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Meeting: Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel
Date: Tuesday 29th June, 2021
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Virtual Meeting (This meeting is not the subject of public meeting requirements)

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcH_JAaHaMtgHDeMQEVXi2g/videos

To members of the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel

Councillors Steven North (Chair), Valerie Anslow, David Brackenbury, Mark Dearing, Barbara Jenney, David Jenney and Kevin Thurland

Agenda			
Item	Subject	Presenting Officer	Page no.
01	Apologies for non-attendance		-
02	Members' Declarations of Interests		-
Items to note			
03	Minutes of the Last Meeting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee		3 - 10
Items requiring a decision			
04	Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel - Terms of Reference	George Candler	11 - 14
05	Housing Land Supply in North Northamptonshire	Simon Richardson	15 - 20
06	OxCam Arc Environmental Principles	Sue Bateman	21 - 36
07	Close of Meeting		
<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer 21 June 2021</p>			

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For further information, please contact:

Louise Tyers, Senior Democratic Services Officer

☎01832 742198

✉louise.tyers@northnorthants.gov.uk

Meetings

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JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**Meeting held virtually via Zoom on
2nd March 2021**

Present: Councillor Anthony Dady (Chair)
Councillor Ray Beeby
Councillor David Brackenbury
Councillor Martin Griffiths
Councillor David Jenney
Councillor Matt Keane
Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Steven North
Councillor Jan O'Hara
Councillor Andrew Scarborough
Councillor Mike Tebbutt
Councillor Malcolm Waters

Also Present: Andrew Longley (North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and
Delivery Unit (NNJPDU))
Rob Harbour (Borough of Wellingborough, Kettering Borough and
East Northamptonshire
District Councils)
Simon James (NNJPDU)
Samuel Humphries (NNJPDU)
Natalie Oates (NNJPDU)
Paul Woods (NNJPDU)
Simon Richardson (Kettering Borough Council)
Anne Ireson (Kettering Borough Council)
Richard Palmer (East Northamptonshire District Council)

15/20 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor Anthony Dady be elected Chairman of the
Joint Planning Committee until 31st March 2021.

16/20 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor Malcolm Waters be elected Vice Chairman
of the Joint Planning Committee until 31st March 2021.

17/20 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Julie Brookfield (NCC) and Cllr Tim Allebone (Wellingborough)

18/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

19/20 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20/20 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK**

A report was submitted which considered the proposed amendments of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and which sought to agree the basis of the Joint Planning Committee's response.

It was noted that the government was consulting on draft revisions to the NPPF to implement policy changes in response to the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission (BBBCC) report "Living with Beauty". The deadline for responses was 27th March 2021.

In discussion on the proposed changes and responses as set out in the report, members commented as summarised below:-

Transport Modes

A genuine choice of transport modes was welcomed, but it was felt that there must be consideration of the times of day people used different modes of transport, how it was accessed and whether it was commercially viable. North Northamptonshire is of a semi-rural nature and whilst it was recognised there was an issue around transport choice in rural areas, it was imperative that an alternative choice to car travel was provided. It was felt there was a need to take account of people living in rural areas for whom cars were essential, which it was felt could potentially be against government policy.

It was noted that the Joint Core Strategy encouraged a range of travel choices, in particular cycling and walking, but members had always made the point, that in practical terms North Northamptonshire residents would need to have cars. A choice of transport was easier in larger developments and urban areas, but difficult in more remote rural areas. Members were reminded of the England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Transport Strategy, which specifically covered rural connectivity. As the

Transport Strategy moved forward, there would be an opportunity to work with EEH regarding transport choices.

The Concept of Beauty

The view was expressed that the term “beautiful” and the concept of beauty was subjective and there was a lack of clarity about what it meant. It was felt to be an aesthetic issue, whereas place-making had lots of layers and aspects. Members agreed that the term needed to be much stronger in terms of definition of what was acceptable and what was unacceptable, and that the Government needed to clarify the concept of beauty and issue some guidelines.

National and Local Policy

It was felt that much of the proposed response was conflated with the Planning for the Future White Paper which contained implications for democratic decision-making and permitted development rights. The Joint Planning Committee’s response to the White Paper was supported and welcomed.

The view was expressed that, overall, to beautify buildings was superficial and did not give any additional weight to planning guidance. There was concern that national guidance would give a blanket design guide across the country and different areas would lose their local distinctiveness. Conflicting terminology regarding national and local policies made local decision-making difficult, and this needed to be addressed. It was clear there was more national emphasis on design quality and national policy, and the effects of this would be seen as appeal decisions mounted up. The NPPF had weight and inspectors would have to take account of it. Local policies should be locally-distinctive and involve local people in determining what was in keeping with local area.

It was noted that the government was proposing a suite of design policies which would take from national generic policy and then drive down into locally specific policies.

Building Healthy Homes and Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities

The emphasis on access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activities was welcomed.

It was stressed that, after the Covid-19 pandemic, Building for a Healthy Life would become even more important. It would be essential for North Northamptonshire Council to ensure it worked closely across portfolio areas, because health, wellbeing and building healthy homes was crucial for North Northamptonshire residents.

Climate Change

Members recognised that there was a need for more work to be done on delivering developments that took account of climate impacts, and this must be central to all North Northamptonshire policies; however, it was acknowledged that this was being taken into account. The proposals for improving design quality that took account of the effects of the development on climate change were welcomed, with it being made clear that development that was not well designed and contrary to relevant planning policies on design, should be refused and solid, sensible and well-designed developments being welcomed.

In summing up the debate, officers were thanked for their report and the response to the White Paper.

It was agreed that the wording of the response should be strengthened, in accordance with the views expressed at the meeting, in the following respects:-

- Modes of Transport in semi-rural areas such as North Northamptonshire
- The definition of the concept of beauty

It was proposed by Cllr Brackenbury, seconded by Cllr Griffiths, and subsequently unanimously.

RESOLVED that the proposed response to the NPPF changes as set out in this report be agreed and the Head of the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, be delegated authority to finalise the Joint Planning Committee's consultation response.

21/20

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LOCAL DESIGN GUIDANCE

A report was submitted which updated the Joint Planning Committee on progress with preparing local design guidance in North Northamptonshire. The report sought endorsement of the following recommendations to North Northamptonshire Council:-

- (a) the immediate use of Building for a Healthy Life, a key tool for shaping and assessing development proposals in line with the policies of the JCS; and
- (b) the early adoption of a Design Charter setting out the Council's ambition for place-shaping and the processes through which this will be achieved.

