

Public Document Pack



Meeting: Executive

Date: Tuesday 22nd June, 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Cube, George Street, Parklands Gateway, Corby, NN17 1QG

To members of the Executive

Councillors Smithers (Chair), Howell (Vice-Chair), Bunday, Edwards, Harrison, Howes, Lawman, A. Mercer, North and Pentland

Agenda			
Item	Subject	Presenting Officer	Page no.
01	Apologies for absence		
02	Notification of requests to address the meeting.		
03	Members' Declarations of Interest		
04	Key Decisions Made Under Special Urgency Provisions (for noting) To note the special urgency decision made between meetings:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Care Nursing Framework & Dynamic Purchasing System (link to notification on website) 		
Items requiring a decision			
05	School Minor Works budget to address condition issues in North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools Estate – 2021/2022 To approve the 'School's Minor Works' budget for 2021/22, funded by the Department for Education 'School Condition Allocation' grant.	Executive Director – Children's Services	5 - 10
06	UK Community Renewal Fund – North Northamptonshire Submission To set out the shortlisted projects submitted for the Council for the UK Community Renewal Fund and to seek the creation of a small advisory panel to support related activities.	Executive Director – Place and Economy	11 - 30
07	National Bus Strategy To note the challenges faced by the bus industry due to Covid-19, to form an Enhanced Partnership, and to delegate authority to prepare an Enhanced Partnership and Bus	Executive Director – Place and Economy	31 - 40

	Service Improvement Plan.		
08	Financial Uplifts for Adult Social Care Providers 2021-22 To set out the proposed increase for care and support service areas and direct payment cost rate, and to outline the methodology used to develop the new rates.	Executive Director – Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	41 - 84
09	Capital Programme Update Report – Approvals into the Capital Programme To request approval for capital schemes to be approved into the Capital Programme.	Executive Director - Finance	85 - 88
010	Transformation Task and Finish Group update To make recommendations regarding the disaggregation of hosted services between North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.	Director of Transformation	89 - 96
011	Gretton Neighbourhood Plan To formally make the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan.	Executive Director – Place and Economy	97 - 174
012	Ecton Neighbourhood Plan To formally make the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan.	Executive Director – Place and Economy	175 - 216
013	Corby Town Fund To approve Head of Terms set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in connection with Corby's Towns Fund.	Executive Director – Place and Economy	217 - 224
Exempt Items			
014	To consider any items of business which may involve the exclusion of the press and public in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.		
14.1	Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Manor House Museum – (GLaM) Main Contract Award	Executive Director – Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	225 - 232
Urgent Items			
015	To consider any items of business of which notice has been given to the Proper Officer and the Chair considers to be urgent pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972.		
Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council			



Proper Officer
14 June 2021

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Committee Officer: Ben Smith

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Meetings at the Council Offices

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic seating in the Council Chamber will be limited. If you are intending to attend the meeting as a spectator, please contact the committee officer.

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Public Participation

The Council has approved procedures for you to request to address meetings of the Council.

ITEM	NARRATIVE	DEADLINE												
Members of the Public Agenda Statements	Members of the Public who live or work in the North Northamptonshire council area may make statements in relation to reports on the public part of this agenda. A request to address the Executive must be received 2 clear working days prior to the meeting at democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk . Each Member of the Public has a maximum of 3 minutes to address the committee.	5:00 pm Thursday 17 th June 2021												
Members of the Public Petitions	Anyone who lives, or works in North Northamptonshire may submit a petition to the Council. Depending on the size of your petition it will be responded to as follows:- <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Signatory Threshold</th><th>Description</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Petition which triggers a council debate</td><td>Council</td><td>Any petition with 1,500 or more signatures will trigger a debate at a Full Council meeting.</td></tr><tr><td>Petition which calls an officer to provide evidence</td><td>750 – 1,499</td><td>Any petition with 750 – 1,499 signatures will summon an appropriate officer of the Council to give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.</td></tr><tr><td>Standard Petition</td><td>5 – 749</td><td>Any petition with 5 – 749 signatures will be referred to</td></tr></tbody></table>	Category	Signatory Threshold	Description	Petition which triggers a council debate	Council	Any petition with 1,500 or more signatures will trigger a debate at a Full Council meeting.	Petition which calls an officer to provide evidence	750 – 1,499	Any petition with 750 – 1,499 signatures will summon an appropriate officer of the Council to give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.	Standard Petition	5 – 749	Any petition with 5 – 749 signatures will be referred to	
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Standard Petition	5 – 749	Any petition with 5 – 749 signatures will be referred to												

			a senior officer of the Council to provide a response.		
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If you wish to register to speak, please contact the committee officer.

Members' Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

Members are reminded that they should continue to adhere to the Council's approved rules and protocols during the conduct of meetings. These are contained in the Council's approved Constitution.

If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk

Press & Media Enquiries

Any press or media enquiries should be directed through the Council's Communications Team to NNU-Comms-Team@northnorthants.gov.uk

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EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	School Minor Works budget to address condition issues in North Northamptonshire Maintained Schools Estate – 2021/2022
Report Author	Chris Wickens, Head of School Place Planning, Chris.Wickens@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Cllr Scott Edwards – Portfolio Holder for Children, Families, Education and Skills

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Members with all the necessary information to make a fully informed decision on the recommendations below to approve the 'School's Minor Works' budget for 2021/22 which will be funded by the Department for Education "DfE" 'School Condition Allocation' grant.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 'School's Minor Works' Scheme commissions condition surveys on property within the Local Authority's school estate. These surveys direct the condition works which need to be undertaken to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its statutory obligation of keeping pupils 'safe, warm and dry.'

- 2.2 North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is responsible for maintaining school buildings and sites at all schools in North Northamptonshire with 'Community', 'Voluntary Controlled' and 'Foundation' status, but this does not include those under a Private Finance Initiative "PFI" contract.
- 2.3 All Local Authorities receive 'School Condition Allocation' "SCA" funding annually from the DfE for the purposes outlined above. North Northamptonshire Councils allocation of SCA funding for the 2021/2022 financial year is £1,935,564.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Executive:

- a) Approve the 2021/22 'School Minor Works' budget to rectify condition issues in North Northamptonshire Councils maintained schools to ensure the Council continues to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate;
- b) Note that North Northamptonshire Councils allocation of 'School Condition Allocation' funding for 2021/22 has been confirmed by the DfE at £1,935,564 and that this grant funding will be utilised as the Councils 'School Minor Works' budget for 2021/22;
- c) Note that any works undertaken under the 'Schools Minor Works' budget will be delivered as part of a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the Local Authority;
- d) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Director of Childrens Services, to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to ensure effective delivery of condition schemes.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- The Council will continue to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate;
- The recommended course of action is the most effective and prevents delays in procuring essential works;
- This is the third year of the 'School Minor Works' programme which has been managed effectively within Northamptonshire.

4. Report Background

4.1 North Northamptonshire Council receives 'School Condition Allocation' "SCA" funding from central government, the purpose of which is to address condition issues within maintained schools. The amount of SCA funding each local authority receives is announced annually and is linked to the number of

maintained schools within that authority. This funding reduces as schools convert to academy status.

- 4.2 The DfE specify SCA funding should be spent as follows;
'Investment should be prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency and health and safety issues.'
- 4.3 North Northamptonshire Council's SCA funding for 2021/22 has been confirmed at £1,935,564.
- 4.4 The 'Schools Minor Works' budget was first established in 2019/20 under Northamptonshire County Council, as a mechanism for streamlining the financial and governance for capital schemes designed to address condition issues in maintained schools. The method used previous to this had been reactive and led to delays in addressing condition issues in schools, some of which required immediate attention.
- 4.5 There have been two previous tranches of School Minor Works schemes, in 2019/20 and 2020/21, where schools with known condition issues or very old condition surveys were prioritised.
- 4.6 This year's 'School Minor Works' builds on the previous tranches to ensure further maintained schools/nursery schools have an up-to-date condition survey. The results of these surveys will direct the works to be undertaken. The SCA funding from the DfE will fund these works.
- 4.7 North Northamptonshire Council will commission a series of condition surveys for the 21/22 tranche of schools, which incorporates 10 schools located within the North Northamptonshire area.
- 4.8 This rolling programme of condition surveys and associated remedial works aims to ensure all children and young people being educated in the Local Authority are being taught in a 'safe, warm and dry' environment.
- 4.9 Each condition survey provides a comprehensive report on the fabric of the school building and site, and any work required to ensure that each building remains 'safe, warm and dry'. Surveys classify any remedial work required into one of four categories identified below:
 - 1: Urgent - works required immediately or within one year;
 - 2: Essential – required within 2 years;
 - 3: Desirable – required within 5 years;
 - 4: Desirable – works not anticipated to be required within 5 years
- 4.10 As with previous tranches, it is proposed that North Northamptonshire Council provides funding for remedial works to address condition issues inclusive of categories 1 and 2, where possible. This will ensure the Council maintains the upkeep of school sites and buildings it holds a responsibility for and mitigates any further deterioration to the fabric of the surveyed schools. However, this will be dependent on the cost of works identified and the available budget. Surveys and works to a maximum of £1,935,564 will be progressed in 2021/22.

- 4.11 It is anticipated that the budget will be sufficient to progress the required condition works at this tranche of schools, whilst leaving a small contingency sum within the wider budget to address any emergency works that are required at maintained schools within the North Northamptonshire area over the course of the 21/22 financial year.
- 4.12 Executive is asked to delegate authority to the Executive Member in consultation with the Director of Childrens Services, to authorise and approve, all financial, legal and property arrangements necessary to deliver works required to address condition issues in maintained schools.
- 4.13 Executive is asked to note that whilst the Capital Projects team will project manage the delivery of the 'School Minor Works' schemes, in certain circumstances, the Council may passport limited amounts of funding to schools, to ensure efficient delivery of a required scheme.

The 'School Minor Works' budget proposal for 2021/22 will be approved at NNC's 'Capital Approvals Board'.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 This paper relates to the fulfilment of the Council's statutory obligation of maintaining its schools' estate. If North Northamptonshire Council take no action the schools' estate will continue to deteriorate and remedial works will represent a greater financial liability when requiring to be addressed in the future.
- 5.2 Failure to address works categorised as 'urgent' or 'required immediately' will increase the risk of serious health and safety incident(s) occurring, with schools potentially having to close as a result of condition issues and pupils being unable to access education. This is not considered to be a viable option.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 The Schools Minor Works scheme will be funded from the 2021/22 DfE Schools Condition Allocation (SCA) grant of £1,935,564. This funding is provided specifically for the purpose of maintaining the school estate.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide primary and secondary education as well as a duty to ensure that all educational premises are in a good and safe state.

6.3 Risk

- a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Costs higher than available budget	All works to be procured through NNC procurement frameworks or with three quotes to be obtained to ensure best value is achieved. Works will have to be prioritised to ensure all can be delivered within available budget and least urgent works will not be progressed if they exceed available budget.	Green
Covid-19 impacts upon delivery of schemes	Timeframes for delivery arranged in full accordance with schools and in full compliance with all government advice	Green
Works undertaken impact on day to day school operation	Works to be planned in conjunction with schools and programmed to minimise impact.	Green

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Health & Safety incident(s) resulting from poor condition of schools' estate	Amber
School buildings continue to deteriorate and children and young people access education in 'unsafe' buildings	Red
Schools are required to close as a result of poor condition and children and young people are unable to access education	Red
Cost of addressing remedial issues at a later date will increase	Red

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 No statutory consultation is required for this decision.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1 N/A

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 These will be considered scheme by scheme and via the appropriate planning permissions obtained for each scheme that is progressed under this budget.

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 These will be considered scheme by scheme, however the impact is expected to be positive for pupils, as the condition of the school estate will be improved.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 N/A

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	UK Community Renewal Fund – North Northamptonshire Submission
Report Authors	Ian Achurch ian.achurch@northnorthants.gov.uk Sarah Ellwood sarah.ellwood@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Steven North – Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – UK Community Renewal Fund Shortlist (supported applications)
Appendix B - UK Community Renewal Fund Shortlist (unsupported applications).

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. UK Government required lead local authorities, including North Northamptonshire Council, to submit their shortlist of UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) projects by 18th June 2021. This required an Executive decision. The purpose of this report is to set out the shortlisted projects which were submitted for North Northamptonshire. It also outlines the process which was followed to invite and receive bids, and to produce the shortlist.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) was launched by the Government in March 2021 and comprises £220 million additional funding to help places across the UK prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in 2022.

- 2.2 This new Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches and will invest in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.
- 2.3 The SPF is being created to match the receipts which were received by the UK from the European Union Structural Funds, which will cease in 2023. The Government aims to go beyond the limitations of EU funding with new arrangements which are better tailored to the needs and aspirations of the country. The SPF will focus on domestic priorities for people and places by championing local insight and reducing bureaucracy to help unite and level up the whole country.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Endorses the submission which was made to Government based on the shortlisted projects set out in Appendix A
 - b) Agrees the creation of a small advisory panel to support programme monitoring and help look ahead to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as outlined in paragraph 5.17

4. Report Background

- 4.1 To help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK SPF, the Government is providing funding in 2021/22 through the CRF. They are interested in bids that build on local insight and knowledge, and project proposals that align with long-term strategic plans for local growth, target people most in need and support community renewal. In addition, projects should show how they complement other national and local provision.
- 4.2 A focus for CRF is to support innovation and new ideas in these areas, investing in pilots that draw on local insights and which will help places to prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022.
- 4.3 Corby, East Northamptonshire and Kettering have all been identified in the Governments list of 100 'priority places' for this funding. This means that North Northamptonshire is able to bid for up to £3m for each of these places. Wellingborough was identified as an 'Other place' and is also eligible to bid. However, all areas can bid for CRF and it is an open and competitive process. There are no pre-determined allocations. It is therefore important that projects which are put forward are robust and align with the CRF priorities.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Prior to 31st March 2021, Northamptonshire County Council was designated as the lead authority by the Government. It was responsible for issuing the Invitation to Apply for Funding (IAGF) and for inviting applications from organisations for projects in the county area to be submitted by Monday 3rd May. The IAGF was issued to local stakeholders and publicised through a web page: <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/business-and-economy/Pages/community-renewal-fund.aspx>
- 5.2 On 1st April 2021, the Lead Authority role for the administrative areas of Corby Borough Council, East Northamptonshire Council, Kettering Borough Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough transferred to North Northamptonshire Council (the Council). The Council is therefore responsible for receiving bids in its area, selecting the projects that will be sent to Government for consideration, contracting with (and paying grants to) successful project deliverers and managing their performance.
- 5.3 The types of bids sought by Government must deliver activity that is in line with the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus¹ and align with at least one of these investment priorities:
- Investment in skills;
 - Investment for local business;
 - Investment in communities and place;
 - Supporting people into employment.
- 5.4 There are no financial allocations to these priorities. The Government anticipates supporting a range of projects by theme and size, but applicants are encouraged to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (£500,000+) where this is possible. However, there is no minimum threshold value for bids. As 90% of funding available through the UK Community Renewal Fund is revenue funding and only available in 2021/22, projects should predominantly, or exclusively, be revenue based. Projects that focus primarily on the construction or major refurbishment of buildings, the purchase of land or the purchase of large pieces of equipment will not be supported.
- 5.5 Council officers supported local stakeholders and potential bidders by sharing information and guidance on the CRF, as well as individual discussions to answer questions and explain more about the fund, eligibility and process. These discussions included highlighting potential collaboration opportunities. The support package for local stakeholders also included access to a webinar delivered by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) free of charge, which was focused on developing strong bids and business cases.
- 5.6 The Council received 23 applications for funding by the published deadline of 3rd May. This is viewed as a strong response, particularly considering the relatively short window for submission which included the end of the financial year and Easter holiday period. Applications were received from a range of organisations working locally and nationally and covered all four priorities listed in paragraph 5.3. Some of the proposed projects extend beyond the Council's

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>

administrative area and have therefore been submitted to the appropriate lead authorities so they can determine whether to include these projects on their shortlist.

- 5.7 The assessment of applications involved the Council's CRF Programme Team, who worked with a team of officers from SEMLEP. The bids were considered against a range of criteria, including strategic fit, deliverability, value for money, capacity and capability of the deliverer and outputs/outcomes. All bids were assessed by individual officers and also considered in a joint moderation session. The criteria used are consistent with those Government will use for its assessment. No weighting was used. Some projects included match-funding, but this was not a Government requirement. There is no match funding provided by NNC. The assessment also included a Gateway process set out by Government and financial checks on all applicants.
- 5.8 The outcome of the assessment process is summarised at Appendix A confirming a short description of each project, the geographical focus, priority focus and the amount of CRF requested. The bids put forward to Government are the following:
- CRF01: Construction and Essential Skills Programme (Goodwill Solutions);
 - CRF02: Options Appraisal for preservation and enhancement of attraction (Rushden Historical Transport Society);
 - CRF03: Greenway and River Ise: Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study (North Northamptonshire Council);
 - CRF05: Training in land and water management for ex-offenders (The Skills Mill);
 - CRF06: Digital Northamptonshire (North Northamptonshire Council);
 - CRF09: Here for Tourism – A Partnership approach to kick-starting the visitor economy in North Northamptonshire (Destination Nene Valley);
 - CRF10: NN2NZ (Electric Corby);
 - CRF11: Sustainable Food Network North Northants (Made in Northamptonshire);
 - CRF12: Community Investment Zones (Made with Many);
 - CRF13: NorthantsPass (Northamptonshire Britain's Best Surprise);
 - CRF14: Enterprise and Employability Skills Training (Moulton College);
 - CRF15: Inspire to Thrive (Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire);
 - CRF16: In2Work (Hillsbridge Services);
 - CRF17: Enabling Northamptonshire (The Tess Group);
 - CRF18: The Knowledge Exchange for Better Business (University of Northampton);
 - CRF19: Parish Asset Mapping, Local Devolution (Northants CALC);
 - CRF20: Green Recovery and Innovation Programme (SEMLEP Growth Hub);

- CRF21: Construction Skills Programme (North Northamptonshire Council);
- CRF22: Supporting Low or Zero- Carbon Best Practise in North Northamptonshire (ZeNN) (North Northamptonshire Council).

5.9 The assessment determined that four projects should not be put forward on the shortlist. This is because they either failed the Gateway criteria, and/or scored beneath the Government's threshold and therefore are unlikely to be supported by Government. This does not mean that a similar project could not progress in the future, if strengthened. Feedback will be provided to the organisations who were not successful to assist them in future bids. The four projects are as follows:

- CRF04: Nene & Ise Valley – Investing in people and places (River Nene Regional Park);
- CRF07: Tipstart Northamptonshire (Tipstart Community Venture);
- CRF08: Bak Up 2021 (Bak Up CIC);
- CRF23: Economic and Community Support (Higham Ferrers Town Council).

5.10 The outcome of the assessment and shortlist was discussed and agreed with the Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration and submitted to the Government for the published deadline of 18th June. The short-listed projects will now be assessed by officials with decisions on approved projects expected by the end of July. It will therefore be Government that makes the decision on which projects are successful in obtaining funding.

5.11 A number of projects on the shortlist will lead to improved skills outcomes and supporting people into employment. This includes support for the construction sector where there is currently a skills shortage and demand is likely to grow as the economy recovers, and skills in the events and hospitality sector which has been massively impacted by the current Covid19 pandemic. Other projects will provide employment opportunities in water and land-based management for younger people and specifically ex-offenders, and a wider programme to support training and employment in the rail industry.

5.12 There are a range of projects designed to support local businesses and innovation. This includes support for start-ups through the 'Inspire to Thrive' project led by the Northamptonshire Business and IP Centre, a project focused on knowledge-exchange opportunities working with the University of Northampton, the creation of a sustainable food network building on the local assets and strengths in this sector, and a large scale Green Recovery Grant programme.

5.13 Support for low or zero carbon best-practice and 'clean tech' is a focus for a number of projects. This should be a key target sector for North Northamptonshire supporting greener growth, innovation, and best practice, not only in the clean tech sector, but also more widely across food and drink, logistics, construction and other sectors. The focus on low or zero carbon, and showcasing this sector, also aligns strongly with the Government's CRF prospectus, SEMLEP's Industrial Strategy and aspirations for the Oxford to

Cambridge (OxCam) Arc and the transformational opportunity this provides for North Northamptonshire.

- 5.14 Communities and place is a key theme for the package. This includes a number of different projects reflecting the diversity of communities and place in North Northamptonshire, and the opportunities these provide for supporting economic growth and regeneration. These include feasibility studies to create ‘greenways’ between Rushden and Wellingborough and through to Kettering and Corby, support for the tourism and recreational offer provided by the Nene Valley and the local businesses and attractions based there, and a feasibility study focused on the heritage opportunity provide by the former Rushden station and site. Two projects propose to support regeneration and delivery at a local community level. The project led by the Groundwork Trust focuses on the larger urban areas, and especially Corby and Wellingborough. The other project, led by Northamptonshire CALC, proposes to create a framework for devolution of assets and services, and transformation in this area. Another project proposes the use of technology, through a digital loyalty platform, to promote the area to visitors, including from further afield. This is an example where there is complementarity between projects on the shortlist and additionality can be created through the programme.
- 5.15 Some projects, such as Digital Northamptonshire, support more than one of the Government priorities. This project will focus on strengthening skills in the digital sector in Northamptonshire working with local businesses, schools, colleges and other local stakeholders. It will also offer grants to support for local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to support investment in digital improvements and facilitating growth.
- 5.16 The shortlist of projects forms the basis of an ambitious, comprehensive and strong package for North Northamptonshire, which addresses the four priorities set out in the Government’s prospectus. The shortlist will deliver benefits in the short-term through direct outputs and improved outcomes, but also, and importantly, through feasibility work and pilot schemes, provide preparatory work and learning ahead of the introduction of the SPF in 2022. The total CRF requested for projects in this area is £5.88m.
- 5.17 It is proposed that the Council agrees the establishment of a small technical advisory panel of up to a maximum of five senior officers or officials with experience in the sectors in scope of the CRF. This should include representatives from education, business and community organisations. The purpose of this panel would be to:
- provide oversight of the CRF process (to identify recommendations looking ahead to the UK SPF process)
 - review programme delivery (to ensure that successful projects are delivered in accordance with their Funding Agreement)
 - help the Council look ahead to preparations for the UK SPF (to ensure the Council is well-prepared)
- 5.18 The Panel would also act as a ‘sounding board’ for the Executive on key matters relating to the CRF priorities, including potentially the award of grants for projects directly managed by the Council, the UK SPF and advising on local needs relating to key sectors and areas of expertise. The Panel would however

be purely advisory, with no authority to make decisions, only to make recommendations.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 6.1 Government will provide the Council with £60,000 Capacity Funding (3 x £20,000 for each 'priority place'). This will be paid to the Council this summer. The Council will also secure a Management Fee from Government should it be successful. This is in addition to the allocations given to each successful bid and the Capacity Funding. Government expects the Council to decide whether to bid for an additional 2% or 3% of the bid value for the Management fee to support related costs. It is proposed that 3% would only be sought for the projects which will be more complex to manage and administer because of variety considerations, including multi-agency delivery arrangements, multiple strands, and challenging timescales, and therefore are potentially higher risk. This will be added to the bid to Government. The additional funding provided by Government is very welcome and will enable the Council to dedicate resource to create a programme management function, which can both manage and support the CRF and help to prepare for the new UK SPF. This funding is vital as it will avoid diluting and undermining the Council's capacity to deliver existing projects and to facilitate, and/or initiate direct, action on new projects, either as a project lead, or by supporting individual projects as a delivery partner.
- 6.2 If successful with its submission, the Council will receive two payments from Government. The first payment will be on approval, which is expected by the end of July. The second payment will be in Quarter 1 of the next Financial Year. The guidance indicates that it is for Lead Authorities to decide how they wish to make payments to project deliverers e.g. in advance, in arrears or to an agreed profile. It adds that payments should be made in a timely manner and not cause unnecessary financial stress for project deliverers, particularly those in the voluntary and community sector. A balance is important. This is to manage potential risks, and financial exposure, for the Council and to ensure appropriate due diligence. The Council will also be required to provide progress reports on each project to Government. The first of these reports is expected to be in November.
- 6.3 It is proposed that all project deliverers (the lead body) will need to complete a standard UK Community Renewal Fund Monitoring and Claim (M&C) report for the Council. This will chart progress against key milestones and outputs, which will be bespoke to each project. Completion of the M&C report will help the Council to identify possible weaknesses or risks in the delivery of projects and provide for corrective action to be taken. The checks, and other work undertaken, will be appropriate to the scale and complexity of and risks attached to the project.
- 6.4 Payments to the lead body will be in arrears, and the body must include supporting evidence corresponding to the claim value. This is to ensure funds have been expended and for audit purposes. It is proposed that claims can be made at the end of Quarter 2, Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 of the 2021/22 Financial Year to avoid any significant delays for the deliverers receiving payments.

Claims must be accompanied by an up to date, and complete, M&C report. The final payment (minimum of 10% of project value) is linked to the receipt by the Council of a satisfactory Monitoring and Evaluation report.

Legal

- 6.5 A A key requirement of the gateway process was in considering State Aid implications for which advice was sought from SEMLEP. Should any bids be successful, the Council will need to enter into funding agreements with both government and successful applicant organisations. These agreements will include outputs, milestones and conditions bespoke to each project. They will also cover State Aid.

Consultation

- 6.6 The Invitation to Apply for Grant Funding (IAGF) process involved a range of mechanisms, delivered through various channels, to engage with and inform local stakeholders. This has included developing a IAGF document, setting up a dedicated web page with links, issuing press releases, setting up a webinar, social media posts and direct email contact and discussions.

Consideration by Scrutiny

- 6.7 The Executive is requested to endorse the submission; however, the Council will only spend the funding received. Accordingly, this is not a Key Decision and is not subject to the 'call-in' process. Updates on progress of the bids will however be provided to the relevant panel(s) of the Council as appropriate.

Climate Impact

- 6.8 The Government's prospectus makes it clear that projects which are based on low or zero-carbon best practice, adopt and support clean tech, and support growing the skills and supply chains in support of 'Net-Zero' targets, are strongly welcomed. It adds that projects should also consider impact of natural assets and nature, and ideally work with nature. This approach has been followed by the Council and the shortlisted projects would make a positive contribution to developing and delivering best practice.
- 6.9 The submission of applications for funding does not adversely impact on climate change, with the Council promoting all reasonable steps to minimise environmental impact in its activities.

Community Impact

- 6.10 In selecting the bids that will be forwarded to the Government for consideration, the Council has prioritised the bids that have the greatest potential to support a local economic recovery, complement existing economic development-related activity, meet identified need, have strong support, promote health and

wellbeing and align with the four UK CRF Prospectus priorities. It has also considered the Government's Gateway and Assessment criteria.

Risks

Risk	Impact/Mitigation	RAG
NNC does not submit a shortlist	(I)-Significant funding opportunity which could benefit several organisations, projects and the local community will be lost. (M)-Interim arrangements created for managing the Community Renewal Fund and related processes	Green
A robust and transparent process undermines the bid	(I)-That projects are not supported by Government. (M)-An open process was followed, including publicising the opportunity widely and the use of independent evaluators	Green
Projects claim for invalid or incorrect expenditure	(I)-Financial risk to NNC (M)-Claims paid in arrears following evidence checks	Green
NNC lacks capacity and expertise to manage CRF programme	(I)-Undermines ability to deliver programme and outputs and harms reputation (M)-Dedication of experienced resource to manage programme	Green
Projects unable to deliver in timeframe	(I)-Risk to delivery of outputs and reputation (M)-Assessment process included deliverability and review of risk register. Grant agreements will include clear outputs and milestones, supported by quarterly reporting	Yellow
Potential duplication of project activity	(I)-Could impact on delivery (M)-Close working with project leads to ensure activity is co-ordinated and messaging is clear	Green
Insufficient evaluation of project impact	(I)-More difficult to assess the project impact. Lack of learning for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (M)-Assessment considered project evaluation plans. An Evaluation report will be a requirement set out in the Grant terms and conditions. Final payment will be conditional on receipt of an Evaluation report.	Yellow

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/business-and-economy/Pages/community-renewal-fund.aspx>

APPENDIX A: UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND - PROJECTS SHORTLISTED

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
CRF01: Construction and Essential Skills Programme (Goodwill Solutions)	Delivery of a package of essential skills (using the Skills Builder Universal Framework) and construction / street works skills (including Health and Safety and CSCS card) to 48 learners in disadvantaged target groups. All learners will receive on-site work experience with partners Prologis	Skills	40% Kettering, 40% Wellingborough, 20% Corby	56,236	05/07/2021	25/03/2022	2%
CRF02: Options Appraisal for preservation and enhancement of attraction (Rushden Historical Transport Society)	Delivery of an options appraisal and business plan to inform, enhance and preserve the important local asset of Rushden Station, supporting future funding bids to transform it into a key visitor attraction, linked to the wider local offer	Community	East Northamptonshire	18,000	01/10/2021	11/03/2022	2%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
CRF03: Greenway and River Ise: Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study (North Northamptonshire Council)	The Study will provide a Green Infrastructure Solution linking Wellingborough to Rushden and Corby (via Kettering). It will facilitate the development of a green spinal corridors for active travel, enhance travel to work and education and increase tourism and leisure trip	Community	North Northamptonshire	120,000	01/10/2021	11/03/2022	2%
CRF05: Training in land and water management for ex-offenders (The Skills Mill)	The Skill Mill provides employment opportunities in water and land-based management. Training and support is delivered to ex-offenders, actively reducing reoffending whilst increasing engagement, participation, employability and educational levels of the young people to increase	Skills Community Employment	North Northamptonshire	90,000	01/08/2021	31/03/2022	2%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
	their life chances. Participants undertake accredited training and achieve a nationally recognised qualification						
CRF06: Digital Northamptonshire (North Northamptonshire Council)	Delivering a programme of digital support to grow the local digital ecosystem, including events to promote new technology, enhanced social media and web presence, enhanced web resource, digital grant scheme and digital masterclass programme for students	Skills Business	80% North Northamptonshire, 20% West Northamptonshire	252,577	02/08/2021	31/03/2022	2%
CRF09: Here for Tourism – A Partnership approach to kick- starting the visitor economy in North Northamptonshire (Destination Nene Valley)	Delivering a wide programme of projects, including festival, toolkit, way markers, film, marketing and green credentials grant scheme – complex programme of projects	Business Community	80% North, 10% West, 10% Peterborough	215,000	22/07/2021	31/03/2022	3%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
CRF10: NN2NZ (Electric Corby)	North Northamptonshire 2 Net Zero – a programme of projects designed to provide feasibility studies into net zero and local energy projects and a framework to assess them, pilot an e-mobility hub, create a project website and deliver a showcase event – complex programme of projects	Community	North Northamptonshire	534,133	02/08/2021	31/03/2022	3%
CRF11: Sustainable Food Network North Northants (Made in Northamptonshire)	This project will undertake two pilot projects: (1) Rural Food Chain Research (2) piloting two waste food apps and a sustainability audit.	Business Community	North Northamptonshire	106,250	02/08/2021	31/03/2022	2%
CRF12: Community Investment Zones (Made With Many)	Delivering Place-based programmes to include skills development, support for micro- businesses, culture-led regeneration and planning for growth –	Skills Business Community	35% Corby, 36% Wellingborough, 20% Kettering, 9% East Northamptonshire	1,035,800	01/09/2021	31/03/2022	3%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
	complex programme of projects						
CRF13: NorthantsPass (Northamptonshire Britain's Best Surprise)	Delivering a digital loyalty platform - new app promoting visitor economy, booking system, delivering digital capacity courses	Community	51% North Northamptonshire, 49% West Northamptonshire	235,000	01/09/2021	31/03/2022	2%
CRF14: Enterprise and Employability Skills Training (Moulton College)	The key activities will be to focus on enhancing the skills, confidence and needs of individuals by providing a dedicated employability centre within Higham Ferrers Campus for accessing a range of flexible delivery services. Providing specific sector skills development, social mobility and inclusion enabling personal and professional development of skill – large number of outputs to be monitored	Skills Community Employment	50% East Northamptonshire, 25% Corby, 25% Kettering	550,000	01/07/2021	31/03/2022	3%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
CRF15: Inspire to Thrive (Business & IP Centre Northamptonshire)	Delivering support to 100 pre-start and start-ups, including 1:1 advice, webinars, networking, business plan grants (32) - creating 40 new businesses	Business	75% North Northamptonshire, 25% West Northamptonshire	85,000	01/09/2021	31/03/2022	2%
CRF16: In2Work (Hillsbridge Services)	Delivery of training for rail sector / HS2, inc L1&2 for 240 people	Employment	North Northamptonshire	736,000	01/08/2021	31/03/2022	3%
CRF17: Enabling Northamptonshire (The Tess Group)	Delivering training to support the hospitality sector - 400 people - covid-marshall training, spectator safety, security, leadership – large scale of outputs to be delivered	Skills Employment	50% North Northamptonshire, 50% West Northamptonshire	566,800	01/07/2021	31/03/2022	3%
CRF18: The Knowledge Exchange for Better Business (University of Northampton)	Providing 30 Knowledge exchange vouchers (£7.5k), 15 funded graduate interns, 1:1 academic support, 50 development grants (£2.5k), membership of chamber / FSB – large number of grants to be	Skills Business	North Northamptonshire	332,514	01/08/2021	31/03/2022	3%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
	monitored						
CRF19: Parish Asset Mapping, Local Devolution (Northants CALC)	Providing capacity funding to town/parish councils to map assets, services, functions and facilities to support bids for community funding – large number of small grants	Community	50% North Northamptonshire, 50% West Northamptonshire	273,422	01/09/2021	31/03/2022	3%
CRF20: Green Recovery and Innovation Programme (SEMLEP Growth Hub)	Delivering a package of business support designed to support 100 SME with 1:1 & green recovery events, up to 60 grants of £10k – large grant programme	Business	55% North Northamptonshire, 45% West Northamptonshire	492,978	01/08/2021	31/03/2022	3%
CRF21: Construction Skills Programme (North Northamptonshire Council)	Delivery of construction training to 50 people. Building on previous delivery, this programme will have a particular focus on sustainable construction	Skills Employment	North Northamptonshire	88,268	09/08/2021	31/03/2022	2%
CRF22: Supporting Low or Zero-Carbon Best Practise in North	Delivery of grant scheme to 5+SME's to invest in innovation, training, processes and	Business	North Northamptonshire	89,516	09/08/2021	31/03/2022	2%

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date	Management fee
Northamptonshire (ZeNN) (North Northamptonshire Council)	application, and a showcase for green tech						
TOTAL (up to a maximum of £3m per place)							

APPENDIX B: UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND - PROJECTS NOT SHORTLISTED

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date
CRF04: Nene & Ise Valley – Investing in people and places (River Nene Regional Park)	Delivery of 5 projects. (1) Landscape Character Assessment of Nene and Ise Valley. (2) Gateway installations. (3) Rockingham Forest Tourism Sustainability Study. (4) Six trainee positions. (5) Developing a digital education tool	Skills Community Employment	85% North Northamptonshire, 10% West Northamptonshire, 5% Peterborough	182,600	01/10/2021	31/03/2022
CRF07: Tipstart Northamptonshire (Tipstart Community Venture)	Development of a fully-integrated, end-to-end digital platform that uses a web and mobile application to match University of Northampton graduates to professionals, who will then provide them with specialised mentoring and support to prepare them for work in the partner company.	Skills Employment	90% Northampton, 5% Corby, 5% Kettering	183,503	02/08/2021	31/03/2022

Proposal Name	Short description (50 words)	Investment Priority (Skills, Business, Community, Employment)	Delivers in more than one place? If so, specify places.	£ requested*	Start Date	End Date
CRF08: Bak Up 2021 (Bak Up CIC)	Training programme for young parents under 21, providing food boxes, befriending service for older adults	Community Employment	East Northamptonshire	800,000	30/07/2021	30/05/2022
CRF23: Higham Ferrers Town Council: Economy and Community Support	Promotion of town centre and events programme	Community	East Northamptonshire	15,000	01/07/2021	31/03/2021

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	National Bus Strategy
Report Authors	Chris Wragg Chris.Wragg@westnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member(s)	Cllr Graham Lawman – Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Assets

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update the Executive on the current situation with regard to funding of bus services in North Northamptonshire and the Government's National Bus Strategy for England: *Bus Back Better*.
- 1.2. To seek commitment to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership scheme in order to facilitate the improvement of local bus services for North Northamptonshire's residents by being able to access Government funding which will be made available to support implementation of the National Bus Strategy.
- 1.3. To secure the delegation of authority to prepare a draft Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As the Local Transport Authority (LTA), the Council has many responsibilities and duties in relation to bus services, but does not have a subsidised bus service budget. Some services have been sustained by time-limited funding which is now coming to end (see para. 4.3). The result is that this would see these particular services withdrawn as they are not considered commercial.
- 2.2 COVID-19 has led to a significant loss of bus passengers as a result of people following Government advice to 'stay at home' and avoiding public transport. Due to the need to ensure that essential journeys could still be made, the Government has supported the bus industry with the COVID-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG).
- 2.3 In March 2021 the Government published *Bus Back Better*, the National Bus Strategy for England which is backed by £3bn of funding to transform bus services and help the bus industry recover from the effects of COVID-19. The strategy encourages councils to form Enhanced Partnerships with the bus operators which will enable delivery of improvements for passengers such as improved timetables and multi-operator ticketing (see para.6.5). The step by step timescales for the formation of an Enhanced Partnership include:
- a commitment being made by the Council by 30 June 2021;
 - the publication of a Bus Service Improvement Plan by the end of October 2021; and,
 - to have the Enhanced Partnership in place by April 2022.
- By forming an Enhanced Partnership, the Council will be able to access the funding to help transform bus services.
- 2.4 Within the Strategy, Government has also included flexibility for councils to create a franchise arrangement for the provision of bus services in their area. The expectation is that councils demonstrate their ability to manage such a franchise and apply to the Secretary of State if they wish to take this option. LTAs which also wish to pursue franchising may do so, but they should commit to implementing Enhanced Partnerships in the meantime until the franchising process, which can be lengthy, is complete. Secondary legislation is required in order to establish a franchising model, unless the authority is a Mayoral Combined Authority. Government expects that the majority of LTAs will choose Enhanced Partnerships rather than franchising as their end state.
- 2.5 The Council inherited from Northamptonshire County Council the policies for the development of bus services set out in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan, which will need to be reviewed and updated as a result of the National Bus Strategy.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Note the challenges faced by the bus industry due to COVID-19 and the funding that is being provided by the Government and Council to support bus services during the disruption to normal travel patterns as a result of Covid-19, as set out in Section 5 of this report;
- b) Note the publication of *Bus Back Better*, the National Bus Strategy for England, as summarised in Section 6 of this report;
- c) Commit to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership under the Bus Service Act 2017, for the reasons set out in Section 7 of this report;
- d) Note the £100,000 capacity funding received from Government as outlined in Section 8, and
- e) Delegate the authority to prepare, for approval by the Executive, an Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan, to the Executive Director for Place and Economy, in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- To improve bus services for North Northamptonshire communities and minimise the risk of any communities losing their bus service;
- To facilitate climate and environmental benefits through increasing bus use and the operation of more low emission buses;
- To contribute to the implementation of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the Local Transport Plan);
- To enable the Council to access the funding being made available by Government to support the National Bus Strategy.

