



For and on behalf of
Walton Community Council

Walton Neighbourhood Plan Review Basic Conditions Statement

**Prepared by
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CONTENTS	PAGE
1.0 Introduction.....	4
a) Supporting Documents and Evidence	4
b) Key Statements	4
2.0 Conformity with National Planning Policy	5
a) National Planning Policy Framework.....	5
3.0 Contribution Towards Sustainable development	8
4.0 General Conformity with the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan.....	11
5.0 Does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU Obligations	17
6.0 Conclusions	18

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Walton Neighbourhood Area Designation.....	19
APPENDIX 2 Milton Keynes Council Screening Opinion	20

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to explain how the refreshed Walton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) have been met.
- 1.2 The Statement addresses each of the four 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 1.3 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area); and
 - the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

a) Supporting Documents and Evidence

- 1.4 The Walton NDP is supported by a Consultation Statement, Modifications Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement. The Walton NDP is also supported by a 'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report' prepared by Milton Keynes Council which confirmed that a SEA of the NDP was not required (see Section 5 of this report for further details).

b) Key Statements

- 1.5 Walton Community Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own parish area. The Walton NDP expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land only within the neighbourhood area.
- 1.6 The neighbourhood area is contiguous with the parish boundary, as shown in the map accompanying the neighbourhood area designation application which is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.7 The Walton NDP covers the period from 2016 to 2031.
- 1.8 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.9 It is not considered that the Walton NDP will have any effect to weaken the statutory protection for Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets or environmental protected areas within the neighbourhood area (see also Section 5).
- 1.10 The Walton NDP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Walton as designated by Milton Keynes Council in January 2015. There are no other Neighbourhood Development Plans in place for the Walton neighbourhood area.

2.0 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

2.1 It is required that the Walton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has appropriate regard to national planning policy. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021).

a) National Planning Policy Framework

2.2 Paragraphs 28 to 30 of the NPPF refer to Neighbourhood Development Plans and states that these plans must be in “*general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area*” (footnote 18).

2.3 This section demonstrates that the Walton NDP has regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Promoting healthy and safe communities
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Making effective use of land
- Achieving well-designed places

2.4 Table 1 below provides a summary of how each policy in the Walton NDP conforms specifically to the NPPF.

Table 1. Assessment of Walton NDP Policies against NPPF

Neighbourhood Plan Objective		Relevant NPPF Policy Theme	
1.	Improve the natural and built environment of the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’ • ‘Promoting healthy and safe communities’ • ‘Achieving well-designed places’ 	
2.	Support and maintain community facilities and services within the Parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Promoting healthy and safe communities’ • ‘Achieving sustainable development’ 	
3.	Deliver the types of development which meet the needs of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Achieving sustainable development’ • ‘Achieving well-designed places’ • ‘Delivering a sufficient supply of homes’ 	
4.	Limit the impact of traffic and to encourage sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, and regulated electric transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Promoting sustainable transport’ • ‘Achieving sustainable development’ 	
Neighbourhood Plan General Policy		Relevant NPPF Paragraph(s)	Commentary
WNP 1	Land at Walton Manor	60, 70, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to

			allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area.
WNP 2	Land at Towergate	60, 70, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area
WNP 3	Land North and West of Wavendon Business Park Ortensia Drive	60, 70, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area
WNP 4	Land at Bergamot Gardens	60, 70, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area
WNP 5	Walnut Tree Reserve Sites A (north) Hindhead Knoll Walnut Tree	60, 70, 62, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area
WNP 6	Caldecotte 'Site C'	60, 70, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land and that neighbourhood plans should give consideration to allocating small and medium-sized sites suitable for housing in their area
WNP 7	Community Foundation Reserve Sites	104e, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land. Furthermore, this policy aligns with the NPPF, which seeks to ensure that provision of parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes.
WNP 8	Walnut Tree Community Hubs	28, 93, 123(b), 187	This policy aligns with policies contained in the NPPF by ensuring that community facilities are provided at the local level.
WNP 9	Caldecotte Lakeside	28, 93, 123(b), 187	This policy aligns with policies contained in the NPPF by ensuring that community facilities are provided at the local level.
WNP 10	Housing – Infill	85, 120, 124	This policy aligns with the NPPF requirement that planning policies should support development that makes efficient use of land.
WNP 11	Housing – HMO Development	8(b), 104(e), 124, 130, 185	This policy aligns with the NPPF and its ambitions to achieve sustainable development by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided and encouraging efficient use of land, whilst also ensuring that development is sustainable and does not have detrimental impacts on noise, on-street parking and the overall character of the surrounding area.
WNP 12	Grid Road Corridors	104, 106(c)	This policy aligns with the NPPF objectives of ensuring that the potential impacts of development on transport networks are addressed and key routes are protected,
WNP 13	Parking Enhancements	104(e)	This policy aligns with the NPPF, which seeks to ensure that provision of parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes.