In discussion, members welcomed the progress that had been made since the Committee was updated on the changing national context in relation to design in September 2020. The diversity of communities in North Northamptonshire was highlighted. It was acknowledged that it would be important to engage with the development industry and stakeholders to produce a coherent and consistent set of requirements that would be applied in North Northamptonshire to ensure certain standards of development that met local and national design standards.

The way the Joint Planning Committee had brought through space standards in the Joint Core Strategy was highlighted, as were the recent changes to the Building Regulations, and the hope was expressed that issues such as road widths and car parking policies would be maintained. It was felt that it was important for policies to be interpreted, without compromise, in planning management.

Members noted that details such as car parking were likely to come forward through a Supplementary Planning Document which would look to maintain or improve standards. The next stage would look at cycling and walking, and the steer from government is that individual local authorities would need to provide their own policies, with issues such as car parking and road widths being high on the agenda. The team approach to local policy making would be strengthened in the new Council because Highways would now be part of the same authority. Planning management would be included in the development of policies, with support from both officers and members.

The work would be highly technical, but it was important that it was widely understood by members. It was felt that member training would be advantageous.

In continuing the debate, members felt that, in some cases, viability issues affected the quality of development in planning applications that came before Planning Committees. The value of Supplementary Planning Documents was questioned, as evidenced through appeals where planning inspectors did not always take them into account. The Building for a Healthy Life (BHL) guidance was not yet adopted by the government. Unless the government endorsed these ideas, and made BHL government policy, NNC would not be able to use the concepts in development management, because at the present time it was merely advisory and not defensible in planning law.

It was noted that the BHL guidance had been endorsed by Homes England and the NHS and helped to form and inform policy. The government was intending to reference BHL in the NPPF revision. BHL is a recognised industry standard tool, and its principles contained more detail and allowed planning officers to quantify development. Its predecessor, Building for Life 12, was also referenced within national policy and provided the foundation of policy 8 in the JCS. The national approach through the proposed revisions to the NPPF captured policies

contained in the JCS and would strengthen the implementation of local policies in the weight planning inspectors gave to these.

It was felt that criteria in relation to open space SPDs was required to be refreshed, as open spaces needed to be pulled together into one SPD. Issues around the provision of, adoption and ongoing maintenance of open spaces on new estates was raised, and it was noted that in some cases new owners were required to pay for ongoing maintenance, which had not been the case in the past. It was requested that this issue be looked at, and a full report be brought to the North Northamptonshire Council in due course, as there was an opportunity to harmonise the approach to open spaces. This had been flagged up in Appendix 1 to Item 7 on the agenda in terms of the strategic plan.

(Councillor Jan O'Hara joined the meeting at 8.50 pm)

Debate ensued on the need to connect new and existing habitats together in a way that promoted health and well-being, although it was acknowledged this may affect viability for housebuilders. The message needed to be that a well-designed development scheme had longevity and added value. It was felt to be imperative that planning inspectors took good design into account over issues of viability when determining appeals, as viability couldn't be used as a means for refusing a planning application. It was noted that strong policies and guidance provided a good platform for negotiation and compromise to try and raise the bar with developers. North Northamptonshire was under huge development pressure and it was felt that, unless the whole Council agreed with local policies, there was a danger of a silo mentality and in this respect good leadership would be crucial.

(Councillor Griffiths left the meeting at 9.07 pm)

In conclusion to the debate, it was agreed that the Committee urge the government to publicly endorse and adopt the BHL document. It was noted that the best way to do this would be to include some wording within the NPPF document.

In response to a question on purdah and planning enforcement during April 2021, it was agreed that officers would come back to the Committee separately.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the approach to local design guidance set out in the report be endorsed and recommended to North Northamptonshire Council, in particular:-
 - (a) the immediate use of Building for a Healthy Life, a key tool for shaping and assessing development proposals in line with the policies of the JCS; and

- (b) the early adoption by North Northamptonshire Council of a Design Charter setting out the Council's ambition for place-shaping and the processes through which this will be achieved.
- (ii) it be noted that the delivery of high-quality design across North Northamptonshire required enhanced capacity in urban design and access to expertise in other built and natural environmental disciplines.

22/20

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

A report was submitted which updated the Joint Planning Committee on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework and recommended to the North Northamptonshire Council a draft scope and timetable for the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.

It was noted that the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan (NNSP) would be a key strategic document for the North Northamptonshire Council, and work would begin on preparation of the NNSP later this year, aligned with the programme for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework (ASF).

During discussion on the report, some concern was expressed by members that the ASF document seemed to be "top down", and should not just be about planning, but also the economy and environment. There was a fear that this could reduce local choice and freedom to deliver what was best for the residents of North Northamptonshire in relation to place-shaping.

Although the JCS issues identified in the report for a strengthened approach were agreed, it was felt by members that housing needs surveys are not gathered from speaking with local residents but done by an outside consultant. There was no mention of involving local communities in para 4.4. Long term growth of Northampton and Bedford was outlined in Appendix 1, but there was no mention of Peterborough. It was also felt that there was a conflict between commuting and "churn" in the effort to regenerate town centres, High Streets and shopping centres, which required "churn". Railway stations encouraged commuting to London, but not for people to come to North Northamptonshire and there was no indication in para 1.8 of Appendix 1 re plan development of the weight it will carry.

The view was also expressed by members that the ASF document placed too much responsibility in the hands of politicians and senior civil servants and did not include enough information on how it would be independently examined. There was a need to ensure that the interests of North Northamptonshire were pushed forward. Planning in the Arc

should not cut across local aspirations in North Northamptonshire. The timetable on page 35 was welcomed although it was suggested it may be optimistic. Although it was acknowledged that lots of good work had been done, work must now be prioritised towards developing the NNSP.

It was noted that engagement was important and critical, and the timescale for the ASF shouldn't be at the price of proper testing of strategy and engagement going forward. The points raised about Peterborough would be referenced. The Strategic plan would gather weight as it progressed and would ultimately become part of the development plan. There was a clear need for North Northamptonshire to be in a position of influence in the Arc and therefore should be represented and involved in key groups going forward.

RESOLVED that the draft scope of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan and potential timetable set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed and recommended to North Northamptonshire Council for inclusion in the North Northamptonshire Local Development Scheme.

23/20

FINAL MEETING OF THE JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE

As this was the final meeting of the Joint Planning Committee, a vote of thanks was proposed to past and present members of the Committee and officers for their support over the last 16 years.