4. Report Background

4.1 The majority of bus services in Britain (outside London) are operated commercially. This means that like any commercial business, the bus operator decides when and where to run their services and the fares to be charged. However, the Council still plays an important role in ensuring communities can access bus services.

4.2 Under the Transport Act 1985 the Council, as the Local Transport Authority (LTA), has a statutory duty to provide the level of subsidised bus services which it considers appropriate. While having no specific subsidised bus service budget, the Council seeks to identify opportunities to support the provision of bus services and uses a combination of support funding secured from parish councils, Section 106 developer funding contributions, and Bus Services Ring Fenced Grant to continue to subsidise some services. However, the Section 106 funding which was used initially to support these services is a finite amount

and recently services have primarily been supported using the one-off Supported Bus Service Fund received from Government in 2020.

- 4.3 Further services are subsidised using only Section 106 funding to ensure that new developments can receive bus services when they are being built out, with the intention that as demand increases they become commercially viable, and therefore will continue without additional financial support.
- 4.4 In addition to duties as the LTA, as the Local Highway Authority the Council is also responsible for providing the infrastructure on which buses run. It is responsible for providing many bus stop flags and some shelters. It helps ensure timetable data for all services is available for use in on-line journey planners and administer a real-time information system with displays at some stops and also available more widely through mobile phones. The Council also administers the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme in North Northamptonshire, issuing passes to eligible older and disabled people, and reimbursing operators.
- 4.5 Until such time as they are amended, the Council has inherited the policies for the development of bus services set out in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan, particularly the Bus Strategy which was last updated in April 2018. The current strategy includes policies such as for further development of the multi-operator Northampton Buzz Card ticket, real time information and a multi-modal journey planner, bus stop improvements, bus priority measures and the introduction of hybrid and electric buses. These policies will be reviewed and updated by the Council including where updates are required as a result of the National Bus Strategy.

5. Impact of COVID-19

- 5.1 COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the bus and coach industry. At the height of the first lockdown, the number of people using local bus services declined to 15% of normal passenger numbers. All school bus contracts were suspended, as were most coach tours and private hire operations, with alternative arrangements made to convey the children of key workers. Since that time passenger numbers have increased, reduced and increased again during the various cycles of lockdown relaxation and restriction. However, the number of passengers being carried have remained below the level required for the bus services to be financially viable, particularly when on busy routes more buses have been required to ensure passengers can be carried in a socially distanced manner. By the latter part of April 2021, overall patronage on local bus services has recovered to around 65% of pre-COVID levels. However, this figure disguises significant variation among different types of passenger, with around 72% of fare-paying adults, 71% of child passengers and 44% of concessionary pass holders compared to the pre-COVID situation.
- 5.2 The Government has provided financial support to bus operators since the first set of national COVID restrictions in March 2020. The majority of this money has been paid direct as a 'COVID-19 Bus Service Support Grant' (CBSSG), with the remaining funding paid to councils to make up for the loss of revenue on subsidised services and provide COVID-related safety signage.

- 5.3 The Council has provided additional support to operators during this period of lower passenger numbers in response to guidance from the Department for Transport which enabled local authorities to maintain concessionary fare reimbursement to bus operators and new legislation allows such payments to be continued until 5 April 2022 (the Mandatory Travel Concession (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021).

6. *Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England*

- 6.1 The Government published Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England (outside London) in March 2021. The strategy builds on previous commitments and funding for improved bus services made in February 2020 and also provides assistance for bus services to emerge from COVID-19 during 2021-22.
- 6.2 Backed with transformational funding of £3bn during the current Parliament, the strategy sets out a vision to make buses more frequent, more reliable, easier to understand and use, better co-ordinated and cheaper so that increased passenger numbers lead to reduced congestion, carbon and pollution, and encourages motorists to use a bus rather than their cars.
- 6.3 To enable this to happen, the strategy envisages major changes to the current largely commercial model of bus operation which has existed since 1986, and foresees Local Transport Authorities, such as North Northamptonshire Council, pursuing either Franchising or an Enhanced Partnership under the Bus Services Act 2017.
- 6.4 The franchising option is not widely used in England - only bus services in London are franchised. Transport for London determines the network of services which are provided, under contracts for specific routes, by private sector operators. Franchising does not necessarily have to replicate this route-by-route tendering. Less onerously, contracts can be let for different parts of a city or to a single operator for a whole network, with significant co-design opportunities for that operator. This is the model of the successful Liberty Bus franchise on the Isle of Jersey. Franchising powers are only available automatically to Mayoral Combined Authorities but can be provided to other local transport authorities through secondary legislation.
- 6.5 An Enhanced Partnership is a statutory arrangement under the Bus Services Act 2017 which can specify, for example, timetables and multi-operator ticketing, and allows the Local Transport Authority to take over the role of registering bus services from the Traffic Commissioners. The main difference compared to franchising is that operators in an Enhanced Partnership have a much greater role, working with Local Transport Authorities to both develop and deliver improvements for passengers and having a real say on how bus services should be improved. Enhanced Partnerships also offer significantly more flexibility around the role of both operators and local authorities than franchising.
- 6.6 The Government has set a timescale of June 2021 for Local Transport Authorities to commit to establishing an Enhanced Partnership across their entire area under the Bus Services Act 2017 and all bus operators to cooperate throughout the process. From 1 July 2021 only Local Transport Authorities and

operators who meet these requirements will continue to receive CBSSG or any new sources of bus funding from the Government's £3bn budget.

- 6.7 Local transport authorities which also wish to pursue franchising may do so - but they should commit to implementing Enhanced Partnerships in the meantime until the franchising process, which can be lengthy, is complete. Authorities which are not Mayoral Combined Authorities and wish to pursue franchising will need to satisfy the Secretary of State that they have the capability and resources to do so, and that it will better deliver service improvements for passengers.
- 6.8 By the end of the October 2021, if the Council agrees to form an Enhanced Partnership, the Council is expected to have published a local Bus Service Improvement Plan, detailing how we propose to use our powers to improve services. Government expects actual delivery of Enhanced Partnerships by April 2022. From that date, the new discretionary forms of bus funding from Government will only be available to services operated, or measures taken, under an Enhanced Partnership or where a franchising scheme has been made.
- 6.9 The Department for Transport expect that the Bus Service Improvement Plan will be reflected in the Local Transport Plan, and this is likely to require an update of at least the Bus Strategy which forms part of the Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan forms part of the Council's policy framework and it is likely that a report will be brought to the Executive later this year to agree a timetable for preparing a new North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan.

7. Issues and Choices

- 7.1 As explained in Section 5 of this report, bus patronage is below the levels required for the local bus network to be commercially viable and currently, services are only being maintained through Government support. It is expected that it will take some time (perhaps several years) for patronage to recover to pre-COVID-19 levels once travel restrictions and social distancing are removed. Without ongoing financial support, operators will have no alternative but to reduce their services, which is likely to result in some communities losing their services entirely.
- 7.2 The formation of an Enhanced Partnership for North Northamptonshire will enable bus services to be improved for residents by securing funding which will be used to help support the continuation of bus services. Therefore, it is recommended that the Council commit to forming an Enhanced Partnership and producing the associated Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- 7.3 The details of the Enhanced Partnership will need to be developed in consultation with bus operators and other key stakeholders, including MPs, elected members, town and parish councils and major employers. In addition, the Bus Service Improvement Plan will involve public consultation. However, Government expects that there will be a strong commitment to the introduction of bus priority measures (including use of the Council's traffic management powers), together with more comprehensive subsidised and demand responsive services. In order to meet the timescales set by Government, if the Executive agrees to commit to forming an Enhanced Partnership, the Bus Service

Improvement Plan will be brought to the Executive for approval in October 2021 and the Enhanced Partnership scheme in March 2022.

- 7.4 The Council also has an option to establish a franchise model. Government has made clear in the National Bus Strategy that due to the lengthy process involved in developing and approving a franchise model, Local Transport Authorities should develop an Enhanced Partnership in the meantime. Therefore, the Council could decide at a later date to progress to a franchise arrangement if they thought it was beneficial and had the resources to do so.
- 7.5 Under the Bus Services Act 2017, an Enhanced Partnership must contribute to the implementation of an authority's local transport policies - the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (Local Transport Plan) previously prepared by the County Council.

8. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 8.1 The preparation of an Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan will require additional resource beyond that currently available. The Government is providing an initial £100,000 of capacity funding to the Council in 2021/22 which will contribute towards additional staffing or consultancy support to allow the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan to be prepared, and that additional capability funding will be made available once the commitment to form an Enhanced Partnership has been made. It is anticipated that this combined funding will be sufficient to fund the additional resource required to prepare the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- 8.2 While the Government has made clear that £3bn of transformational funding will be available for improving bus services during the current Parliament, many of the details of that funding are still to emerge. It is not yet clear how much funding will be made available to the Council to support implementation of the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan, and in particular how much might be made available for on-going service support and staffing capacity and how much capital funding for improved infrastructure such as bus priority or expenditure on vehicles.
- 8.3 It is anticipated that additional staffing resource will be required in future years to implement the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Services Improvement Plan. There may also be financial implications of the proposals in the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan beyond staffing. However, it is not possible to determine the financial implications until the proposals have been developed further. The longer-term implications for funding will therefore be set out in future reports, should the Executive agree to commit to an Enhanced Partnership.
- 8.4 As explained in paragraph 7.5 above, it is anticipated that a report will be brought to the Executive later this year to agree a timetable for preparing a new North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan, and the financial implications of such a proposal will be set out in that report.

Legal

- 8.5 The recommendation to commit to forming an Enhanced Partnership would exercise the Council's current powers under the Bus Services Act 2017. The development of the Enhanced Partnership must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act. While the Enhanced Partnership will be brought back to the Executive for approval, the Act lays down requirements for the preparation, notice and consultation while it is being drafted, and therefore delegated powers are sought to allow this to happen.

Risk

- 8.6 The most significant risk associated with implementation of this proposal is that it may not be possible to obtain additional staffing or consultancy support in order to prepare the Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021 and the Enhanced Partnership by April 2022. The tight timescales are exacerbated because the existing small team which deals with bus matters is a hosted service and will need to undertake this work for both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Council. In addition, obtaining additional resource will be made more challenging because other Local Transport Authorities will also be seeking additional resource for similar reasons.
- 8.7 In the longer-term, there will be risks associated with the implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership should the funding promised by the current Government not be sustained by future Central Government administrations.
- 8.8 As explained in sections 4.2 and 7.2 of this report, there is insufficient funding currently available to sustain all of the Council's current subsidised bus services to the end of the current financial year, and without further funding some of the services will have to be withdrawn, leading to communities losing their bus service if they are not commercially viable. While it is possible the funding available through the National Bus Strategy will allow these to be maintained, this is not yet certain, and the risk of service withdrawal remains.
- 8.9 As explained in sections 5 and 7.1 of this report, due to the loss of patronage following COVID-19 the commercial bus service network is only being sustained through Government support. While the National Bus Strategy indicates that this support will be maintained in 2021-22, there remains a risk that if patronage has not returned to pre-COVID levels by April 2022, services will have to be withdrawn unless alternative funding is available.

Consultation

- 8.10 In line with the Government guidance on Enhanced Partnerships, informal consultation with local bus operators and other key stakeholders is being undertaken at the time of writing this report. Should Executive agree to forming an Enhanced Partnership and develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan, formal consultation with operators, stakeholders and the public will be undertaken and the results brought to Executives in future report.

Consideration by Scrutiny

- 8.11 Given the timescales required by Government and the establishment of the new authority and the Committee timetable, it has not been possible to provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to consider this report.

Climate Impact

- 8.12 There is no direct climate/environmental impact from the recommendations in this report.
- 8.13 It is expected that implementation of the Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan would have a positive climate/environmental impact through increasing bus use, reducing car use and potentially the introduction of lower or zero emission buses. These impacts will be further considered in future reports.

Community Impact

- 8.14 The recommendations in this report reduce risk that communities in North Northamptonshire will lose their bus service and should secure an improved bus service in future.

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Transport Act 1985
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1985/67/contents>
- 9.2 Bus Services Act 2017
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/21/contents/enacted>
- 9.3 Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England, Department for Transport 2021
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980227/DfT-Bus-Back-Better-national-bus-strategy-for-England.pdf
- 9.4 Northamptonshire Transportation Plan
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Pages/local-transport-plan.aspx>

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The Executive 22nd June 2021

Report Title	Financial Uplifts for Adult Social Care Providers 2021-22
Report Author	Tracy Lockwood, Interim Assistant Director of Commissioning and Performance, Adult Social Care tracy.lockwood@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Helen Harrison – Portfolio Holder for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Fees & Service Type

Appendix B – Cost Breakdown

Appendix C - Fees Commissioning for a Good Life

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed increase for care and support service areas and direct payment cost rate, and to outline the methodology used to develop the new rates.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Care Act 2015 establishes a general responsibility and duty on local authorities and Directors of Social Services to promote diversity and quality in care provision and ensure a sustainable market of care in their areas. This covers all care sectors and providers of care. The main areas of care provision and include residential and nursing care, supported living and domiciliary care. A growing number of individual service users use personal budgets to employ personal assistants and meet their care and support needs in more creative ways.
- 2.2 Many factors can influence the need to uplift agreed fees to providers including increases to the rates of pay for workers, and the known on-cost impact to linked costs such as pension payments, which has been heavily influenced over recent years by recurrent increases to the National Living Wage (NLW).
- 2.3 Annual fee uplifts take into consideration established fee structures within frameworks and apply a methodology to elements of a tier fee structure or a full uplift for those structures that have one base rate.

2.4 Spot suppliers will request uplifts based on all placements currently held with the local authority of based on a case-by-case basis due to increase in needs of the service user/s.

2.5 This report does not include any individual uplift requests, but an overall consideration for an uplift based on two percentages at 2.25% and 2.70% as well as setting out a rationale as to which services to provide the uplifts to.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Executive is recommended to approve:-

a) the following proposed increases in fee levels for 2021-2022.

Provision Type	Recommendation	Current Annual Cost £	Proposed Annual Cost £
Home Care	A fee uplift of 2.25% for home care suppliers currently on a framework. This is primarily related to NLW increase and additional on-costs impacted because of NLW. This uplift is in line with regional benchmarking This will have an annual anticipated impact of an additional £0.262m to the social care budget.	£11.7m	£11.96m
Older People's Residential and Nursing Care (Framework Providers)	A 2.70% uplift for older person's residential homes. The residential/nursing sector has been heavily impacted both financially and for the wellbeing of their staff during the pandemic. NNC is in the process of tendering for a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework and these fees will be used to provide final details on fee structure of the invitation to tender (ITT). Like domiciliary care there is some mobility of potential users of providers between North and West Northants due to often having family connections in different parts of the county. Additional annual impact of £0.209m.	£7.76m	£7.97m
Learning Disabilities framework	A 0% increase for those suppliers on the learning disabilities framework due to a newly established contract with a 5% uplift	£34.3m	£34.3m

	in 2020 after only being in effect for several months previously.		
Mental Health	A 0% increase for those suppliers on the mental health framework established by Nene CCG, due to further work required to establish any uplift options as a result of the commissioning responsibility transferring back to the council alongside the framework in development for 2022.	£1.7m	£1.7m
Spot Services	A 0% increase for spot purchased suppliers. Older peoples residential and nursing providers are able to apply to the dynamic purchasing system tender that is currently being tendered for (launched 01 June 2021). As a newly formed commissioning authority further work is required to understand local impacts on the domiciliary care sector and it is not possible to evaluate the uplift requirements at this point in the fiscal year.	£37m	£37m

- b) A full breakdown of current service fees with comparison of 2.25% and 2.70% increases and definitions of “provision type” in Appendices A.

4. Background

- 4.1 It is important to recognise the context in which adult social care services have been working during the last 18 months. Local authority social care services have been involved in planning for the impacts of local government reform resulting in the disaggregation of countywide social care services such as commissioning functions to those that are split to the North and West of the county.
- 4.2 This has meant splitting teams of commissioning staff and the need to recruit at assistant director level to recognise that there are now two adult social care services within the two newly established local authorities.
- 4.3 In addition, the well documented impact of COVID-19 across the nation, locally and with a disproportionate impact on people living in and supported by social care services has left the social care sector stretched, however also leaves uncertainty around the long-term impact on demand and use of services.
- 4.4 Throughout the period of the COVID-19 pandemic additional time-limited funds have been allocated to local authorities to distribute and use within the local care sector. Whilst welcomed, it is well documented that there is an urgent need to

consider funding reform around adult social care to bring stability to the sector and enable local authorities to continue to meet statutory responsibilities set out in legislation.

- 4.5 Whilst the preference is for providers to be predominantly contracted via frameworks, there is a significant proportion of the local market that are contracted on a spot basis, meaning they are approached when framework providers do not have capacity to meet the request.
- 4.6 The number of service users and suppliers either on a framework or a spot purchase bases for each service area fluctuates day by day but based on a recent snapshot is roughly in line with the split shown in the table below.

Service Area	No. of Packages	No. of Framework Suppliers	No. of Spot Suppliers
Home Care	1002	22	31
Residential Care <i>*circa across county</i>	974	86	111
Learning Disabilities	1350	81	42
Mental Health	297	15	63

- 4.7 Total budget for fiscal year 2021-22 for adults is £99.1m and split across the following service areas:

Learning Disabilities	£40.6m
Mental Health	£6.7m
Older People	£34.6m
Physical Disabilities	£10.2m
Transitions (includes Spot)	£7.5m

- 4.8 As a new authority it is necessary for the council to establish collaborative relationships with suppliers to better understand quality, risks, and challenges. In addition, it would be normal practice to benchmark with similar councils, using, for example CIPFA comparator groups. The benchmarking exercise to evidence rates in surrounding boroughs and counties have, where possible, followed similar formats as the past four years.
- 4.9 Available benchmarking is shown within appendix A.
- 4.10 The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) currently budgets for up to a 4.2% inflationary across all service areas. In addition budget provision has been made for demand led increases such as levels of need and changes in demography.
- 4.11 The table below shows the known increases taken forward by neighbouring authorities for 2021 - 2022.

East Midlands Local Authority	2021-22 fee uplifts
Derby City Council	2.4%
Derbyshire County Council	2.53%
Leicester City Council	3.6%
Leicestershire County Council	2.2 – 2.5% Est
Milton Keynes Council	2.2 – 2.5% Est
Nottinghamshire City Council	2.2 – 2.5% Est
Nottingham County Council	2.49%
Rutland Council	3%

- 4.12 Previous uplifts from 2018 to 2021 for Northamptonshire County Council for Older people’s Residential care and Nursing Care were as follows 2018/2019 – 2.6%, 2019/2020 – 3.0% and 2021/2021 – 5%. Before 2018, there had been no official uplifts granted for several years which was the rationale to provide a 5% uplift for 2020-21.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The following methodology has been used to determine proposed inflationary rates for current 2021 - 2022. This is based on a blended costing approach for national living wages and RPI that recognises the different influences these have for providers.

Inflation Rates 2021/22 - Fiscal Year

	Cost Mix	Inflation Rate	Uplift
Pay Related Elements (linked to NLW)	73.8%	2.20%	1.62%
Other Costs (linked to RPI)	26.2%	2.38%	0.62%
Total	100.0%		2.25%

- 5.2 The following table sets out a proposed uplift that includes an additional increase to bring the councils proposals for Older Persons Residential and Nursing home providers in line with regional benchmarking with an additional .45% on top of the pay and operating cost elements.

Inflation Rates 2021/22 - Fiscal Year			
	Cost Mix	Inflation Rate	Uplift
Pay Related Elements (linked to NLW)	73.80%	2.20%	1.62%
Operating costs (linked to forecast RPI)	26.20%	2.40%	0.62%
Uplift to regional average			0.45%
Total	100.00%		2.70%

- 5.3 The methodology used for developing the proposed fee uplifts is consistent with recent methodology developed by Northamptonshire County Council prior to those responsibilities transferring to the new authority.

6. Options

- 6.1 There are three main options with two percentage increases at 2.25% and 2.70% to be considered if a 'Do Nothing' option is to be avoided. Each choice comparison provides a financial impact to fiscal year 2021-22 budgets, however appendix
- 6.2 The table below sets out the broad financial impact of those three options. It must be noted that option 3 would be more likely to be within the range dependent on whether individual decisions were taken in relation to specific services (e.g., deciding to uplift domiciliary care but not residential care).

Options	2.25% Financial Impact Increase	2.70% Financial Impact Increase
Option 1 Do nothing. This would include no fee uplifts to any supplier whether in a framework or is a spot supplier.	£0.00	£0.00
Option 2 Fee uplift for those on a current NNC framework.	£1.37m	£1.64m
Option 3 Fee uplift for ALL suppliers whether on a framework or providing services on a spot purchase basis.	£2.20m	£2.64m

- 6.3 Further explanation and calculations are shown in Appendix B for options 2 and 3.

7. Future Considerations

- 7.1 Further work identified in the table referenced at 3.1 may lead to the requirement to bring forward a later set of proposals once completed. The service will ensure that those proposals are consistent within the growth built in tom the budget for market increases.
- 7.2 Future development of fee uplifts will start earlier in the year, involve greater engagement of local providers, market analysis and analysis of impacts on the sector. It is intended that the engagement will start in the summer of each year to better inform budget setting for the next fiscal year. It will then be coordinated with the initial government settlement that ordinarily takes place in December and final budget announcements, usually in February, and ensures any new rates are loaded and in and payments in situ from April of each year.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There is only one block provision within the Adults portfolio for six residential care homes across the North Unitary delivered by Shaw Healthcare. This uplift will not be considered for this contract due to an annual indexation clause for any uplifts within the financial schedule.
- 8.2 Current spend on all services equates to £60.9m for those in a framework and £37m for those accessing packages on a spot purchase basis.
- 8.3 The Learning Disabilities framework '*Commissioning for a Good Life*' commenced in December 2019 with set fee rates (see Appendices C) and has already provided a 5% uplift in April 2020, despite being a newly implemented service with agreed tier structures by suppliers.
- 8.4 The following table shows the impact of spend using five additional percentage increase scenarios across the service areas, evidence a total increase in spend for 2.25% for those on a framework has a financial implication of £1.4m and a £1.6m for a 2.70% increase.

Summary Impacts of Uplifts 2021-22

Cohort	Uplift option	Framework	Current open packages Annual cost	Uplift Options						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Zero Uplift	1%	NLW Impact +	Overheads	To match regional average	NLW Impact + & Overheads	NLW Impact + & Overheads & Covid -19
Op Res and Nursing	7	£209,180 EPR Rates	£7,760,615	£0	£77,606	£125,916	£48,342	£34,923	£174,257	£209,180
Homecare	6	£262,788 Framework only T1 & T2	£11,703,354	£0	£117,034	£189,886	£72,902	£52,665	£262,788	£315,453
Learning Disability	6	£769,358 New Framework *	£34,263,610	£0	£342,636	£555,925	£213,433	£154,186	£769,358	£923,544
Extra Care/Supported Living inc Day Care	6	£121,916 Non LD DPS	£5,429,588	£0	£54,296	£88,095	£33,822	£24,433	£121,916	£146,350
Mental Health Pool (remaining)	6	£38,172	£1,700,000	£0	£17,000	£27,582	£10,590	£7,650	£38,172	£45,822
Total		£1,401,414	£60,857,166	£0	£608,572	£987,404	£379,088	£273,857	£1,366,492	£1,640,349
Spot/Other Packages	1	£0	£37,022,167	£0	£370,222	£600,683	£230,616	£166,600	£831,299	£997,898
Total Value of Uplift		£1,401,414	0	£97,879,333	£0	£978,793	£1,588,087	£609,704	£440,457	£2,197,790

Notes

1 NLW Impact+ takes into account the inflation aspects of areas like pensions and apprenticeship levy. NLW is just focused on staff costs

9. Legal

- 9.1 The Care Act 2015 establishes a general responsibility and duty on local authorities and Directors of Social Services to promote diversity and quality in care provision and ensure a sustainable market of care in their areas.

10. Risks

- 10.1 The Care Act 2015 establishes a general responsibility and duty on local authorities and Directors of Social Services to promote diversity and quality in care provision and ensure a sustainable market of care in their areas. Not increasing fees paid to providers could lead to a further negative impact on an already unstable market.
- 10.2 A significant proportion of additional costs are because of increases to the NLW and the on-costs that are related to this increase including pension contributions and are therefore out of the control of both the local authority and the providers.

- 10.3 Profit margins within the social care sector are largely small and this leaves very little scope for providers to meet those additional costs within profit margins. It could increase the risk of providers choosing to exit the care market or handing back contracts due to financially being unable to deliver them within budget.

11. Consultation

- 11.1 Due to the disaggregation of the county council, no formal consultation was carried out across the market. A planned market engagement exercise and consultation is being developed by the Commissioning and Performance department in Autumn 2021.

12. Consideration by Scrutiny

- 12.1 Pre-decision scrutiny was not possible due to the timescales involved and wanting to ensure fee-uplifts are applied swiftly on approval, to maintain adequate cashflow to providers.
- 12.2 The methodology used for developing the proposed fee uplifts are consistent with those used by the previous authority whilst under the guidance of central government commissioners and whilst pre-decision scrutiny was not possible this methodology was tested within the previous administration.

13. Community Impact

- 13.1 Care workers, whilst highly valued, are often recruited at pay rates on or close to NLW. This means that ordinarily care workers are recruited from the local area.
- 13.2 Recognising the need to monitor and increase fee uplifts appropriately therefore has a direct impact on household income within homes in the local community.
- a) An agreement to not give uplifts to spot purchased suppliers, could discourage suppliers to apply for up-and-coming tender processes over the next fiscal year with fixed fee rates, thus burdening further the Council's agreed budgets and any savings projects.

14. Background Papers

- 14.1 None.

Appendices A – Fees & Service Type

1. A. Home care are those services that enable suppliers to deliver packages of care, depending on allocated need, into service users homes by Care Workers. This service applies to older people 65 years of age and older.

Rates and Tiers	Corby	Kettering	East Northants 1A &1B	East Northants 2	Wellingborough
20/21 Current EPR	£16.52	£16.62	£18.71	£16.82	£16.82
2.25%	£16.89	£16.99	£19.13	£17.19	£17.19
2.70%	£16.96	£17.06	£19.21	£17.27	£17.27
Tier 1 (Suppliers)	Universal Care Services Carewatch	Universal Care Services The Care Bureau	Enlightenment Lavender Support	Direct Health	The Care Bureau
Tier 2 (Suppliers)	Spot On Enlightenment Velvet Glove	Gogomadu Cares Jaan Services Kinder Care Destiny Healthcare Velvet Glove 24/7 Staffing Support Direct Health	Jaan Services Profad Direct Health Gemini Exclusive The Care Bureau	Jaan Services Lavender Support Profad Gemini Exclusive The Care Bureau	24/7 Staffing Support Aroma Care Services Mega Resources Lavender Support Alpha Imperial Direct Health Gemini Exclusive Loving Angels Precious Hope Loving Angels

- B. Extra care is for those service users in purpose built supported living complexes accesses additional specialist care or high care.

Type & Rates	Extra Care Provisions			
	Carey Street	Imperial Court	Sunley Court	Rosewood Court

Landlord	East Midlands Housing (EMH)	East Midlands Housing (EMH)	Extra Care Charitable Trust	Extra Care Charitable Trust
Care & Support Provider	EMH Care & Support	EMH Care & Support	As Above	As Above
20/21 Rates	Provider's Hourly Rate (7am to 10pm) £15.47	Provider's Hourly Rate (7am to 10pm) £15.47	Weekly Rate (includes waking night x 1)- Level 3 (over 11 hours and up to 15.5 hours) £80.02	Weekly Rate (includes waking night x 1)- Level 3 (over 11 hours and up to 15.5 hours) £80.02
	Waking Night Hourly Rate x 1- @ up to 9 hours per night (between 10 pm and 7 am) £15.47	Waking Night Hourly Rate x 1- @ up to 9 hours per night (between 10 pm and 7 am) £15.47	Weekly Rate -(includes waking night x 1)- Level 4 (over 15.5 hours and up to 22.5 hours) £120.00	Weekly Rate -(includes waking night x 1)- Level 4 (over 15.5 hours and up to 22.5 hours) £120.00
			Weekly rate- (includes waking night x 1)- Level 5 (over 22.5 hours and up to 33.5 hours) £196.89	Weekly rate- (includes waking night x 1)- Level 5 (over 22.5 hours and up to 33.5 hours) £196.89
2.25% Increase	Provider's Hourly Rate and Waking Night £15.81		Level 3 - £81.82 Level 4 - £122.70 Level 5 - £201.32	
2.70% Increase	Provider's Hourly Rate and Waking Night £15.88		Level 3 - £82.18 Level 4 - £123.24 Level 5 - £202.21	

2. Older peoples (65 plus years of age) residential and nursing homes are residential services purposely built to provide the social care and nursing requirements for those service users who are unable to have their needs met in their own homes or supported living and extra care provision. Residential homes do not supply the health and medical care element to the service users that the nursing homes provide. Nursing homes are granted £187.60 (2021-22) extra weekly funding for Funded Nursing Care (FNC) from NHSE for each service users to the supplier through recharging.

Third party contributions are additional fees expected to be paid by service user's and/or their families in addition to NNC EPR.

Category	Standard Expected to Pay Rate (EPR) 2020-21	2.25% Increase	2.70% Increase	Tier 2 (inclusive of + £50) Third Party Contribution	Tier 3 (inclusive of + £100) Third Party Contribution
OP Res Care	£466.51	£477.01	£479.11	£516.51	£566.51
DE Res Care	£564.94	£577.65	£580.19	£614.94	£664.94
OP Nursing	£517.34	£528.98	£531.31	£567.34	£617.34
DE Nursing	£567.42	£580.19	£582.74	£617.42	£667.42

3. Includes those requiring care in their own homes with mental health, learning disabilities, autism and physical disabilities in their own home. This is a home care provision within set NNC frameworks.

Service Category 2019-20 CONTRACT AWARD 01/04/2019	Fixed Hourly Rate North Northamptonshire 2020-21	For an individual contract for 20 or less Customers in North Northamptonshire 2020-21
Mental health	£16.07	£16.28
Learning Disability	£16.07	£16.28
Learning Disability – Highly complex needs	£18.38	£18.38
Autism	£16.07	£16.28
Physical Disability	£16.07	£16.28

TABLE 1	Fixed Hourly Rate North Northamptonshire 2020-21	2.25% Increase	For an individual contract for 20 or less Customers in North Northamptonshire 2020-21	2.70% Increase	For an individual contract for 20 or less Customers in North Northamptonshire 2020-21
Mental health	£16.07	£16.43	£16.65	£16.50	£16.72
Learning Disability	£16.07	£16.43	£16.65	£16.50	£16.72
Learning Disability – Highly complex needs	£18.38	£18.79	£18.79	£18.88	£18.88
Autism	£16.07	£16.43	£16.65	£16.50	£16.72
Physical Disability	£16.07	£16.43	£16.65	£16.50	£16.72

EMH Mini Competition Costs	2020-21	2.25% Increase	2.70% Increase
Core Night (based on 63 hours @ £16.17/45 people)	£22.64	£23.15	£23.25
Core Day (based on 105 hours per week@ £16.28/45 people)	£37.99	£38.84	£39.02
1-1 hours	£16.12	£16.48	£16.56

Summary Impacts of Uplifts 2021-22

Appendix B

Cohort	Uplift option	Framework	Current open packages Annual cost	Uplift Options						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Zero Uplift	1%	NLW Impact +	Overheads	Covid - 19 1 Year	NLW Impact + & Overheads	NLW Impact + & Overheads & Covid -19
				0%	1.00%	1.62%	0.62%	0.45%	2.25%	2.70%
Op Res and Nursing	7	£209,180 EPR Rates	£7,760,615	£0	£77,606	£125,916	£48,342	£34,923	£174,257	£209,180
Homecare	6	£262,788 Framework only T1 & T2	£11,703,354	£0	£117,034	£189,886	£72,902	£52,665	£262,788	£315,453
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Mental Health Pool (remaining)	6	£38,172	£1,700,000	£0	£17,000	£27,582	£10,590	£7,650	£38,172	£45,822
Total		£1,401,414	£60,857,166	£0	£608,572	£987,404	£379,088	£273,857	£1,366,492	£1,640,349
Spot/Other Packages	2	£370,222	£37,022,167	£0	£370,222	£600,683	£230,616	£166,600	£831,299	£997,898
Total Value of Uplift		£1,771,636	0	£0	£978,793	£1,588,087	£609,704	£440,457	£2,197,790	£2,638,247

Notes

1 NLW Impact+ takes into account the inflation aspects of areas like pensions and apprenticeship levy. NLW is just focused on staff costs

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**Commissioning for a Good Life:
The Commissioning and Contract Framework for People with a Learning
Disability
2019-2024
*Working Together: Improving lives***



Corby Clinical Commissioning Group



Nene Clinical Commissioning Group

Pricing Framework:

**The allocation of personal budgets to meet personal needs
and individual outcomes**

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it. Rather, it is that we aim too low and we reach it”

Michelangelo (1475-1560)

Rules of engagement

When we commission services for individuals with a learning disability it is with an awareness that the relationship between the individual, their family and the Provider may well be a long term one and is certainly expected to be a dynamic and hugely trusting one - the choice of Provider for an individual is very important. Sometimes the choice of Provider is made by the individual and/or the family. We all therefore need to understand what is on offer to inform choice.