WNP 14	Location of Facilities	28, 93, 123(b), 187	This policy aligns with policies contained in the NPPF by ensuring that community facilities are provided at the local level.
WNP 15	Key Links	104(c), 106(d)	This policy aligns with the NPPF and its ambitions to promote sustainable transport such as walking and cycling.
WNP 16	Design Principles	126-130	This policy is in line with the NPPF policies on achieving well-designed places.
WNP 17	Open Space and Leisure	8(b), 93(a), 98, 99	This policy aligns with the NPPF's ambitions to promote sustainable social development through the provision of open space and other community facilities.
WNP 18	Sports Ground Enhancements	98, 99	This policy aligns with the NPPF through promoting the enhancement of sport and recreation facilities, and resisting the loss of existing playing fields and play areas.
WNP 19	Infrastructure Delivery	8(a), 28, 34	This policy aligns with the NPPF objective to achieve sustainable development by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure, and also that plans should set out the levels and types of infrastructure required as contributions from development.

3.0 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3.1 The NPPF states at paragraph 7 that *“the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*.

3.2 Paragraph 8 goes on to state that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, defined as follows:

“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 coordinating 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 well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”

3.3 Table 2 below summarises how the policies in the Walton NDP contribute towards sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF.

Table 2. Assessment of Walton NDP Policies against NPPF Sustainability Objectives

Economic Objective
<p>Relevant Walton NDP Objectives:</p> <p>“2. Support and maintain community facilities and services within the Parish”</p> <p>“3. Deliver the types of development which meet the needs of the community”</p> <p>Relevant Walton NDP Policies:</p> <p>WNP 3 - Land North and West of Wavendon Business Park Ortensia Drive</p> <p>WNP 6 - Caldecotte ‘Site C’</p> <p>WNP 8 - Walnut Tree Community Northern Hub</p> <p>WNP 14 - Location of Facilities</p> <p>WNP 15 - Key Links</p> <p>WNP 19 – Infrastructure Delivery</p>
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>The Walton NDP seeks to support sustainable economic growth within the neighbourhood plan area. The NDP also provides continued support for the development of new employment space that will be supported by new infrastructure delivery. Furthermore, the NDP seeks to deliver new key linkages across the area such as to key points of interest which will boost the economic objectives of the area.</p>
Social Objective
<p>Relevant Walton NDP Objectives:</p> <p>“1. Improve the natural and built environment of the Parish”</p> <p>“2. Support and maintain community facilities and services within the Parish”</p>

<p>“3. Deliver the types of development which meet the needs of the community”</p> <p>Relevant Walton NDP Policies:</p> <p>WNP 1 - Walton Manor</p> <p>WNP 2 – Towergate</p> <p>WNP 3 - Land North and West of Wavendon Business Park Ortensia Drive</p> <p>WNP 4 - Land at Bergamot Gardens</p> <p>WNP 5 - Walnut Tree Reserve Sites A (north) Hindhead Knoll Walnut Tree</p> <p>WNP 6 - Caldecotte ‘Site C’</p> <p>WNP 7a - Walnut Tree 6 (WT6), Lichfield Down</p> <p>WNP 7b - Walnut Tree 10 (WT10) – Hindhead Knoll</p> <p>WNP 7c - Walnut Tree 7 (WT7) - Hockliffe Brae and Twyford Lane</p> <p>WNP 7d - Wavendon Gate 1 (WG1) - Isaacson Drive / Wavendon Tower</p> <p>WNP 7e - Wavendon Gate 2 (WG2) - Fyfield Barrow</p> <p>WNP 7g - Old Farm Park 1 (OFP1) – South of Bletcham Way</p> <p>WNP 8a - Walnut Tree Community Northern Hub</p> <p>WNP 8b - Walnut Tree Community Southern Hub</p> <p>WNP 9 - Caldecotte Lakeside</p> <p>WNP 10 - Housing Infill</p> <p>WNP 11 - Houses in Multiple Occupation</p> <p>WNP 14 - Location of Facilities</p> <p>WNP 15 - Key Links</p> <p>WNP 16 – Design Principles</p> <p>WNP 17– Open Space and Leisure</p> <p>WNP 18 – Sports Ground Enhancements</p>
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>The Walton NDP contributes towards the social objective as set out in the NPPF by providing support for the development of new affordable residential development in appropriate locations, education uses, community and health facilities. The NDP also seeks to conserve, where possible, existing community facilities, health facilities and public open spaces. The NDP encourages the use of active travel modes such as walking and cycling, as well as promoting inclusive design. The addition of new homes in the plan area, which are well designed and take into account the existing area, will also contribute towards the social objective.</p>
<p>Environmental Objective</p>
<p>Relevant Walton NDP Objectives:</p> <p>“1. Improve the natural and built environment of the Parish”</p> <p>“4. Limit the impact of traffic and to encourage sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling and regulated electric transport.”</p> <p>Relevant Walton NDP Policies:</p> <p>WNP 12 - Grid Road Corridors</p> <p>WNP 16 – Design Principles</p> <p>WNP 17– Open Space and Leisure</p> <p>WNP 18 – Sports Ground Enhancements</p>
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>The Walton NDP contributes towards the environmental objective as set out in the NPPF by enhancing the</p>

built environment through the promotion of high quality design in new developments and encouraging the efficient use of land. The parking policies set out within the NDP seek to encourage use of sustainable modes of travel as well as reducing the visual impacts associated with increased levels of on-street parking. The addition of open space and leisure enhancements in the plan area will also contribute to the environment objective of the NPPF.

- 3.4 As demonstrated in Table 2, the policies of the Walton NDP are considered to comprise a balance between achieving the economic, social and environmental objectives as set out in the NPPF.