(The meeting started at 7.30 pm and ended at 9.45 pm)

Signed
Chair

AI

PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The scope of the Planning Policy Executive Advisory Panel (PPEAP) includes, but is not limited to, all matters of planning policy associated within the North Northamptonshire Council Development Plan. This includes the strategic plan, Part 2 local plans and neighbourhood plans, as well as any Development Plan Documents (DPD's), Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's), area action plans and conservation area appraisals. The PPEAP will also consider responses to planning related consultations issued by the government or other appropriate bodies and any other planning policy related matters such as the 5-year housing land supply and 5-years supply of gypsy and traveller sites.

GENERAL

The following applies to all Executive Advisory Panels established under the Council's governance arrangements:-

1. Under the Constitution, the Leader of the Council has discretion to add, amend or delete the EAPs established.
2. Each EAP will be chaired by an Executive Member (to be determined by the Leader of the Council). In the event that the Chair is absent, another member of the Executive may chair that particular meeting.
3. In addition to the Chair, each EAP will consist of 6 non-Executive Members who shall be determined by Full Council.
4. Substitute non-Executive Members will be permitted with the consent of the Chair of the respective EAP.
5. Any member of the Executive may attend an EAP meeting without notice of attendance required, however participation in discussions will be through the Chair of the respective EAP.
6. Although non-decision making each EAP shall be politically balanced to ensure other recognised political groups have representation.
7. EAPs are not subject to the full Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), however they shall be conducted where practicable as if the 1972 Act applied.
8. Meetings of the EAP will normally be held using "virtual meeting" technology and shall be live-streamed, except where confidential or exempt information is to be discussed. Recordings of EAP meetings shall be retained for at least 6-months after the meeting date.

9. An EAP may invite guest speakers or expert witnesses to attend a meeting of the EAP on an ad hoc basis.
10. A member of the Core Leadership Team (CLT) may attend meetings of an EAP without notice of attendance required, however participation in discussions will be through the Chair of the respective EAP.
11. Whilst some matters for discussion will clearly fall within the remit of one EAP, there may be occasions where an agenda item is cross-cutting. The Chairs of the respective EAPs shall decide which EAP acts as “lead”. The Leader of the Council shall act as arbiter where a resolution cannot be achieved.
12. Minutes/notes of each EAP shall be prepared and publicly available, except those sections dealing with confidential or exempt information. Full copies of minutes/notes taken shall be circulated to all Executive members and CLT in addition to the appropriate EAP members.
13. Agendas and reports will normally be circulated 5-clear working days prior to the meeting date. Urgency items may be discussed at a meeting, with the consent of the Chair, and subject to an explanation as to why an item is urgent, and notification to EAP members prior to the meeting commencing.
14. Each EAP will normally meet on a monthly basis. A Chair of an EAP may request the cancellation or addition of a meeting having given due notice to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (or their deputy).

There are five Executive Advisory Panels currently established. These are:-

- **Health and Wellbeing and Vulnerable People**
(Chaired by Councillor Helen Harrison)
Lead Officer- David Watts

Key support Officers –Lucy Wightman, Cathi Hadley
- **Climate Change, Environment and Growth**
(Chaired by Councillor Harriet Pentland)

Lead Officer- George Candler
Key Support Officers –Smith, Rob Harbour, Jonathan Waterworth, Graeme Kane
- **Education, Skills and Employment**
(Chaired by Councillor Scott Edwards)

Lead Officer- Cathi Hadley

Key Support Officers –AnnMarie Dodds, Lucy Wightman, David Watts

- **Service Delivery, Performance and Customers**
(Chaired by Councillor Lloyd Bunday)

Lead Officer- Lisa Hyde

Key Support Officers –Janice Gotts, Guy Holloway, David Watts, Geoff Kent,
Adele Wylie

- **Planning Policy**
(Chaired by Councillor Steven North)

Lead Officer- George Candler

Key Support Officers –Rob Harbour

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PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL 29 June 2021

Report Title	Housing Land Supply in North Northamptonshire	
Report Author	Simon Richardson, Development Manager Simon.richardson@northnorthants.gov.uk	
Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
North MO		
North S151		
Other Director/SME		

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To consider the approach to maintaining a supply of deliverable housing land in North Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The local planning authority must maintain a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of 5 years' worth of housing against its housing requirement. In the absence of a 5-year supply, development plan policies may be treated as out-of-date, making the area susceptible to speculative development pressures.
- 2.2 The housing requirements set out in Policy 28 of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) apply until July 2021, when the plan will be 5 years old and national policy states that they should be superseded by Local Housing Need (LHN) calculated using the Government's standard method. This needs to be kept under review in the light of factors including progress on the NN Strategic Plan and any changes to the standard method for calculating LHN.
- 2.3 For North Northamptonshire, current LHN is similar to the JCS housing requirement in all of the former local planning authority areas. It results in a lower 5-year housing requirement in areas all except East Northamptonshire, where it is only marginally higher.
- 2.4 The choice to be made is between calculating housing land supply, post-July 2021, on a North Northamptonshire-wide basis, or based on the former local planning authority areas (in each case against LHN). Legal advice obtained by the Joint Planning & Delivery Unit confirms that either option is legally robust.
- 2.5 The report concludes that maintaining a 5-year supply of housing land at the North Northamptonshire level (rather than for former council areas) will provide

greatest protection from speculative development proposals for the whole area. In the event of a shortfall in 5-year supply, the Council would have flexibility to determine the most sustainable locations in which to release new sites in line with the spatial strategy of the JCS.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Advisory Panel recommends that the Executive agrees that:
1. Until 16th July 2021, NNC should continue to measure five-year supply against the (former) local planning authority requirements in JCS Policy 28;
 2. From the 17th July 2021, in accordance with national policy, NNC should measure five-year supply against the Local Housing Need (LHN) for the North Northamptonshire Housing Market Area (HMA), calculated using the Standard Method (as confirmed in Ministerial Statement dated 16th December 2020); and
 3. This approach should be reviewed annually to take account of changes in circumstances, including progress on the NN Strategic Plan and any changes to the standard method by which LHN is calculated.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations – to agree an approach that is compliant with national policy and guidance and will provide greatest protection from speculative development proposals for the whole of the Council’s area.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to maintain a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of 5 years’ worth of housing¹ against their housing requirement set out in adopted strategic policies, or against their local housing need (LHN) where the strategic policies are more than five years old. Where there is less than a 5-year supply, relevant development plan policies may be treated as out-of-date, making an area susceptible to speculative development pressures.
- 4.2 The shadow NNC and WNC Leaders raised concerns with MHCLG over the prospect of speculative development across the whole of a council’s area if one part of the area is not able to demonstrate a 5-year supply. In response, MHCLG drew attention to National Planning Practice Guidance on how 5-year housing land supply should be calculated in new local planning authorities which result from a local government reorganisation. This states that “...*strategic housing requirement policies adopted by predecessor authorities can continue to be used as the housing requirement for calculating the 5-year housing land supply*”

¹ Paragraph 14 of the NPPF enables the 5-year land supply requirement to be reduced to 3 years in areas which have an up-to-date neighbourhood plan in place (less than two years old), and which contain policies and allocations to meet the identified housing requirement.

in the areas they apply where these are less than 5 years old, or they are older but have been reviewed within the last 5 years and found not to need updating...Where strategic housing requirement policies, covering the predecessor authority area, are older than 5 years and require updating, local housing need should be used, where this is available. Where the data required to calculate local housing need is not available an alternative approach will have to be used.”