Our learning disability population is varied – individuals are impacted by their learning disability in different ways and it is unrealistic and inappropriate to think that everyone can be supported well by every Provider; as Providers you have a duty to be candid about what you can't do as well as what you can do.

For all Offers; individuals with a learning disability may also have additional needs such as needs relating to autism or mental health or physical health or even a combination of all of these. Sometimes the learning disability will not be the primary need. Please also assume that the Offers relate to individuals aged 16 and above; we are particularly mindful of improving the experiences of individuals transitioning into adulthood.

- **All rates are composite rates**
- **The rates for living and learning will be applied according to individual choice and outcomes in a given week- e.g. if individuals choose a socialising session and then 2 sessions of learning then rates are applied relative to the session.**
- **Rates for Supported Accommodation, Supported Living and Residential living are tiered dependent on complexity and expected outcomes. Residential rates are proportionately lower to allow for economies of scale and the higher likelihood of shared time.**
- **Rates for short breaks in a given setting are pro-rata weekly, if less than a week is taken.**
- **Some short breaks will be for a residential course, skill-specific training or learning experience. Again this will be pro-rata the setting rate and according to need/complexity.**
- **We expect individuals to move down (and occasionally up) through tiers and this will be monitored.**
- **It is for the Provider to work with the individual and/or family to agree how the allocated weekly personal rate is used to meet needs and achieve outcomes over a period of time. This means you can flex the use of the budget to meet outcomes.**
- **Evidencing the use of the budget to meet need and achieve the agreed outcomes is paramount. The outcomes matter the most.**
- **All customers will be allocated against a range/tier for contract commencement. This will be evaluated by a team of NASS staff and will be evidenced for final agreement with the Provider.**
- **New customers will have their tier or rate agreed by the NASS panel, as is current practice**
- **The overarching service specification details contractual expectations relating to 'in the event of' situations- e.g. hospital admission, going on holiday, changes of circumstances etc.**
- **The individual service specifications and the precise contract detail default clauses and annual metrics.**

- **The Framework, the Service Specifications and the Precise Contract all form the suite of ‘documents to be relied upon.’ This means they are all contractual in nature and form the basis of the agreement with the Provider.**

Tiers are allocated as personal budgets. The deployment of the budget against needs and outcomes is defined by the customer, the family and the provider. This means that the budget can be flexed to meet needs and outcomes throughout the course of each week and month. For example – a customer may have a week where he or she is learning particular skills, or has more 1:1 time to test progress with particular skills. The following week may be experiences with other customers, or more down time, or visits to family etc.

You should seek to use all community resources available to you, including the use of 3rd Sector services and activities run by other organisations. Networking and finding out about things that are going on around you is imperative. There may be small charges for these services which is expected to come from within the allocated budget, however the provision may be more cost effective purchased through another organisation than it would be to provide it directly. This encourages community integration and inclusion and widens an individual’s experience.

Offer 1: Supported Living

Supported living is defined as a model that offers support 7 days a week in an individual’s own home – usually a tenancy arrangement. Support is tailored for the individual, but there may also be some shared hours where the built environment offers multiple tenancies to individuals with similar needs. Individuals are supported with delivering outcomes that are specific to them and the model includes supporting an individual to manage the responsibilities of a tenancy such as bill payment and household tasks. Individuals across the whole range of needs and complexities can be supported in this model. Sometimes this model is provided through small core and cluster arrangements – a configuration of built environments that are close to each other and supported by teams of staff that can move between premises and individuals should the need arise; supporting fluctuations in levels of need, including stepping down and away. We expect staff to have skills in promoting ordinary living experiences and be able to coach individuals with life skills, working alongside individuals to try new things and reduce anxieties in socialisation; connecting to the local community. There is also a role here in breaking down assumptions and barriers – we do not wish to create ghettos where individuals are kept away from the communities in which they live.

Individuals should be able to choose the support provider and be involved in choosing their staff team; the support provider can be changed if the ‘fit’ is not right but the individual remains in their tenancy. Supported living works well for many people if the staff team are right and offer a ‘can do’ attitude. The relationship between the customer and the staff team becomes a close one; staff become advocates, coaches, and trusted confidantes. Matching the right staff to an individual is therefore paramount in achieving success.

Offer 2: Supported Accommodation

Supported Accommodation is a model that is most commonly found in mental health services. It is different to supported living in that the individual does not have a tenancy, although does have their own living space with their own front door, but is supported in a similar way to gain independent living skills; understanding money and household management, developing community relationships and skills, accessing training and education, as a pre-cursor to supported living or living in a support system more independently. It can be a helpful model as a first step; to test the concept of tenancy responsibilities and living in their own home with their own front door. Supported Accommodation tends to be short term in nature – this is because the landlord and support provider are often the same – the individual does not have the same tenancy rights as in supported living – so the choice about the support provider is limited in that if the ‘fit’ is deemed to be wrong then the individual will be required to move out of the accommodation. However predominantly the short term nature of supported accommodation is of value because of managing a pathway of care and support that helps individuals adapt and grow and become less dependent on formal care all the time. There is overnight support available in supported accommodation. The meaning of ‘short term’ in this scenario can be anything between 6 months and 2 years. Providers of this model are expected to be proactive in working with individuals towards alternative accommodation and/or support arrangements over the life of the plan – the progression model is absolutely pivotal in this type of provision.

Offer 3: Opportunities for living and learning

This Offer describes moving away from being reliant on buildings based settings towards outreach and peripatetic type services that are informed by what people want. Buildings may be meeting points as well as places where learning and activities happen. For some individuals the routine of arriving at the same building with an expectation of a familiar environment and structure is important. If your Offer is described as leisure and social only please state this. For others we want to be able to offer support to learn and experience in ordinary community settings; going out to have practical experiences, connecting with the community including paid and unpaid employment, attending training for something vocational or in life skills, or accessing well-being activities such as the gym or sports. We also want to encourage short term offers – where individuals can learn something specific and can expect to have achieved something specific at the end of a given time period with a certificate of completion and achievement. Individuals may choose to access or purchase the offers – ideally we aim to publish the short term offers so that individuals can consider their options through something akin to a prospectus. The development of peer groups and the implementation of community connecting is expected in this offer. The offers may be purchased by individuals who also use other services such as supported living or supported accommodation. For all individuals using any of the offers it should be very clear what will be provided and what people can expect. Providers of these types of services should specifically establish relationships with the commercial and education sectors in the community.

We are looking for offers that challenge the ‘norm,’ or what we have always done before. We want to see evening offers, weekend offers and the establishment of some social/recreational clubs; especially for young adults.

Offer 4: Short breaks

Short breaks and respite options are hard to provide for people with a learning disability and their informal carers for a number of reasons. We want to offer different types of breaks; not differentiating between respite for carers and the break the individual receives. Our short break/respite offers must tune-in to what people want; trips away, weekend breaks, overnight breaks, breaks through day trips and outings. We can also offer breaks through planned periods of support at home in order to get out and about and do different things. We are in a very limited position to be able to offer stays in residential settings, but more than that we should be providing options that contribute towards personal outcomes, pursue different experiences, supporting individuals on a journey towards acquiring some independence and additional relationships. Breaks that constitute a day, or overnight or a weekend will be pro-rata the weekly rate attributed to the setting.

Offer 5: Forensic Support

This Offer is specifically being established to facilitate the Transforming Care Agenda and with the knowledge of some of the often complex and chaotic lifestyles of our customers. The Offer will include being able to work with individuals who have forensic histories as well as individuals whose behaviours and lifestyle put them at risk of offending. The services will focus on managing and reducing risks, coaching and diversion, community connecting and outcomes specific to the individual as informed by specialist teams (forensic services, psychiatry, psychology). The relationship with statutory services will be strong with a wrap-around ethos. A range of needs and complexities may be supported within these services, with varying degrees of risk.

Offer 6: Supporting people in their home

The model within this offer is akin to supported living and supported accommodation, but individuals may often reside within the family home or indeed within a home that the individual owns. The nature of the support may be for short or longer intervals at various points in a day or week. The offer may include supporting a parent or unpaid carer with certain tasks that allow them to work or maintain their own lives, but it may also include supporting individuals living on their own. Specifically this offer is usually for a limited number of hours per week. This offer is not a 'sitting service' – time spent with the individual must be productive and outcomes focussed, whether that is inside the home or outside of the home. A lot of individuals may purchase this type of service using a personal budget.

Offer 7: Residential based living

Whilst the Council is actively encouraging the use of supported living models there remains a need for small residential units that better suit the needs and preferences of some individuals. Some individuals prefer shared environments that offer ensuite bedrooms, a shared communal space and a group home environment. For some individuals a residential setting will be commissioned prior to a move into a more independent living set-up in order to manage a pathway of care in a planned and outcomes focussed way. We expect residential based living to be person centred and oriented to attaining personal outcomes. We

also expect individuals to be guided towards ordinary living options and planned stepped down. The specifics of expectations relate to each individual. Residential settings should be small in order to avoid an institutional presence in local communities.

Offer 8: Short term intervention and crisis support

This Offer is to harness services that provide short term peripatetic or residential based services at relatively short notice. We will need these services for a range of reasons – existing support systems may be breaking down, behaviours or mental health may have changed or sometimes circumstances in the family home indicate the need to sensitively move an individual for a short period of time in order to safely assess needs, titrate medication or give a parent or informal carer a break. This offer is different to the short breaks offer in that circumstances may be tense or chaotic; skill will be required in getting to know the individual and respond effectively to needs during what might be difficult circumstances. Providers will be contributing to next steps plans and facilitating active transitions and transfers to alternative support arrangements or back home. Staff will need to be trained in a range of skills and management and leadership support is high.

Tiers for Supported Living and Residential Living

- ❖ Incorporating Forensic Support as a specific approach to be deployed in these settings
- ❖ Incorporating Short Breaks in either a residential setting or a supported living environment (variations of setting – pro-rata for less than a week)

1. The descriptors in the Tiers are examples of the types of need that may be present. They should be carefully considered but may not always accurately describe every individual's circumstances. The NASS or CCG representative should first determine and record the extent and type of need through an assessment. If there is difficulty in placing the individual's needs in one or other of the Tier levels, the Representative should use professional judgement based on consideration of all the evidence to decide the most appropriate level. **Where an individual's needs appear to fall between levels, the lower level should be selected until evidence is clearly supporting the higher Tier.**
2. Care should be taken regarding terminology. The fact that an individual has a condition that is described as 'severe' does not necessarily mean that they should be placed in a high Tier level. It is the Tier level that most closely fits their needs and the support they require that should be selected, for example; some needs are severe in nature but the ability to plan for and respond to those needs can be quite straightforward. In all cases, the overall need and the **evidence** should be taken into account in determining the appropriate Tier. The judgement about a Tier must be based on what the evidence indicates about the nature and/or complexity and/or intensity and/or unpredictability of the individual's needs.
3. All individuals falling into Tier 1, 1A, 1B and 1C should have consideration of NHS responsibilities which includes NHS Continuing Healthcare, Joint packages of care and s117 Mental Health Act Aftercare responsibilities. Some rehabilitation features may also be the responsibility of the NHS.
4. Human behaviour is complex, hard to categorise, and may be difficult to manage. Behaviours that challenge may be caused by a wide range of factors including extreme frustration associated with communication difficulties or fluctuations in mental state. Behaviours that challenge may include but are not limited to:
 - Aggression, violence or passive non-aggressive behaviour
 - Severe disinhibition
 - Intractable noisiness or restlessness or vocalisation that is distressing and constant
 - Resistance to necessary support and care - but not including situations where an individual makes a capacitated choice not to accept particular support
 - Inappropriate interference with others
 - Identified risks associated with frequent fire setting or other forensic activity

The assessment of needs of an individual with serious behavioural challenges should include specific consideration of the risk(s) to themselves, others or property with particular attention to aggression, self-harm and self-neglect and any other behaviour(s), irrespective of their living environment. Remember that 'challenging behaviour' is not a diagnosis. It is a form of communication and function – your role is to understand the individual and to work with them to reduce those behaviours.

The allocation of a Tier considers an individual holistically and must focus on strengths and ability. However when apportioning a cost for care as a starting point we have to focus on needs. In this sense this establishes the inputs that define the outputs and leads to driving the desired impact - [the outcomes](#).

Our Tier allocation uses a variation on the domains-approach many Providers will be familiar with which is the NHS Continuing Healthcare Decision Support Tool (DST). In using this approach discussions and the evaluation of needs will include:

Nature: This describes the particular characteristics of an individual's needs (which can include physical, mental health, or psychological needs), and how those needs present themselves on a daily basis. This also describes the overall effect of those needs on the individual, including the quality and skill level of interventions required to support them.

Intensity: This relates to both the extent (frequency) and severity (degree) of the needs and the support required to meet them, including the need for sustained/on-going oversight and supervision required to support ordinary life experiences and manage experiences safely.

Complexity: This is concerned with how an individual's range of needs present and interact to indicate the skill required to deliver effective support and manage any conditions that require a high level of monitoring in order to intervene. This may arise with a single condition, or it could include the presence of multiple conditions or the interactions between two or more conditions. It may also include situations where an individual's response to their own condition has an impact on their overall needs, such as when a physical health need results in the individual developing a mental health need or displaying significant behaviours that challenge.

Unpredictability: This describes the degree and frequency in which needs fluctuate and thereby create challenges in supporting those needs. It can also relate to the level of risk to the individual if adequate and timely care and support is not provided.

The Tier is determined contemporaneously. As individuals are supported correctly and are working towards achieving outcomes we expect to see individuals progress down through Tiers. Some individuals will progress very quickly. A review point will be agreed to evaluate progress and next steps, and also review the Tier allocation.

It is important that we start by aligning individuals to the new rates. We have a long history of limited movement - meaning our population has remained static and even where individuals have progressed and/or needs are reduced we have continued to pay at the same level. A number of individuals have been 'contained' in 2:1 support arrangements without any change, and this suggests a lack of planning, creativity and focus on the person-centred nature of the support required as well as a lack of positive risk taking. Whilst some individuals will continue with a 2:1 arrangement we wish to see movement; a better focus on goals and outcomes and, over time, corresponding changes in the intensity of the support required.

In the Tier descriptions the use of the term 'senior support worker or senior member of staff' carry expectations relating to experience, responsibility and qualifications. We describe the role as:

- leading or supervising a team of support workers to ensure they provide high quality care and support
- managing and supporting workers so they can perform their roles safely and to the best of their ability
- supporting a manager to run the workplace according to standards and legislation
- acting as a positive role model to colleagues
- developing care plans that outline what care and support individuals need and overseeing changes
- leading team meetings and providing inductions, supervisions and appraisals
- working in partnership with other professionals to ensure individuals get the support they need

There are also some specific skills needed to work in this role. These include:

- supervisory and team leading skills
- the ability to deal with conflict
- good English skills to understand and apply policies and procedures in practice
- experience of working in social care and health
- It's also really important that you have the right values and behaviours to work in health and social care, as you'll be responsible for leading by example.
- A social care qualification such as a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care or equivalent

Descriptors of need – The Tiers:

Tier 1

Indicates a level of need and an intensity in oversight that translates as constant supervision and guidance. Support is overseen by a senior member of staff and support is directly provided by senior members of staff 24 hours a day. There will be significant intensity, complexity and unpredictability present. The overall risks presented by this individual constitutes a risk to themselves and the public.

Individuals will have a significant number of the following characteristics/support needs:

- A highly specialised environment and a staff team with awareness of and training in the complex presentation of learning disability. The staff team will be able to put into practice specialised, tailored interventions devised by the Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities (CTPLD) with a high degree of consistency and complete regular and thorough risk assessments.
- High frequency, intense and severe challenging behaviour that requires a complex (multidisciplinary) management programme including specific behavioural intervention approaches and regular use of approved techniques for intervention and de-escalation.
- Regular support and review from behavioural Intensive Support Team (IST), Epilepsy Specialist support and other highly skilled universal health services support.
- Unusually severe or complex needs associated with Autistic Spectrum Disorder or epilepsy presentation.
- Consistent supervision required at all times due to known safeguarding concerns/alerts that would have resulted in serious risks and recommended interventions to mitigate the identified risks
- Unable to reliably communicate their needs at any time and in any way, even when all practicable steps to assist them have been taken. The individual has to have most of their needs anticipated because of their inability to communicate them. Staff are required to know the individual well in order to do this. A lot of work is needed to develop communication methods that will help indicate need and this will include specialist input.
- The individual is unable to assess basic risks even with supervision, prompting or assistance, and is dependent on others to anticipate their basic needs and to protect them from harm, neglect or a significant deterioration in their physical or mental health.
- There is evidenced and known behaviours that challenge of a severity and frequency and unpredictability that presents an immediate and serious risk to self, others or property. The risks are so serious that they require access to an immediate and skilled response at all times.
- Mood disturbance, hallucinations or anxiety symptoms, or periods of distress, which do not readily respond to prompts, distraction and/or reassurance and have an increasing impact on the individual's health and/or well-being.

- Continence care is problematic and requires timely and skilled intervention beyond routine management, frequent attendance at a GP practice is required, or visits from NHS staff are required
- Has a high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history and risk assessment)
- Requires administration and monitoring of medication regime by a member of staff specifically trained for this task because there are risks associated with the potential fluctuation of the medical condition or mental state, or risks regarding the effectiveness of the medication or the potential nature or severity of side-effects. Even with such monitoring the condition is usually problematic to manage and regular involvement from NHS professionals is required
- Frequent episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of a specifically trained support workers to minimise the risk of harm. Oversight by NHS professionals is required
- Combination of significant learning disabilities with other significant physical health need which require trained and skilled intervention to manage needs manifesting unexpectedly over a 24 hour period such as brittle diabetes, problematic feeding regimes including PEG and other significant health needs that require constant monitoring by trained senior carers or under the direction and supervision of a community nursing team.

Tier 1A

Individuals in receipt of Tier 1A have to be assessed to require a combination of 5 of the Tier 1 levels of support but must include **one or more** of the following main domains:-

- There is evidenced and known behaviours that challenge of a severity and frequency and unpredictability that presents an immediate and serious risk to self, others or property. The risks are so serious that they require access to an immediate and skilled response at all times.
- Frequent episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of a specifically trained support workers to minimise the risk of harm. Oversight by NHS professionals is required.
- Has a high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history and risk assessment).

Tier 1B

Individuals in receipt of Tier 1B have to be assessed to require a combination of **3** of the Tier 1 levels of support but must include **one** of the following main domains:-

- There is evidenced and known behaviours that challenge of a severity and frequency and unpredictability that presents an immediate and serious risk to self, others or property. The risks are so serious that they require access to an immediate and skilled response at all times.
- Frequent episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of a specifically trained support workers to minimise the risk of harm. Oversight by NHS professionals is required.
- Has a high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history and risk assessment).

Tier 1C

Individuals in receipt of Tier 1C have to be assessed to require a combination any **4** of the Tier 1 levels of support or **one of main domains above AND all levels of need in Tier 2.**

Tier 2

Indicates a level of need and an intensity in oversight that translates as regular and frequent supervision and guidance by a senior member of staff for 75% of the day.

Individuals will have a significant number of the following characteristics/support needs: (more than 15)

- Complex learning disability/mental health/physical needs presentation.
- Specialised environment, staff training and equipment
- Significant mental health needs in addition to learning disability requiring prescribed or recommended specialised interventions and monitoring
- Complex and potentially harmful needs relating to autism that require specific behavioural and communication strategies and responses
- Significant mental health needs in addition to learning disability requiring specialised interventions and monitoring
- Consistent supervision required at all times to minimise risks assessed and identified which has significant impact to the individual's and others safety and wellbeing.
- Due to their psychological or emotional state the individual has withdrawn from most attempts to engage them in support planning, support provision and/or daily activities. The consequences of this pose a risk to the individual and the public all the time
- The individual has awareness of only a limited range of needs and basic risks. Although they may be able to make some choices on a limited range of issues they are unable to consistently do so on most issues, even with supervision, prompting or assistance

- Needs feeding to ensure adequate intake of food and takes a long time (half an hour or more), including liquidised feed OR needs constant supervision for appropriate ingestion
- Dysphagia requiring skilled intervention to ensure adequate nutrition/hydration and minimise the risk of choking and aspiration to maintain airway
- Incontinence managed through, for example, medication, regular toileting, use of penile sheaths, etc.
- Risk of skin breakdown which requires preventative intervention once a day without which skin integrity would break down
- Has a moderate to high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history or risk assessment)
- Completely unable to weight bear and is unable to assist or cooperate with transfers and/or repositioning
- Nutritional status “at risk” and may be associated with unintended, significant weight loss or unintended significant weight gain (unintended refers to non-purposeful or lacking insight into consequences)
- There is significant weight loss or weight gain due to an identified eating disorder or genetic syndrome that requires constant oversight and daily management, with support plans that are regularly adjusted to support fluctuation and management because of unpredictability or compliance
- Communication about needs is difficult to understand or interpret or the individual is sometimes unable to reliably communicate, even when assisted. Support staff may be able to anticipate needs through non-verbal signs due to familiarity with the individual
- Communication is frequently inappropriate and regularly causes distress and/or aggression from members of the public. A teaching plan is in place to moderate expression and understand consequences
- Mood disturbance, hallucinations or anxiety symptoms, or regular episodes of distress, which are having an impact on their health and/or well-being but respond to prompts, distraction and/or reassurance
- The individual is unable to assess basic risks even with supervision, prompting or assistance, and is dependent on others to anticipate their basic needs and to protect them from harm, neglect or health deterioration

- There is evidenced behaviours that challenge of a severity and/or frequency that poses a significant risk to self, others or property. The risk assessment identifies that the behaviour(s) require(s) a prompt and skilled response that might be outside the range of planned interventions.
- Requires administration and monitoring of a medication regime by a support worker specifically trained for the task because there are risks associated with the potential fluctuation of the medical condition or mental state, or risks regarding the effectiveness of the medication or the potential nature or severity of side-effects. However, with such monitoring the condition is usually non-problematic to manage
- Regular episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of trained staff to minimise the risk of harm.
- Combination of significant learning disabilities with other significant physical health need which require trained and skilled intervention to manage needs manifesting unexpectedly over a 24 hour period such as brittle diabetes, problematic feeding regimes including PEG and other significant health needs

Tier 2A

Individuals in receipt of Tier 2A have to be assessed to require a combination of 8 of the Tier 2 levels of support but must include **one or more** of the following main domains:-

- There is evidenced behaviours that challenge of a severity and/or frequency that poses a significant risk to self, others or property. The risk assessment identifies that the behaviour(s) require(s) a prompt and skilled response that might be outside the range of planned interventions.
- Regular episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of trained staff to minimise the risk of harm.
- Has a moderate to high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history or risk assessment)

Tier 2B

Individuals in receipt of Tier 2B have to be assessed to require a combination of between 5 and 8 of the Tier 2 levels of support but must include **one** of the following main domains:-

- There is evidenced behaviours that challenge of a severity and/or frequency that poses a significant risk to self, others or property. The risk assessment identifies that the behaviour(s) require(s) a prompt and skilled response that might be outside the range of planned interventions.
- Regular episodes of Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require the supervision of trained staff to minimise the risk of harm.

- Has a moderate to high risk of falls or drops (as evidenced in a falls history or risk assessment)

Tier 2C

Individuals in receipt of Tier 2C have to be assessed to require a combination of between 3 and 5 of the Tier 2 levels of support or **one of the above AND all levels of need in Tier 3.**

Tier 3

Indicates a level of need and an intensity in oversight that translates as regular and frequent supervision and guidance by a senior member of staff for 50% of the day

Individuals will have a significant number of the following characteristics/support needs (more than 7):

- Require monitoring and supervision at all times to minimise moderate behaviours that challenge that are associated with impaired cognition, non-problematic seizure activity which requires monitoring without the use of rescue medication
- Dysphagia requiring skilled management to ensure adequate nutrition/hydration and minimise the risk of choking and aspiration
- Continence care is routine but requires monitoring to minimise risks, for example those associated with urinary catheters, double incontinence, chronic urinary tract infections and/or the management of constipation or other bowel problems
- An identified skin condition that requires a minimum of daily treatment, or daily monitoring/reassessment to ensure that it is responding to treatment.
- Individuals is at risk of falls (as evidenced in a falls history and risk assessment).
- Needs assistance to communicate their needs. Special effort may be needed to ensure accurate interpretation of needs or additional support may be needed either visually, through touch or with hearing.
- Due to their psychological or emotional state the individual has withdrawn from most attempts to engage them in care planning, support and/or daily activities.
- The individual has awareness of only a limited range of basic risks. Although they may be able to make some choices appropriate to need on a limited range of issues they are unable to consistently do so on most issues, even with supervision, prompting or assistance.
- There are behaviours that challenge of a type and/or frequency that poses a predictable risk to self, others or property. The risk assessment indicates that planned interventions are effective in minimising but not always eliminating risks. Compliance is variable.
- Requires supervision/administration of and/or prompting with medication but is compliant.
- Occasional Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require skilled management to reduce the risk of harm.

Tier 3A

Individuals in receipt of Tier 3A have to be assessed to require a combination of **6** and more of the Tier 3 levels of support but must include **one** of the following main domains:-

- There are behaviours that challenge of a type and/or frequency that poses a predictable risk to self, others or property. The risk assessment indicates that planned interventions are effective in minimising but not always eliminating risks. Compliance is variable.
- Occasional Altered States of Consciousness, including seizures that require skilled management to reduce the risk of harm.

Tier 3B

Individuals in receipt of Tier 3B have to be assessed to require a combination of between 4 and 6 of the Tier 3 levels of support **and** one of the domains above.

Tier 3C

Individuals in receipt of Tier 3C have to be assessed to require a combination of up to 4 of the Tier 3 levels of support **or one of the above domains AND all levels of need in Tier 4.**

Tier 4

Indicates a level of need that translates as regular supervision and guidance by an experienced member of staff and support is directed by confident and competent support workers.

Individuals will have a significant number of the following characteristics/support needs (more than 7):

- Requires support with all aspects of personal care, domestic routines, developing acceptable social relationships and accessing a range of meaningful person-centred community facilities and resources
- Continence care is routine on a day-to-day basis and is rarely problematic
- Individual is unable to reliably communicate their needs consistently, even when all practicable steps to assist
- Needs supervision, prompting with meals, or may need feeding and/or a special diet (for example to manage food intolerances/allergies)
- The individual regularly has their needs anticipated because of their inconsistency in communicating them
- Requires prompts to motivate self towards activity and to engage them in care planning, support, and/or daily activities

- Requires some supervision, prompting and/or assistance with basic care needs and daily living activities. Some awareness of needs and basic risks is evident. The individual is usually able to make choices appropriate to needs with assistance. However, the individual has limited ability even with supervision, prompting or assistance to make decisions about some aspects of their lives, which consequently puts them at some risk of harm, neglect or health deterioration.
- Some incidents of behaviours that challenge. A risk assessment indicates that the behaviour does not pose a risk to self, others or property or create a barrier to support. The individual is generally compliant with all aspects of their support.
- Challenging behaviour that follows a predictable pattern. The risk assessment indicates a pattern of behaviour that can be managed by skilled carers or care workers who are able to maintain a level of behaviour that does not pose a risk to self, others or property. The individual is nearly always compliant with care
- Health related issues are managed effectively and without any problems, and medication is not resulting in any unmanageable side-effects.
- History of Altered States of Consciousness including seizures that is effectively managed and there is a low risk of harm
- Is able to maintain full control over bowel movements or has a stable stoma, or may have occasional faecal incontinence/constipation
- Able to weight bear but needs some assistance and/or requires mobility equipment for daily living.

Tier 4A

Individuals in receipt of Tier 4A have to be assessed to require a combination of **7** of the Tier 4 levels of support but must include the following domain:-

- Challenging behaviour that follows a predictable pattern. The risk assessment indicates a pattern of behaviour that can be managed by skilled carers or care workers who are able to maintain a level of behaviour that does not pose a risk to self, others or property. The individual is nearly always compliant with care.

Tier 4B

Individuals in receipt of Tier 4B have to be assessed to require a combination of between 5 and 7 of the Tier 4 levels of support

Tier 4C

Individuals in receipt of Tier 4C have to be assessed to require a combination any 3 of the Tier 4 levels of support **or one of the above AND all levels of need in Tier 5.**

Tier 5

Indicates a level of need that translates as regular oversight and guidance by an experienced member of staff and support is directed by confident and competent support workers.

Individuals will have a significant number of the following characteristics/support needs:

- Support with maintaining independence, choice, social inclusion and rights
- Support with development of daily living skills and activities of maintaining independence
- Individual is continent and can anticipate needs
- Able to take adequate food and drink by mouth to meet all nutritional requirements.
- Able to weight bear but needs some assistance and/or requires mobility equipment for daily living.
- Able to communicate clearly, verbally or non-verbally. Has an understanding of their impairment
- Cognitive impairment which requires some supervision, prompting or assistance with more complex activities of daily living, such as finance and medication, but awareness of basic risks that affect their safety is evident.
- Occasional difficulty with memory and decisions/choices requiring support, prompting or assistance. However, the individual has insight into their impairment.
- Individual may have a chaotic lifestyle and a history of making unwise choices, oversight is required to support the individual in recognising risk and consequences

Tier 5A

Individuals in receipt of Tier 5A have to be assessed to require a combination of more than 5 of the Tier 5 levels of support but must have **one** of the following areas of need:-

- Occasional difficulty with memory and decisions/choices requiring support, prompting or assistance. However, the individual has insight into their impairment.
- Cognitive impairment which requires some supervision, prompting or assistance with more complex activities of daily living, such as finance and medication, but awareness of basic risks that affect their safety is evident.

Tier 5B

Individuals in receipt of Tier 5B have to be assessed to require a combination of between 3 and 5 of the Tier 5 levels of support.

Support required below Tier 5B is determined through hourly rates due to a lack of complexity or a reduced need in oversight. These may include supporting needs where individuals need help with

- Promoting their choice and independence. Most will be in preparation to move on to independent living
- Reducing a tendency towards establishing inappropriate relationships and/or relationships that make them vulnerable to exploitation
- Recovering from and adapt to a history of financial abuse or financial mismanagement
- shopping and nutritional planning
- bill payment and managing a budget
- Literacy skills
- Personal care needs can be neglected
- Would benefit from structured opportunities for learning and socialising to stay out of trouble
- managing health needs
- learning and maintaining independent living skills
- structured opportunities for learning and socialising to stay out of trouble

NB:

- Supported Living model specifically assumes step down through tiers and includes individuals who cannot live in shared environments
- Residential model includes individuals who have historically resided in these settings and who require maintenance and observation and where the impact of change would have significant detriment
- Residential model assumes economies in scale

Weekly Rates applicable to March 2021: Residential Living:

Tier 1	£2,750	Tier 3A	£1,050
Tier 1A	£2,620	Tier 3B	£900
Tier 1B	£2,300	Tier 3C	£800
Tier 1C	£2,175	Tier 4	£730
Tier 2	£1,950	Tier 4A	£680
Tier 2A	£1,720	Tier 4B	£620
Tier 2B	£1,510	Tier 4C	£570
Tier 2C	£1,340	Tier 5	£520
Tier 3	£1,200	Tier 5A	£430

Weekly Rates applicable to March 2021: Supported Living:

Tier 1	£3,700	Tier 3A	£1,595
Tier 1A	£3,300	Tier 3B	£1400
Tier 1B	£2,900	Tier 3C	£1285
Tier 1C	£2,750	Tier 4	£1150
Tier 2	£2,400	Tier 4A	£998
Tier 2A	£2,150	Tier 4B	£870
Tier 2B	£1,975	Tier 4C	£795
Tier 2C	£1,780	Tier 5	£695
Tier 3	£1,690	Tier 5A	£605
		Tier 5B	£505

Opportunities for Living and Learning

- ❖ Incorporating evening and weekend activities

Tier descriptors:

Tier 1

- Some active support required with personal care needs
- Has difficulty with socialising despite desire, social network is small
- Can engage in risky behaviours and education and moderation support is required
- Communicates reluctantly or requires tools for communicating
- Envisaged that active supervision for large parts of a session will be required

Tier 2

- Prompting required with personal care needs
- Limited experience of socialising and will need active guidance beyond encouragement
- Limited awareness of risks
- Needs support to communicate needs
- Prompting and focussed support required throughout session

Tier 3

- Manages personal care needs independently
- Encouragement needed with socialisation
- A history of self-neglect or would self-neglect without support
- Some awareness of risks but is vulnerable to exploitation
- Can communicate needs
- Prompting required throughout session

Living sessional rates applicable to March 2021:

These sessions incorporate social opportunities, peer activities, confidence building and relationship building activities:

Tier 1 £29 per ½ day, £65 per full day

Tier 2 £26 per ½ day, £55 per full day

Tier 3 £24 per ½ day, £50 per full day

½ day is described as 3.5 hours. Full day is described as 6.5 hours. The full day allows for 30 minutes for staff to ensure all attendees are supported on to appropriate travel arrangements etc.

Learning sessional rates applicable to March 2021:

These Tiers incorporate any certificated learning experience/skills acquirement course:

Tier 1 £40 per ½ day, £94 per full day

Tier 2 £32 per ½ day, £70 per full day

Tier 3 £29 per ½ day, £62 per full day

½ day is described as 3.5 hours. Full day is described as 6.5 hours. The full day allows for 30 minutes for staff to ensure all attendees are supported on to appropriate travel arrangements etc.

Evening social clubs and gatherings rates applicable to March 2021

These prices reflect short informal and relaxed leisure sessions (2.5 hours), taking place in the evening or weekend that may also offer a break to informal carers or help informal carers maintain home life responsibilities, friendships, or provide general down-time. It is expected that these sessions are akin to a social club:

Tier 1 £20 per session

Tier 2 £16 per session

Tier 3 £12 per session

Supporting People in their own home: Episodic support throughout the week

- ❖ Incorporating short term peripatetic support during episodes of heightened need

Applicable descriptors for rate:

Standard:

- Support plan can be defined as relatively straightforward. Variations are likely to be needed in order to support needs and outcomes
- Behaviours that challenge present a known risk to self and others but an appropriate support plan that is followed will manage these risks
- There is only small amounts of fluctuation in compliance and engagement if the support plan is appropriate and followed
- Physical care needs are routine and may include prompts, including medication prompts
- Requires support to communicate needs
- Moderate degrees of anxiety that require support and encouragement
- Likely range of 2-4 risk assessments and risk management plans required

Enhanced:

- Support Plan requires regular adjustment and reflects contingencies that help manage risk to self and others
- There is unpredictability in behaviours that challenge and there is a recent history of risk to self or others
- Individual is unwell (through mental health needs or emotional needs) and requires senior skilled support staff to manage the heightened presentation until needs have reduced or become less acute
- Daily fluctuations in compliance that require skilled and competent management and communication skills
- Requires skill and additional tools to facilitate communication
- Moderate to high levels of anxiety that require active support and specific support planning
- Likely range of more than 4 separate risk assessments and risk management plans required

Rates for Support at home applicable to March 2021:

Standard Hourly Rate: £15.50

Enhanced Hourly Rate: £17.00

Overnight Rate Sleeping: £79*

Overnight Rate: Waking: £122*

***It is unlikely that overnight rates will be required. If they are required it is likely to be attributed to the short term peripatetic/heightened need service/Enhanced need.**

Supported Accommodation:

Time-limited

And

Goal focussed ordinary living

'Ablement' and re-skilling focused services are a central component of making learning disability services fit for the 21st century. At the heart of ablement is a set of values about a person's right to build a meaningful life for themselves, with or without the continuing presence of limitations relating to their learning disability. Housing arrangements that are safe, secure and enabling are critical in connecting and re-connecting people to things that matter to us all including work and taking part in community life. Without a settled place to live, access to consistent support that enables genuine self-awareness and self-determination that encourages social inclusion can be impeded. Housing related support can demonstrate a range of outcomes, including connecting people with other services; providing the platform to establishing a sense of self value and, in many cases, accessing work, training and re-establishing family life. In addition, enabling efficient hospital discharge to step down services and the speedy accessibility of step up services to avoid hospital admission makes supported housing environments even more critical in managing both the health and social care economy and, importantly, ensuring individuals are given full opportunity for progression and ablement at the earliest stage and in the least restrictive environment.

