestrians and cyclists will create a place where people are more likely to get to know each other.