- 4.3 This report explores what this means for North Northamptonshire (NN) and recommends an approach that should give greatest protection against speculative development proposals by allowing the local planning authority flexibility in managing the supply of land for housing across its whole area.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The adopted strategic policies for NN are set out in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The housing requirements in JCS Policy 28 are the basis for the housing land supply position set out in the Authorities’ Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2019/20 (2020/21 data is currently being collated). This summarised in Table 1 below². All the former LPAs could demonstrate a 5-year supply, but the position in Corby was marginal.

Table 1 – Housing Land Supply for former LPAs	A. 5 x JCS housing requirement + shortfall since 2011 + 5% buffer	B. Identified deliverable housing land supply 2020-25	Number of years deliverable housing land supply (B/A x 5)
Corby	2546	2551	5.0
East Northamptonshire	2205	2887	6.55
Kettering	3205	4326	6.75
Wellingborough	2550	3448	6.76

- 5.2 The JCS is five years old on 16th July 2021. From this date, the NPPF (paragraph 73) states that JCS housing requirements should be superseded by LHN. Table 2 shows the annual housing requirements set out in the JCS and using LHN (based on the current standard method). There is little difference between the two, but this may change if the variables used in the standard method alter or if the Government revises the formula³. In accordance with the NPPF, LHN must be used for calculating housing land supply in NN from July 2021⁴ but this should be subject to annual review to take account of changes in circumstances, including progress on the NN Strategic Plan and any changes to the standard method.

² Based on 2019/20 AMR www.nnjpd.org.uk

³ The current standard method uses the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) household growth projections for the next ten years as a baseline figure. This is then adjusted according to an affordability ratio, which measures the difference between house prices and annual earnings. ONS published updated affordability ratios in March 2021 (see commentary at https://static.turley.co.uk/pdf/file/2021-03/The%20standard%20method%20of%20assessing%20housing%20need_0.pdf)

⁴ In practice, given that housing land supply is measured for a 1st April – 31st March monitoring year, the use of LHN (Table 1 above) for monitoring purposes will need to commence with effect from 1st April 2021.

Table 2 – Housing requirements for NN and former LPAs	JCS Policy 28 annual housing requirement	Local Housing Need (LHN) using Standard Method
Corby	460	479
East Northamptonshire	420	452
Kettering	520	513
Wellingborough	350	340
North Northamptonshire	1,750	1,784

- 5.3 After July 2021, the North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) can choose between calculating housing land supply on a NN-wide basis, or on the former LPA areas, in each case against LHN. Legal advice obtained by the JPDU confirms that both approaches are legally robust. Table 3 shows the housing land supply position, using LHN, across NN and for each of the former LPAs based on the 2019/20 monitoring year. This includes a 5% buffer as required by national guidance⁵ but no longer includes shortfalls in delivery against past JCS requirements, as national guidance⁶ is clear that the standard method factors this in. This has a significant impact on assessed housing land supply which, compared to Table 1, increases in all of the former LPA area except East Northamptonshire.

Table 3 Housing land supply against LHN	Local Housing Need annual requirement	5-year requirement including 5% buffer ⁷	Assessed Housing Land Supply 2020-25 ³	Housing land supply (years) against Local Housing Need
Corby	479	2,515	2,551	5.07
East Northamptonshire	452	2,373	2,887	6.08
Kettering	513	2,693	4,326	8.03
Wellingborough	340	1,785	3,448	9.66
NN	1,784	9,366	13,212	7.05

- 5.4 As noted above, national planning practice guidance explicitly allows a newly formed local planning authority to continue to calculate 5-year housing land supply based on the areas identified in the strategic policies adopted by predecessor authorities (the JCS). It is noted that the Buckinghamshire and Dorset unitary authorities are measuring 5-year supply based on old local authority boundaries, and it is understood that this is also the approach favoured by WNC.
- 5.5 Taking this approach in NN would maintain a fine-grained monitoring of land supply and enable, as far as possible, any shortfall to be addressed within the sub-area that it arises. The four Area Planning Committees would retain the direct link between development management decisions and housing land supply in the same sub-area.
- 5.6 However, as shown in Table 3, LHN (which is heavily influenced by past rates of housing delivery), the identified supply of housing land (which reflects the

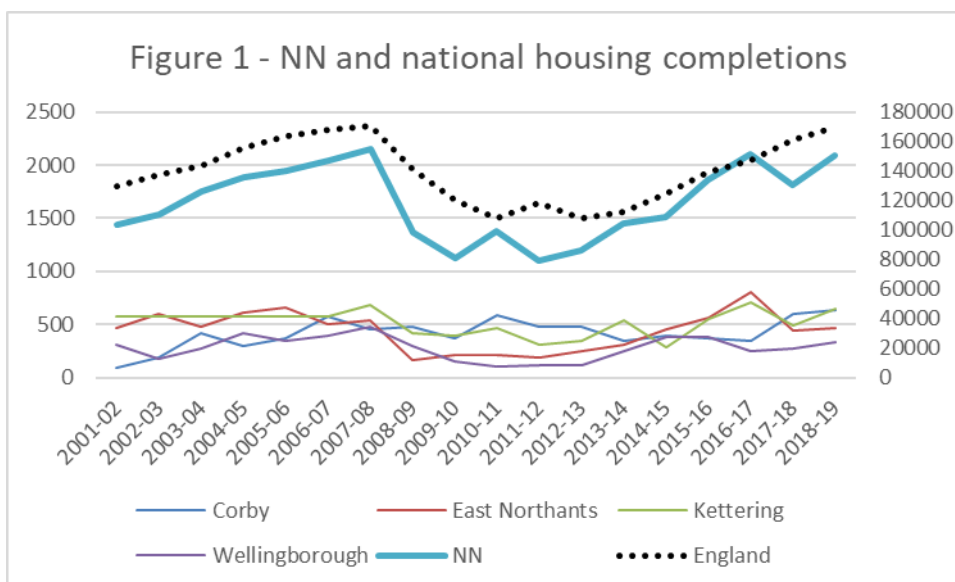
⁵ NPPG Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 68-022-20190722

⁶ NPPG Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 68-031-20190722

⁷ 5 x LHN + 5% buffer

progress of sites through planning and development), and the housing land supply measured against LHN, vary significantly between the sub-areas. While it is presently possible to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land in all sub-areas, this remains marginal for the Corby area and has been a problem in other sub-areas in recent years. A consequence of dealing with 5-year supply based on four sub-areas rather than the NN Council area is that, at any point in time, one or more sub-areas could have a shortfall, resulting in developers targeting them with speculative proposals for housing development in locations where significant growth is not supported in the JCS.