In enabling the development and sustainability of supported accommodation within learning disability services we expect to be using residential and nursing home settings much less frequently. Good housing is crucial for good mental health. When it is part of an effective progression pathway, housing provides the basis for individuals to build a stable and more independent life, in many cases leading to work or education, whilst still receiving the support and help they need. Good quality, affordable and safe housing underpins all of our mental and physical well-being. The acquired lifestyles and vulnerability of people with a learning disability can lead to homelessness – there may be a history of losing tenancies, associating with groups of people who take advantage or exert undue influence or unstable family dynamics. Supported accommodation can and does provide an environment in which people can stabilise their lives and acquire new skills. This includes day-to-day support to understand the concept of tenancy and daily responsibilities, routines for better self-care, establishing positive peer networks and building or re-building skills to live more independently and take an active part in their chosen communities.

We continue to build on improving pathways of support for individuals by expanding the choices available for support and encouraging a culture and ethos of hopefulness and person-centred care. As a model Supported Accommodation is a crucial aspect of enabling individuals to develop skills that will ensure improved and healthier life-styles in settings that will nurture and coach individuals towards onward pathways of support or full independence.

NB: Supported Accommodation is NOT registered accommodation. The Council will be paying for support and accommodation during the period of placement.

Tier/need descriptors:

Tier 1

- History of emotional instability
- History of severe aggression: sexual, physical or verbal
- History of disengagement with services
- History of substance abuse
- History of being excluded (education, tenancy, support arrangements)
- History of victimising or being the victim
- History of offending or being in trouble with the law
- Inappropriate behaviours that require significant oversight and/or guidance/learning

Tier 2

- History of difficult family dynamics or limited parenting
- History of being neglected or abused
- Prone to episodes of extreme frustration which may present as physical or verbal expression
- History of absconding for prolonged periods
- Limited social network or social skills
- Inappropriate behaviours that can be re-directed
- Tendency towards risky behaviours that have been learnt and which may impact on self or public

Tier 3

- Guidance, direction and coaching required to maximise abilities or re-establish trust
- Tendency towards self-neglect
- Requires preparation for adulthood and learning new skills
- Requires support with establishing peer networks and a life plan
- Requires help with establishing a new routine associated with adulthood

Weekly rates for supported accommodation applicable to MARCH 2021:

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
£1000	£800	£600

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EXECUTIVE

22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Capital Programme Update Report – Approvals into the Capital Programme
Report Author	Janice Gotts Executive Director of Finance janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to request approval for capital schemes which were either identified as part of the Development Pool approved by the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive as part of the February 2021 budget papers, or for other schemes that have come forward since, to be approved into the Capital Programme.
- 1.2. This will then allow the schemes to move forward to delivery.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains details of changes to the capital investment programme regarding schemes and projects which are key to the delivery of priorities and needs within North Northamptonshire.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme totalling £1.936m:

- a) Schools Minor Works 2021-22 of £1.936m funded from the Department for Education (DfE) School Condition Allocation Grant

Further detail on the scheme is included in section 5.

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- The recommended course of action will allow the timely progression of capital works.
- To enable the Council to continue to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate.

4. Report Background

4.1 The Capital Programme is the Council's plan for investing in assets to efficiently deliver its statutory services, and to improve the local infrastructure of North Northamptonshire, with the benefits lasting over a number of years.

4.2 Resources for the capital programme come from Government grants and contributions, capital receipts from surplus land and buildings, revenue contributions and borrowing.

4.3 This report provides an update to the capital programme approved as part of the budget setting process in February 2021.

5. Detail on Recommendations and updates to the Capital Programme

5.1 **Schools Minor Works 2021-22** – Identified within the Development Pool and to be moved into the Committed Programme – budget approval £1.936m which will be funded by the Department for Education (DfE) 'School Condition Allocation' grant.

5.2 The 'School's Minor Works' scheme commissions condition surveys on property within the Local Authority's school estate to determine the works required. As at 1st June 2021, the Council has the responsibility of maintaining 37 schools in North Northamptonshire.

5.3 Each condition survey provides a comprehensive report on the fabric of the school building and site, and any work required to ensure that each building remains 'safe, warm and dry'. Surveys classify any remedial work required into one of four categories identified below:

- 1: Urgent - works required immediately or within one year;
- 2: Essential – required within 2 years;
- 3: Desirable – required within 5 years;
- 4: Desirable – works not anticipated to be required within 5 years

- 5.4 As with previous tranches, it is proposed that funding is provided for remedial works to address condition issues inclusive of categories 1 and 2, where possible. This will ensure the Council maintains the upkeep of school sites and buildings that it holds a statutory obligation for maintaining and helps to mitigate further deterioration to the fabric of the surveyed schools.
- 5.5 Any works undertaken through the ‘Schools Minor Works’ budget will be delivered as part of a rolling programme of condition surveys at maintained schools in the Local Authority.
- 5.6 Expenditure on the scheme is forecast to be 50% or £0.968m 2021-22 with the remaining 50% in 2022-23 due to the need for condition surveys, preliminary works and procurement of main works before works can be completed, also allowing for school operation and weather conditions.
- 5.7 Further detail is provided in a report elsewhere on this agenda.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 These works are funded from external grants. There is no requirement for the Council to undertake borrowing to support this scheme.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 The council must utilise funding and deliver schemes in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 The deliverability of the 2021-22 Capital Programme is monitored by each accountable project manager and senior officer. There is further review throughout the financial year reported through the Executive Committee.
- 6.3.2 If any overspends or emerging pressures are identified during the year then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.
- 6.3.3 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented will be provided as part of the finance monitoring reports as the year progresses.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 The 2021-22 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme were subject to consultation prior to approval by the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority in February 2020.

6.4.2 Consultation, where relevant, on each of the schemes is detailed as part of the respective separate reports elsewhere on the agenda.

6.5 **Climate Impact**

6.5.1 Any capital works would have a climate impact but this would have been managed via the relevant planning process.

6.6 **Community Impact**

6.6.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the investment supports maintenance of the schools.

7. **Background Papers**

None.

EXECUTIVE

22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Transformation Task and Finish Group update
Report Author	Lisa Hyde, Director of Transformation Lisa.hyde@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Joint Transformation Priority Plan timeline

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the North Northamptonshire Council Executive of progress made by the Transformation Task and Finish Group and to make recommendations.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This reports details the process and actions of the Task and Finish Group and methodology of its recommendations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive;

(a) Endorse the Transformation Priority Plan timeline to disaggregate the hosted services between North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Transformation Task & Finish Groups for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire were tasked in June 2020 to undertake a wide review of future transformation activity post the programme reset and the approval of the revised blueprint for the functions that will be delivered in North and West Northamptonshire.
- 4.2 The impact of Covid on the Transformation that should have taken place in 20/21 is that the resources were diverted to Covid response work and Transformation priorities were delayed, and reviewed, to take a more detailed look at the first 2 to 3 years. The review focussed on prioritising within the two key areas that would provide the majority of the Transformation work in this time period. The areas were the remaining Hosted Services that will need Disaggregation and Aggregation of services where separate teams will need aligning and services remodelling.
- 4.3 The initial part of that work for both groups involved a study and review around “what has worked well” within the LGR programme capturing detail around good practice and observing the transformation activity that is being delivered using the Business Rates Retention Pilots investment, with particular reference to the new Target Operation Model for Adults social care services and the development of locality hubs for connecting communities.
- 4.4 The Task and Finish Group members were keen to determine the “principles” of transformation early in their deliberations to ensure there was a robust ideology to underpin the proposed transformation of services going forward.
- 4.5 The principles for North Northamptonshire were approved by their Shadow Executive on 3rd February 2021:
- 4.6 That the transformation of services in North Northamptonshire must:
 - a. Ensure there is one stop customer resolution.
 - b. Be co-designed with partners involved in service modelling.
 - c. Always use quality data and information (to support business cases).
 - d. Decision making should be made with and around the residents and may not always be cost cutting.
 - e. Be supported and align with ICT investment.
 - f. Ensure that ICT systems are integrated.
 - g. Use the most appropriate method of communication; digital and face to face.

- 4.7 The principles for West Northamptonshire were approved by their Shadow Executive on 26th January 2021:
- a. Customer/Resident centred
 - b. Provides best value/Value for money
 - c. Focus on sustainability (environmental, social and economic)
 - d. Prevention and Early Intervention focussed
 - e. Partnership and Collaboration centred
 - f. Improves quality of services and support
 - g. Accessible and Inclusive
 - h. Utilising the right technology at the right time
- 4.8 These were also prioritised in order of importance. The priority order of transformation for Hosted and Aggregation was then agreed against this and additional considerations of:
1. Customer Impact
 2. Staff Impact
 3. Financial Impact
 4. Impact on Organisational Ability to Operate
 5. Political Impact
- 4.9 These principles gave the Directors of Transformation for both North and West a robust member steer on the ordering and next steps.
- 4.10 The North and West Task and Finish Groups each worked on a prioritised roadmap for Year 1 and 2 of the new authorities relating to those services that are “hosted” in the North and/or West but will disaggregate and/or aggregate in the first year.
- 4.11 The plans were overlaid to show where priorities and timelines were harmonised, and where further discussion would be needed.
- 4.12 The final stage was for the two groups to join together to review the Priority Plan. A joint meeting of the North and West Transformation Task and Finish Groups was held on Thursday 8th April and following review and discussion some amendments were made to harmonise the timeline as can be seen at Appendix A.
- 4.13 The timeline at Appendix A has therefore been agreed with Members of the joint North and West Transformation Task and Finish Group. This may need some adjustment once an assessment of each of these ‘hosted’ services has been made with services to ensure these timeframes are achievable or if there are any other impacting factors.
- 4.14 Members are asked to note the following issues and choices that were considered following discussions at the joint meeting held on 8th April 2021:

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 **Waste:** Considered a priority. However, there was an understanding that there are likely to be considerable costs and that current contracts will have an impact on planning. Work needs to be undertaken to create an Options Paper.
- 5.2 **Household Waste Recycling Centres:** Could tie in with Waste Disposal. Collaboration with bordering counties will also need to be considered, as currently Northamptonshire residents can use HWRC in some bordering counties (Oxford/Leicester for example).
- 5.3 **SEND Strategy (Information, Advice and Support Service):** Should be considered alongside Home to School Transport as residents may well use both services. There is a small number of staff so could disaggregate later.
- 5.4 **Adults Provider Services:** Including Employment and Disability Service, Assistive Technology Service, Visual Impairment Service, Shared Lives Service, LIVE (Learning, Independence, Volunteering and Supported Employment), Adult Mental Health Services and Deprivation of Liberty. These services are all currently functioning and operating in a structured way and are small teams. Suggestion is that they are transformed during year two (end of 2022).
- 5.5 **Public Health Management:** Commissioning and Admin, and Wellbeing Services – due to current pandemic activities, which are likely to continue for the foreseeable future, review and transformation will likely be post Covid and potentially April 2022. No negative impact on customer is expected if these services are disaggregated later.
- 5.6 **Libraries Support (included traded services):** Library services have undergone significant change recently and disaggregation of service may be quite complicated so look to disaggregate this service later to lower change demand on these staff.
- 5.7 **HR advisory (Traded Services):** During the next few months HR will be a key part of discussions, review and implementation of changes for both Councils, including negotiations on harmonised payscales. Although Traded Services are a revenue generator, HR staff will need to prioritise other activities. It is therefore suggested that any changes are made after October 2021.
- 5.8 **ICT Strategy and Architecture:** It is recognised that there are some consultancy costs that should be considered. However, the service needs a period of stabilisation while recruitment takes place, and this is a longer term project. Recommendation that it is started from October 2021.
- 5.9 **NCC S106 Team:** Although a small team, staff have a specialist skill and an Options Paper should be prepared to tie in with other Planning reviews. Consider aggregating in line with the North and West Development Management Teams.
- 5.10 **Emergency Planning:** This is considered a priority. A lot of work has been reviewed with the current Covid pandemic, other emergency planning issues

should be addressed as a matter of urgency. North and West Councils will have their own local events/issues which need to be addressed.

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 None specific.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1 None specific.

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 None specific.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 None specific.

7. Background Papers

7.1 North Transformation Task and Finish Group update to North Shadow Executive dated 3rd February 2021.

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T&F Priority Plan (v4)

= North Northants Prioritisation
 = West Northants Prioritisation

Start Date:

01/04/21

Programme	Service Area	Function <u>In Order Of Priority</u>	Hosted by	Block identifies commencement & timescale			
				<u>Apr-21</u>	<u>Oct-21</u>	<u>Apr-22</u>	<u>Oct-22</u>
Place	Transport (Home to School)	Transport (Home to School)	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Waste Disposal (including Closed Landfills)	Waste Disposal (including Closed Landfills)	North	[Yellow block]			
Place	Waste HWRC	Waste HWRC	North	[Yellow block]			
Place	Strategic Transport Planning	Bus services – commercial registrations and subsidised services; Traveline database and Concessionary Travel	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Strategic Transport Planning	Major HW Projects (CPDU)	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Strategic Transport Planning	Strategic Transport Planning	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Strategic Transport Planning	Travel choices	West	[Yellow block]			
Children's	Safeguarding in Education	Safeguarding in Education	North	[Yellow block]			
Children's	School Admissions	School Admissions	North	[Red block]			
Children's	Sensory Impairment Team	Sensory Impairment Team	North	[Yellow block]			
Children's	SEND Strategy [IASS]	SEND Strategy (IASS)	North	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults PBBS	Adults Personal Budget Service	West	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults Provider Services	Employment and Disability Service	North	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults Provider Services	Assistive Technology Service	West	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults Provider Services	Visual Impairment Service	West	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults Provider Services	Shared Lives Service	West	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Adults Provider Services	LIVE	North	[Yellow block]			
Adults	Safeguarding	Adult Mental Health Services and Deprivation of Liberty	North	[Yellow block]			
Public Health	Public Health - Management, Commissioning & Admin	Public Health Mgmt, Commissioning & Admin	North	[Yellow block]			
Public Health	Public Health - Wellbeing Services	Public Health Provider Services Wellbeing	North	[Yellow block]			
Corporate Services	Libraries support (incl. traded services)	Libraries support (incl. traded services)	West	[Yellow block]			
Corporate Services	HR and Staff Wellbeing	HR Advisory - Traded services	West	[Yellow block]			
ICT & Customer	IT Strategy and Development	IT Programme team	West	[Yellow block]			
ICT & Customer	IT Strategy and Development	IT Strategy & architecture	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Highways Contract Management	Business improvement	West	[Yellow block]			
Place	Highways Contract Management	Coordination of works on the highway	West	[Yellow block]			

Page 05 of 05

Programme	Service Area	Function <u>In Order Of Priority</u>	Hosted by	<u>Apr-21</u> Block identifies commencement & timescale	<u>Oct-21</u> Block identifies commencement & timescale	<u>Apr-22</u> Block identifies commencement & timescale	<u>Oct-22</u> Block identifies commencement & timescale
Place	Highways Contract Management	Highways Traffic Management (Kier Contract)	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	Investigations, Searches and Definitive Map	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	Licensing - Highways licences	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) (Administration and Inspections)	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	Rights of way	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	Road Safety	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	Technical approval authority	West				
Place	Highways Contract Management	NCC Community Liaison	West				
Place	Development Management	Highways Adoptions Team	West				
Place	Parking	On street parking (enforcement)	West				
Place	Strategic Transport Planning	Bus services - commercial registrations	West				
Place	School Swim Service	School Swim Service	North				
Place	Development Management	NCC s106 Team	North				
Place	Emergency Planning	Emergency Planning	North				
Corporate Services	HR and Staff Wellbeing	Apprenticeships	North				
Corporate Services	HR and Staff Wellbeing	HR Learning and Development	North				

Page 96

EXECUTIVE

22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Gretton Neighbourhood Plan
Report Authors	Terry Begley terry.begley@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Steven North – Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Forward Plan Reference (if yes to Key Decision)	
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Gretton Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix B – Draft Decision Statement

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To formally make the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory development plan, following the referendum held on 6 May 2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Gretton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Gretton Parish Council through a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and is proposed to form part of the statutory development plan for the area. This means that its policies and

proposals will be the starting point for decision makers when determining any planning application either partly or wholly within the neighbourhood area.

- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan provides a clear understanding of the desires and aspirations of the people within the parish with regards to future development. This was confirmed when the plan was endorsed by a majority of voting residents on the day of the referendum, 6 May 2021. Following the community's endorsement of the plan the final step is for it to be formally 'made' by this council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Make the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Gretton is one of a number of parishes in the area to exercise the powers granted to communities by the Act that enables them to produce neighbourhood plans. When formally made a neighbourhood plan comprises part of the statutory development plan and carries full weight when determining planning applications in the geographical area covered by its policies.
- 4.2 The first legal step towards the production of the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan was taken on 2 November 2016 when Corby Borough Council formally designated the entire parish of Gretton as the relevant 'neighbourhood area' to be covered by the policies of the plan. Since this time a significant amount of work has been undertaken by the parish council and its representatives, aided by officers of the council, to ensure a plan is produced that is technically robust and reflects the wishes of the community.
- 4.3 A key milestone in the process was reached when the plan was found to be both legally and technically compliant by an independent examiner, subject to minor modifications. The report of John Parmiter FRICS MRTPI was formally issued on 16 October 2020 and recommended that the plan proceed to referendum subject to the modifications that he recommended.
- 4.4 The examiner's report and schedule of proposed modifications, was considered on 2 December 2020 by the Local Plan Committee of Corby Borough Council and a decision statement was agreed and issued. This concluded that with the proposed modifications the plan meets the Basic Conditions in full, is compatible with the European Union obligations and Convention rights and complies with the definition of a neighbourhood plan and the provisions that can be made by a neighbourhood plan. Accordingly, the plan proceeded to a referendum on 6 May 2021.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The referendum gives the community the final say on whether a plan should come into force in their area. The regulations specify the question to be asked. Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Planning Act 2004 as updated by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 require that if the majority of those who vote in a referendum are in favour of the draft neighbourhood plan, then the neighbourhood plan must be made by the local planning authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.
- 5.2 For the plan to formally move towards adoption there was a requirement that it gained the support of the people of the parish, to be indicated by a simple majority voting 'yes' (50% plus one person of all those who turned out to vote). The referendum resulted in support for the plan amongst the residents of the parish, receiving 540 yes votes and 72 voting no. This return represents a 51.17% turnout and an 87.95% majority voting 'yes'.
- 5.3 As a majority has voted in favour of the plan it should be made by the council within 8 weeks of the referendum. This means that the deadline for the council making the neighbourhood plan is 1 July 2021. The 8 week time limit does not apply where a legal challenge has been brought in relation to the decision to hold a referendum or around the conduct of the referendum. There are narrow circumstances where the local planning authority is not required to make the neighbourhood plan. These are where it considers that the making of the neighbourhood plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations.
- 5.4 As a result of Corby Borough Council's previous decision to allow the plan to proceed to referendum on the basis that the plan satisfied all legal requirements, alongside the successful outcome of the referendum itself, and the fact that no legal challenge has been brought, councillors are asked to formally 'make' the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 stipulated that a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan following a successful referendum. In the very limited circumstances where a local planning authority decides not to make a neighbourhood plan, it would cease to be part of the development plan for the area.
- 5.5 Regulations 19 and 20 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the council as soon as possible after making the plan to publish the decision and reasons for the decision (decision statement) and publicise the plan. A draft decision statement is appended as Appendix B which can be published following the resolution of the Executive.
- 5.6 As part of the development plan for the area the neighbourhood plan must be considered when determining planning applications in the neighbourhood area alongside other documents such as the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby when adopted.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 6.1 The making of the Neighbourhood Plan will have limited implications on finance. The plan has now been drafted in full and the council's support required towards the plan will now end.
- 6.2 As part of the development plan, the neighbourhood plan provides a further suite of policies that must be considered by development management officers as and when planning applications are submitted falling within the neighbourhood area of Gretton. This may account for a limited amount of additional officer time when considering the full suite of policies applicable to any application in the neighbourhood area prior to a decision being reached.
- 6.3 The online policies map, which graphically illustrates policies of the development plan, will need to be updated to include the policies of the neighbourhood plan. This will be done as soon as practicable. It is likely that this will initially be done for the Corby Area only until such time as a North Northamptonshire wide online policy map is available.

Legal

- 6.4 The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 3, Sections 116-121 and Schedule 9 and 10), The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No.637), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.20), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016 No.873) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 set out the powers and duties in preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 6.5 Paragraphs 5-7 of Schedule 9 of The Localism Act 2011 amends section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) so as to make Neighbourhood Development Plans part of the development plan in accordance with which planning applications must be determined. Section 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 further amends section 38 of the PCPA to provide that a neighbourhood development plan for an area becomes part of the development plan for that area after it is approved in a referendum. In the very limited circumstances that the local planning authority decide not to make the neighbourhood development plan, it will cease to be part of the development plan for the area.
- 6.6 There are considered to be no circumstances which would warrant the council not making the plan. If the plan was not formally made that decision could be challenged.
- 6.7 Government Guidance states that decisions on neighbourhood planning shall be taken by the Executive. The requirement for a decision by the Executive is due to Neighbourhood Development Plans not being development plan documents as defined in regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012 and as such not coming within the list of

plans and strategies listed in Column 1 of the table to Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

Consultation

- 6.8 Statutory consultation has taken place during the preparation of the neighbourhood plan. There is no requirement for consultation as a result of this decision on whether to make the plan.

Consideration by Scrutiny

- 6.8 None.

Climate Impact

- 6.9 Policies within the plan seek to ensure the provision of sustainable development. Of particular note are the Natural and Historic Environment policies which support the protection and enhancement of natural features (Section 6); support for electric vehicle charging points (Policy T2); and support for small scale renewable energy infrastructure (Policy ENV9). These policies are anticipated to have a positive effect in mitigating climate change impact

Community Impact

- 6.10 Neighbourhood planning is intended to improve community cohesion. The plan has been prepared will full engagement of the local community and the referendum showed a clear majority of people voting supporting the plan.

Risks

Risk	Impact/Mitigation	RAG
If the council decides not to make the plan there is a risk that this decision could be legally challenged	Legal costs	Amber

7. Background Papers

- 7.9 Background papers relating to the preparation of the neighbourhood plan are available on the Gretton Parish Council website:

<http://www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk/community/gretton-parish-council-7885/neighbourhood-plan/> . Details of the process and various stages of plan preparation including the examination and examiners' report are also available on the council's website: <https://www.corby.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning>

7.10 There are no background papers relating specifically to the decision to make the plan.



GRETTON

Gretton Neighbourhood Plan



Contents

Appendices.....	4
Foreword.....	5
Section 1 Background and Context.....	6
Introduction	6
How The Plan Was Prepared	7
How The Plan Fits Into The Planning System.....	8
The Plan and What We Want it to Achieve	8
Community Actions.....	9
How The Plan Supports Sustainable Development	9
Section 2 Gretton.....	11
A Brief History of the Parish.....	11
Gretton Parish Profile	15
Section 3 Community Engagement	17
Open Event.....	17
Community Questionnaire	18
Theme Groups.....	18
Further Open Event	19
Section 4 A Vision For Gretton.....	20
Section 5 Housing and Built Environment	21
Introduction – ‘the past makes the present’	21
The Future Direction	22
Meeting Future Housing Need.....	23
The Community’s View	24
Housing Allocations – Building Out the Most Sustainable Sites.....	25
Limits to Development.....	26
Ensuring Excellent Housing Design	28
Affordable Housing	29
Standards of Accessibility	29
Windfall Sites	29
Housing Mix	30
Section 6 Natural and Historic Environment	32
Existing Environmental Designations.....	33

Environmental Inventory	33
Buildings and Structures of Local Significance	43
General Policies.....	48
Section 7 Community Sustainability	57
Community Assets - Bringing the Community Together	57
Education	57
Village Hall and Events.....	58
Section 8 Village Communications	62
Section 9 Transport and Road Safety	63
Section 10 Business and Employment	66
Section 11 Monitoring and Review.....	70
Glossary.....	70

Appendices

- I. Basic Condition Statement
- II. Statement of Consultation
- III. Housing Needs Report
- IV. Census Data
- V. Site Sustainability Assessments
- VI. Gretton Housing Design – A reference document of community aspirations and suggestions
- VII. Environmental Inventory
- VIII. Local Heritage Assets
- IX. Important Views
- X. Statutory Designations, Historic Environment
- XI. Corby Road Report

Foreword

On the 2nd November 2016, Gretton Parish Council was successful with its application to Corby Borough Council (CBC) to become a Qualifying Body for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Designated area was the existing Parish Council boundary.

The Parish Council has produced the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan with assistance from a Steering Committee including Parish Council members, community volunteers, and help from the Borough Council and other agencies.

The Gretton Neighbourhood Plan will form the basis for planning decisions applicable to Gretton Parish, up to 2031, together with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which embrace the whole of the country and the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (NNJCS) which was adopted in July 2016. CBC as the Local Planning Authority will continue to determine planning applications, but they will have to consider the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan when reaching their decision.

The Gretton Neighbourhood Plan reflects community-wide comments, observations and concerns about its future, bringing them together with census information, strategic and statistical evidence into a document that mirrors the community's overwhelming desire to make Gretton an even better place to live, both now and for future generations.

The Plan sets out a vision with aspirations and planning policy aims to help shape future development in Gretton. The policies aim to address key concerns raised by local people including protecting the character of the village and the surrounding area. Some of the issues raised cannot be directly addressed by planning policies within the Neighbourhood Plan but are included as 'Community Actions'.

Community Open Events have been well attended and a questionnaire was completed by numerous local people. Alongside membership of the Steering Committee has been the establishment of several 'Themed Groups'. This has enabled local people to be involved at a level to reflect their circumstances to contribute to identifying the changes that the local community wishes to see in Gretton. We are grateful to Officers at CBC and the wider community for their involvement in the development of the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan.

Gretton is an attractive and popular place in which to live, and the contribution from people who care about their community and want to make it better for generations to come is greatly appreciated. The Gretton Parish Council would like to thank all of the people who have been a part of making this Neighbourhood Plan possible through their support, both directly and indirectly.

Jacki Lilley

*Chair, Gretton Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Committee*

July 2019

Frances Woolston

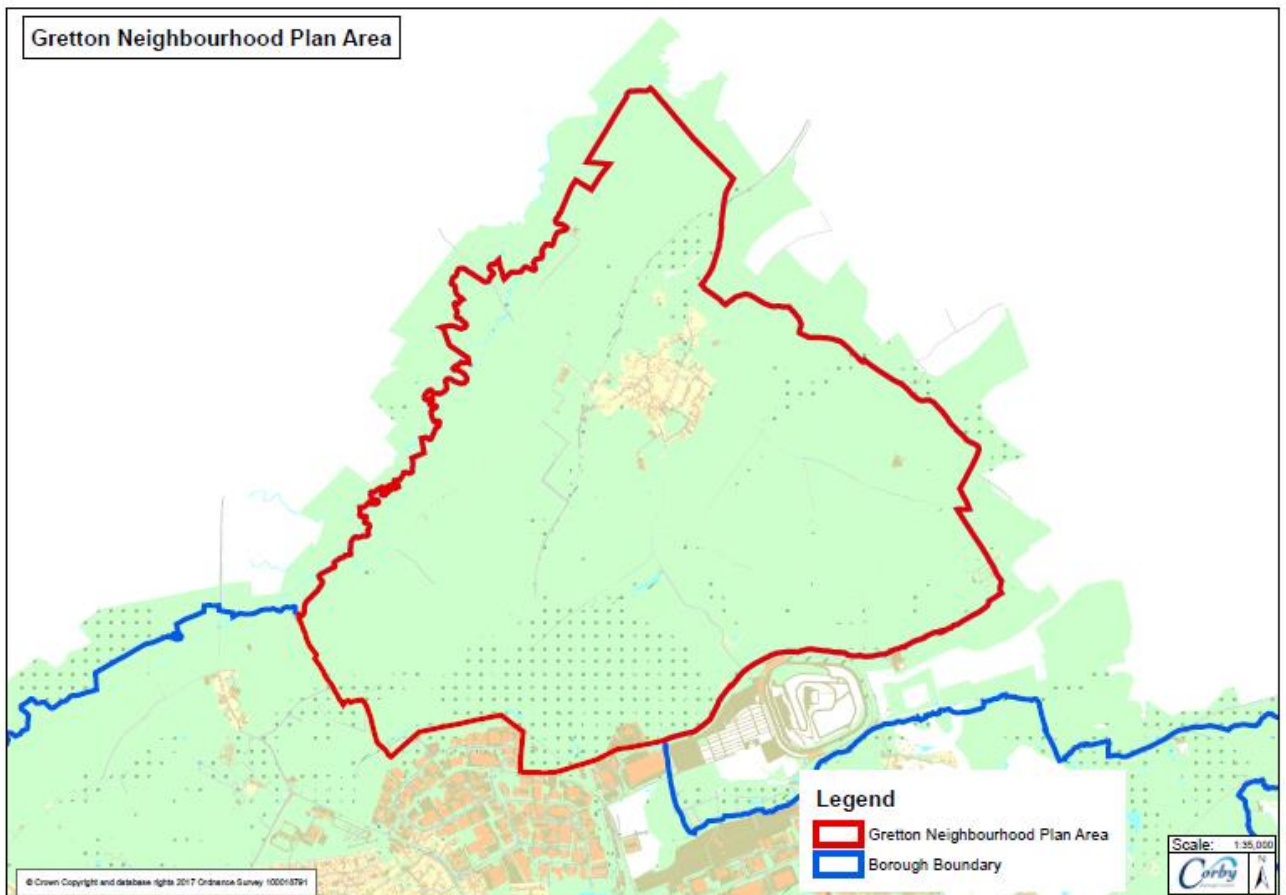
Chair, Gretton Parish Council

Section 1 Background and Context

Introduction

- 1.1 As a key part of the Government’s Localism agenda, a Neighbourhood Plan is a new type of planning document that gives local people greater control and say over how their community develops, now and in the future. This includes, for example, where new homes and businesses should be built; what new buildings and extensions should look like and which areas of land should be protected from development.
- 1.2 As the *Plain English Guide to the Localism Act 2011* states, “Instead of local people being told what to do, the Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live”.
- 1.3 This Neighbourhood Plan (referred to as “The Plan” in this document) covers the whole of the Parish of Gretton. It sets out a long-term approach for the development of Gretton and sets out clear development-related policies to realise this.

Figure 1 Designated area



- 1.4 In preparing a Neighbourhood Plan a community is not working from ‘a blank piece of paper’. Legislation requires that the Plan, and the policies it contains, must be prepared in a prescribed manner; in particular, the policies must be in general conformity with relevant national and boroughwide (i.e. Corby) approved strategic planning policies.
- 1.5 The Plan has been through a pre-submission consultation stage and was sent to statutory and local consultees as well as being made available to the local community for comment prior to being formally submitted to CBC in June 2020, who undertook a further round of consultation.
- 1.6 Having successfully passed this stage, it then went to an Independent Examiner, who checked to see that it had been prepared in the prescribed manner. Corby Borough Council accepted the examiner’s recommendations that the Plan be put forward to referendum, subject to a number of modifications which were made by the Council. Those on the electoral register in the Gretton Parish will be invited to vote on whether or not they support it. Over 50% of those voting must approve it for the Plan to become a ‘Made’ statutory planning document.
- 1.7 Whilst planning applications will still be determined by CBC, and in special circumstances Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), the production of a Neighbourhood Plan will mean that they must have regard to the provisions of the Plan and the relevant locally formulated criteria when reaching planning decisions that affect the Gretton Parish. This means that the residents of the Parish will have a far greater control over where development takes place, and what it looks like.

How The Plan Was Prepared

- 1.8 The Plan has been prepared by the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.
- 1.9 This Steering Committee comprises members of the local community and the local Parish Councillors, with the support of CBC and Neighbourhood Plan Consultants *Yourlocale*. The Plan was prepared under direction of Gretton Parish Council (the accountable body for the Plan).
- 1.10 The Plan is based on a range of evidence sources. This includes statistical information gathered through the Census as well as engagement through community consultation. The preparation of the Plan has had regard to the NNJCS and the evidence gathered in the preparation of the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby, expected to be adopted in Spring 2021.
- 1.11 Effective and extensive consultation has been at the heart of the preparation of the Plan. This is key to ensuring that the Plan fully reflects local need and priorities. There have been a variety of consultation exercises over the last two years, at which many local people have taken part. These have included drop-in sessions, a questionnaire, and a series of focused meetings on specific topics with residents and stakeholders.

How The Plan Fits Into The Planning System

- 1.12 The right for communities to prepare Neighbourhood Plans was established through the Localism Act 2011, which set out the general rules governing their preparation.
- 1.13 Neighbourhood Plans need to conform to national planning policies and the strategic policies contained in the development plan. In the case of Gretton which lies within the Borough of Corby, this comprises the JCS which is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan, which covers, Corby, Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough (which will form North Northamptonshire from April 2021). At the local level, the key planning document which the Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to is the emerging Part 2 Local Plan for Corby.
- 1.14 The revised timescale for the production of the new Part 2 Local Plan for Corby 2011-2031 (which will replace the saved policies from the 1997 Corby Local Plan) now estimates it will be Adopted in Spring 2021. However, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group considered it expedient to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan based on the best available evidence, including that contained in the emerging Part 2 Local Plan and its associated evidence base.
- 1.15 Also important is the NPPF which sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF requires the planning system (including Neighbourhood Plans) to encourage sustainable development and details three dimensions to that development:
- economic – policies should contribute to economic development;
 - social – policies should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing the right supply of housing and creating a high-quality built environment with accessible local services; and
 - environmental – policies should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

The Plan and What We Want it to Achieve

- 1.16 The Plan covers the period up to 2031, a timescale which deliberately mirrors that of the JCS, and also the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby when adopted.
- 1.17 The main purpose of the Plan is not to duplicate national or district-wide (i.e. Corby) planning policies, but to sit alongside these, to add additional or more detailed policies specific to the Gretton Parish. Where there are national and district-wide planning policies that meet the needs and requirements of the Parish they are not repeated here.
- 1.18 Instead, the Plan focuses on those planning issues which consultation shows matter most to the community, and to which the Plan can add the greatest additional value. These include policies that:

- Ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable locations;
- Encourage the appropriate types of development that meet local needs;
- Protect important buildings and structures of historic and architectural interest;
- Protect important community facilities and shops;
- Promote high quality design in new developments;
- Protect the countryside and the special landscape; and
- Protect open spaces that are important to the community and the wildlife.

1.19 Furthermore, these locally formulated policies will be specific to Gretton Parish and reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

1.20 It is important to note that when using the Plan to form a view on a development proposal or a policy issue the whole document and the policies contained within it must be considered together.

1.21 While every effort has been made to make the main parts of this Plan easy to read and understand, the wording of the actual policies is necessarily more formal, so that it complies with statutory requirements.

1.22 The Plan will be kept under review and may change over time in response to new and changing needs and requirements.

Community Actions

1.23 This Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of Community Actions. These are aspirations expressed by the Gretton community during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. They are not policies; they involve non-land use policy matters that do not form part of the Neighbourhood Plan, but are included for information.

How The Plan Supports Sustainable Development

1.24 The key national planning document, the NPPF, states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development.

1.25 The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people to satisfy their basic needs and to enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own social, economic and environmental needs.

1.26 The NPPF carries a presumption in favour of sustainable development. It states that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: social, environmental and economic, all of which are important and interrelated. In accordance with this, the Plan's aims and policies are centred on the achievement of sustainable development, including by, for example:

a) Economic

- To protect existing employment uses;
- To ensure effective broadband coverage and speeds in new development;
- To support appropriate small-scale farm diversification and business development; and
- To encourage appropriate start-up businesses and home working.

b) Social

- To safeguard designated open space for the enjoyment of residents;
- To protect existing community facilities; and
- To deliver a mix of housing types, so that it can meet the needs of present and future generations.

c) Environmental

- To ensure that housing development is of the appropriate quantity and type in the appropriate location, so that it does not harm but instead positively reflects the existing and historic character of the area;
- To protect important open spaces from development,
- To ensure that the design of development enhances the Parish's special character and identity;
- To protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats; and
- To make provision for improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, as appropriate.

Section 2 Gretton

A Brief History of the Parish

“A nation which has forgotten its past can have no future” - Winston Churchill

- 2.1 Gretton, a name which means a great or large farm or village, is situated on the prehistoric Jurassic Way. Fresh water is available from the many springs on this hillside, making an ideal stopping place for early traders and settlers from about 700BC.