4.0 GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH THE STRATEGIC POLICIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 4.1 The development plan currently consists of the Plan:MK which was adopted in March 2019. This document sets out the vision and strategic policies for the growth and development of the District up to 2031.
- 4.2 The Walton NDP is required to be in conformity with the policies set out in the adopted Plan:MK. The policies of relevance to the NDP are set out in Table 3 below, including an assessment of whether the Walton NDP is in general conformity with these.
- 4.3 Any policy that is not identified in Table 3 is not considered to be relevant to the assessment of general conformity as the Walton NDP does not have any policies that directly relate to it.

Table 3. Assessment of Walton NDP Policies against relevant Plan:MK Policies

Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Objective	Relevant Plan:MK Strategic Objective	Commentary
1. Improve the natural and built environment of the Parish	14, 15	This Neighbourhood Plan objective supports Plan:MK objective 14 to embody 'place-making' as an overarching design objective for new development and to deliver a high quality of urban design, architecture and public realm and creating places with identity. It also supports objective 15, which is to protect, maintain and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of the Borough.
2. Support and maintain community facilities and services within the Parish	10, 17	This Neighbourhood Plan objective aligns with Plan:MK objective 10 to improve access to health services. It also aligns with objective 17 to ensure that new development is facilitated by timely provision of appropriate new and improved community facilities and infrastructure.
3. Deliver the types of development which meet the needs of the community	5, 11	This Neighbourhood Plan objective aligns with Plan:MK objective 11 to facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of all sections of the community. It also aligns with objective 5, which seeks to allocate and manage development of employment land which meets the needs of existing firms, enhances the level of skills among the local population and enables residents to find employment locally.
4. Limit the impact of traffic and to encourage sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling and regulated electric transport.	12, 13, 17	This Neighbourhood Plan objective aligns with Plan:MK objective 12 which seeks to manage increased travel demands through a number of transport interventions, including the use of smart, shared and sustainable mobility, and encouraging more people to walk and cycle by expanding the redway network. It also aligns with objective 13 which seeks to introduce sustainable transport initiatives, and objective 17 which seeks to ensure that new development is facilitated by timely provision of improved public transport, highways and rail improvements.

Neighbourhood Plan General Policy		Relevant Plan:MK Policy	Commentary
WNP 1	Land at Walton Manor	HS84, SAP13, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 1 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 1 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 2	Land at Towergate	HS85, SAP12, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 2 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 2 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 3	Land at North and West of Wavendon Business Park, Ortensia Drive	HS115, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 3 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 3 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 4	Land at Bergamot Gardens	HS81, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 4 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 4 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 5	Walnut Tree Reserve Sites A & D Hindhead Knoll	HS82, HS83, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton</p>

	Walnut Tree		<p>Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 5 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 5 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 6	Land at Caldecotte known as Caldecotte C	HS4, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 6 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 6 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 7	Community Foundation Reserve Sites	HS37, HS36, HS40, HS27, DS2, SD1, D1	<p>This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 7 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 7 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 8	Walnut Tree Community Hubs	EH7, CC4, EH5, CC5	<p>Policy WNP 8 aligns with Plan:MK Policy EH5 ('Health Facilities') which supports the development of new health facilities where they meet an identified local need. It also aligns with Policy EH7 ('Promoting Healthy Communities') which supports developments that help tackle obesity and reduce levels of physical inactivity through the provision of new parks, play spaces and sports facilities. Policy WNP 8 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy CC4 ('New Community Facilities') which supports proposals for new community facilities for use by local residents. Similarly, Policy CC5 ('Childcare Facilities') supports developments of new creche, nursery or childcare facilities where these are consistent with the requirements outlined in Appendix E of Plan:MK.</p>
WNP 9	Caldecotte Lakeside	EH7, CC4	<p>Policy WNP 9 aligns with Plan:MK Policy CC4 ('New Community Facilities') which supports proposals for new community facilities for use by local residents. It also aligns with Policy EH7 ('Promoting Healthy Communities') which supports developments that help tackle obesity and reduce levels of physical inactivity through the provision of new parks, play spaces and sports facilities.</p>