5.7 Figure 1 illustrates why a more robust approach is to look at the NN Housing Market Area (HMA)⁸ as a whole. The pace of development activity and the availability of sites fluctuates across NN, as evidenced by the significant variations in annual housing completions in the sub-areas (left-hand Y axis). However, the four sub-areas have contributed to total completions for the NN HMA that align closely to the national trajectory of housing completions (right-hand Y axis). Monitoring and maintaining housing land supply for the NN HMA will therefore help to balance out inevitable fluctuations in the pace of development activity and the availability of sites across the Council area.



5.8 As shown in Table 3, NN currently has a 7.05 years' supply of housing land against LHN requirements. Maintaining a 5-year supply of deliverable housing land at this scale will help to protect the whole of NN from speculative development proposals. Conversely, a failure to maintain a 5-year supply could make the whole of NN vulnerable to speculative development pressure, rather than ring-fencing the problem to the sub-area in which the shortfall arises. However, in this event, the Council would have flexibility to determine the most sustainable locations in which to release new sites. This should be in line with the spatial strategy of the JCS, with a focus on the Growth Towns and Market Towns rather than the villages and rural area. Continuing to monitor housing land supply based on a composite of the four sub-areas will allow fine-grained

⁸ A Housing Market Area (HMA) is a geographic area defined by housing demand and preferences and reflects the key functional linkages between places where people live and work.

information to be collected to inform action at the NN level when it is necessary to boost housing land supply.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

A robust 5-year housing land supply position will deter speculative planning applications and appeals that could otherwise require significant staff and consultancy/ legal support.

6.2 Legal

Legal advice was obtained from Josef Cannon, Cornerstone Barristers to clarify the options available to NNC. This confirms the requirement to use LHN as the basis for housing requirements after July 2021. It also states that it is legally robust for the Council to calculate housing land supply on either a North Northamptonshire-wide basis or using the former local planning authority areas.

6.3 Risk

In the absence of a 5-year supply, development plan policies may be treated as out-of-date, making the area susceptible to speculative development pressures.

6.4 Consultation

Planning Policy Managers have helped to formulate the proposed approach.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

N/A

6.6 Climate Impact

No specific impacts arising from this report but the lack of a robust 5-year housing land supply could result in additional pressure for homes in unsustainable locations.

6.7 Community Impact

No specific impacts arising from this report.

7. Background Papers

Referenced in footnotes.



PLANNING POLICY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANEL 29 June 2021

Report Title	Oxford to Cambridge Arc Environmental Principles	
Report Author	Sue Bateman, Senior Planning Officer Sue.bateman@northnorthants.gov.uk	
Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
North MO		
North S151		
Other Director/SME		

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Shared regional principles for protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the Oxford – Cambridge Arc

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek endorsement of the shared environmental principles for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In 2020 the Arc Environment Working Group agreed to produce a set of Arc-wide Environment Principles. The recommended principles are attached as Appendix A. They are the result of a collaborative piece of work led by a range of partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 The document was endorsed by the Arc Leadership Group Plenary on 9 March 2021. It is hoped by having developed consensus and support for these principles, including direct engagement with Government, that these will be used to support emerging environmental policies within the emerging Arc Spatial Framework. The intention is to seek endorsement of the principles from all councils and Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) across the Arc.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Advisory Panel recommend that the Executive:
- a) Endorses the shared environmental principles set out in Appendix A; and
 - b) Supports the development of an Arc Environment Strategy which will provide further guidance on how the principles can be delivered.

3.2 *Reason for Recommendations* –

The principles are not formal policy but rather a shared statement of ambition for the Arc. They are intended to:

- support the environment policies emerging from the Arc Spatial Framework
- allow use of the Arc as a place for DEFRA to test and apply its 25-year plan and funding through pilots and projects
- support Local Planning Authorities with a frame of reference to further develop the principles through Local and Strategic Plans at a local and sub-regional level

4. Report Background

4.1 Arc-wide Environment Principles have been prepared by the OxCam Arc Environment Working Group and are attached as Appendix A. They are the result of a collaborative piece of work led by a range of partners and stakeholders from the group including:

- Environmental Non-Government Organisations (who drafted the first document)
- Local Nature Partnerships
- Local Government environment and planning policy representatives (responses were received from c. 20 local authorities, with representation from across the Arc)
- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- MHCLG (planning policy lead)
- University representative from the Universities' Environment Group
- A LEP representative
- Anglian Water
- An Energy Hub representative

4.2 The document was endorsed by the Arc Leadership Group Plenary on 9 March 2021. It is hoped that by having developed consensus and support for these principles, including direct engagement with Government, that these will be used to support emerging environmental policies within the emerging Arc Spatial Framework.