Iron Age and Roman

- 2.2 Greenstone and flint axes have been found in the parish, as have fragments of iron-age pottery and a hoard of 48 currency bars dating from the 1st century BC. Roman items have also been found including sherds of grey Nene Valley pottery and roofing tiles, as well as fine Samian Ware. A 2nd century pot, found by a villager at the end of the 19th century, is on display at the Village Hall. A find of iron slag indicates that iron smelting was going on. It is possible that an Iron-age fort existed on Harborough Hill.
- 2.3 Wild prehistoric woodland of ash, elm, small-leaved lime and oak meant that there was plenty of mature timber for simple buildings and for making charcoal for the smelting kilns. Stone near the surface could also be used for buildings, and land so cleared could be used for simple agriculture. Grain could be grown and cattle reared.

Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4 Following the Romans were the Anglo-Saxons who had spread right across England by the end of the 8th century AD. They developed the three open-field system of agriculture, where each farmer had one or more strips in each field. A system of crop rotation was practiced so that each field had a single crop each year, either grain, beans or fallow. The method of ploughing using oxen developed the ridges and furrows which can still be seen in some of the fields in the parish today.

Norman

- 2.5 The earliest known written record of the village is in the Domesday Book. After William the Conqueror defeated Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 he sent clerks throughout England to make a record of what he considered his property and to establish how much tax he could extract. Gretton is recorded as having about 460 acres of land, 20 acres being permanent meadow, and a small area of woodland. There was a water mill, very necessary for grinding grain, and a priest, so there must have been a church. The whole was valued at £20, twice the

value of Corby at that time. The Domesday Book went on to record that “very much is lacking from this manor which belonged to it before 1066, both in woodland and iron workings and in other payments.”

- 2.6 King William I was also instrumental in developing hunting forests which were for the sole use of him and his friends. Rockingham Forest, stretching from Stamford to Northampton, was one such forest. There were very heavy penalties for anyone daring to take wood or hunt game and strict rules about pigs being allowed to eat acorns in the autumn.

Church

- 2.7 A church has been a permanent feature of the village for over 1,000 years. The church that existed at the time of the Domesday survey has gone and the present building was started in the early 12th century. The perpendicular tower was added in the 15th century and the east window dates from the 14th century. The 13th century chancel was raised to provide a crypt for the storage of the Hatton sarcophagi in the 17th century.
- 2.8 A Non-conformist Meeting House operated in a cottage at the top of Clay Lane in the 18th century until the Baptist Chapel was built in 1824. A Wesleyan Chapel was privately built in Craxford Road at the end of the 19th century. It never attracted good congregations and was turned into cottages before being demolished in the 1960s.

The Manor House – Hall Field

- 2.9 The site of the Manor House, fishponds and mounds, lies north of the church. This is located on a slope falling steeply to the river Welland 94 metres and 107 metres above Ordnance Datum. The upper part is on limestone, the slope to the north-west is lias clay. On the 1587 map of the village it is marked as ‘Hall Yarde’. Accompanying notes state the ‘yarde’ was divided into two parts where sometime stood the Manor House. Local tradition states that much worked stone has been removed from the site to build houses in the surrounding area.
- 2.10 Down the steep slope to the west is a large fish pond. This would have been filled with spring water which breaks out where it meets the underlying clay. The pond was formed by a large rectangular depression cut back into the slope with a massive dam 3 metres high. Smaller ponds are linked to it at the north-east corner.

Kirby Hall, the Hattons and Royal connections

- 2.11 The Hatton family connection with Gretton began in 1578 when Sir Christopher Hatton, one of Queen Elizabeth I favourites and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, bought Kirby Hall from Sir Humphrey Stafford. Sir Christopher, in order to impress her majesty, made many improvements to the house but nevertheless Queen Elizabeth never visited it. Sir Christopher devoted himself to the service of the Queen and never married, so the hall was left to his

nephew, Sir William Hatton and the house stayed in the ownership of the Hatton family during the 17th and 18th centuries. Early in the 17th century, King James I visited and later, Sir Christopher Hatton “the gardener”, Governor of Guernsey, developed the beautiful formal gardens. Unfortunately, the house suffered a severe decline in the 19th Century, when the family no longer lived there. Lead was taken, the roofs were stripped and the place became a picturesque and romantic ruin, which people visited on day trips into the countryside. In the 1930s it was taken over by the Ministry of Works, and is now owned and maintained by English Heritage.

Employment and Agriculture

- 2.12 Gretton has always been an agricultural village, sitting as it does, in the middle of arable fields and meadows with some woodland. Until the 1870’s most men were employed on the land in one form or another, or in trades related to agriculture and daily living. The 1871 Census returns show 28 farmers with 164 agricultural labourers, six shepherds and a grazier. For centuries the village was virtually self-sufficient so essential people were butchers (who also slaughtered their animals) and bakers, a miller, boot-makers, carpenters and a wheelwright (who was also a coffin-maker and funeral director), beer sellers and an inn keeper, a maltster, blacksmiths, stone masons, a brickmaker, parchment makers and fellmongers, small shop-keepers, a saddler and a tailor, a schoolmaster and a policeman, and a vicar with a curate. Pedlars and hawkers were regular visitors and a doctor came from Great Easton when required.
- 2.13 During the 1870 the Kettering to Nottingham railway was being built by the Midland Railway Company to provide a line with a gentle gradient for the heavy coal trains from the Nottinghamshire coalfields to London. Many of the labourers turned into navvies because it was regular work, as long as it lasted, and the pay was better. By the time of the 1891 census the number of farmers had reduced by five and the number of agricultural labourers had gone down to 50. The other farm workers had become ironstone labourers in the newly opened quarries, railway platelayers, builders and general labourers.
- 2.14 A big change in the agricultural scene took place with the Enclosure Award by Act of Parliament in 1837. This meant that strips in the open field were exchanged and consolidated into square or rectangular fields separated by quick-thorn hedges. Many hedges have since been removed to facilitate the use of large modern machinery.

Milling

- 2.15 The water mill operated from pre-Norman times until the 1930s, though was probably rebuilt several times. It was demolished in the mid-20th Century. When the Winchilsea estate map of 1587 was drawn it showed a windmill, in the form of a wooden post-mill, next to the water mill. No further trace of it has been found and there is no mention of the windmill in 1878 when the Winchilsea estate was offered for sale.

Water and Electricity

- 2.16 Being situated on a spring line there has always been a good supply of fresh water. Many properties had their own wells, though the quality of water was sometimes suspect. Public supplies of good drinking water were available from water troughs behind the church and at West Wells (top of Clay Lane). When Council houses were built in Kirby Road (formerly Backside) after World War I public pumps were provided at either end of the road. Mains water and sewage drainage arrived in the early 1950s.
- 2.17 Some large houses such as Gretton House and the clothing factory in Kirby Road provided themselves with electric generators to provide lighting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mains electricity arrived before World War II. Street lighting using oil lamps was installed in 1895, but the lamps were not lit in the week before and the week after the full moon each month.

Transport

- 2.18 Gretton has never had a good road system. The Roman road from King's Cliffe to Hallaton crossed the river Welland somewhere near here, but the exact spot has not been identified. The turnpike road of the 18th century went through Rockingham, and even today Gretton is served by unclassified roads through the village. The railways coming made a huge difference. The line and station were opened in 1880 with trains running to London and Nottingham. The station closed in 1966 though the line remains open. The internal combustion engine has since taken over. The first car to visit the village regularly from 1921 was Dr Duke's. He would drive from Great Easton to hold his surgeries in the village.

Quarrying

- 2.19 The existence of 1st century BC currency bars shows that ironstone has been quarried one way or another for the best part of 3,000 years. It was when excavation for the railway cuttings and tunnel took place in the 1870s that it was realised what a rich area of ironstone existed here. So, from the 1870s to 1980 vast quantities of ironstone were extracted and carried by railway to the blast-furnaces. Quarrying in this area and steel making in Corby came to an end in 1980, leaving many people without work.

Shops and Public Houses

- 2.20 Many shops have existed at different times. In 1928 the Kettering Industrial Co-operative Society built a grocery store with a public hall above which was used for dances, weddings etc. The first Post Office and Telegraph Office opened in Station Road (then Stoney Lane) when the railway station opened and the mail arrived by train. Early telegrams were sent via the railway signal box.

- 2.21 Eight public houses or beer-sellers have been identified in Gretton, though not all operated at the same time. The Hatton Arms, The Blue Bell, The Talbot Inn, The White Hart, The Fox, The Crown, The Cat & Fiddle, and The Bull. The first two of these exist today.

The War Memorial

- 2.22 The memorial is unusual because it gives recognition by naming all those who served as well as those who died in the First World War. The inscriptions of those who died are gilded. Villagers subscribed £450 towards the memorial and Lord Winchilsea gifted the land. It is also notable as it was designed to be used by villagers. The crescent shaped stone wall enclosed a sheltered area with oak bench seating (now missing), where people could contemplate the church and watch the sun setting over the Welland Valley. The architects, Gotch and Saunders of Kettering, satisfied both a desire for a monument that would be useful, and one that gave proper respect to those named on it.

Gretton Parish Profile

- 2.23 The Census data from which the following statistics have been drawn has been taken from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) website. The village has grown by over 60 dwellings since these figures were compiled.
- 2.24 At the time of the 2011 Census, Gretton was home to around 1,285 residents living in 512 households. Analysis of the Census suggests that between 2001 and 2011 the parish population increased by around 4% (45 people). During this period, the number of dwellings rose by 10% (49).
- 2.25 There is evidence that the population is ageing with the share of residents aged 60 and over increasing from 19% of the total population in 2001 to 24% in 2011. The Census shows that the number of residents aged 60+ rose by 35% during this period. In line with national trends the local population is likely to get older as average life expectancy continues to rise.
- 2.26 Home ownership levels are very high with around 84% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan, and at 5% the share of households living in private rented accommodation which is very low when compared with borough, regional and national rates.
- 2.27 There is evidence of under occupancy. Providing suitable accommodation for elderly residents will enable them to remain in the local community and release under-occupied larger properties onto the market which would be suitable for growing families.
- 2.28 There is a predominance of detached housing and high value council tax banded properties.
- 2.29 Deprivation is not a significant issue in the Parish but the area's relatively high ranking in the Barriers to Housing and Services domain of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation suggests that

some residents may find it difficult to access owner-occupation or access the private rental market.

Section 3 Community Engagement

- 3.1 After the Parish Council took the decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan a process was set in motion to establish a Steering Committee to drive the process forward.

Open Event

- 3.2 A consultation event on 3rd March 2018 set out the context and stages of the project and asked questions about people's thoughts on Gretton. An analysis of the event is included in the evidence base. In addition to leaflets delivered to each household and banners placed in prominent village locations, the event was promoted on Facebook, via the village Newsletter, the local newspaper, BBC Northamptonshire Radio and Corby community radio.
- 3.3 Pupils at Gretton Primary School took part in a competition to find a logo for the Plan. The winner was Amy Kerfoot and the winning logo is on the inside front cover.

**GRETTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PLAN**

Your Opportunity
to help plan the future
development of your parish

Over the next few years **new homes and other developments** will continue to be built in and around the borough of Corby. **This will include our Parish.**

We have a **chance to shape these plans** by putting together a **'Neighbourhood Plan'**.

This Plan will outline how local people see the future development of our village.

We need your help and input.
To find out more please 'drop-in' to this event

Please follow us on facebook search 'Gretton Neighbourhood Plan'

Free Tea & Cake!

**Drop-In
'Road Show'**
Saturday 3rd March 2018
The Village Hall
12noon to 3pm

- 3.4 The views expressed by the residents were used to shape the strategy in preparing the Plan for Gretton. Over 270 people attended and offered their views.



Community Questionnaire

- 3.5 Copies of the community questionnaire, incorporating a housing needs analysis, were distributed to every household in the Parish in October 2017. 216 households responded.
- 3.6 76% of respondents supported smaller homes and reflected what people liked about Gretton:

Size Property Location Surrounding Countryside
 Great Community Good Cross Section Live Facilities
 Safe Fact Quiet Village Life
 Community Spirit Vibrant Community
 Friendly Children to Play School
 Conservation Area Bus Service Village Hall
 Sense of Community Nice People Walks
 Lots of Social Station Good Mix Play Area History

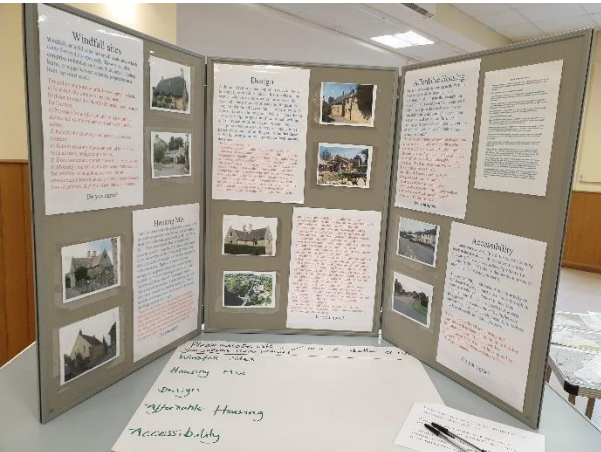
Theme Groups

- 3.7 Following the Open Event in March 2018, residents signed up to become part of 'Themed Groups' to explore the detail of the Plan; to build the evidence base and to lay the foundation for the draft Plan. An environmental theme group was established, along with a theme group on housing and the built environment and another looking at community sustainability. This work continued until the Autumn 2018.

Further Open Event

- 3.8 A further Open Event took place on 24 November 2018 at which over 153 people were in attendance and the emerging policies were put to the community.
- 3.9 The responses are in the supporting information on the Parish Council website (www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk) and detailed within the consultation statement.

There was overwhelming support for the policies on display.



Section 4 A Vision For Gretton

- 4.1 The Plan area encompasses the whole of the Parish of Gretton and covers the period up to 2031, a time scale which deliberately mirrors that of the NNJCS.
- 4.2 The Plan represents a simple and clear vision for the future development of the Parish based on local consultation.

Whilst the parish of Gretton is within the Borough of Corby, it still and should retain its distinct and separate rural identity.

There is a cohesive community with social, sporting and leisure opportunities, a school and doctor's surgery. It is safe to walk, cycle, ride and drive, having good transport links and with security a consideration in all matters of investment.

The built environment will have attractive streets and buildings. Change and development has been sustainable, sympathetic to the history and prevailing architecture; biodiversity, open spaces and landscapes have been carefully managed. There is a mix of house types, tenures and affordability to meet the needs of the community.

Home based businesses and dedicated premises are bringing wealth and employment while not adversely impacting upon the quality of life for residents. Agriculture and land management are actively playing their part in supporting the Plan.

Biodiversity is vibrant, appreciated, protected and enhanced with an integrated understanding of the potential impact of change on habitat. The parish has responded proactively to the implications of climate change.

- 4.3 The Plan will be reviewed by the Parish Council on an annual basis.

Section 5 Housing and Built Environment

Introduction – ‘the past makes the present’

- 5.1 Gretton is a conservation village which comprises a built form which varies in use, age, size, style and construction materials. It has a heavily rural setting with myriad views of open countryside, open green spaces and a good variety and number of existing trees and planting. There is a large pocket park in the heart of the conservation area and this provides a green lung and a genuine sense of an open countryside ambience in the heart of the village.
- 5.2 The Parish is characterised by variety, from the historic core of the village Conservation Area to the more modern housing developments which are evocative of the period of their development. The quality of the built form across the village is also varied and therefore the Plan seeks to encourage all new development to aim for the highest standards and respond to the character of the part of the village in which it is located.
- 5.3 Gretton has developed over time from a farming community with buildings and streets being constructed at different periods with different styles, positions, and characteristics. There is not one character to the village; different areas exhibit different characteristics, and these are defined by a range of factors. These include road layout and width, the size of properties, the building style/appearance, densities of dwellings and buildings, frontage to roads, the size and type of any planting and trees, the closeness to open spaces and countryside, the topography and any landmark buildings and structures.
- 5.4 There are several old farm buildings in the village which are no longer working farms having become residential properties. The retail shops, all of which are located in the conservation area have all closed for trading and most are now dwellings or have been converted to other uses i.e. a cafe. There are a few non-commercial buildings such as the Sports Club that do not dominate the street scene. There are no longer any industrial buildings such as factories or warehousing still being used for their original purpose in the village.
- 5.5 The buildings within the village are reflective of its growth over time, with older traditional stone, brick, thatched, stone tiles and slated roof dwellings and other materials, concentrated around the village core and within the Conservation Area. Development in the 19th century for an expanding population saw the addition of predominantly brick terraced cottages along the High Street. Like most population centres in the Midlands in the mid-20th century, Gretton received its share of Council-built houses introducing more modern materials and contrasting designs. These properties are almost all semi-detached and built in short terraces with a mix of brick and render facades and are spread along Kirby Road, Southfield Road and Fulwell Avenue at the edges of the village.
- 5.6 From the 1960's onwards, infill development of former farms and land from larger houses continued to add more dwellings to the village with a number of brick bungalows and houses built without much to distinguish them in terms of design or style. They are typical of the

prevalent generic construction styles of the 1960's onwards as often found in urban housing developments. These are mainly spread in the outlying parts of the village along Finch Hatton Drive, Woolston Court, Stafford Road, Spendlove Drive, Winchelsea Drive, although there are a few examples built as infill on Arnhill Road and Station Road.

- 5.7 Development in the last couple of decades has seen farmyards developed into dwellings using stone and brick with some observance to traditional design. There have been some considered designs where the conversion of existing buildings has in the main been architecturally sympathetic - the Village Farm and The Lodge on the High Street being examples. In 2011 a new development was built on the eastern edge of the village consisting of 59 dwellings with a good mix of shared ownership, semi detached and detached housing.
- 5.8 In March 2018 CBC undertook a review to re-designate the boundary of the Conservation Area. As a result, the area was slightly amended and after completion of the statutory timetable the revised plan was officially adopted in December 2018. Gretton has a large number of listed buildings and these are afforded additional protection to retain the integrity of the parish. Not all of Gretton is included within the Conservation Area.

The Future Direction

- 5.9 NPPF February 2019 became the overarching guidance for planning policy and two of the key areas it sets out to address are the poor rate of housing delivery and a lack of affordable housing supply. The NPPF states:
- 5.10 Para 59. To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay.
- 5.11 Para 60. To determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance – unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which also reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.
- 5.12 Para 61. Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes).
- 5.13 Para 62. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, planning policies should specify the type of affordable housing required and expect it to be met on-site.

5.14 In support of neighbourhood planning in the NPPF, this Plan adopts a pro-active approach to meeting housing need. It is therefore the intention of this Plan to safeguard the historic setting, feel and character of Gretton by encouraging future residential development to meet local affordability needs and be sympathetic to its surroundings in terms of mix, size, accessibility and design. It is recognised that the provision of new housing helps to support existing community facilities and commercial properties such as local pubs and helps to achieve the Plan's vision of providing a balanced and sustainable community.

5.15 Consultation has shown that local people are not opposed to development but that they are concerned that future house building is proportionate, in keeping, meets local needs and takes place in the most sustainable and least environmentally damaging locations.

5.16 This Plan is in accordance with the strategic planning policies of CBC, and has been written to take into account the draft policies in the Part 2 Local Plan for Corby. To quote the current consultation version of the CBC Part 2 Local Plan:

"The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) seeks to deliver 120 new homes in the rural area (of Corby Borough) to support sustainable development. Between March 2017 and the start of the plan period in April 2011 there have been 85 homes built. A further 99 currently have planning permissions that will also contribute to the JCS requirement. Additionally, the Council has identified sites subject to planning applications or pre-application discussions that are likely to come forward over the plan period to deliver a further 55 homes.

The Regulation 18 consultation for the Part 2 Local Plan recognised an oversupply of housing land in the rural area and that Policy 11 of the JCS resists development above housing requirements unless agreed through the Part 2 Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans to meet a particular local need or opportunity".

5.17 To this end the Plan has considered the evidence for future housing need and undertaken a site selection process to ensure that the least environmentally damaging locations are allocated for residential provision. New housing development will be met taking into account existing commitments, a new residential site allocation, windfall development within the 'Limits to Development' and potential future 'Rural Exceptions Sites' delivering affordable housing.

5.18 Any future sites for housing development will be brought forward in a review of the plan, following an increase of the housing target for the rural area in a review of the Local Plan by CBC or successor authority, or the failure of a housing commitment to be developed.

Meeting Future Housing Need

5.19 It is important to justify the future housing provision required in the Parish by an analysis of the various evidence that is available in terms of housing need. A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) study was completed for CBC in 2012 (partially reviewed in 2015). This

outlined a Borough wide approach to meeting future housing need but did not provide evidence at an individual parish level.

- 5.20 To develop further information at the parish level, in August 2017 CBC commissioned a Rural Housing Needs survey for Gretton. It was undertaken by a specialist rural housing consultant and was completed in December 2017. The survey was circulated to 619 parish households and 216 responses were received; this provided an excellent response rate of 35% and makes the results statistically valid.
- 5.21 The headline result of the survey was that a total of 27 additional properties are required to be provided by 2031; 11 open market units, four shared ownership units and 12 social or affordable rented units. Much of the major development that has taken place since the 1950's in the Parish has provided family homes of three and four bedrooms. Recent schemes in particular have capitalised on the area's geographic location, facilities and desirability by offering a greater percentage of higher-end, expensive 'residences' for purchase. A recent planning application approved by CBC has provided four affordable housing units as a step towards meeting the affordable housing deficit of 16 units by 2031.
- 5.22 The findings on housing mix were reinforced within the housing needs survey commissioned through the production of the Plan (see Appendix III). This Plan seeks to re-balance the future housing mix by requiring a minimum percentage of affordable, lower cost and smaller units.
- 5.23 One of the key aims of this plan is to deliver the necessary housing development required to meet the housing need in the parish to 2031 by working in a holistic fashion in partnership with landowners and developers.
- 5.24 One practical way of doing this is by specifying a mixture of affordability for all new developments that tries to balance the commercial needs of the developer with the housing need of the village residents. The Plan has an aspiration to provide suitable accessible accommodation for older people within the village as it is proven from past experience in neighbouring villages that this would reduce under occupancy and free up older, larger houses in the village for re-sale.

The Community's View

- 5.25 Recent consultation with the community by way of the open day event as part of the plan process, showed clear preferences for housing types and characteristics for new developments. Most respondents felt that it was very important that more one and two bedroomed properties were provided, implying a strong desire to cater for the needs of single people, younger families, people trying to access the property ladder and those wishing to down-size. Almost half of the recorded preferences favoured the inclusion of more low-cost, social and affordable rented or shared ownership properties and a similar proportion felt that the parish would benefit from more bungalows and accessible housing.

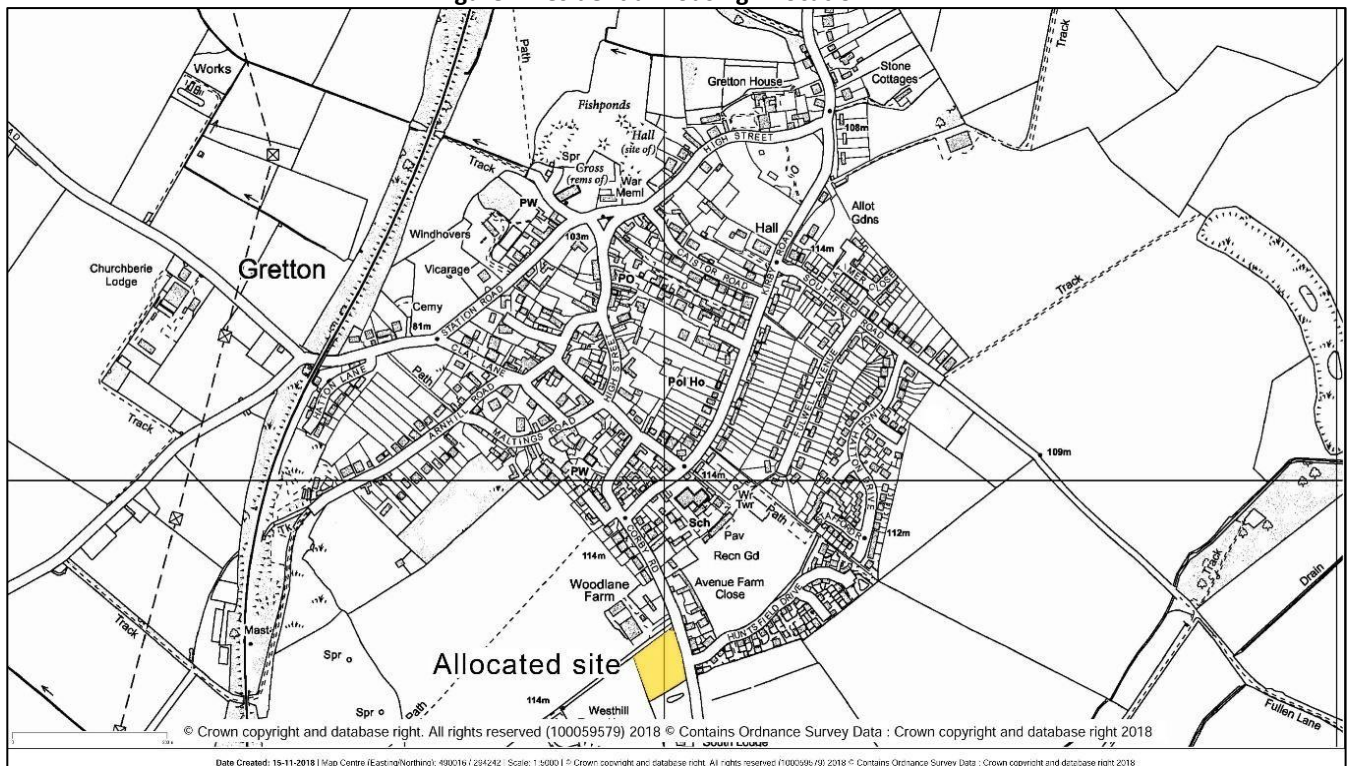
5.26 The clear message gleaned from the open event is that the community and housing needs survey evidence seek to encourage a continued vibrancy and diversity, and both believe that adjusting the housing offer will best achieve this objective.

Housing Allocations – Building Out the Most Sustainable Sites

5.27 Whilst the overall requirement created by the NNJCS to deliver new homes in the rural area of the Corby Borough has already been achieved, the Parish Council are supportive of initiatives to satisfy the potential requirements identified in the Housing Needs Survey.

5.28 The Housing Theme Group undertook a comprehensive Sustainable Site Assessment (SSA) of potential residential development sites. Following this thorough process (described in Appendix V) the Parish Council has allocated the most sustainable location as an allocation identified in Policy H1. The conducted assessment of further sites will allow the Plan to be reviewed and cater for changing circumstances over the Plan period should this become necessary.

Figure 2 Residential Housing Allocation



POLICY H1: RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATION - Land is allocated at Corby Road, Gretton for up to 13 units of residential accommodation as shown on the site plan above (Figure 2).

Limits to Development

- 5.29 The purpose of a 'Limits to Development' is to ensure that sufficient housing and economic activity is available in appropriate locations that will avoid overloading the transport infrastructure and intruding into the local countryside, also loss of land with environmental/agricultural value.
- 5.30 Limits to Development were established by CBC in order to clarify where new development is usually best located. They are used to define the extent of a built-up part of a settlement and distinguish between areas where, in planning terms, development is acceptable in principle, such as in the main settlement and where it would be unacceptable, generally in the least sustainable locations such as in the open countryside. Developments in the countryside risk the creation of ribbon development, the merging of settlements and generally detract from the visual amenity of the area.
- 5.31 The village of Gretton is the main settlement within the Parish. In order to maintain its character, there is a need to carefully control where development occurs to protect its very open and rural setting. To direct development to those areas within the settlement that are considered most suitable, the Plan designates Limits to Development for the built-up part of Gretton. The redefined Limits to Development take into account recent planning permissions and business developments outside the established settlement boundary. Within Limits to Development, suitably designed and located development is, in principle, acceptable. Some sites within the Limits are protected from further development but all new developments must comply with the policies in this Plan. In planning terms, land outside a defined Limits to Development, including any small groups of buildings or small settlements, is treated as countryside.
- 5.32 It is national and local planning policy that development in the countryside should be carefully controlled. Supporting "the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside" is a core planning principle (NPPF 2018 para 170 b). This approach is also supported by this plan, in particular, because it will help to ensure that development is focused in more sustainable settlements with a greater range of services and facilities and infrastructure that has capacity for expansion, as well as helping to maintain the special landscape character of the parish and protecting the countryside for its own sake as an attractive, accessible and non-renewable natural resource.
- 5.33 Focusing development within the agreed Limits to Development will help to support existing services within villages and help to protect the countryside and the remainder of the plan area from inappropriate development.

Methodology

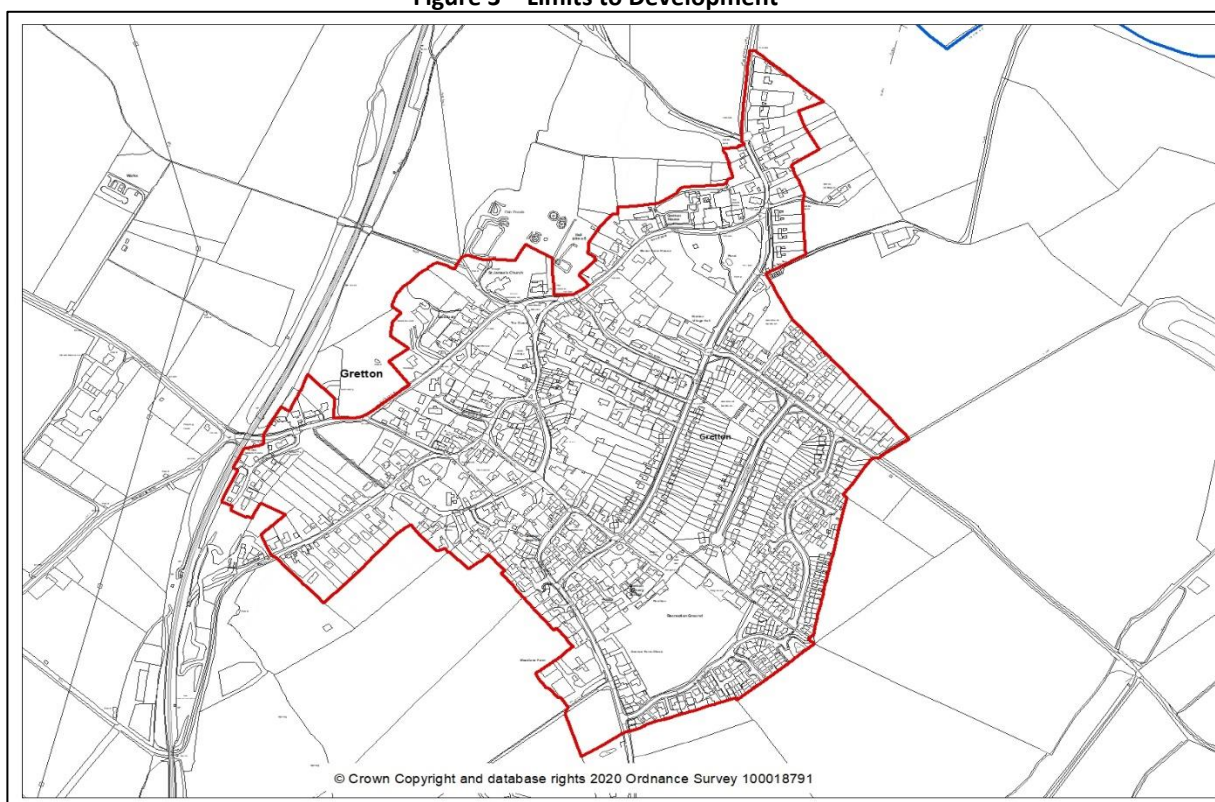
- 5.34 In drawing up the Limits to Development, the Housing Theme Group (HTG) has adopted the following principles; these are very similar to the policy approach of CBC:

- Existing employment uses, caravan sites or leisure uses on the edge of the village which are obviously detached from, or peripheral to, the main built up area are excluded;
- Clearly defined physical features such as walls, streams, fences, hedgerows and roads have been followed;
- Residential gardens are within the boundary;
- Allotments are outside the boundary;
- Generally, open areas of countryside – agricultural land, meadows, paddocks, woodland and other greenfield land (with the exception of residential land) – have been excluded;
- Planning permissions that already exist for residential or employment development on the fringes of the settlement are included as are the residential allocations within the Plan; and
- Isolated or sporadic development that is detached from the main built-up area is excluded.

POLICY H2: LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT – Development proposals within the Plan area on sites within the Limits to Development, or in terms of new sporting or recreational facilities close or adjacent to the Limits to Development as identified in Figure 3, will be supported where they respect the shape and form of Gretton and comply with the policies of this Plan.

Land outside the Limits to Development will be treated as countryside, where development will be carefully controlled in line with local and national strategic planning policies.

Figure 3 – Limits to Development



Ensuring Excellent Housing Design

- 5.35 Although Gretton is made up of an eclectic mix of housing types it still retains an historic core which is exemplified by the conservation area and a large number of listed buildings. Whilst the village contains a wide mixture of styles it retains a homogenous feel to its core thanks to the very high proportion of traditional dwellings and the retention of the original village layout. The negative impact of later, less traditional, incongruous developments is mostly limited to outlying positions, their setting being similar to their neighbours.
- 5.36 The HTG have considered an approach to design that would support innovation and also protect what is best and special about the Parish. Appendix VI is a reference document of community aspirations and suggestions relating to design features which are intended to assist developers and other interested parties where appropriate.
- 5.37 The overall intention is to promote design which will safeguard the setting, feel and character of Gretton by encouraging future development to be sympathetic to its surroundings in terms of design, density and scale.

POLICY H3: DESIGN POLICIES - Development proposals should demonstrate a high quality of design, layout and use of materials in order to make a positive contribution to retaining the special character of the Parish.

Affordable Housing

- 5.38 As the recent housing needs report and current asking prices (Appendix III) point out, with average house prices in Gretton (Zoopla January 2020) at £361,000 and a building plot for a three bedroomed unit on the market at £215,000, costs are simply too high for those on average incomes. For these reasons, housing affordability remains a key housing issue for the parish and there is a clear case to meet local targets for affordable housing provision. Policy 30 of the JCS contains a requirement to provide a minimum of 40% affordable units on-site for all developments with 11 or more dwellings.
- 5.39 The level of affordable housing in the Parish, at 8.6% based on 2011 Census figures, is considerably below that for the Borough as a whole (21.3%). Consultation has demonstrated very strong support for affordable units to be provided for those individuals in housing need who have a local connection so that local need is prioritised.

Standards of Accessibility

- 5.40 Very little of the current housing stock in the Parish is built to modern mobility standards. This creates a series of problems for physically disabled and/or older people in terms of managing their existing property.
- 5.41 Disabled Facilities Grants are severely limited by a means test for home owners to cover the cost of any necessary alterations to make life easier in their homes, given the financial problems being experienced by local government in this situation is expected to further worsen. Any accessibility modifications must normally be self-funded or people must move house through an expensive upheaval and move to meet their mobility needs. Evidence suggests that several local people have had to move to a higher care environment than they actually need to, to address this lack of locally accessible property.
- 5.42 Evidence from the community questionnaire suggests that this position has worsened over recent years as people continue to age in the Parish.
- 5.43 The HTG members considered the “best practice” in the construction industry and noted that three of the five large national housebuilders already construct 100% of their new units to building regulations standard M2, with very few exceptions due to some site constraints. The requirement for M3 wheelchair standard housing is contained in the SHMA study at 5% of future CBC wide provision.

Windfall Sites

- 5.44 Windfall sites are small infill or redevelopment sites that come forward. These sites can comprise redundant or vacant buildings including barns, or gaps between existing properties in a built-up area.
- 5.45 Such sites have made a regular contribution towards the housing supply in the Parish. For example, in the last four years, six units have been provided. There remain several small site opportunities for windfall development within the updated Limits to Development and it is

recognised that they will continue to make an important contribution to housing provision in the Parish over the lifetime of the plan.