WNP 10	Housing – Infill	DS2, SD1, D1	<p>Policy WNP 10 is supportive of housing development on infill sites subject to certain criteria being met. This policy aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2 ('Housing Strategy') which supports the redevelopment of brownfield, vacant and underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area.</p> <p>Policy WNP 10 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1, which seeks to ensure that development relates well to the surrounding area in terms of density, scale and materials used.</p> <p>Policy WNP 10 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1 ('Designing a High Quality Place') by ensuring that proposals for development on infill sites respond appropriately to the surrounding context of the site.</p>
WNP 11	Housing – HMO Development	DS2, HN7, D1	<p>Policy WNP 11 is supportive of applications for HiMO development subject to certain criteria being met. This aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS2, which encourages the redevelopment of underused sites within the Milton Keynes urban area where such development is in line with other relevant plan policies, including design, density, access and connectivity. Policy WNP 11 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1 which seeks to ensure that development integrates well with the surround built environment.</p> <p>Policy WNP 11 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy HN7 ('Houses in Multiple Occupation') which supports proposals for HiMOs where they would not create an over concentration of such accommodation resulting in an imbalance within local communities or other significant adverse impacts.</p> <p>Policy WNP 11 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy D1, which requires that development proposals as a whole respond appropriately to the site and surrounding context.</p>
WNP 12	Grid Road Corridors	CT8, SD7, SD11	<p>Policy WNP 12 aligns with Plan:MK Policy CT8 ('Grid Road Network') which seeks to conserve and enhance the grid road system whilst safeguarding the corridors for possible mass transit schemes and enabling opportunities for extending the grid road system into any major new development areas.</p> <p>Policy WNP 12 aligns with Policies SD7 and SD11 which require the new Church Farm and South East Milton Keynes developments to link to the surrounding grid road network.</p>
WNP 13	Parking Enhancements	CT2	<p>Policy WNP 13 aligns with Plan:MK Policy CT2 ('Movement and Access') which requires on-site layouts to provide appropriate parking and servicing provision in line with the Milton Keynes Parking Standards SPD (January 2016) and do not result in appropriate traffic generation or compromise highway safety.</p>
WNP 14	Location of Facilities	EH5, EH7, CC4, CC5	<p>Policy WNP 14 aligns with Plan:MK Policy EH5 ('Health Facilities') which supports the development of new health facilities where they meet an identified local need. It also aligns with Policy EH7 ('Promoting Healthy Communities') which supports developments that help tackle obesity and</p>

			reduce levels of physical inactivity through the provision of new parks, play spaces and sports facilities. Policy WNP 14 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy CC4 ('New Community Facilities') which supports proposals for new community facilities for use by local residents. Similarly, Policy CC5 ('Childcare Facilities') supports developments of new creche, nursery or childcare facilities where these are consistent with the requirements outlined in Appendix E of Plan:MK.
WNP 15	Key Links	SD1, CT2	Policy WNP 15 aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1 ('Place-Making Principles for Development') which supports development whose layout and design enables easy, safe and pleasant access for pedestrians and cyclists of all abilities from residential neighbourhoods to facilities including the redway network, open spaces, play areas, linear parks and the wider green infrastructure network. Policy WNP 15 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy CT2 ('Movement and Access') which supports development proposals that promote opportunities for sustainable transport modes and improved accessibility, including by walking and cycling.
WNP 16	Design Principles	SD1, D1	Policy WNP 16 aligns with Plan:MK Policies SD1 ('Place-Making Principles for Development') and D1 ('Designing and High Quality Place') which support development that integrates well with the surrounding built and natural environments, particularly in terms of density, scale and materials, and responds appropriately to the site and surrounding context. Policy D1 also supports developments that incorporate street trees and create character.
WNP 17	Open Space and Leisure	DS6, SD1, NE4	Policy WNP 17 aligns with Plan:MK Policy DS6 ('Linear Parks') which seeks to protect linear parks from development. It also aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1 ('Place-Making Principles for Development') which requires that new development integrates well with the surrounding natural environment, particularly in terms of providing access to connected green infrastructure for people and wildlife. It also aligns with Policy NE4 ('Green Infrastructure') which seeks to protect, extend and enhance the network of green infrastructure throughout the Borough.
WNP 18	Sports Ground Enhancements	EH7, CC4	Policy WNP 18 aligns with Plan:MK Policy EH7 ('Promoting Healthy Communities') which supports provision of playing pitches and new sports and active recreation facilities. It also aligns with Plan:MK Policy CC4 ('New Community Facilities') which supports improvements in the quality and capacity of community, sport and leisure facilities as long as these protect the amenity of the surrounding area.
WNP 19	Infrastructure Delivery	SD1	Policy WNP 19 aligns with Plan:MK Policy SD1 ('Place-Making Principles for Development') which requires new developments to provide new social facilities, where possible, to meet the day to day needs of new and existing residents, including schools, shops, health care facilities, and opportunities for employment. It should be noted that

			<p>any proposals to upgrade or expand existing schools or promote the development of new schools, must be in accordance with the criteria outlined in Plan:MK Policy EH1 ('Provision of New Schools – Planning Considerations'). Policy WHN 19 is in line with Policy EH1, and also Policy EH6 which sets out requirements for delivery of new health facilities in new development. Policy WHN 19 also aligns with Plan:MK Policy INF1 ('Delivering Infrastructure') which requires that new developments must provide the necessary on and off-site infrastructure required to support and mitigate the impact of that development, making reference to the Council's Planning Obligations SPD.</p>
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5.0 DOES NOT BREACH, AND IS OTHERWISE COMPATIBLE WITH, EU OBLIGATIONS