4.3 The Spatial Framework for the Arc is being developed by Government following a commitment in the 2020 budget. A policy paper on the Spatial Framework was published in February 2021 and the high-level implications for North Northamptonshire were reported to the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee on 2 March 2021. It is anticipated that consultation will take place on a vision over the summer of 2021 with a draft framework being consulted on in 2022. The Spatial Framework is intended to have the status of national planning and transport policy, providing a strategic framework for local planning.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The shared regional principles for protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the Oxford – Cambridge Arc are set out in Appendix A. There are five overarching principles:
- To work towards a target of net zero carbon at an Arc level by 2040;
 - To protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets, including nationally and locally designated wildlife sites and priority habitats and links between them through the implementation of the spatial planning mitigation hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, compensate and gain;
 - To be an exemplar for environmentally sustainable development, in line with the ambitions set out in the government’s 25-year plan. This will incorporate a systems-based and integrated assessment and implementation approach. We will aim to go beyond the minimum legislated requirements for development;
 - To ensure that existing and new communities see real benefits from living in the Arc;
 - To use natural resources wisely.
- 5.2 Each theme has several sub-principles which describe further the outcomes aspired to. Some of the sub-principles will evolve further as knowledge and understanding develops.
- 5.3 Having been endorsed by the Plenary, the Arc Environment Principles are being shared amongst a wider audience including the development community to gain support and buy-in. It is intended that each partner organisation will now proceed to take these through local decision-making processes to provide even more support for the shared principles.
- 5.4 The next piece of work for the Arc Environment Working Group is to develop an Environment Strategy which will set out a comprehensive plan for how the principles will be delivered in the Arc. It is likely that the strategy will take 12-18 months to complete.
- 5.5 The work of the Arc Environment Working Group has been to put forward a set of principles that are ambitious and aspirational for the Arc. The aim is to have a ‘Green Arc’ as an internationally significant exemplar for the very best of sustainable living and working. It sets targets above what is intended to be mandated by Government through the Environment Bill. The Environment Strategy will set out the practical ways to deliver this aspiration including ‘doubling nature’, a 20% biodiversity net gain and identifying innovative solutions to energy and water shortages and stimulating the green economy.
- 5.6 Given the ambitious and challenging nature of the principles they will require the collective effort of all partners in the Arc if they are to be delivered. They seek to address some of the biggest challenges of our time including achieving net zero carbon, climate resilience, biodiversity net gain, environmental net gain and ensuring renewable natural capital remains available for future generations. These ambitions will not come without significant challenges. There will be practical delivery challenges particularly to ensure development

remains viable in all areas across the Arc. It is however considered important to endorse these principles so that they can seek to influence the development of the Spatial Framework for the Arc. This will show the council's strong commitment to the environment. It will also provide the opportunity for real environmental improvements for the local area as a benefit of delivering growth.

- 5.7 The Spatial Framework will have a significant influence on the development of local plans within the council's area, notably the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan. National planning policy status means it will sit alongside the National Planning Policy Framework and guide plan production and decision making. In the interim the environmental principles can help to guide and influence the direction of the North Northamptonshire Strategic Plan as it is prepared, together with other planning policy documents.
- 5.8 Officers and members already sit on a number of Arc Boards and Working Groups and it is considered important that they continue to engage with these groups to influence the Spatial Framework for the benefit of residents, businesses and the environment in North Northamptonshire. Endorsement of the Environmental Principles will show a clear commitment to the environment, but engagement on the practical delivery of these ambitions alongside ensuring the resources exist to implement these will be critical.
- 5.9 North Northamptonshire is well placed to be an exemplar of sustainable living and working. The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy already includes a vision to be '*a showpiece for modern green living and well managed sustainable development: a resilient area where local choices have increased the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to global economic changes.*' There are considerable opportunities to engage with the desire to double nature and increase biodiversity gain through projects including within the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and the Rockingham Forest. It is hoped that the Arc will become a place where funding will become available to test and develop projects to deliver these environmental benefits and North Northamptonshire will be well placed to take advantage of these opportunities.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 Preparation of the environmental principles included collaboration with a range of partners and stakeholders.

6.5 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 None.

6.6 **Climate Impact**

6.6.1 The principles are specifically seeking to address achieving net zero carbon and climate resilience.

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 The principles are seeking to ensure that existing and new communities see real benefits from living in the Arc including through maximising the health and wellbeing benefits of nature.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 [Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: An introduction to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework](#), HM Government, February 2021

7.2 [A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#), HM Government, 2018

7.3 [North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031](#), adopted July 2016

7.4 [North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee Report of 2 March 2021](#) regarding the Policy Paper on the Spatial Framework (Report Item 7, paragraphs 3.6 – 3.27)

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Shared regional principles for protecting, restoring and enhancing the environment in the **Oxford-Cambridge Arc**





Contents

Foreword	3
The joint declaration	4
The Arc vision	5
The Principles	7

Foreword

The days when we could take our environment for granted are long gone. We must now seek out every opportunity we can to protect and enhance what we have left and ensure that we do everything we can to ensure that the Oxford-Cambridge Arc is a place where we can all work and live truly sustainably.

Both the Arc Leadership Group’s OxCam Arc Economic Prospectus and the Government’s publication, planning for sustainable growth: introduction to the Arc Spatial Framework has given top billing jointly to the economy and the environment. It is now our job to ensure that the environment is at the centre of everything we do and every decision we take.

The work of the OxCam Arc Environment Working Group has been focused on putting forward this set of principles that will allow us to be outstandingly ambitious and aspirational for the OxCam Arc. If we can get this right then the world will look to our ‘Green Arc’ as an internationally significant exemplar for the very best in sustainable living and working, for practical ways to doubling nature, and innovative solutions to energy and water shortages as well as stimulating a green economy.

These principles will form the basis for the creation of an OxCam- wide Environmental Strategy that will embrace everything from green spaces, to housing standards, to sustainable transport, energy generation and transmission and water management and conservation.

It is vital, as we and government move forward with the OxCam Arc, that we take the people already living here with us. We can do this by committing to greener transport, by doubling the number of trees and acreage of accessible managed green spaces, by protecting our chalk streams and supporting local green energy production to name but a few.

If we are to double economic growth along the OxCam Arc then as a minimum we must be doubling nature and ensuring that the Arc leads the way in the zero carbon living and working of the future.

Councillor Bridget Smith,
Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council,
Chair Arc Environment Working Group

Left
Paragliding off the
Dunstable Downs Chiltern
Hills in Bedfordshire

In March 2019, Government and local partners set out their ambition for the Arc in a joint declaration¹:

“We want better places to live, which are beautiful and inspiring, to benefit the Arc’s residents today as well as tomorrow. The Government has already set out its intention for the Arc to embody England’s 25 Year Environment Plan, which we will work together to deliver, including through planning for local natural capital. We want new developments to use intelligent and sensitive design to create or enhance habitats and improve habitat connectivity, in situ and in the surrounding area. We also want to improve access to the environment for existing and new communities in order to improve health and wellbeing.”

“Conserving and enhancing the natural environment is at the heart of Government’s ambitions for the Arc. The 25 Year Environment Plan also sets out our comprehensive approach to improving landscapes and habitats, and

the aspiration to move to a policy of net environmental gain. We expect the policy for the wider Oxford-Cambridge corridor to embody this approach.”

An Environment Working Group (EWG) has been established to take forward the environmental pillar outlined within the joint declaration. The EWG will work with partners in the Arc, including those responsible for the other pillars, to ensure that the protection and enhancement of the environment is at the heart of decision-making and any actions are based on a clear and agreed evidence base.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

In October 2020 an economic prospectus for the Arc was published jointly by local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnerships within the Arc. It outlines the following vision:

“By 2050, the Arc will be a world leading place for high-value growth, innovation and productivity. A global hub where ideas and companies are generated and thrive, home to exemplary models of 21st century development, with a high-quality environment and outstanding quality of life, and with a strong economic focus that drives inclusive clean growth.”