POLICY H4: WINDFALL SITES – Development proposals for infill and redevelopment sites will be supported where:

- a) They are within the Limits to Development of Gretton;
- b) They help to meet the identified housing requirement for Gretton;
- c) They reflect the character and historic context of existing dwellings within Gretton;
- d) They retain existing important natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams;
- e) They provide for a safe vehicular and pedestrian access to the site and any traffic generation and parking impact created does not result in a severe direct or cumulative impact on congestion or road and pedestrian safety unless appropriate mitigation measures are undertaken;
- f) They do not result in an unacceptable loss of amenity for neighbouring occupiers by reason of loss of privacy, loss of daylight, visual intrusion or noise;
- g) They do not reduce garden space to an extent where it adversely impacts on the character of the area, or the amenity of neighbours and the occupiers of the dwelling;
- h) They are directly adjacent to the village Limits to Development access is directly available to current roads and not over the land of existing or planned private dwellings, without permission of the owner, and
- i) They do not increase flood risk and incorporate the use of sustainable urban drainage systems.

Housing Mix

- 5.46 A wide range of evidence has been considered to establish the types of housing required in the Parish to 2031. This has been supplemented by community consultation on residents' preferences.
- 5.47 There are several key points from the census data 2011 and the housing needs survey produced through the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan (both in the supporting information as Appendices III and IV). There are significantly more 4 and 5 bed dwellings in Gretton compared to the Borough, and fewer 2-bed properties. Detached properties are more than double the Borough-wide average and levels of affordable housing are low.
- 5.48 There is evidence that the population is ageing with the share of residents aged 60 and over increasing from 19% of the total population in 2001 to 24% in 2011. The Census shows that the number of residents aged 60+ rose by 35% during this period. In line with national trends the local population is likely to get older as average life expectancy continues to rise.

- 5.49 Home ownership levels are very high with around 84% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan and at 5% the share of households living in private rented accommodation is very low when compared with borough, regional and national rates.
- 5.50 There is evidence of under occupancy suggesting a need for smaller homes of one to two bedrooms which would be suitable for residents needing to downsize, small families and those entering the housing market.
- 5.51 Policy 30 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Care Strategy 2011 – 2031 calls for housing development to provide a mix of dwellings and tenures to cater for current and forecast accommodation needs. The emerging Local Plan Part 2 for Corby stresses the importance of considering provision for older people within developments.
- 5.52 At the Open Event in March 2018, a majority of respondents indicated a preference for affordable and/or smaller homes (including bungalows) to enable young people/families and older residents to stay in the village. This outcome was reinforced in the Housing Needs Survey with the most popular choices for new housing being homes for elderly people, homes for young people and small family homes.
- 5.53 The Neighbourhood Plan therefore seeks to provide smaller family houses along with some bungalows for older residents to allow them to stay in the community.
- 5.54 This policy on housing type directly reflects the need identified through the evidence gathered and mirrors the wishes of local people.

POLICY H5: HOUSING MIX - New housing development proposals should provide a mixture of housing types specifically to meet the latest assessment of identified local needs in Gretton.

Applications for small family homes (2 or 3 bedrooms) or homes suitable for older people will be supported. Larger homes (4 or more bedrooms) can feature in the mix of housing but will be expected to provide a minority on any single site.

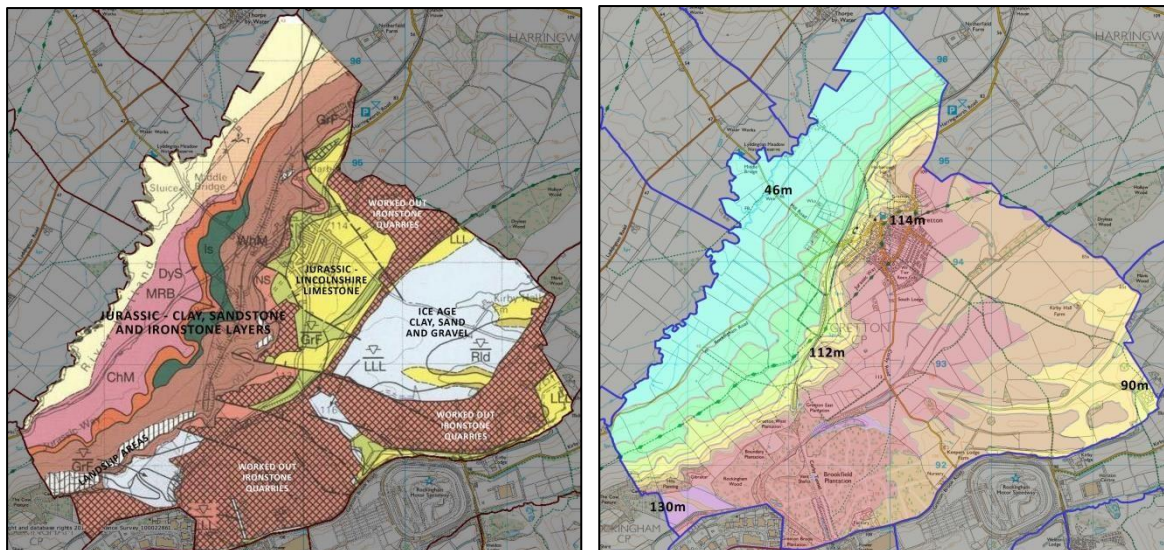
Section 6 Natural and Historic Environment

Introduction

Landscape, Geology and Setting

- 6.1 Gretton occupies an elevated position overlooking the major regional landscape feature of the River Welland valley. The valley is more than 2 km wide here; the rather small present-day meandering river flows in a trench created several million years ago by a much larger river, one which had carved its course along an elongated outcrop of Jurassic clay bounded to west and east by more resistant layers of limestone and ironstone. The western third of the Parish is the floodplain of the Welland, at lower than 50m, while the village stands on the crest of an escarpment forming the valley side, at over 110m. To the southeast the land falls gently, on foundations of the harder Jurassic layers mentioned above, to 90m.
- 6.2 Gretton developed in this location because the limestone on which it stands provided both well-drained soil and a series of freshwater springs; the limestone has also been the material from which its buildings and walls have been constructed. The warm cream building stone, combined with its elevated position and ‘remote and rural’ aspect (p.7 of the NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales Natural England publication with reference to the Welland Valley.) places Gretton in (for the English Midlands) spectacular landscapes and views, and give the Plan area much of the special character this Plan aims to preserve.

Figure 4: Geology (left) and topography of the Plan Area. Geological map adapted from British Geological Survey online mapping. Both © Crown copyright and database rights. All rights reserved (100059579) 2018.



Historic Environment

- 6.3 The Plan area preserves archaeological and archival evidence of more than 3 millennia of history, with finds and earthworks representing habitation from the Neolithic (stone axes) through the Iron Age and Roman periods to the ‘dark ages’, when Gretton itself was founded as the first isolated Anglo-Saxon settlements were amalgamated into a ‘nucleated

settlement’. This township and two outlying settlements (Kirby and Cotton) were surrounded by open arable fields (some of whose ploughlands can still be seen, as ridge and furrow, today), meadows, woods and ‘forest’. The Saxon village is recorded in the Norman Domesday Book; the church dates from the 12th century, and Gretton Manor House stands close to where the medieval lord of the manor’s hall – as shown by earthworks – was located. The village itself stands on the footprint of medieval houses and streets, although the buildings seen today date mainly from the 16th to 21st centuries.

Natural Environment

- 6.4 Three millennia of human history mean that there is no entirely natural habitat in Gretton, but this is no different from the situation in the rest of England. What it has are several areas of semi-natural environment, including the hillside woods of the southwest escarpment, natural regrowth and planted woodland in the previously quarried Brookfield Plantation, permanent pasture and other areas of traditional grassland, along with streams and smaller water and wetland features.

Existing Environmental Designations

- 6.5 The Parish is located in National Character Areas (NCAs; Natural England landscape areas, defined for Planning purposes): 89 Northamptonshire Vales and 92 Rockingham Forest. There is one Scheduled Monument and 49 Listed Buildings (historic features of national importance), some 39 further visible or proven sites and features of archaeology and history significance (NCC and Historic England Historic Environment Records), 22 areas of Priority Habitat (as defined by Natural England and NCC), and 12 validated or Potential Wildlife Sites (NCC).

Environmental Inventory

- 6.6 An environmental inventory (Appendix VII) of Gretton was carried out between June and October 2018. The work comprised two elements:
- Review of all existing designations and available information, and
 - Fieldwork to identify sites and features of natural and historical environment significance in the context of the Plan area.
- 6.7 The review compiled information from many sources, including:
- DEFRA
 - Natural England
 - Historic England
 - Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records
 - Northants Environmental Record Centre records (biodiversity and geology)
 - Environment Agency
 - British Geological Survey
 - Old maps (Ordnance Survey, manuscript)

- British History Online
- Local history and archaeology publications
- Gretton community

6.8 Fieldwork reviewed all open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan area, and significant species, habitats, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant features were checked.

6.9 These data, along with all relevant site-specific information from the existing information review, were mapped and tabulated, and each site was scored and evaluated using the nine criteria for Local Green Space selection in the NPPF:

Table 1. Environmental inventory scoring system used in the Plan

	Yes / No	Yes, is essential for LGS designation.
1. LOCAL IN CHARACTER, NOT AN EXTENSIVE TRACT OF LAND		
2 PROXIMITY	Max 5	<p>5 = an open space within a settlement</p> <p>4 = adjacent to the settlement boundary (Limit to Development line when defined) – ‘at the bottom of the last gardens’</p> <p>3, 2, 1 = successively farther from settlement</p> <p>0 = most distant main settlement(s) <i>within the Plan Area</i></p>
3. SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY	Max 10	
3.1 BEAUTY	0-3	Only the most attractive land in the Plan Area should qualify - most sites should get 0
3.2 TRANQUILLITY	0-2	<p>Most sites should get 0</p> <p>2 will probably be limited to e.g. churchyards, well-designed memorial gardens, managed semi-natural habitats</p>
3.3 RECREATIONAL VALUE	0-5	<p>5, 4 = Public Open Spaces designed for sport and recreation or as facilities for children and young people</p> <p>3 = Membership sport facilities (tennis, bowls, etc.). Very well used park or other recreational space with full or comprehensive public access. Managed wildlife site with public access. Semi-natural parkland (trees, grass) with public footpaths and no restriction on access.</p> <p>2 = Paddock or grazing field with 1 or more public footpath, e.g. well-used for dog-walking, traditional sledging field</p> <p>1 = arable farmland with public footpath but no other access.</p> <p>0 = private property with no public recreational value or access</p>
4. LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE – History and Wildlife	Max 10	<p>Must be evidence-based and the data included in the Plan or appendices.</p> <p>History and wildlife scores are cumulative, i.e. if multiple historical features or ages are represented, or if biodiversity (numerous species of conservation concern (BAP) in several higher taxa) is demonstrable, the score rises by 1 or more points to a maximum of 3. All sites scoring 3 or above will qualify in this Plan for protection at appropriate level</p>

4.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0-5	<p>5 = statutory site, includes or comprises Scheduled monument, Listed Building, feature or structure. National Trust or English Heritage site</p> <p>4 = site with features in the County <i>Historic Environment Record</i>, Historic England <i>PastScape</i> records. <i>Registered park or garden</i>. Well-preserved <i>ridge and furrow</i></p> <p>3, 2 = site includes feature, earthworks or building with known local historic environment significance – history includes 20th century. Fainter <i>ridge and furrow</i></p> <p>1 = site of local oral or recorded history importance, no actual structure</p> <p>0 = No evidence for historical environment significance</p>
4.2 RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE	0-5	<p>5 = Statutory site, includes or comprises SSSI (biodiversity or geology) or other national or European designation.</p> <p>4 = County Wildlife Trust, etc. <i>nature reserve, Country Park</i> with importance for biodiversity, etc.</p> <p>3 – site with National, county and local biodiversity features, e.g. <i>Priority Habitats</i>, occurrence of one or more <i>Species of Conservation Concern</i> (use national or county Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species lists), mapped Gt Crested newt ponds, bat roosts and foraging areas. County or local site designations e.g. <i>Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserve, Community WildSpace</i>, etc.</p> <p>2 = other site of known local biodiversity importance not recorded elsewhere with e.g. BAP species, species-rich hedgerows, watercourse, pond</p> <p>1 = (Parish background level), moderate or potential wildlife value</p> <p>0 = no evidence for natural environment significance</p>
Maximum possible	25	

Note 1: Sites qualifying for more than one designation

Because of the assessment criteria and methodology employed in this Plan for identifying sites of environmental significance and protection, some sites qualify for two or more of the categories *Local Green Space (LGS)*, *Important Open Space (IOS)* and *Site of Environmental Significance (SES)*. The designations are not mutually exclusive, as follows:

Local Green Space (LGS): score highest overall; the designation is ‘a matter for local discretion’ (NPPF *Guidelines*). Criteria are a combination of community value and factual evidence, so can overlap with IOS/ Open Space Sport & Recreation (OSSR) designation and/or wildlife and historic evidence (SES).

Important Open Space (IOS): Score high under community value criteria and are existing or candidate (OSSR) sites. Can also be LGS (the statutory protection afforded does not affect OSSR status and amenity value) or SES (which is a fact-based designation, generally unaffected by function as an important open space).

Site of Environmental Significance (SES): Score high for their historical or ecological (wildlife) features. They are either existing designations by statutory bodies (Natural England, Historic England,) or potential/candidate sites for similar designation in the Plan. The evidence for these sites’ significance is a matter of fact (the habitats, species and features exist). Both LGS and IOS (OSSR) can have historical and wildlife significance that

should be taken into account in the Planning system irrespective of any higher-level designation, status or level of protection.

Site-Specific Policies

Local Green Spaces

6.10 Of the approximately 180 parcels of open land in the Parish, some 46 were identified as having notable environmental (natural, historical and/or cultural) features. These sites were scored, using the nine criteria for Local Green Space designation noted in the *NPPF* (see Table 1 for the criteria and scoring system devised for this Plan).

6.11 Two sites score 72% (18/25) or more of the maximum possible, and meet the essential requirements for designation as Local Green Space as outlined in the *NPPF*. Their statutory protection will ensure that these most important places in Gretton’s natural and human environment are protected.

Table 2: evidence for Local Green Space designations

REF	DESCRIPTION / EVIDENCE	NPPF (2018) LOCAL GREEN SPACE CRITERIA							
		1. LOCAL BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	2. PROXIMITY 0 - 5	3. SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (Max 10)			4. LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (Max 10)		TOTAL /25
				3.1 BEAUTY 0 - 3	3.2 TRANQUIL 0 - 2	3.3 REC. VALUE 0 - 5	4.1 HISTORY 0 - 5	4.2 WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
502	St James Churchyard	Y	5	3	2	3	5	4	22
	<p>Churchyard on prominent mound with bounding retaining walls of local limestone.</p> <p>The Church has been a permanent feature of the village for over 1,000 years. The present building was started in early 12th Century with later additions. In the 13th century chancel was raised to provide a crypt for the storage of the Hatton sarcophagi in the 17th Century.</p> <p>Some interesting gravestones which show some important family links:</p> <p>A Register is kept in the County Records of every grave in the village.</p> <p>One gravestone is for Rev Abner Brown and family. He did much to improve the villager’s lives such as setting up the first school, the Allotment Society, the Fire Brigade and a lending library.</p> <p>Reservoir Woods – a gypsy and unofficial District Nurse well known for her herbal remedies. She died in 1911 and was such a popular person the villagers erected a large granite memorial to her.</p> <p>There are 2 military WW1 graves and a plaque to inform visitors of these.</p> <p>Within the built-up area at the main historic centre of the village. Functions as an informal, tranquil ‘park’ and is an important open space of great antiquity.</p> <p>Provides part of the <i>Setting</i> for the Grade I Listed church.</p> <p>High local biodiversity significance, with mown and ‘hay-cut’ grass, ornamental trees including yew, bats, birds (4 BAP species), invertebrates.</p>								



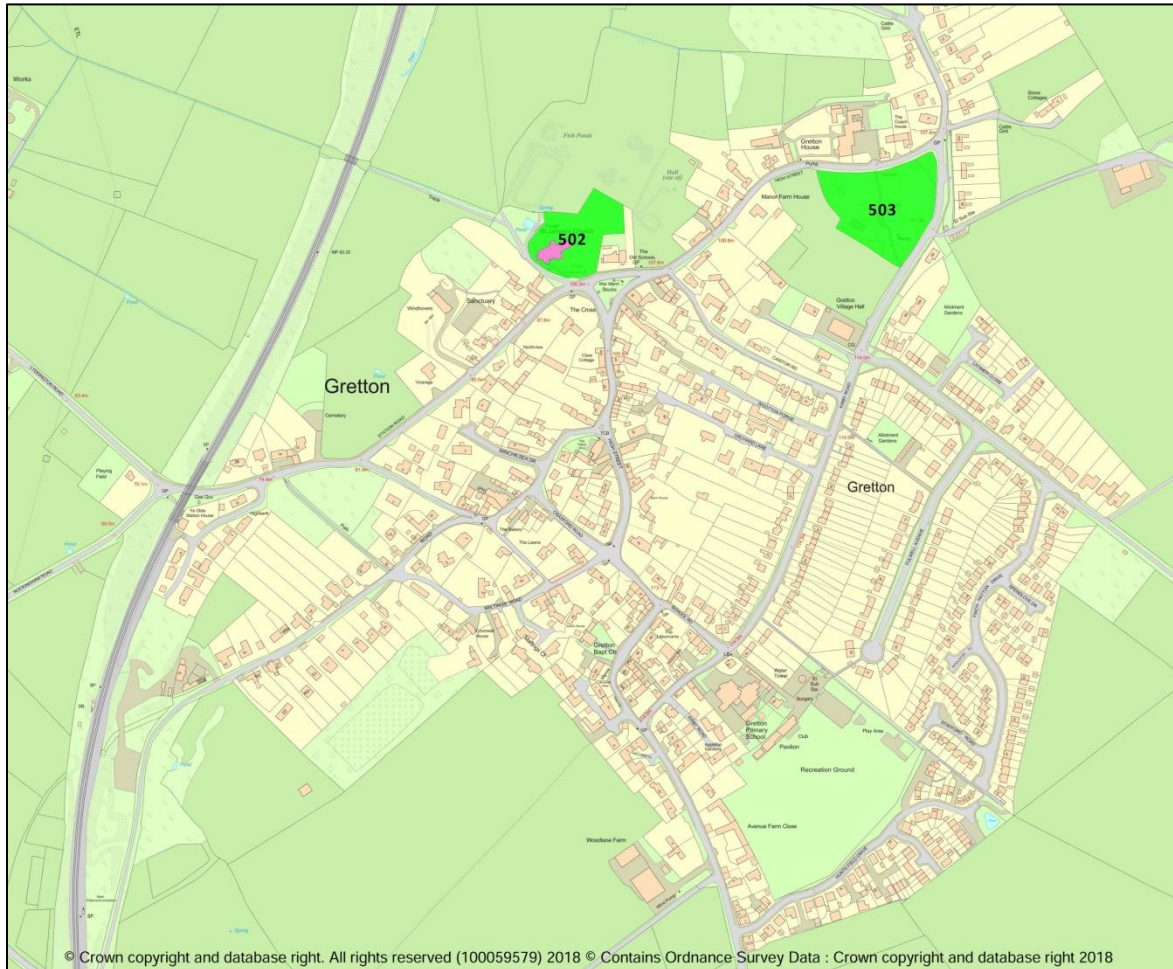
REF	DESCRIPTION / EVIDENCE	NPPF (2018) LOCAL GREEN SPACE CRITERIA							
		1. LOCAL BOUNDED, NOT EXTENSIVE YES/NO	2. PROXIMITY 0 - 5	3. SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY (Max 10)			4. LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE (Max 10)		TOTAL /25
				3.1 BEAUTY 0 - 3	3.2 TRANQUIL 0 - 2	3.3 REC. VALUE 0 - 5	4.1 HISTORY 0 - 5	4.2 WILDLIFE 0 - 5	
	 <p style="text-align: center;">St James Churchyard, 2018 © Tim Heaton Creative Commons Licence</p>								
503	Paddock Park	Y	5	3	2	4	3	4	21
	<p>Established as a <i>Pocket Park</i> (NCC funding and status scheme). Protected as a <i>Fields in Trust</i> site, set up by Parish Council and managed/supported by a group of volunteers who met monthly to maintain the paths, mow as appropriate for habitat creation, etc. Within the built-up area. Open Space (CBC) with multiple amenity functions (park, semi-natural greenspace, community event venue, etc.) Layout and habitats Include mown and rough grass, scrub, wildflower meadow, deciduous and coniferous trees, 'human sundial', benches (some as memorials). Bird-boxes. Petanque court, picnic area. Partly bounded with Victorian iron estate fencing/gates. Bat foraging area, other mammals, range of garden and farmland birds including 5 BAP species and several amber- and red-listed.</p>								
	 <p style="text-align: center;">Paddock Park, November 2018</p>								

Figure 5: Local Green Spaces
Pink shading indicates existing statutory protection



POLICY ENV 1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE – Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, the following Local Green Spaces (details table 2; map figure 5) will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances.

St James' Churchyard
Paddock Park

Sites of Environmental Significance

6.12 A group of inventory sites scores highly for history and wildlife (scoring at least 3/5 under either of these two criteria) but, because their community value scores are not also high, they are not eligible for LGS designation. The features for which the identified sites have been selected and notified are listed in the environmental inventory (Appendix VII). The map (figure 6) shows their locations.

Note 2: Local benefit: In Policies ENV 2, ENV 3 and ENV 4, the *benefits* of a development should not, in the community's view, include private advantage, those relating to a developer's profit

margins, or to national or local political agendas. The intended reference is to demonstrable benefits to the Plan area and the local community, e.g. housing need, infrastructural enhancement, etc. as outlined elsewhere in this Plan.

- 6.13 The **historical environment** sites comprise a) sites with *extant and visible* archaeological or historical features or proven buried archaeology, as recorded in the Historic England or Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records (NHER) databases, and b) other sites of historical and social significance identified in local records and during the inventory process.
- 6.14 The **natural environment** sites comprise a) those where *priority habitats* occur (Natural England mapping) or where *biodiversity action plan (BAP) species* have been recorded as breeding or as regular visitors; b) sites identified as ecologically significant by NCC, including Local Wildlife Sites, and c) sites of significance for their geological interest and d) sites identified during the inventory process as being of high biodiversity significance in the context of the Plan Area.
- 6.15 Policy ENV 2 delivers site-level compliance in the Plan Area with the relevant CBC and NCC policies, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the European Habitats and Species Directives.

NOTE 3: Mitigation and replacement: Policy ENV 2 does not specify mitigation or replacement as a suitable compromise (for example, as a condition of a planning consent) when existing biodiversity (habitats/species) or historic assets are present on a proposed development site. It is demonstrably impossible to move or re-create a habitat, which is always the result of years, decades or centuries of intricate natural processes, or an historic site, which is historic only because it is both old and located in a particular place.

Note 4: Brookfield Plantation

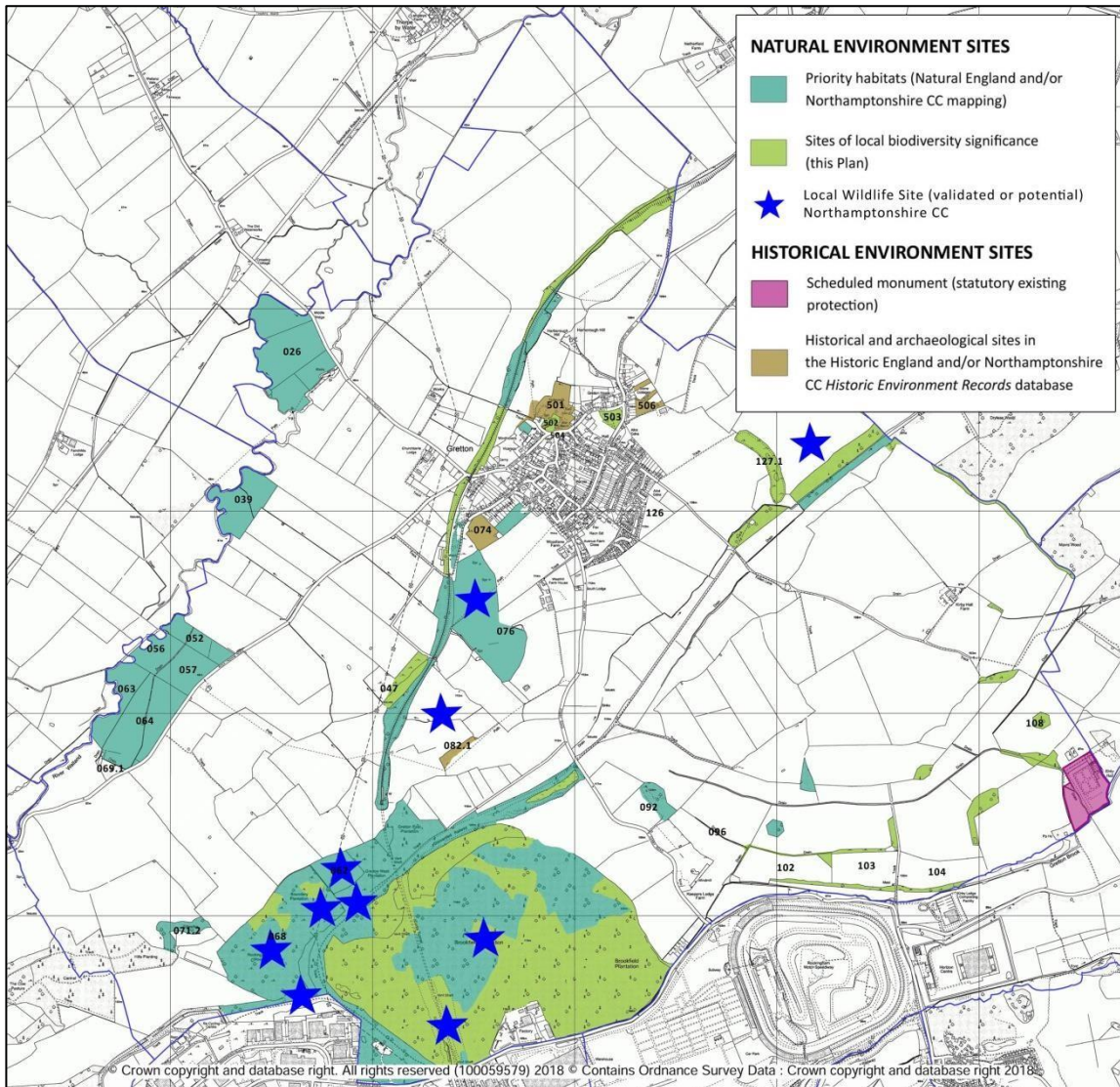
This large (175ha) area of (mainly) mixed woodland and scrub has biodiversity significance at Borough to national level. It has also become largely informally, an important area for countryside recreation. At the same time, its 20th Century history as an area of commercial tree plantation and quarrying has made it a post-industrial target in strategic and general planning, by CBC and other Authorities, for a range of otherwise difficult allocations including, in Gretton Parish, the Breedon Aggregates industrial, automotive and warehousing site. The area is largely owned (ultimately as a legacy of British Steel and its predecessors) by Tata Steel Europe Ltd.

As noted, the whole area is a mosaic of natural habitats comprising areas of long-established woodland, probably dating from the 18th Century, species-rich grassland, scrubland, 20th Century plantations, old quarry land, disused railway land and extensive rides and tracks. About half the area is designated by Natural England as *Priority Habitat* in three categories, while the rest is recognised by NCC as having important habitats, as confirmed or candidate Local Wildlife Sites, or is identified in this Plan as being locally significant ecologically. 71 protected and

notable species (not including bats, which also occur) have been recorded in the area (Northants Biodiversity Records Centre, 2013).

Residents in the Plan Area regard Brookfield Plantation as an important local ecological and amenity resource whose main features should be protected. They also recognise that some types of development, in well-chosen areas and with strong environmental protections, including habitat creation and further or improved benefits for community access and use, could be added without detriment to the overall biodiversity. Policy ENV 2 should be applied (in full), and with independent ecological studies to record existing biodiversity and to identify appropriate developer-funded enhancements to development proposals affecting it.

Figure 6: Sites of natural and historical environment significance



POLICY ENV 2: PROTECTION OF SITES OF NATURAL AND HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE – The sites listed and mapped (figure 6) have been identified as being of local significance for their environmental features (natural and/or historical). They are ecologically important in their own right, their historical features are extant and have visible expression or there is proven buried archaeology on the site, and they are locally valued. Development proposals that would result in their loss, or have a significant adverse effect, will not be supported, unless the overall benefits of the development outweigh the harm.

Important Open Space

6.16 A group of sites scored highly in the inventory (scoring at least 75% of the possible total under the relevant criteria) for their outstanding community value. They have been identified in fieldwork, community consultations and in Parish records. Some are existing, recognised open spaces with recreation, sport or amenity value and/or are Gretton Parish Council assets.

6.17 In Gretton these sites comprise:

Outdoor sport and recreation

Natural and semi-natural greenspace

Parks and gardens

Amenity greenspace

Provision for children and young people

Allotments

Cemeteries

Paddocks and other **open spaces among buildings** which contribute to the form and character of the village

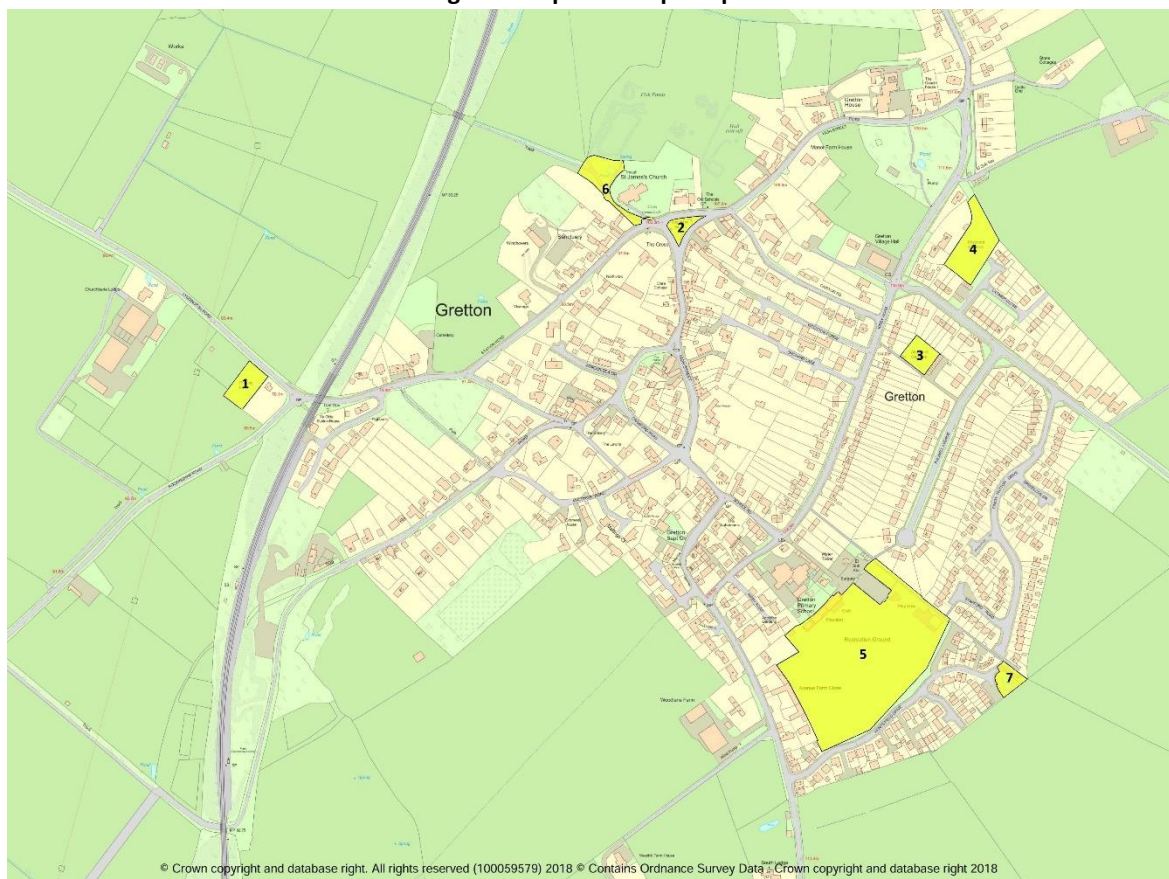
Village greens and **wide roadside verges** of historical, biodiversity or aesthetic value

6.18 Their value as open space *within and close to the built-up areas* and/or their current, or potential, value, as community resources are recognised in this Policy.

POLICY ENV 3: IMPORTANT OPEN SPACE – The following open spaces are of high local value for sport, recreation or amenity or contribute to the form and character of the village. Development proposals that result in their loss, or have a significant adverse effect on them, will not be supported unless the open space is replaced by equivalent or better provision in an equally suitable location, or unless it can be demonstrated that the open space or is no longer required by the community.

1. Pick playing field (507) Outdoor sport and recreation
2. War Memorial and Village Green (504) Parks and gardens; Amenity greenspace
3. Fulwell Avenue allotments (509) Allotments
4. Southfield Road allotments (511) Allotments
5. Gretton Recreation Ground (508) Outdoor sport and recreation
6. Church Gap (513) Wide roadside verges, Amenity greenspace
7. Huntsfield Drive public open space (512) Amenity greenspace

Figure 7 Important Open Space



Buildings and Structures of Local Significance

Listed Buildings

- 6.19 50 buildings and structures in the Plan area have statutory protection (Appendix X), as a Scheduled Monument or through Listing at Grade I, II* or II. The Plan lists them for reference, and to note that new development will be required to take into account their *settings* as defined, on a case by case basis, by Historic England. Their location within, or close to, sites designated or noted for protection in the Plan's Policies and Community Actions contributes to these sites' evidence of significance.

Local Heritage Assets

- 6.20 The Plan identifies a number of other buildings and structures in the built environment of Gretton that are considered to be of local significance for architectural, historical or social reasons (details in Appendix VIII). Their inclusion here records them in the Planning system as *non-designated heritage assets*.

Figure 8: Local Heritage Assets: buildings and structures of local significance (non-designated heritage assets)



POLICY ENV 4: BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF LOCAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE –
Development proposals that affect the buildings and structures listed below, or their setting, will be expected to conserve the significant features which make them important. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly a building or structure in the list below, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm of loss and the significance of the building or structure.

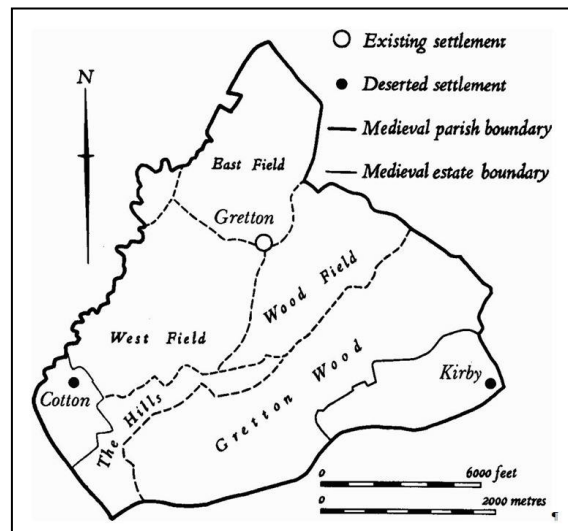
1. Baptist Chapel and adjoining building, High Street
2. Caistor's Cottage, 9 Caistor's Road
3. Church Gap wagon wash
4. Finger posts throughout village
5. Fire Station, Arnhill Road
6. Lamplighter's hut, Arnhill Road
7. Remains of WW2 anti-aircraft battery and type 22 pillbox, Harringworth Road
8. Police House. 31 Kirby Road
9. Railway bridge, Station Road/Rockingham Road
10. Gretton Primary School
11. Wootton's Smithy sign, 38 High Street
12. The Jo Stone, Corby Road/Kirby Road
- 13 Welland House, 27 High Street
14. West Wells and standpipe, Clay Lane

Ridge and Furrow

6.21 The modern Civil Parish of Gretton (the Plan area) includes three historic settlements: the medieval townships of Gretton and Kirby, and Cotton, an outlying farmstead in the Welland Valley. All of them were farmed, from about the 9th century, using the medieval open field system (figure 9), although – unlike the situation in most Midlands parishes, which were almost entirely arable– Gretton had areas under other land management, comprising the extensive Gretton Wood, a strip of flood land along the Welland, and 'the hills', the steep and unstable landscape marking the western edge of the high ground.