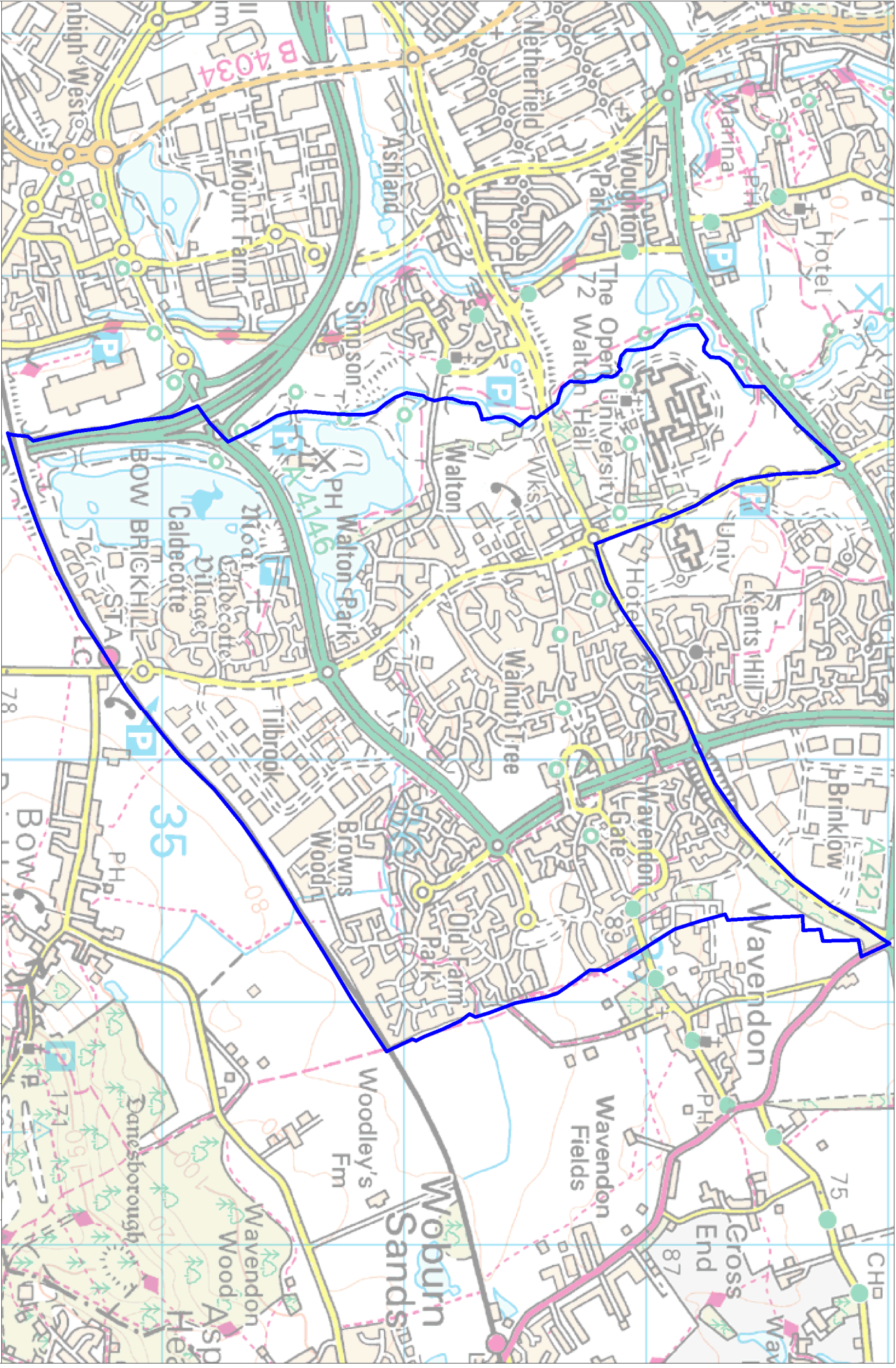
- 5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are 4 directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood planning:
- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive)
 - Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (often referred to as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive)
 - Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (often referred to as the Habitats Directive)
 - Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Wild Birds Directive)
- 5.2 In July 2021 a request was submitted to Milton Keynes Council for a Screening Opinion. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC a Screening Opinion on the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Neighbourhood Plan was subsequently prepared by Milton Keynes Council. Following consultation with Statutory Bodies, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, this Screening Opinion (attached at **Appendix 2**) concluded that the Plan's effects are unlikely to have any significant impacts beyond the Neighbourhood Area and it was considered that overall the Plan will not have significant effects on the environment. It was, therefore, concluded that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan did not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 5.3 The Walton NDP has therefore been prepared in accordance with relevant EU obligations, notably Directives 2001/42/EC and 92/43/EEC.
- 5.4 The Walton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act. There has been full and adequate opportunity for all interested parties to take part in the preparation of the plan and to make their comments known.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Walton Neighbourhood Development Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.



APPENDIX 1 WALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA DESIGNATION



Walton Neighbourhood Plan Area

1:20,000





APPENDIX 2 MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL SCREENING OPINION

Walton Neighbourhood Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement
Appropriate Assessment Screening
November 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 What is the screening opinion?

1.2 This report has been produced to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

1.3 This document also addresses the need for Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with European Directive 92/43/EEC, commonly known as the Habitats Directive.

1.4 Why has a revised screening opinion been prepared?

1.5 A screening opinion for the Walton Neighbourhood Plan was previously undertaken in February 2016. Following adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in January 2017, the Community Council wishes to update the Neighbourhood Plan. The update brings policies into line with the adopted Plan:MK, but there are no new allocations or policies proposed.

1.6 What is the Neighbourhood Plan trying to achieve?

1.7 The Neighbourhood Area covers the whole of the Walton Parish (see Appendix 1), which consists of 'complete' grid squares that accommodate housing, employment land, green space, and other infrastructure such as schools. There are other unique land uses within the parish such as Caldecotte Lake and the Open University campus. The made Neighbourhood Plan allocates a number of housing sites and seeks to shape the form of development to fit in with the character of the area and provide the facilities to support growth. The policies of the made Neighbourhood Plan seek to protect community facilities, as well as covering issues including infill housing, transport, and design.