The environmental principles supporting this vision are set out in this document. They are ambitious and will require the collective effort of all partners in the Arc if they are to be delivered.



Above
Sunrise at Willen Lake in Milton Keynes.

Right
Elmsbrook eco-town - Bicester.



The principles address how we will tackle some of the biggest challenges of our time: achieving net zero carbon, climate resilience, biodiversity net gain, environmental net gain, doubling the area of land actively managed for nature, restoring, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and ensuring renewable natural capital (resources derived from living things that if properly managed can be replenished) remains available for future generations.

The principles

The regional principles have been written and agreed by the Arc's local partners and stakeholders. They are informed by Government policy. They are a clear statement of regional intent that will help to clarify the commitment to adopting an approach that results in environmentally sustainable economic growth. This includes the protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment (air, water, land, soil, biodiversity), net biodiversity and net environmental gain, net zero carbon, the sustainable use of resources.

The principles align with the government's 25 Year Environment Plan² and the commitment in the joint declaration to embody the 25 year plans goals and ambitions.

We will also take account of other appropriate government strategies, plans and guidance. Our aim is for the principles to inform and become an integral part of developing plans and statements in relation to the Arc, local plans, local council activities and the plans and activities of activities and delivery programs for all bodies operating in the Arc. It is also our ambition to see universities, private sector developers and third sector organisations adopt these principles.

Above
Cotswolds Hills Countryside
in the area of outstanding
natural beauty.

Right
Autumn view of the river
Nene Valley, near Castor
village, Cambridgeshire.



²A Green Future: Our 25
Year Plan to Improve the
Environmentfile/799993/
OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

The Arc partners will seek to:

1.

Work towards a target of net zero carbon at an Arc level by 2040.

This will include:

- Ensuring all **decisions about development and new infrastructure support this goal.**
- Working with Government to **enhance building regulations and planning policy to actively reduce the carbon footprint of, and energy consumption in, new buildings.**
- Pursuing a **major programme of transformation** in existing settlements and infrastructure to reduce energy intensity and carbon emissions.
- Construction, operational and transport activities.

2.

Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets, including nationally and locally designated wildlife sites and priority habitats, and links between them. We will implement the spatial planning mitigation hierarchy of avoid, minimise, remediate, compensate and gain. This will include:

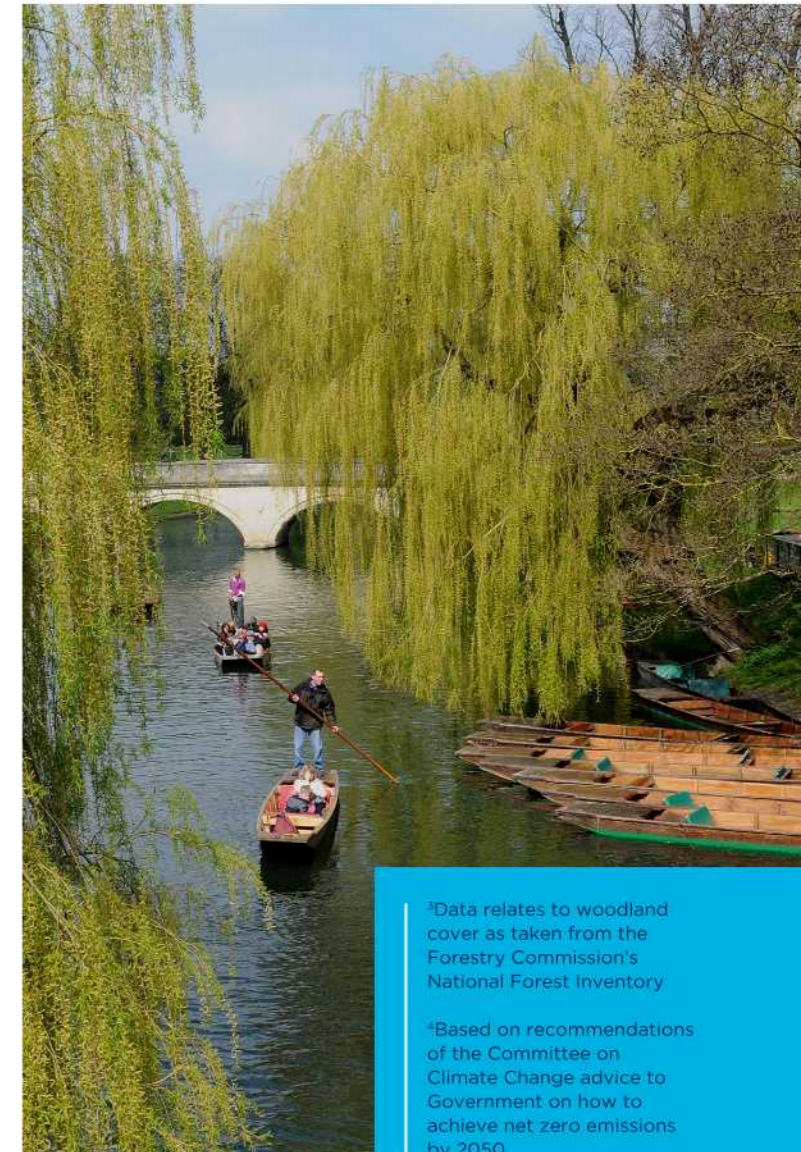
- Doubling the area of land managed primarily for nature in the Arc (**'Doubling Nature'**). To contribute to Government's commitment to protecting 30% of land for nature conservation by 2030. We will seek to maximise public, private and third sector funding opportunities **to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment** and maintain existing, and increase investment in, natural capital assets, working with partners including major landowners and our important agriculture sector across the Arc.



Above
Heron Valley, Rushmere
Country Park, Leighton
Buzzard.

Right
Punting on the River
Nene, Peterborough.

- Coordinating work on local nature recovery strategies and the Arc's contribution to **the Nature Recovery Network for England** by creating more, bigger, better-connected places, in the required condition, for nature including landscape scale interventions.
- Delivering **biodiversity net gain for Town & Country Planning Act developments of 20%**. This is above the 10% Government mandated minimum to reflect the Arc's world leading environmental ambitions.
- Delivering **biodiversity net gain for all developments of 20% with a minimum requirement of 10%** including Nationally Significant Infrastructure and projects brought forward outside of the Town & Country Planning Act. This is to reflect the Arc's world leading environmental ambitions.
- Working with Government to develop a suitable net environment gain metric that** incorporates biodiversity net gain and, once available, to set an ambitious target to reflect the Arc's world leading environmental ambitions.
- Establishing **human and nature mobility corridors** across the Arc – using existing or new transport corridors for maximum environmental benefit/gain.
- Increasing tree and woodland cover across the Arc from 7.4%³ to 19%⁴.** This is in recognition of the ability of trees and woodlands to deliver a wide range of environmental, health, social and economic benefits. We will ensure the right trees are planted in the right places.
- Protecting and enhancing protected landscapes. Enhancing landscape character areas, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the wider countryside.