6.22 Several groups of ridge and furrow earthworks survive among the modern fields. The importance of ridge and furrow as a heritage asset has been recognised by Historic England (previously English Heritage) since 2001 (Hall, D 2001. *Turning the Plough. Midland open fields: landscape character and proposals for management*. English Heritage and NCC). The Parish was included in an ongoing national research project, involving a survey of the 1600 parishes across the English counties comprising the 'planned landscape' area of medieval open field farming. A local survey (Appendix VIII), using the same methods (aerial/satellite imagery and fieldwork), was done in 2018 as part of the Plan process. This provides a record of the current situation and demonstrates the rate of loss in the last two decades.

Figure 9: The open fields of Gretton, Cotton and Kirby, and other medieval land use.

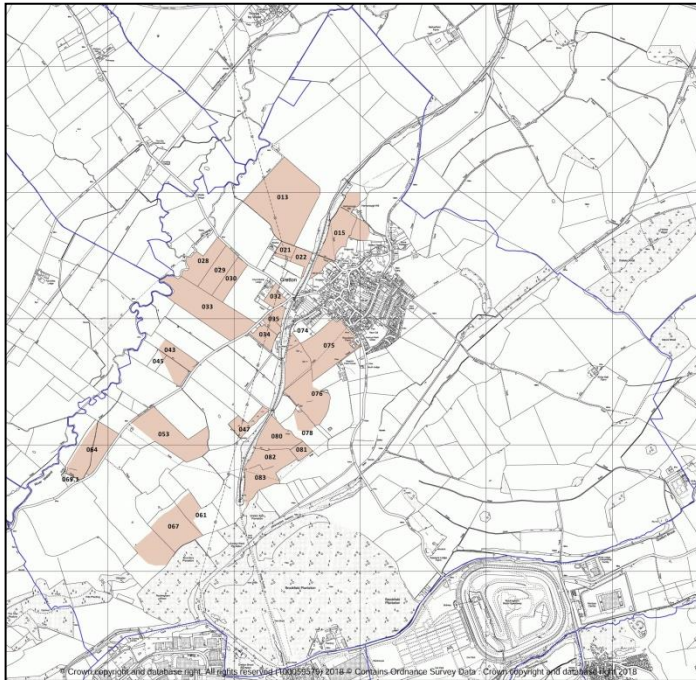


Source: British History Online

6.23 Under the open field system, crops and fallow were rotated on (usually) a 3-year basis and the land managed communally. Ploughing was by ox-teams; the medieval plough was not reversible, meaning that as the land was ploughed (clockwise, up and down the strips) the soil was always thrown to the same side of the plough, forming ridges and furrows with a height difference of up to 2 metres. After *enclosure*, the process of subdividing the open fields and re-distributing their ownership among major landowners, the old ploughlands were either incorporated in parkland (Kirby), or converted to permanent grazing land, thus 'fossilising' all the features of the medieval farmed landscape, including the furlongs, headlands and baulks.

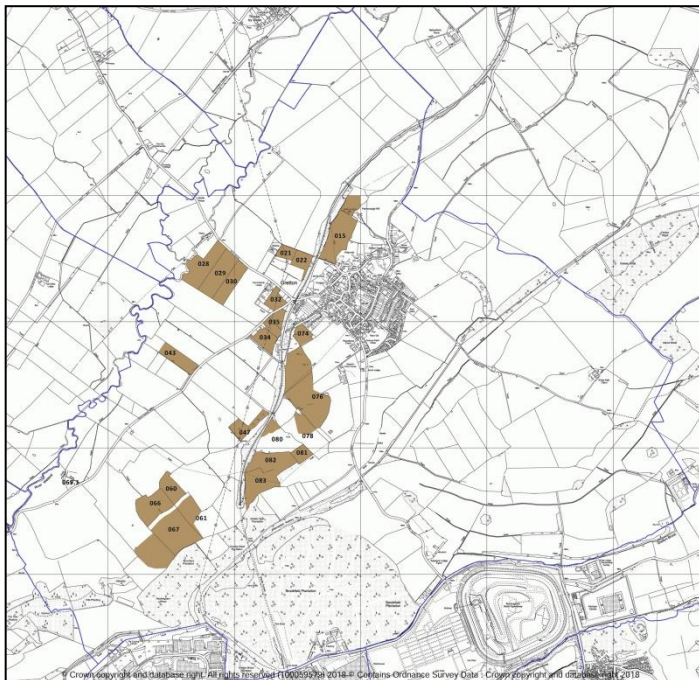
6.24 Kirby was deserted in the 14th century and any remaining open field systems were obliterated by construction of the Hall and estate c. 1570. Cotton was deserted at an unknown date, but its field system seems to have survived into early modern times. Gretton itself was gradually enclosed from about 1587, finally by the Enclosure Act of 1837. The extent of ridge and furrow in the Plan Area has also been influenced by medieval land use (some areas were never part of the system, see above) and by 19th-20th-century quarrying for limestone and ironstone (east of the village).

Figure 10.1: Ridge and Furrow in 1999 Source: *Turning the Plough* survey, English Heritage and Northamptonshire CC, 2001



would have been ridge and furrow following the Enclosure of 1837 (see above) is about 775 ha. In 1999, the area of surviving ridge and furrow had been reduced to 56 ha. It is now 36 ha; even within the time-range of Google Earth mapping it is clear that this further reduction is still the result of conversion of grazing land to arable. Surviving ridge and furrow in Gretton is now only 4.6% of the original extent.

Figure 10.2 Ridge and furrow in 2018



important in their own right and valued by the local community; any further, avoidable,

6.25 A return to arable farming, using modern ploughs, during the late 20th century caused the destruction of most ridge and furrow across the Midlands. The national trend recorded in 2001 was a loss of between 85% and 100% per parish, most since 1950.

6.26 Gretton fits this pattern. The inventory fieldwork in 2018 mapped the extent of all surviving ridge and furrow in the Plan area. The results have been compared with the extent in 1999 (Hall D 2001; see above).

The area of Gretton Parish that

6.27 In English legislation ridge and furrow fields (except for the few groups that are designated as Scheduled Monuments) are not statutorily protected, despite a recognition that “as the open field system was once commonplace in NW Europe, these [surviving] sites take on an international importance” (English Heritage 2012. *Project Brief for Turning the Plough Update Assessment*). While individual fields in Gretton are not claimed to be of international importance, the well-preserved groups are

loss would be irreversibly damaging. Historic England strongly recommends treating all surviving ridge and furrow as non-designated heritage assets, and this is the approach taken in this Plan. The policy delivers NPPF paragraph 197 at the Plan Area level.

“What was once common and often unregarded is now rare and needs to be valued.”

Graham Fairclough, English Heritage, 2001

6.28 As planning consent is not required for change of agricultural practice or land use, the support of local farmers and agricultural landowners on a case-by-case basis will be necessary to achieve a sustainable balance between viable agriculture and protection of this now severely threatened historic environment heritage.

POLICY ENV 5: RIDGE AND FURROW - The areas of ridge and furrow earthworks mapped in figure 10.2 are non-designated local heritage assets.

Any loss or damage arising from a development proposal (or a change of land use requiring planning permission) is to be avoided; the local benefits of such development must be balanced against the significance of the ridge and furrow features as heritage assets.

General Policies

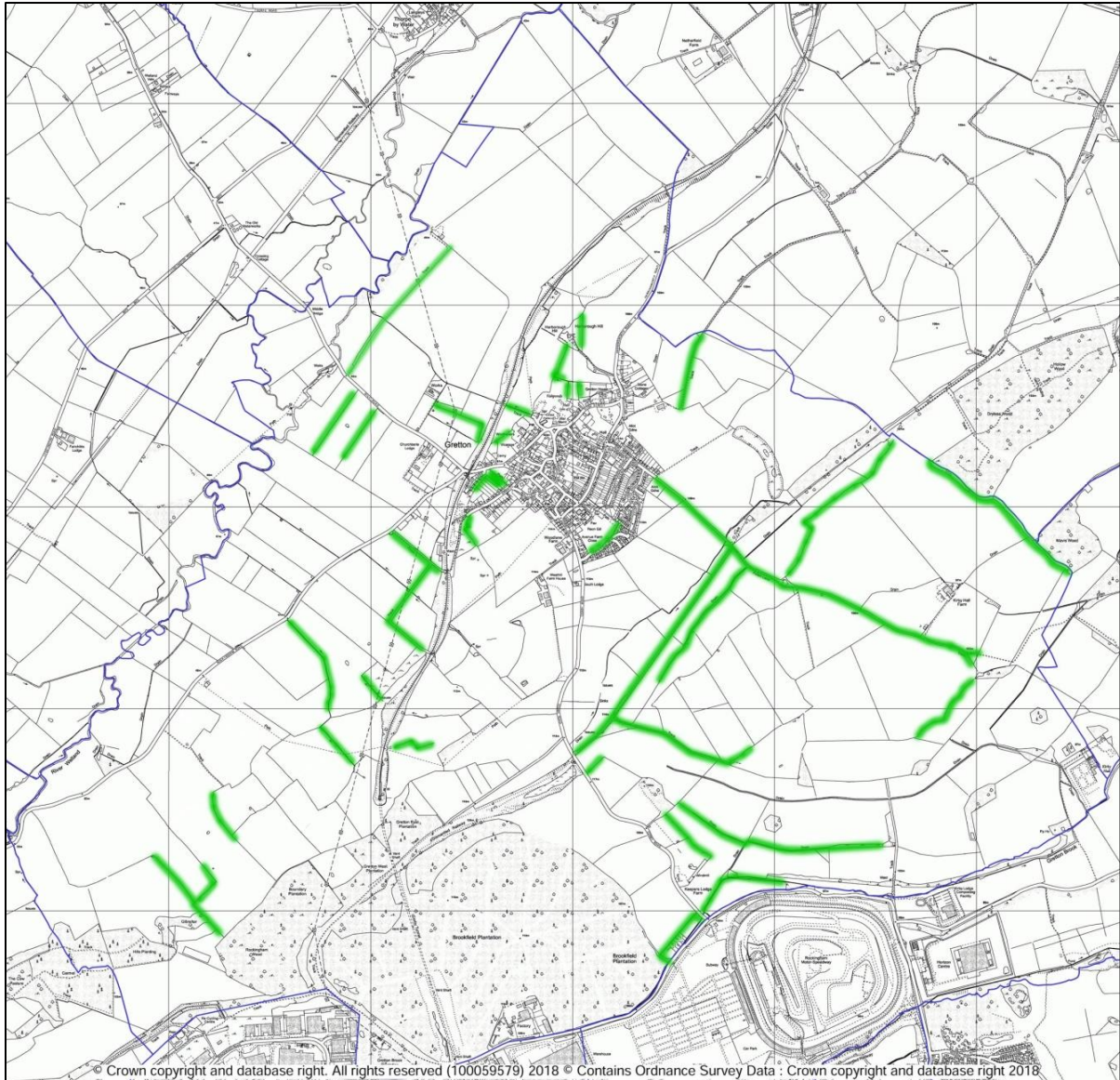
Biodiversity, Hedges and Habitat Connectivity

- 6.29 It could be said that Gretton Parish is a typical area of English Midlands countryside because it has no nationally important wildlife hotspots, and thus that it has little or no biodiversity significance to be taken into account in the Planning system. This would be a misunderstanding of the concept of biodiversity. England’s biodiversity is entirely and only the sum of the wildlife in all of its individual parishes: Gretton is as important in this regard as every other parish, and residents want it to play its essential part in protecting what remains of England’s threatened and diminishing biodiversity.
- 6.30 This policy is therefore about parish-level compliance with the relevant CBC policies, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended), and the European Habitats and Species Directives – and about how Gretton can ‘do its bit’ to maintain biodiversity by taking it into account, at a parish level of detail, in the Planning system.
- 6.31 Before the agricultural enclosures (16th to 19th centuries in Gretton), the Parish was managed in two sections. The Welland Valley was an important sheep grazing area where the fields and tracks were defined by hawthorn hedges. On the limestone plateau, however, the open arable fields had not needed permanent stock-proofing. Enclosure and conversion to permanent pasture here meant that landowners were obliged to plant hedges. If these two sets of hedges of different ages and origins had all survived, they

would now be an important ecological and landscape resource. However, farming history and land use in Gretton (as described in the section on ridge and furrow) has led to the destruction of most of them. The few that remain, along with some more recent deliberately ornamental plantings, are therefore a scarce component of the Plan area's biodiversity potential, particularly as wildlife corridors. Policy ENV 6 recognises them and aims to give them protection, where possible, in the Planning system at a more detailed level than the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 can do.

- 6.32 Connectivity is an essential component of biodiversity. Isolated populations of animals and plants are at risk of destruction or of simply dying out. Wildlife corridors aim to reconnect populations and habitats within parishes and more widely. Three wildlife corridors, based on the regionally important Welland Valley corridor, the line of the Kettering – Nottingham railway and the course of the ironstone railway, (figure 12) have been identified during the preparation of this Plan.

Figure 11: Hedges of ecological and/or historical significance

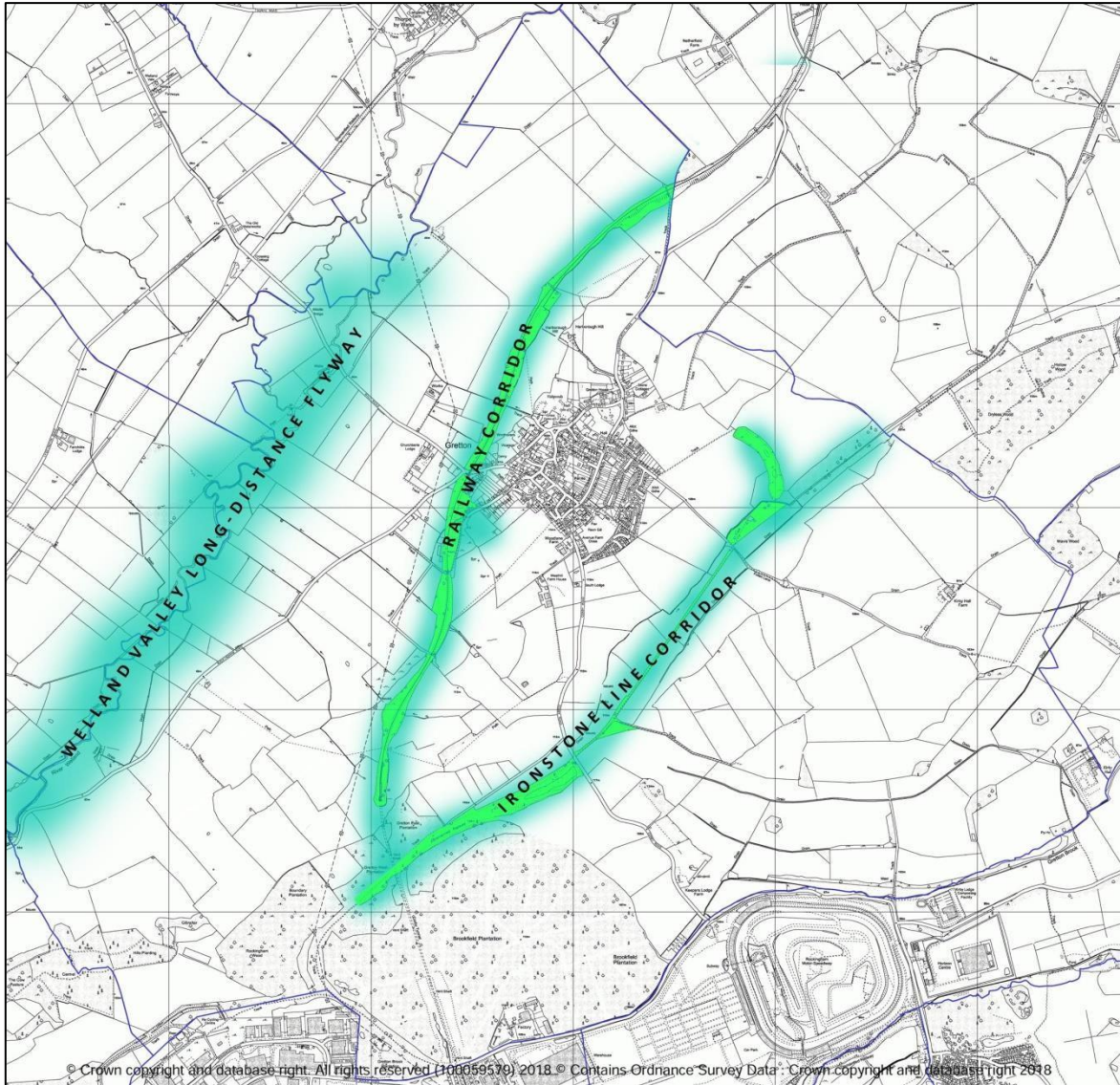


POLICY ENV 6: BIODIVERSITY, HEDGES AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY- Development proposals will be expected to safeguard locally significant habitats and species, especially those protected by relevant English and European legislation, and, where possible, to create new habitats for wildlife.

Development proposals that damage or result in the loss of hedges of historical and ecological significance and amenity value (figure 11) will be resisted. Proposals should be designed to retain and manage such hedges where possible.

Development proposals should not damage or adversely affect the habitat connectivity provided by the wildlife corridors identified in figure 12.

Figure 12: Wildlife corridors. Bright green = connected habitat areas



COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 1: BIODIVERSITY

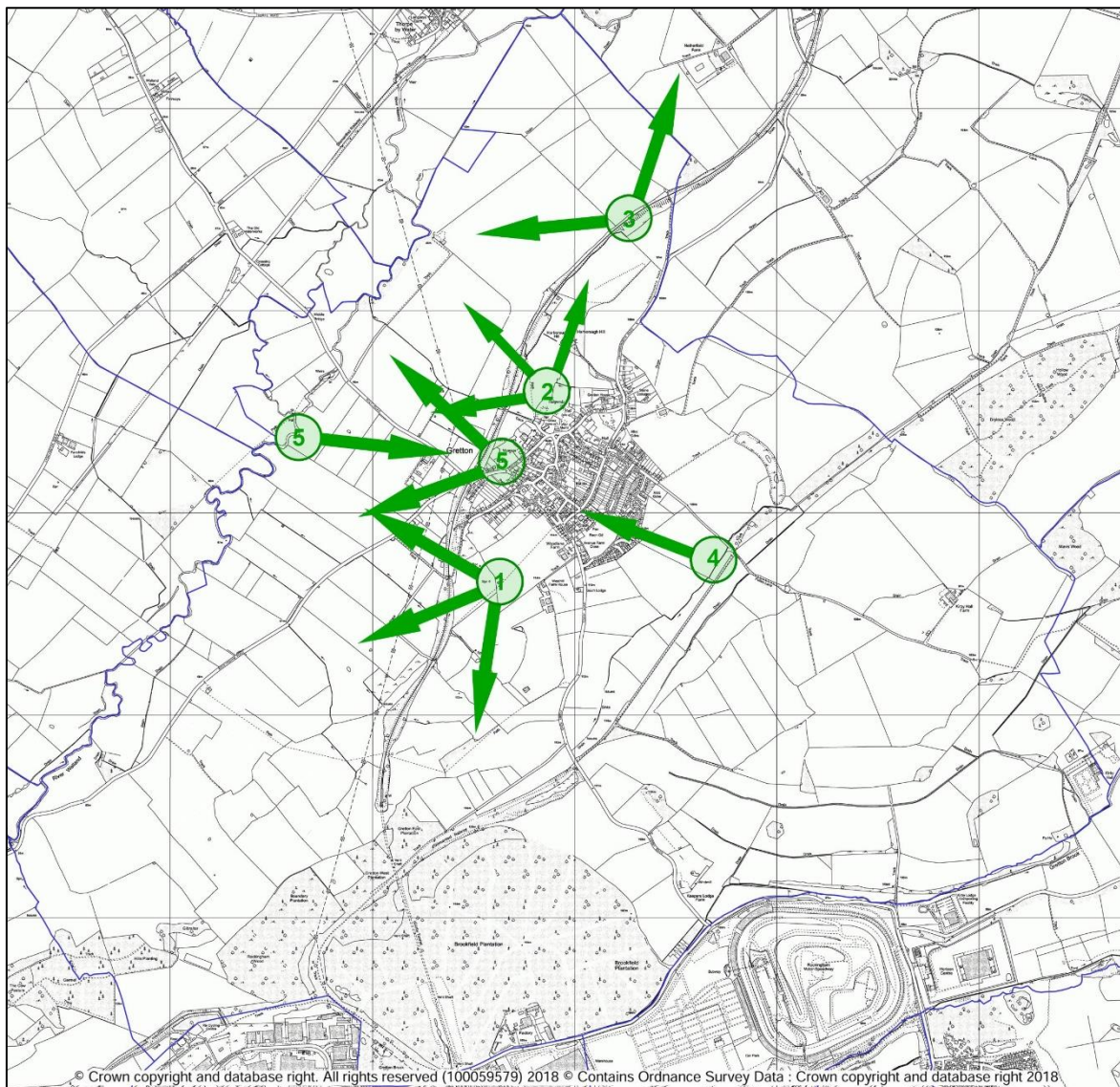
The Parish Council will work with community groups, landowners, funders and other organisations to enhance the biodiversity of the Parish by creating and/or managing habitat sites (e.g. wildflower meadows, woodland, wetland) on suitable parcels of land.

Important Views

6.33 Consultation during the Plan's preparation identified a widely-held wish to protect Gretton's rural setting, and its relationship with the surrounding landscape, including its spectacular position overlooking the Welland Valley.

- 6.34 One of the main ways in which residents expressed this wish was by describing a number of highly-valued views within the village and toward it from the surrounding countryside. These consultation findings were supported by the environmental inventory, which although principally aimed at identifying sites of environmental significance also confirmed the sight-lines of the suggested views and mapped them (below, figure 13).
- 6.35 Gretton's location close to the population centre of Corby also makes the Plan area a destination for the leisure activities of walking, cycling and riding; the views are in themselves a reason for visits to Gretton.

Figure 13: Local Views. See text for explanation



POLICY ENV 7: LOCAL VIEWS – Development proposals must have regard to their impact on those local views which are considered significant – as listed below – and should be considered as part of relevant Design & Access Statements.

- 1. Panoramic views from south to northwest, from footpath GN27 at the top of the escarpment, across the Welland Valley**
- 2. Views northeast, northwest and southwest from the churchyard including scheduled monument, ridge and furrow on steep hillside and distant valley and hills.**
- 3. Views northeast to southwest from Cresswell including pillbox and Harringworth viaduct.**
- 4. View of the village from footpath GN13.**
- 5. Views west from the area of the village around the top of Arnhill Road. The opposite view east from the Welland Valley toward the village is also notable.**

Footpaths, Cyclepaths And Bridleways

- 6.36 Almost all the existing Rights of Way in the Plan area follow ancient, historic ways that certainly date from medieval times and may have their origins in prehistory. They have served for centuries for trade and communication, within the Parish (to get out to the fields, for example), between Gretton and neighbouring villages (including the now lost medieval settlements of Kirby and Cotton) and more widely (for taking goods and livestock to market). Further old routes still exist as tracks or aligned features but are not in the Northamptonshire definitive register of rights of way. Historically most important is the putative route along the edge of the Welland floodplain where the Gretton Mill once stood and was registered in the Domesday Book and demolished in the 1960s.
- 6.37 The proximity of Gretton to Corby adds to the local appreciation of the rights of way network because of the acknowledged health and wellbeing value of countryside access and exercise. Residents of Corby use Gretton and its paths as a rural resort. It would be desirable to provide safe pedestrian and cycle routes to Corby and Harringworth.
- 6.38 The intention of Policy ENV 8 and Community Action Env 2 is to protect existing routes by promoting through upkeep and recognition, and supporting formation of new ones.

POLICY ENV 8: FOOTPATHS, CYCLEPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, the existing network of footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways (see Figure 14) will not be supported without appropriate mitigation.

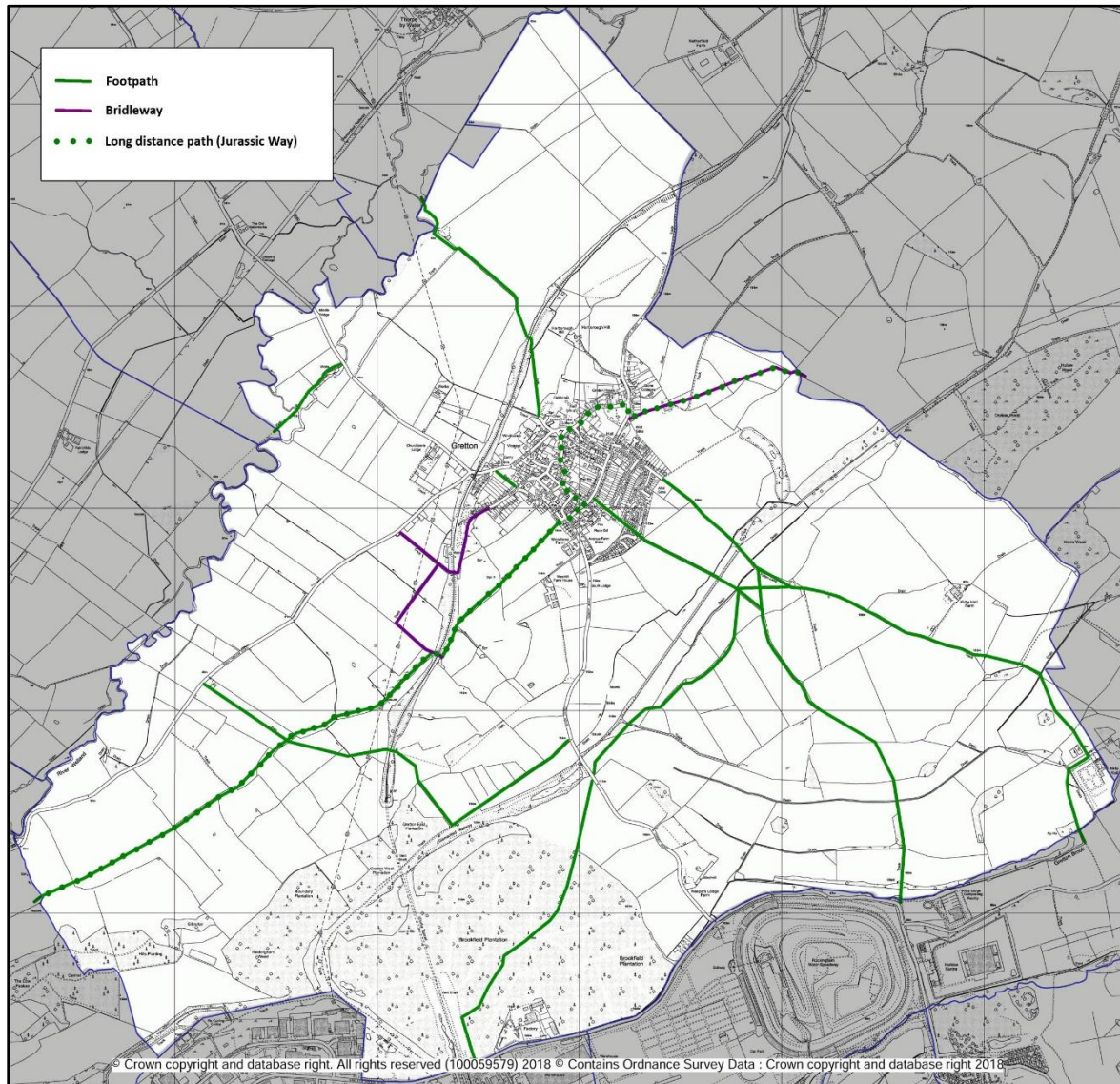
The maintenance, upgrading and, where appropriate, extension of the footpath network in the Parish will be supported in order to:

- a) Service new developments and connect them to the existing network;
- b) Encourage walking over car use for journeys within the Parish;
- c) Provide an improved and more extensive footpath network to support exercise and leisure activities for residents and visitors; and
- d) Work towards providing footpaths and cyclepaths alongside roads between local parishes, to support exercise and leisure activities.

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 2: FOOTPATHS – The Parish Council will work with local residents to identify and register historic, traditional and well-used footpaths in the Plan Area that are not currently in the definitive Rights of Way list, through involvement with the national *Forgotten Ways* scheme.

The Parish Council will collaborate with landowners, the community, relevant organisations and the Local Highways Authority to promote the creation of new footpaths.

Figure 14: Existing footpaths and bridleways



Renewable Energy Generation Infrastructure

- 6.39 Residents of the Plan area recognise the importance of renewable energy sources to the mitigation of the predicted effects of climate change. They welcome initiatives for both wind and solar generation as long as they do not damage the acknowledged sensitive landscapes of the Parish, or its biodiversity and heritage features.
- 6.40 The NPPF paragraph 148 states that the planning system should help to 'shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure'. Residents of Gretton are keen to promote both appropriately-scaled technologies for ecologically sound energy generation and appropriate measures to reduce energy consumption.

6.41 This section of the Plan represents a community view based on the results of community consultation, in which this policy area was explicitly explored. Majority opinion can be summarised as:

- Small-scale wind and solar energy generation installations have support in the community as long as detailed conditions (as outlined in the Policy ENV 9 and JCS Policy 26) are complied with;
- The Plan should not identify any specific, preferred sites for wind turbines or solar panel arrays; and
- Vertical ground source heat pump premises or estate heating installation will be strongly supported in appropriate new development proposals.

POLICY ENV 9: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE – Proposals for small-scale, local resident, business, amenity or community-initiated, solar and wind generation infrastructure will be supported, subject to their complying with the environmental protection conditions listed in *NNJCS* Policy 26.

Vertical ground source heat pump premises or estate heating installation will be strongly supported in appropriate new development proposals.

Section 7 Community Sustainability

- 7.1 Gretton is a community which is concerned about the future impacts of climate change, and as such wants to retain the village resources available today for future generations. Through developing this chapter, the people of Gretton have expressed that their community assets, access to good transport, whilst living in a positive social economic area, is what makes a thriving, sustainable village.

Community Assets - Bringing the Community Together

- 7.2 Community assets are premises and activities which make a significant contribution to village life. They encourage social interaction, friendships and learning, and also foster and support new talents. It is essential that Gretton retains and continues to build on these assets.
- 7.3 Gretton is a vibrant community. Some families have lived here for generations, and several residents have returned to the village after a spell living elsewhere. The involvement of many residents in the activities and facilities in the village contributes to its vitality.

Education

Gretton Primary School

- 7.4 Gretton Primary School has been on the same site for over 100 years, and now caters for 148 children.
- 7.5 At present, in 2018 the recently extended school serves approximately 90 families, mainly from Gretton but also from Harringworth and Corby.
- 7.6 The school elected to become an academy and joined the Brooke Weston Trust in September intrinsic. It benefits from being part of a larger, academic organisation and has access to facilities and opportunities beyond its normal scope, without losing its village identity.
- 7.7 The school is one the largest employers in the village with 23 members of staff.
- 7.8 Gretton Primary is a high achieving school. In February 2016 Ofsted reported that the school was 'Good' with outstanding features. In 2017 the results, progress and attainment of its pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 were the highest in the borough and 10th across Northamptonshire as a whole. As a result, the school is one of the most popular in the area in terms of admission applications.

Chirpy Chicks Pre-school

- 7.9 On the same site as the Primary School is 'Chirpy Chicks', a community preschool with strong links to the academy and also to Pengreen Children's Centre (National Excellence) in Corby. With an outstanding Ofsted rating, and housed in a modern eco building (10 years old) the preschool is extremely popular, with 40 children aged 2-4 years old mainly from Gretton, plus a few from Harringworth and Corby. The pre-school employs 10 members of staff.

- 7.10 The school has a few car parking spaces for staff, but both establishments use the recreational car park during their operational times 7-7, Monday to Friday. Congestion is at its peak during school drop off and pick up at 8.50am and 3.10pm. This is covered in the transport section of this chapter.

Secondary Education

- 7.11 Gretton does not have a secondary school. Approximately 60 children attend Uppingham Community College (UCC). Other local secondary schools attended by 11-18-year olds are based in Corby, Oakham and Stamford.

Religious Establishments

St James the Great, Church of England, and The Baptist Church

- 7.12 Parts of St James church date back to the 12th century. Services are held on a regular basis, with monthly Holy Communion and family services, christenings, weddings and funerals. Burials take place in the graveyard in Station Road.
- 7.13 The Baptist Church was founded in 1786 when the non-conformist movement began in Gretton. The current church site was consecrated in 1824. Parts of the attached schoolroom originate from wooden huts lived in by railway construction workers in the 1870s.
- 7.14 Both churches are important village community settings both hosting regular annual events attracting national and regional attention, such as the flower festival, and the Christian festival.

Village Hall and Events

- 7.15 The village hall is an asset to all sectors of Gretton's community. It was built in 1963 and was refurbished to a high standard in 2009. There is a meeting room, a large communal hall, a very well equipped kitchen and a spacious bar area. The hall can be hired out at a reasonable cost.
- 7.16 Regular events include: Gretton History Society; Archery Club; Keep Fit; Gretton Women's Institute; First Gretton Scout Group; Monthly lunch club and Parish Council meetings.

Pubs, Clubs and Other Community Assets

- 7.17 The Hatton Arms is named after the Hatton family who were Lords of the Manor of Gretton. It was the gatehouse for the Kirby Hall estate in the 14th century. The Hatton Arms is the third oldest public house in Northamptonshire. It has a restaurant and provides a venue to several community groups including the Gardening group, Gretton folk club, a Knit and Natter group and a summer darts league.
- 7.18 The Blue Bell re-opened in April 2018. The public house was mentioned in the Stamford Mercury in 1772. In the 1930's it was used as a breakfast stop for quarry workers and was run by the famous landlord Tinker Joe.
- 7.19 The Sports and Social Club is by the recreation ground. This valuable asset is for Gretton village members and offers organised activities and functions for families and actively encourages children

to take part. The club has extensive bar facilities and caters for parties etc. The club hosts sporting events and has a large TV Screen where villagers can watch major sporting events.

- 7.20 **Community Cafe** - Lydia's Coffee Shop overlooks the village green and is run by a team of volunteers. The cafe is a valuable community asset. It is a welcome refreshment stop for walkers, cyclists and other tourists that visit the village for the historical interests of Gretton.

GP

- 7.21 Gretton has a Doctor's surgery which opens part-time Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Clinic is run from the main practice at Uppingham and has a dispensing service. It is widely used in the village and considered a very important service.

Village Post Office

- 7.22 The village lost its village store and Post Office in 2017. A more limited service is now available on Tuesday and Friday mornings at Lydia's Cafe, who also now sell a few basic supplies.

Village Correspondence

- 7.23 The village has an active and informative Facebook page, information regarding events and weather conditions are shared efficiently. Also, information is provided regarding volunteer drivers for hospital visits etc.
- 7.24 The Parish Council sponsor a Gretton Life newsletter which is distributed to all households within the village four times a year. The village has a local correspondent to the local papers.
- 7.25 The Parish Council run a Gretton Website (www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk) which provides access to minutes from various Parish meetings and useful links to other websites.

Water Tower

- 7.26 The tower is a large concrete structure situated close to the heart of the village and provides water to the community. It also serves as a fixing point for mobile communications.

Outdoor Spaces

- 7.27 **The Recreation Ground** in Gretton is owned by the Parish Council for the use of the whole village. There is an extensive children's play area based on a dinosaur theme, a brand new BMX track, a dedicated Multi-Use Games Area and an expanse of green space. The ground is used by:
- 7.28 Gretton Primary School, Gretton Cricket Club, Gretton Football Club, Gretton Netball Club, The Sports and Social Club, Gretton Silver Band and other sporting groups.
- 7.29 **The War Memorial** is at the centre of the green in Gretton old village opposite St James' church. The memorial records, uniquely the names of all the men who served in the Great War 1914-1918, with those that lost their lives picked out in gold. It was erected and paid for by public subscription in 1925. It is a place for contemplation and respect for the community.