2. Policy context

2.1 Plan:MK was formally adopted in March 2019. Plan:MK provides the statutory land use planning framework for Milton Keynes.

2.3 Although the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan, it can promote more development, but must not propose less. It will also provide a more local context to the non-strategic policies of the Local Plan.

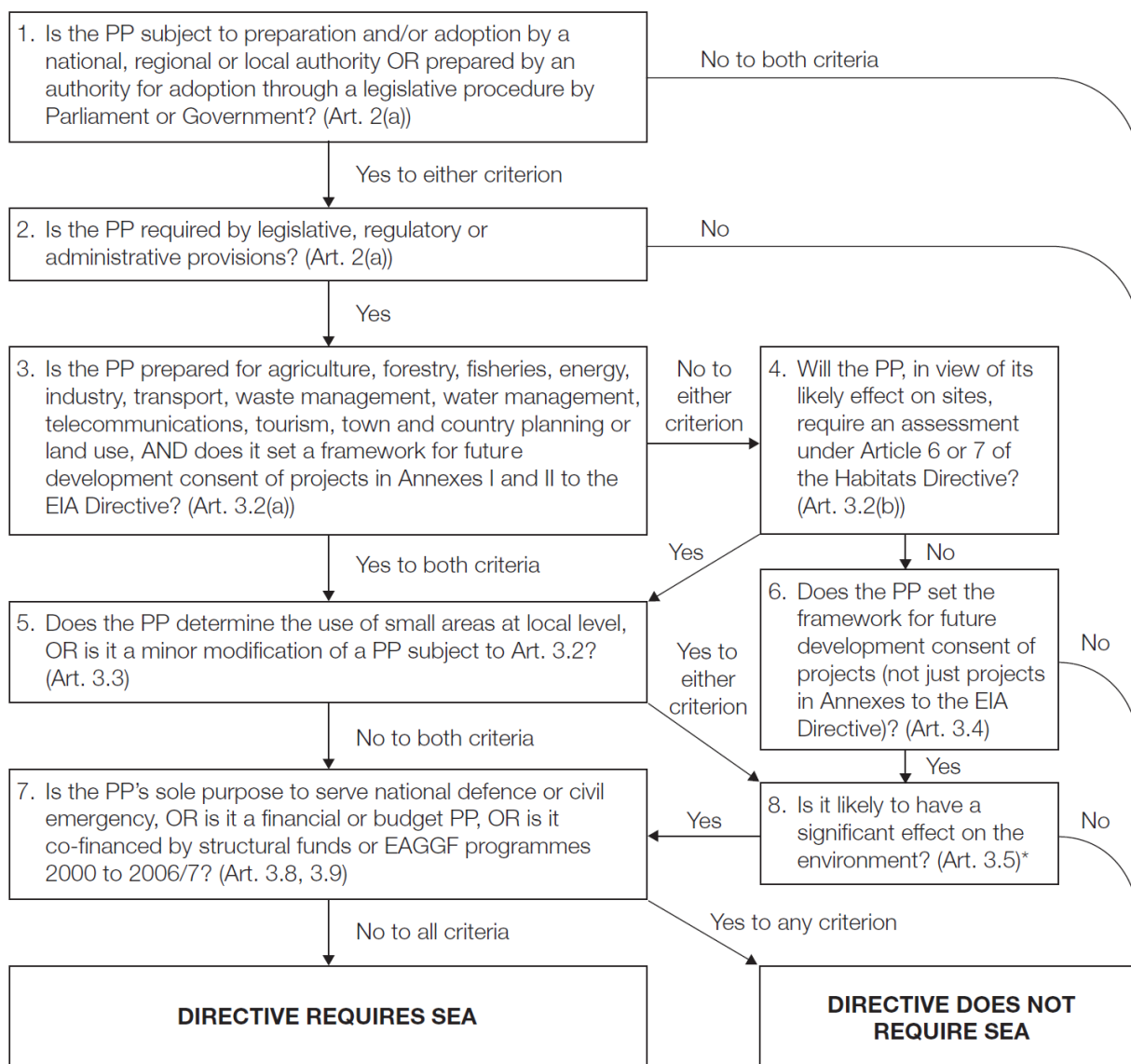
2.4 The Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to public consultation in accordance with the relevant regulations prior to its adoption.

3. SEA Screening

3.1 The requirement for a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is set out in the “Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004”. There is also practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC produced by the ODPM (now DCLG)¹. These documents have been used as the basis for this screening report.

3.2 Neighbourhood Plans must be screened to establish whether or not they will require Strategic Environmental Assessment. The ODPM practical guidance provides a checklist approach based on the SEA regulations to help determine whether SEA is required. This guide has been used as the basis on which to assess the need for SEA as set out below.