³Data relates to woodland cover as taken from the Forestry Commission's National Forest Inventory

⁴Based on recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change advice to Government on how to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

3.

Be an exemplar for environmentally sustainable development, in line with the ambitions set out in the government's 25 year plan. This will incorporate a systems-based and integrated assessment and implementation approach and will fully recognise the associated health and wellbeing benefits. We will aim to go beyond the minimum legislated requirements for development. This will include:

- a. **All new settlements, urban extensions and infrastructure contributing to the achievement of delivering net biodiversity gain, net environmental gain, and net zero carbon** both in site and route selection and in the design of settlements and transport corridors. In addition, areas of tranquillity will be protected and measures taken to avoid light pollution and protect dark sky areas. Making cycling and walking more attractive ways to travel and investing in zero emission public transport of the future.

- b. **Understanding the impact of development on the natural environment**, including cumulative and indirect impacts (taking into account associated housing and other forms of development), so that these can be addressed in line with the mitigation hierarchy, and carrying out environmental and strategic assessments as appropriate for the type and scale of development programmes including options and proper community consultation.
- c. Understanding the Arc's environmental capacity to accommodate different levels of growth and development in different locations and **ensuring that planned growth and development remains well within environmental capacity limits.**
- d. Working with Government to **enhance the building regulations and the role of planning policy so that they align with sustainability principles, and actively reduce the carbon footprint, water and energy consumption** in new and existing buildings. We will encourage Arc local partners to exceed the minimum standards required by building regulations.
- e. Promoting the switch to renewable and other sustainable energy supplies, improving travel choices, and supporting changing working practices. This will enable **improvements to the design and development of sustainable communities and the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.**

Right
People walking in open
spaces.

4.

Ensure that existing and new communities see real benefits from living in the Arc including through:

- a. **Maximising the health and wellbeing benefits of nature** by providing sector-leading areas of accessible nature-rich greenspace in, and accessible to, new settlements, urban extensions and commercial zones and increasing and enhancing greenspace, and access to it, for existing settlements in the Arc.
- b. **Promoting and increasing equality of sustainable access to nature and its benefits** by investing in, increasing and enhancing nature-rich greenspace in the places and communities where it is most lacking. We will improve access to greenspace and nature, ensuring Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace standards, and (once available) Green Infrastructure Standards, are maximised for existing housing and delivered for future developments.



5.

Use natural resources wisely by:

- a. Working to address existing **water resource, water quality and flood management** issues and through an integrated approach across the water agenda ensure future issues and risks are managed, including in the context of climate change, with a focus on nature-based interventions.
- b. Ensuring that soil quality is properly protected and improved including within development, infrastructure and agricultural activities.
Making **more efficient use and management of waste and resources**, working towards a circular economy with no net waste and promoting the use of sustainable building materials and construction guidelines.
- d. Working with local authorities to share best practice and coordinate action being taken on local **air quality management plans** including addressing emissions from agriculture and from installations regulated by the Environment Agency.
- e. Supporting the development of interventions that reduce the **impact of agriculture on the environment** and support productivity.
- f. Helping to build collaboration between farmers to generate catchment and landscape scale environmental improvement under the **Environmental Land Management Scheme**.
- g. Ensuring that the required mineral resources for the Arc are sourced in an environmentally sensitive manner and that mineral sites are restored in a coordinated manner to after-uses that benefit nature and people, as well as helping to provide ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and water management.

We will continue to work with the other Arc pillars to develop appropriate environmental principles for incorporation within these workstreams.

We will review and update the environmental principles in the light of developing policies, practices, evidence, experience, knowledge and governance arrangements.



Resourcing our ambitions

To achieve delivery of these principles we will need to work collaboratively across the public, private and third sectors. Some resources are already in place and there are many more that we will need. As a starting point we will:

- Build on the work of the Arc Local Natural Capital Plan and the associated work in the 5 counties to **make publicly available, agreed baseline maps for natural capital and ecosystem services across the Arc**. Resources will be required to maintain the data and make it accessible.
- Work with the statutory agencies and with local councils to ensure ready **access to the wide range of environmental data** currently collected by them.
- **Work with government to agree methodologies** for both net biodiversity gain and net environment gain for use within the Arc. We will establish a technical group(s) to assess net gain propositions on behalf of local planning authorities and provide planning committees with independent advice.
- **Support and promote a 5 yearly environmental census** across the Arc including promoting public engagement through citizen science approaches.
- Use **evidence on health, deprivation and ecosystem services demand** (e.g. for air quality improvement) to inform planning for greenspace, habitats and **natural capital assets**.
- Work with all those that fund nature improvement work across the Arc including the Defra Group, water companies, environmental Non-Governmental Organisations, local councils, catchment partnerships, housing and commercial property developers and infrastructure providers, together with those allocating Environment Land Management System funding, and private investors to **take a more efficient and effective systems based approach to natural capital and ecosystem systems based interventions**. We will seek to ensure that funding is used strategically and not in a piecemeal way.
- **Invest in projects that deliver natural capital and environmental benefits**, such as carbon sequestration, pollinator habitats, soil improvement, flood alleviation and water resource resilience, and establish Arc-wide and more local Natural Capital Investment Plans to inform and support the emerging Arc Spatial Framework.

Monitoring

We will pursue our commitment as outlined within these principles and will work with government and local partners on the development of associated metrics and targets in line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, carbon reduction commitments and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Engagement

We will engage and consult with communities, residents and people working in the Arc, as well as businesses, other organisations and NGOs, on the vision and ambitions for sustainable environmental growth in the Arc.

This document is supported by the Arc Leadership Group, Arc Universities Environment Group, Arc Local Enterprise Partnerships, England's Economic Heartland, and has been drafted with input from the Arc Local Nature Partnerships whose members include representatives from environment NGOs, local councils, LEPs, developers, businesses, business representation bodies, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and the Forestry Commission and important contributions from central government departments, other environment NGOs and businesses.





Below
Sunrise panorama at
the Campbell park in
Milton Keynes.

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