Figure 1: Establishing the need for SEA



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

¹ A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) (ODPM)

Figure 2: Establishing the need for SEA of the Neighbourhood Plan

Stage	Answer	Reason
1. Is the NP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament of Government? (Article 2(a))	Yes	It will be prepared by the Community Council and adopted by Milton Keynes Council under the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))	Yes	Although there is no requirement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, they are subject to formal procedures and regulations laid down by national government. In light the European Court of Justice ruling in the Case C-567/10 it is considered that this means the NP is 'required'.
3. Is the NP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))	No	The NP is prepared for town and country planning purposes but does not explicitly set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive.
4. Will the plan in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats directive?	No	An Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for Plan:MK and that has concluded that the local plan will not require assessment under the Habitats Directive.
6. Does the plan set the framework for future development consent of projects?	Yes	The Neighbourhood Plan will provide a framework for future development consent of projects in the area.
8. Is the NP likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	See results of Figure 3: Determining the likely significance of effects	

Figure 3: Determining the likely significance of effects

SEA Directive Annex II: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)		
Criteria	✓/x/ ?	MKC Comment
<i>The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:</i>		
1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	✓	The NP will set a framework for future development projects, in terms of location, nature and scale/size. However, the plan will need to be in general conformity with higher level plans. Furthermore, the plan area is largely 'complete' anyway so the scope of the plan to fully influence projects and activities is somewhat limited.
1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	✓	The NP will form part of the statutory development plan for MK with the same status in decision making as development plan documents.
1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	✓	Sustainable development will be at the heart of NPs and policies could make a significant contribution to promoting sustainable development, particularly ensuring any greenfield allocations are planned in a sustainable way.
1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	x	It is not considered that there are any particular environmental problems relevant to the plan.
1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	x	The NP is unlikely to be directly relevant in regard to this criterion.
<i>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</i>		
2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	✓/?	The potential for significant alterations to the existing urban environment are limited with the likely focus of the plan to be on protection rather than redevelopment. The effects of the plan are therefore likely to be reversible, as they will influence the general evolution of the townscape, which has been established since the development of the New Town.
2b) The cumulative nature of the effects	x	The cumulative impact of the effects of the plan on the environment are not expected to be any greater than the individual parts.
2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	x	Any impacts are only likely to be felt by the local area.
2d) The risks to human health or	x	It is unlikely that the nature of any

the environment (e.g. due to accidents)		development proposed would impact on human health.
2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	x	The effects of the plan are unlikely to be felt in a spatial area wider than the plan area. The plan is also unlikely to affect any population outside the plan area.
2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: I. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, II. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values III. intensive land-use	✓/?	The NP covers an area which is largely (sub)urbanised already and does not have any particular natural heritage. The value of the open and green space is something the plan will seek to protect rather than change. There are nine listed buildings and a scheduled monument in the area, but these will not be affected by the plan proposals.
2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	x	There are no areas or landscapes with these designations in Milton Keynes.

4. SEA Conclusion

- 4.1 The Walton Neighbourhood Plan will provide a planning policy framework to be used when considering planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. It will not identify a significant amount of development in the plan area. In determining the need for SEA, consideration needs to be given to the nature of the potential development and the characteristics of the area affected. The scale of potential development would not strongly suggest that SEA would be required.
- 4.2 The Plan area in general is free from any significant environmental designations and is largely (sub)urbanised already. Any proposed development is likely to be for housing (and related facilities) and not of a nature that is likely to be of detriment to public health. The magnitude of any effects is also unlikely to be felt in an area any wider than the plan area or effect a significant level of population.
- 4.3 The Plan's effects are unlikely to have any significant impacts beyond the Neighbourhood Area and it is considered that overall the plan will not have significant effects on the environment. It is, therefore, concluded that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

5. Consultation on SEA Screening Opinion

- 5.1 The three statutory bodies for the purposes of SEA Screening are Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These three bodies were consulted on the draft Screening Opinion and the following comments were received:

Historic England: We do not feel the plan review has potential for likely significant effects within our areas of interest. In coming to this conclusion, we have reviewed the track changed version of the proposed updated plan and note that it does not allocate sites for development in addition to any already allocated in the made plan or local plan. As such, we agree with the Council's determination to screen out the need for SEA.

Environment Agency: We agree with the conclusions that have been reached.

Natural England:

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Natural England considers that, based on the material supplied with the consultation, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, significant environmental effects resulting from the neighbourhood plan are unlikely. We therefore agree with the conclusion of the SEA screening report that a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Natural England welcomes the consideration given to the Habitats Regulations. We agree with the conclusion of the report of no likely significant effect upon European designated sites, and therefore advise that further Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required.

SEA Screening Conclusion

Having screened the Walton Neighbourhood Plan and consulted with Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, it is the view of Milton Keynes Council that the Plan's effects are unlikely to have any significant impacts beyond the Neighbourhood Area and it is considered that overall the Plan will not have significant effects on the environment. It is, therefore, concluded that the Walton Neighbourhood Plan does not need to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

6. Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening

- 6.1 Legal protection is afforded to habitats and species of European importance through Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna - known as the 'Habitats Directive'. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require AA of plans to be undertaken. This involves assessing the contents of plans to ensure that their policies and proposals maintain the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. The assessment must determine whether the plan would adversely affect the nature conservation objectives of each site. Where negative effects can be identified, other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 6.2 The application of the precautionary principle through the Habitats Directive means that plans can only be permitted once it is shown that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites. In the rare case of there being no alternatives available or over-riding reasons of public interest why a plan needs to be implemented, plans that do have negative impacts may still be approved.

7. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

- 7.1 The first stage in carrying out an Appropriate Assessment for the Habitats Directive is screening, by determining whether the plan is likely to have any significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 7.2 The Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with Plan:MK which itself was screened for Appropriate Assessment. The screening process for Plan:MK demonstrated that Milton Keynes lies in an area void of any Natura 2000 sites. The nearest European site is the Chiltern Beechwoods to the south of the Borough although it was determined that the site would not be affected by Milton Keynes planning policy due to the distance of the site from Milton Keynes and there being no obvious impact pathways.
- 7.3 An Appropriate Assessment has been published for Plan:MK (http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk/plan_mk_submission/planmk_sa_hra?pointId=1510067377589) which covers the period to 2031. This considers the impact of the Local Plan on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and concludes that "development in the Milton Keynes Local

Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the findings of the AA screening which concludes that no Natura 2000 sites are located within the district and no impact pathways have been identified linking Natura 2000 sites outside of the district e.g. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar to development within Milton Keynes Borough. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not required.”

8. Appropriate Assessment Conclusion

- 8.1 Given the role of Neighbourhood Plans and the scale of development being proposed in the Walton Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that Appropriate Assessment of the plan is not required.

9. Contact

Further information can be obtained from:

UDLA

Planning and Placemaking

Civic Offices

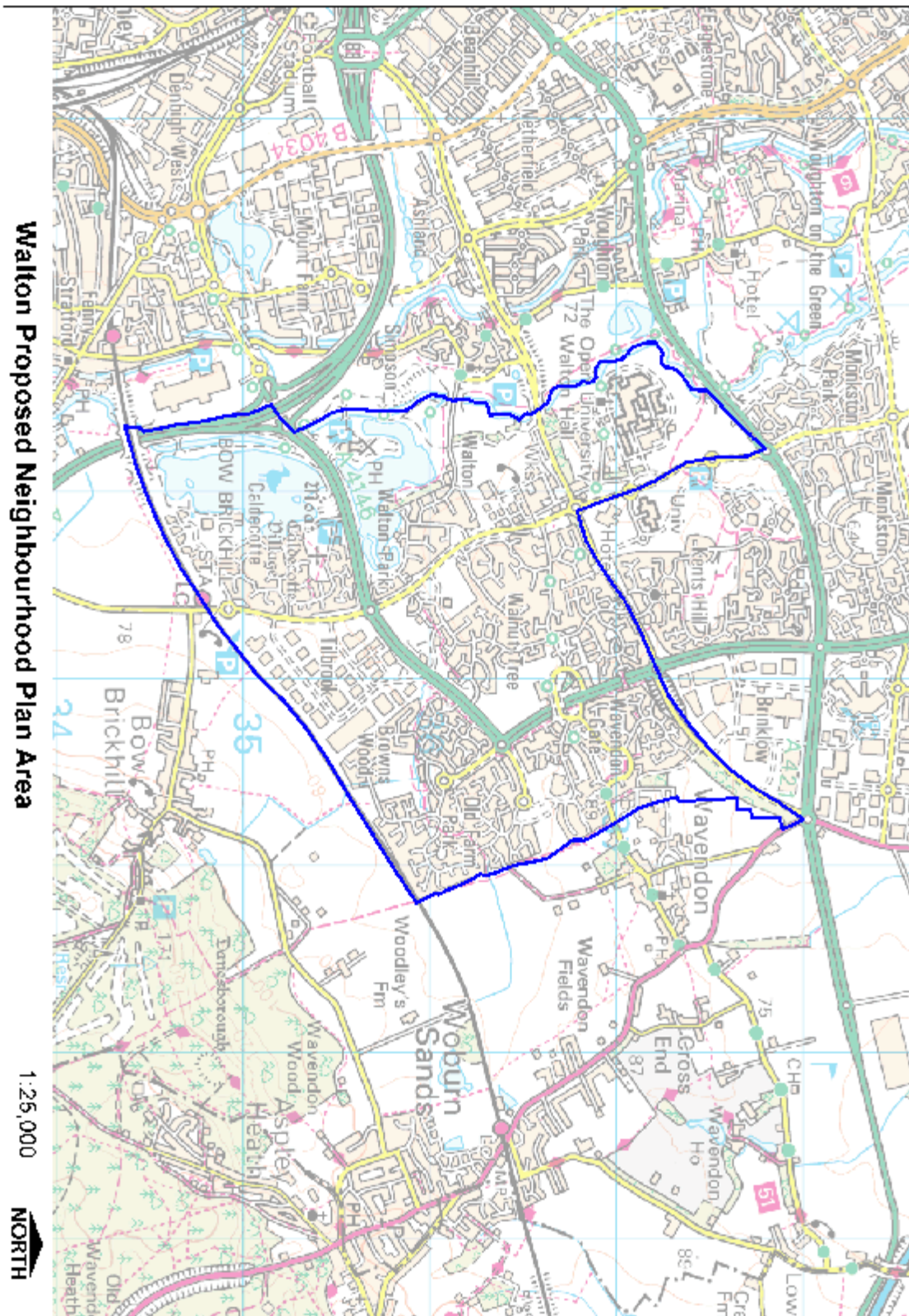
1 Saxon Gate East

Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ

W: www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/planning-policy T: 01908 254836

E: neighbourhoodplanning@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – map of the Walton Neighbourhood Plan designated area





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