- 7.30 **Village Green.** Gretton is one of the few villages to retain its original stocks and whipping post; a stark reminder of how the law was administered in the 1800s.
- 7.31 **Gretton Paddock Park.** Was the fiftieth pocket park in Northamptonshire and officially opened 1996. It provides a peaceful space for the villagers of all ages and for children to play.
- 7.32 **Picks Playing Field** is a field situated on the Lyddington Road at the edge of the village and was bequeathed to the village for the benefit of the children of the village. It is often used by the Scout Group for outdoors activities.

Village Allotments

- 7.33 There are two allotment sites in Gretton, one given to the village by Mr Clarke of Lyddington and operated on a voluntary basis by the Parish Council. Due to popular demand the plot sizes have been halved in recent years. The site now accommodates more than 14 allotment holders and offers a low rate of rent.
- 7.34 The first site is used by Gretton residents and the second by residents throughout the Borough. There is limited parking at both.

POLICY CF1: RETENTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AMENITIES AND ASSETS –
Developments that support and enhance community facilities will be supported.
Development leading to the loss of an existing community facility will be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) There is no longer any need or demand for the existing community facility; or
- b) The existing community facility is, demonstrably, economically unviable or not able to be supported by the community – such viability and support includes fundraising and volunteering by parishioners and others; or
- c) The proposal makes alternative provision for the relocation of the existing community facility to an equally or more appropriate and accessible location within the Parish which complies with the other general policies of the Plan.

Community Action CF1 - The Parish Council will seek to register Lydia's Coffee Shop, The Hatton Arms, The Sports and Social Club, The Blue Bell Inn, Doctors Surgery, Chirpy Chicks Pre-School, Baptist Church, St James Church, Village Hall, Primary School and the Water Tower as assets of community value.

New and Improved Community Facilities and Amenities

- 7.35 Gretton community would welcome the reopening of the village Post Office and shop, and the return of a bus service. Gretton is always looking to enhance its community assets; one being the

continual development of the recreational grounds and to provide improved facilities for all users and the youth of the village.

POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Proposals that improve the quality and/or range of community facilities, will be supported provided that the development:

- a) Meets the design criteria stated in Policy H3;**
- b) Will not result in unacceptable traffic movements or other disturbance to residential properties;**
- c) Will not generate a need for parking that cannot be adequately catered for;**
- d) Is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle, and**
- e) Takes into full account the needs of people with disabilities.**

Section 8 Village Communications

Keeping in Touch - Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure

- 8.1 The modern economy increasingly depends on high-quality communications infrastructure to reap maximum benefit from technological advances. High-speed internet connectivity drives business innovation and growth and creates business and employment opportunities. Online searching and transactions facilitate access to information and services, also providing new and easier opportunities for education and learning. The standard of broadband and mobile infrastructure is particularly important in rural settings such as Gretton Parish. Equally, good mobile signal availability is crucial for rapid and always available access. The availability of good broadband and mobile infrastructure can also contribute to reduced social exclusion.
- 8.2 BT Open Reach have completed their installation of 'fibre to the cabinet'. This ensures the Gretton Community have a workable good speed access to the Internet. With a decent standard of Internet connectivity, residents are able to stream videos, play games, work from home and operate multiple devices within a household.
- 8.3 Every house will use the old existing telephone lines, which is copper to the house from the local cabinet. 'Fibre to the premises', is not yet available in Gretton. This is more common in areas such as urban towns and city communities. To date this is currently only available to 8% of UK from BBC News online (17/9/19) and note this target is "for all". There is no Government commitment to reach rural communities for this infrastructure.
- 8.4 The mobile telephone signal is an issue in the village with various residents and business owners providing feedback on Gretton's community Facebook page and village forums. Mobile phone operators use the various phone masts around the village and coverage can differ between provider and location in the village.

POLICY VC1: BROADBAND AND MOBILE INFRASTRUCTURE -

- a) Proposals to provide improved access to faster broadband for all businesses and households in Gretton Parish will be supported, where planning permission is required, since the Parish wishes to be at the forefront of any future communications technology enhancements. This includes suitable connectivity for future generations of mobile technology.**
- b) Improvements to the mobile telecommunication network that serves all businesses and households within the Parish will be supported. If a new mast is installed, this must be shared where possible by more than one provider.**
- c) Any infrastructure improvements requiring above ground network installations, must be sympathetically located, designed to integrate into the local area, and not be in or near to open landscapes.**

Section 9 Transport and Road Safety

Being a Connected Village - Traffic Management

- 9.1 The village has two main roads; Kirby Road to the east and the High street to the west, both roads running south to north linking the Corby Road and the Harringworth Road. In places both the High Street and Kirby Road can be narrow and very busy, congested, and often crowded with parked cars, especially at school starting and finishing times
- 9.2 The highways authority currently is NCC (to change to North Northamptonshire in 2021). A wide range of amenities are available within the towns of Corby, Uppingham, Oakham, Market Harborough and Stamford, and Leicester and Peterborough further afield. Gretton is ideally situated for easy access to the A14 & A47, while local trains from Corby (4.5miles) provide regular access to London St Pancras, taking approximately 80 minutes.
- 9.3 The village has two roads linking the Harringworth Road and Corby Road, Kirby Road and the High Street, both are narrow and can be very busy and is often crowded with parked cars, especially at school starting and finishing times.
- 9.4 The High Street has some very tight turns and is unsuitable for large and heavy goods vehicles. It is acknowledged that those delivering must enter the village, but the roads are not suited for those passing through, with low bridges on the Harringworth and Rockingham roads.
- 9.5 Other pinch points in the village are Caistor Road and School Lane, both are single track in places and too narrow for two cars to pass comfortably.
- 9.6 Residents of Corby Road suffer especially from noise generated by vehicles accelerating and often exceeding the speed limit. NCC traffic flow data can be found at Appendix XI.
- 9.7 The NPPF encourages a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through the introduction of measures, which promote a decrease in the number of car journeys. There are several actions that can be taken by individuals and by the public and private sectors to support this objective, although the poor local bus service provision in the village effectively makes car ownership essential.

Cycling

- 9.8 Gretton is a popular through route for leisure cycling, including international events which have cycled through the village. Businesses have benefitted from this increased attention. However, for the residents cycling to and from work or school, there are no designated cycling road routes from Gretton to Corby or Uppingham. Feedback from the Gretton Plan events highlighted safety concerns for commuters using these roadways. Although there are no strategic local plans to upgrade routes for improved connectivity between Gretton and Corby or Uppingham, it has been suggested that any major developments support an upgrade on existing roadways or footpaths to enable safer transport to employment /schools.

9.9 NCC's Cycling Strategy can be found at:

www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-andpolicies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Cycling%20Strategy.pdf

Parking

9.10 There are two public car parks in the village, one at the Village Hall and one at the Recreation Ground. No parking is provided at the churches. The Hatton Arms Public House has a small car park.

9.11 The Baptist Church, the Blue Bell Inn, the Doctor's Surgery and the school are all close to the recreation ground carpark. At the start and end of school times, the car park and all roads around the school are very congested. This is exacerbated when the Doctor's Surgery is open.

9.12 A number of garages are available for rent from CBC at a small fee. These are located on Southfield Road, Fulwell Avenue and Latimer close.

POLICY T1: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - With particular regard to the rural highway network of the Parish and the need to minimize any increase in vehicular traffic all housing and commercial development must:

- Be designed to minimise additional traffic generation and movement through the village
- Incorporate sufficient off-road parking in line with housing policy H3
- Not remove or compromise the use of any existing off-road parking areas unless a suitable equivalent alternative is provided
- Provide any necessary improvements to site access, communal parking and the highway network either directly or by financial contributions
- Explore the possibility of introducing appropriate traffic calming
- Consider, where appropriate, the improvement and where possible the creation of, footpaths and cycle ways connecting to Corby and Priors Hall cycle routes.

Community Action T1: Traffic Management - The Parish Council will develop a coherent action plan to address traffic and parking issues that have been identified through the Plan including:

- a) Undertake an ongoing awareness exercise to make explicit the negative impact on residents of inconsiderate parking
- b) Work to achieve improvement of car parking provision for the Parish for residents and visitors.
- c) Introduce community speed reduction actions
- d) Work with the school to resolve parking issues at drop off and pick up times

Community Action T2: Traffic Calming - The Parish Council to engage with the transport authority with a view to placing Traffic calming measures at entrances to the village and to create a safer village environment giving consideration to safer schemes, such as a 20-mph zone, particularly in the area of the school.

Public Transport

- 9.13 Local Bus Services – At the time of writing Gretton has no regular bus service. Financial constraints have meant that the NCC has withdrawn its subsidy for local bus services. Unfortunately, prior to NCC withdrawing this service, the village post office and shop closed meaning that there is an increase in demand for public transport to shopping facilities.
- 9.14 NCC's Bus Strategy can be found at:
www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-andpolicies/Documents/FINAL%20Revised%20Bus%20Strategy%20April%202018.pdf

Community Action T3: Public Transport - The Parish Council will continue to lobby the County Council/Unitary Authority to make realistic and economic changes to the service, which match the needs of residents.

Electric Vehicles

- 9.15 How you travel can have a huge effect on the environment. CBC are recognised as one of the leading boroughs in the preparation of electric charging infrastructure and has been awarded 'Go Ultra Low' organisational status by the Government related to the work in increasing the number of electric vehicles on Corby's roads. The Government has announced through their Clean Growth Strategy that by 2040 all diesel and petrol vehicle sales will be banned. There are a number of incentives to ensure communities are ready for the growth of electric vehicles.

POLICY T2: ELECTRIC VEHICLES - Housing developments which provide charging points for electric vehicles will generally be supported.

The provision of communal vehicular charging points within the Parish will be supported, so long as there is universal access and their presence does not impact greatly on existing available parking in the Parish.

Section 10 Business and Employment

Helping the Community to Thrive - Support for Existing Businesses and Employment

- 10.1 Good employment opportunities in the Parish and the strength of the community go hand in hand. Supporting the growth of employment opportunities in the Parish is therefore recognised as an important theme of the Plan.
- 10.2 94% of respondents to the Gretton 2017 consultation would welcome more business to the Parish. This response included 94% supporting new cottage industry businesses, 92% new home-based businesses, 91% a shop, 85% a café, 72% farm diversification, and 71% small workshops. Respondents did feel, however, that such new business should be in keeping with and not in detriment to the rural and predominantly residential nature of the Parish.
- 10.3 Gretton is a rural parish but not distant from several significant employment centres, such as Corby, Oakham, Leicester and Peterborough. Villagers also commute to London. Employment opportunities within the Parish are however relatively limited in scale, primarily dependent upon the two main employers; Gretton Primary Academy and Gretton House, a care home.
- 10.4 For most workers resident in the Parish the lack of significant local employment opportunity means that they must work away from the Parish. This impacts particularly on young people for whom the high property values and lack of starter homes, combined with the lack of local employment opportunities make Gretton Parish an unattractive and difficult potential option for residence.

POLICY BE1: SUPPORT FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - There will be a strong presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land that provides employment or future potential employment opportunities. Applications for a change of use to an activity that does not provide employment opportunities will only be supported if it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The commercial premises or land in question has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and
- b) The commercial premises or land in question has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses and as demonstrated through the results both of a full valuation report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least 6 months.

Support for New Businesses and Employment

- 10.5 New employment initiatives can help to boost and diversify the local economy, thus providing more local employment opportunities.

- 10.6 However, villagers have been clear that any new employment initiatives should be small scale and sensitive to the character of the Parish. Employment proposals should only be approved if they avoid harmful impacts on other matters agreed to be locally important such as increased traffic flows, parking, residential amenity, the preservation of historic/heritage assets and the local environment.

POLICY BE2: SUPPORT FOR NEW BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT - In supporting additional employment opportunities, new development will be required to:

- a) Fall within the established settlement boundary for the Gretton Parish, unless it relates to small scale leisure or tourism activities, or other forms of commercial/employment related development appropriate to a countryside location or there are exceptional circumstances;
- b) Where possible, development should be sited in existing buildings or on areas of previously developed land;
- c) Be of a size and scale not adversely affecting the character, infrastructure and environment of the village itself and the Plan area, including the countryside;
- d) Not generally involve the loss of dwellings;
- e) Not increase noise levels or light pollution or introduce any pollution to an extent that they would unacceptably disturb occupants of nearby residential property;
- f) Not generate unacceptable levels of traffic movement and on road parking, provide off road parking;
- g) Contribute to the character, the design of the local built environment and the vitality of the local area; and
- h) Be well integrated into and complement existing businesses.

Home Working

- 10.7 There is an increasing trend for residents to work from home, whether this is for part of the working week or entirely. With improving internet connectivity locally and changing employment patterns nationally, this trend is likely to continue, making the Parish a place where a greater percentage of the population are spending their time within the Parish. This could create opportunities – for joint working, business hubs, support groups etc.
- 10.8 In rural areas such as the Gretton Parish, with limited local employment opportunities, one benefit of supporting home working is that it helps to promote local employment activities whilst reducing the dependency of the car for long journeys to employment sites outside the Parish.
- 10.9 However, it is recognised that people may not have a suitable space within their home from which to run a business, or they may wish to distinctly and deliberately separate their work and living spaces. The construction of extensions, the conversion of outbuildings, and the development of new freestanding buildings in gardens from which businesses can operate will be supported. This

is intended to maximise the opportunities for entrepreneurial activity and employment in Gretton Parish.

- 10.10 Whilst it is acknowledged that it may not always be possible, there is also a strong desire for new housing to contain a small office space to accommodate home working.

POLICY BE3: HOME WORKING - Proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for office and/or light industrial uses, and for small-scale free-standing buildings within its curtilage, extensions to the dwelling or conversion of outbuildings for those uses, will be supported where:

- a) Such development will not result in unacceptable traffic movements and that appropriate parking provision is made
- b) No significant and adverse impact arises to nearby residents or other sensitive land uses from noise, fumes, light pollution, or other nuisance associated with the work activity; and
- c) Any extension or free-standing building shall be designed having regard to policies in this Plan and should not detract from the quality and character of the building to which they must be subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or the facing materials used in their construction.

Farming and Diversification

- 10.11 Farming plays an important part in the Parish, although it does not employ a significant number of people. Gretton is surrounded by land used for arable or mixed farming. The farming community is made up of small family farmers, tenant farmers and estate farms.
- 10.12 Farming has changed over the years driven by economics, advances in knowledge and climate change. It will continue to evolve with new crops, methods and processes. Farmers have diversified in the crops that they grow and in methods of farming.
- 10.13 The agricultural land around the village provides access to the countryside and enhances the environment.
- 10.14 Farm diversification can provide opportunities for the establishment and development of small businesses that generate income and employment opportunities for local people.

POLICY BE4: FARM DIVERSIFICATION - In order to support farm diversification and the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses, the conversion of existing agricultural and commercial buildings will be supported subject to:

- a) The use proposed is appropriate to the rural location
- b) The conversion/adaptation works respect the local character of the surrounding area;
- c) The development will not have an adverse impact on any archaeological, architectural, historic or environmental features;
- d) The local road system is capable of accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed new use and adequate parking can be accommodated within the site; and
- e) There is no significant adverse impact on neighbours through noise, light or other pollution, increased traffic levels or increased flood risk.

Tourism

10.15 Gretton is a beautiful rural Parish to which walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other visitors are attracted. The Parish is keen to extend a welcome to visitors whilst ensuring that their visit does not have a negative impact on parishioners - for example, in the context of traffic.

POLICY BE5: TOURISM - Support will be given to facilities to enhance tourism which:

- a) Is within or adjoining Gretton village, on a scale appropriate to the settlement;
- b) Does not have a detrimental effect on the distinctive rural character of the Parish;
- c) Does not adversely affect the surrounding infrastructure, particularly local road networks;
- d) Benefits the local community, through for instance, provision of local employment opportunities and improvements to local service provision, and is proportionate to the size of settlement in which it is located; and
- e) Where feasible, the development involves the re-use of existing buildings or is part of farm diversification.

Section 11 Monitoring and Review

- 11.1 The Plan will last up to 2031. During this time, it is likely that the circumstances which the Plan seeks to address will change.
- 11.2 The Plan will be regularly monitored. This will be led by Gretton Parish Council on at least an annual basis. The policies and measures contained in the Plan will form the core of the monitoring activity, but other data collected and reported at the Parish level relevant to the delivery of the Plan will also be included. The Plan will be reviewed at the Annual Parish Meeting which is held at the end of each financial year.
- 11.3 The Parish Council proposes to formally review the Plan on a five-year cycle commencing in 2024 or to coincide with the review of the CBC Local Plan/NNJCS if this cycle is different.

Glossary

BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CBC	Corby Borough Council
DEFRA	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
HTG	Housing Theme Group
IOS	Important Open Space
LGS	Local Green Space
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCA	National Character Areas
NCC	Northants County Council
NHER	Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records
NNJCS	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
NNJPU	North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
OSSR	Open space Sport and Recreation
PPG	Planning Practice guidance
SES	Site of Environmental Significance
SHMA	Strategic Housing Market Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SSA	Sustainable Site Assessment
UCC	Uppingham Community College



GRETTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Decision Statement published pursuant to Section 38A (9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

North Northamptonshire Council on 22 June 2021 resolved to make the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Gretton Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the development plan for the area.

Reasons for the Decision

The Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum upon the plan have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. 87.95% of those voting supported the plan in a referendum on 6 May 2020.

The Council has assessed that the making of the plan would not breach or would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

In accordance with the regulations the Gretton Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and will be used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area alongside existing planning policies and their successors.

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EXECUTIVE

22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Ecton Neighbourhood Plan
Report Authors	Sue Bateman sue.bateman@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Steven North – Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Ecton Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix B – Draft Decision Statement

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To formally make the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Ecton Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Ecton Parish Council, through a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, and is proposed to form part of the statutory development plan for the area. This means that its policies and proposals will be the starting point for decision makers when determining any planning application either partly or wholly within the neighbourhood area.

2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan provides a clear understanding of the desires and aspirations of the people within the parish with regards to future development. This was confirmed when the plan was endorsed by a majority of voting residents on the day of the referendum, 6 May 2021. Following the community's

endorsement of the plan the final step is for it to be formally 'made' by this council.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Make the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area

3.2 *Reason for Recommendations:*

- *To accord with legislation*

4. Report Background

4.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Ecton is one of a number of parishes in the area to exercise the powers granted to communities by the Act that enables them to produce neighbourhood plans. When formally made a neighbourhood plan comprises part of the statutory development plan and carries full weight when determining planning applications in the geographical area covered by its policies.

4.2 The first legal step towards the production of the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan was taken on 15 December 2014 when the Borough Council of Wellingborough formally designated the entire parish of Ecton as the relevant 'neighbourhood area' to be covered by the policies of the plan. Since this time a significant amount of work has been undertaken by the parish council and its representatives, aided by officers of the council, to ensure a plan is produced that is technically robust and reflects the wishes of the community.

4.3 A key milestone in the process was reached when the plan was found to be both legally and technically compliant by an independent examiner, subject to minor modifications. The report of Christopher Edward Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED MCMI IHBC was formally issued on 28 April 2020 and recommended that the plan proceeded to referendum subject to the modifications that he recommended.

4.4 The plan, alongside the examiner's report and the schedule of the borough council's proposed changes, was considered by the Principal Planning Manager of the Borough Council of Wellingborough under delegated authority and a decision statement was agreed and issued on 19 May 2020. This concluded that with the proposed modifications the plan meets the Basic Conditions in full, is compatible with the European Union obligations and Convention rights and complies with the definition of a neighbourhood plan and the provisions that can be made by a neighbourhood plan. Accordingly, the plan proceeded to a referendum on 6 May 2021.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The referendum gives the community the final say on whether a plan should come into force in their area. The regulations specify the question to be asked. Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Planning Act 2004 as updated by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 require that if the majority of those who vote in a referendum are in favour of the draft neighbourhood plan, then the neighbourhood plan must be made by the local planning authority within 8 weeks of the referendum.
- 5.2 For the plan to formally move towards adoption there was a requirement that it gained the support of the people of the parish, to be indicated by a simple majority voting 'yes' (50% plus one person of all those who turned out to vote). The referendum resulted in support for the plan amongst the residents of the parish, receiving 201 yes votes and 25 voting no. This return represents a 55.72% turnout and an 87.77% majority voting 'yes'.
- 5.3 As a majority has voted in favour of the plan it should be made by the council within 8 weeks of the referendum (i.e. by 1 July 2021). The 8 week time limit does not apply where a legal challenge has been brought in relation to the decision to hold a referendum or around the conduct of the referendum. There are narrow circumstances where the local planning authority is not required to make the neighbourhood plan. These are where it considers that the making of the neighbourhood plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations.
- 5.4 As a result of the Borough Council of Wellingborough's previous decision to allow the plan to proceed to referendum on the basis that the plan satisfied all legal requirements, alongside the successful outcome of the referendum itself, and the fact that no legal challenge has been brought, councillors are asked to formally 'make' the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 stipulated that a Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan following a successful referendum. In the very limited circumstances where a local planning authority decides not to make a neighbourhood plan, it would cease to be part of the development plan for the area.
- 5.5 Regulations 19 and 20 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require the council as soon as possible after making the plan to publish the decision and reasons for the decision (decision statement) and publicise the plan. A draft decision statement is appended as Appendix B which can be published following the resolution of the Executive. The title page of the plan and the Foreword will also be updated.
- 5.6 As part of the development plan for the area the neighbourhood plan must be considered when determining planning applications in the neighbourhood area alongside other documents such as the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 The making of the Neighbourhood Plan will have limited implications on finance. The plan has now been drafted in full and the council's support required towards the plan will now end.
- 6.1.2 As part of the development plan, the neighbourhood plan provides a further suite of policies that must be considered by development management officers as and when planning applications are submitted falling within the neighbourhood area of Ecton. This may account for a limited amount of additional officer time when considering the full suite of policies applicable to any application in the neighbourhood area prior to a decision being reached.
- 6.1.3 The online policies map, which graphically illustrates policies of the development plan, will need to be updated to include the policies of the neighbourhood plan. This will be done as soon as practicable. It is likely that this will initially be done for the Wellingborough area only until such time as a North Northamptonshire wide online policy map is available.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6, Chapter 3, Sections 116-121 and Schedule 9 and 10), The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012 No.637), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No.20), The Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management Procedure (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (SI 2016 No.873) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 set out the powers and duties in preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 6.2.2 Paragraphs 5-7 of Schedule 9 of The Localism Act 2011 amends section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) so as to make Neighbourhood Development Plans part of the development plan in accordance with which planning applications must be determined. Section 3 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 further amends section 38 of the PCPA to provide that a neighbourhood development plan for an area becomes part of the development plan for that area after it is approved in a referendum. In the very limited circumstances that the local planning authority decide not to make the neighbourhood development plan, it will cease to be part of the development plan for the area.
- 6.2.3 There are considered to be no circumstances which would warrant the council not making the plan. If the plan was not formally made that decision could be challenged.
- 6.2.4 Government Guidance states that decisions on neighbourhood planning shall be taken by the Executive. The requirement for a decision by the Executive is due to Neighbourhood Development Plans not being development plan documents as defined in regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Local

Planning) England Regulations 2012 and as such not coming within the list of plans and strategies listed in Column 1 of the table to Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 As referred to in the legal section above, if the council decides not to make the plan there is a risk that this decision could be legally challenged.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 Statutory consultation has taken place during the preparation of the neighbourhood plan. There is no requirement for consultation as a result of this decision on whether to make the plan.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

- 6.5.1 None

6.6 Climate Impact

- 6.6.1 Policies within the plan seek to ensure the provision of sustainable development. Of particular note are policies which support the protection and enhancement of natural features (Policy 11); provision for electric vehicle charging (Policy 12) and provision of ducting to enable broadband (Policy 13). These policies are anticipated to have a positive effect in mitigating climate change impact.

6.7 Community Impact

- 6.7.1 Neighbourhood planning is intended to improve community cohesion. The plan has been prepared with full engagement of the local community and the referendum showed a clear majority of people voting supporting the plan.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Background papers relating to the preparation of the neighbourhood plan are available on the Ecton village website:
<http://www.ectonvillage.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> . Details of the process and various stages of plan preparation including the examination and examiners' report are also available on the council's website:
https://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200143/neighbourhood_planning/1259/ecton_neighbourhood_plan_information
- 7.2 There are no background papers relating specifically to the decision to make the plan.

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Ecton Neighbourhood
Development Plan
2016-2031
Referendum Version



Ecton Parish Council

May 2021

Foreword

Welcome to the Referendum version of the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Localism Act 2011 gave parishes the ability to be able to exercise more control over future development in their communities by creating their own Neighbourhood Plan.

Ecton Parish Council took up this challenge to put in place a land-use framework and vision for the Parish to 2031. Our vision is that Ecton will retain its distinctive village character whilst the built and natural heritage of the Parish, including its valued countryside, will be retained and enhanced.

Although the Parish Council has overall responsibility for producing the Neighbourhood Plan it formed a Steering Group consisting of members of the Parish Council and the local community to undertake this task. Throughout the process there has been an open invitation for members of the local community to join the Steering Group and a number of parishioners have actively participated. The Neighbourhood Plan has undergone several iterations with amendments made following consultation with the local community, statutory bodies and other consultees; it also incorporates modifications made by the Borough Council following an independent examination held in 2020.

I would like to thank the members of the Steering Group (past and present) and Parish Council; they are all volunteers who have generously devoted considerable time and effort to develop the Neighbourhood Plan for the benefit of our community. I would also like to thank everybody who responded to the consultation undertaken over several years; this has enabled us to test the level of support for particular policies and make changes where appropriate to do so. I am also appreciative of the assistance provided by the Borough Council and the Locality neighbourhood plan support programme for providing grant funding for the project.

We are now at the referendum stage. This is the important last step in the process. Residents on the electoral roll for Ecton will be given the opportunity at the referendum to vote on whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan should be used in determining planning applications in the Parish. Provided that a simple majority of votes (over 50%) are cast in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan it will form part of the statutory development plan and applications for planning permission must then be determined in accordance with its policies unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Sally Jones
Chairman of the Parish Council

The Parish Council and Steering Group would like to thank Mrs Sheila Ingram, widow of Mr Rodney Ingram, for allowing the use of Rodney's sketch of Ecton on the front cover.

Table of Contents

Foreword1

1. Introduction.....4

What is a neighbourhood plan?4

The Ecton Neighbourhood Plan4

The Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Plan period4

2. The planning context and status of the Neighbourhood Plan5

3. Ecton Today6

Introduction6

Location6

History6

Landscape7

The historic environment7

Population and households9

Housing 10

Business and employment 10

Transport and travel to work 10

Local Services and facilities 10

4. Key Issues and the Vision and Objectives 11

5. Planning policies and proposals 13

 5.1 Introduction 13

 5.2 Housing 13

Introduction 13

Residential Amenity 13

Dwelling size 14

Rural exception sites 15

 5.3 Community facilities and local green space 16

Retaining community facilities 16

 Supporting Action 1 - Assets of Community Value. 17

The provision of new community facilities 17

Local green space 17

 5.4 The historic environment 18

Introduction 18

Ecton Conservation Area 19

Non-designated heritage assets 20

Supporting Action 2 - Non designated heritage assets..... 20

5.5 Landscape character and the natural environment..... 21

Introduction..... 21

The separate identity of Ecton village..... 21

Important views and vistas 22

Natural features and the landscaping of development sites 24

5.6 Highways..... 25

Introduction..... 25

 Supporting Action 3 – Highway safety 25

Car parking and electric vehicle charging 25

5.7 Superfast broadband 26

Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map 27

Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map – Village Inset..... 28

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations 29

Appendix 2 Endnotes..... 32

1. Introduction

What is a neighbourhood plan?

1.1 The 2011 Localism Act has provided local communities with the opportunity to prepare a 'neighbourhood plan' to enable people to have a greater say about the use and development of land and buildings in their area. While a neighbourhood plan cannot be used to prevent development, it can provide the local community with an opportunity to promote the type of development that it needs and wants while protecting the distinctive character of the area. The policies in a neighbourhood plan are used to determine planning applications and planning appeals.

The Ecton Neighbourhood Plan

1.2 Preparation of the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan (the Neighbourhood Plan) is the responsibility of Ecton Parish Council. In 2012 it resolved to prepare a plan to provide our community with an opportunity to influence the future quality of development. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a shared vision of our neighbourhood and includes a number of objectives and planning policies to help realise the vision.

1.3 The Parish Council formed a Steering Group of members of the Parish Council and the local community to progress the Neighbourhood Plan. Throughout the process there has been an open invitation for members of the local community to join the Steering Group and a number of parishioners have actively participated.

1.4 The Steering Group used various sources of background information (referred to as the evidence base) to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. The evidence base is available on the Neighbourhood Plan section of the 'Ecton Village' website at: www.ectonvillage.co.uk.

1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan has undergone several iterations with amendments based on consultation with the local community, statutory bodies and other consultees as detailed in the Consultation Statement¹ it also incorporates modifications made by the Borough Council following an independent examination held in 2020.

The Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Plan period

1.6 The Parish was designated as a 'neighbourhood area' by the Borough Council of Wellingborough on 15th December 2014. The extent of the Neighbourhood Area (the Plan Area) is shown in Figure 1. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the 15 year period from 2016 to 2031. It will, however, be prudent to review the Neighbourhood Plan periodically to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date.

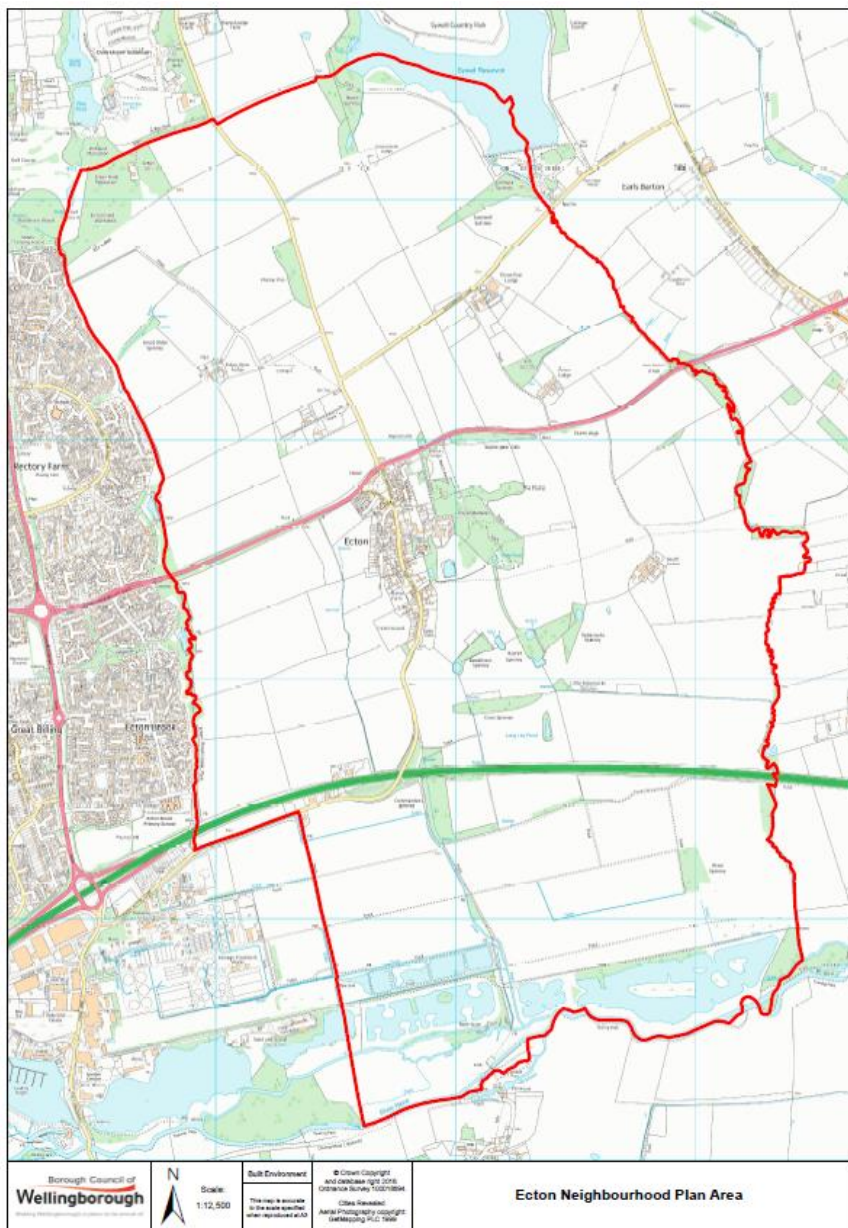


Figure 1: The Neighbourhood Plan Area

2. The planning context and status of the Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 Although the local community has significant scope to determine the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, the policies are required by legislation to meet a set of ‘basic conditions’. To meet these conditions the Neighbourhood Plan must:

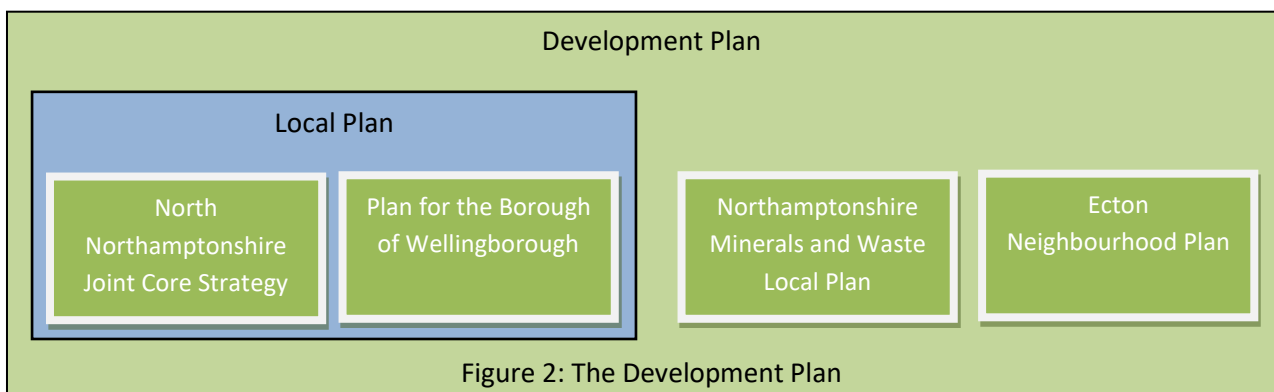
- i. **Have appropriate regard to national planning policy and guidance.** This is primarily set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).
- ii. **Contribute to sustainable development.** The NPPF indicates that plans should help to build a strong, responsive and competitive economy while supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities and contributing to the protection and enhancement of our natural, built and historic environment.
- iii. **Be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area.** The ‘development plan’ for the Borough of Wellingborough, of which Ecton is a part, is comprised of the following (see also Figure 2 below):
 - the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS);
 - the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough (PBW); and
 - the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- iv. **Be compatible with European Union obligations.** EU directives require consideration to be given to the likely significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan on the environment and on European Sites recognised under the EU Habitats Directive. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special

Protection Area (SPA) (see paragraph 3.14) is a designated European Site. Whilst no part of the SPA is within the Plan Area, parts of Ecton Parish are within established consultation zonesⁱⁱ where some types of development could have a significant negative effect on the SPA.

2.2 Compliance with the basic conditions and other legal requirements was tested through examination by an independent examiner. Both the examiner and the Borough Council concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the Neighbourhood Plan would meet the basic conditions. The required modifications have subsequently been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.3 Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has provided the local community with an opportunity to influence the policy framework used to make decisions on planning applications. The Neighbourhood Plan has now reached the referendum stage. The referendum, expected to take place in May 2021, provides the local community with an opportunity to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan. Provided that a simple majority are in favour, the Neighbourhood Plan will be brought into force. This means that it will then form part of the statutory development plan for the area and planning applications must be determined in accordance with its policies unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

2.4 Figure 2, below, illustrates which plans will form the Development Plan for Ecton in the event that the Neighbourhood Plan is brought into force.



3. Ecton Today

Introduction

3.1 This section provides a brief description of economic, social and environmental factors which may influence development in Ecton during the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan. These factors include the location and size of Ecton together with its built and natural heritage; its population and household characteristics; its links to other settlements; and the local facilities and services that are available to the local population.

Location

3.2 The Neighbourhood Area (the Plan Area) of 882 hectares has the same boundary as the Parish of

Ecton and is located within the Borough of Wellingborough. The village lies at the heart of the Plan area and is home to most of the population of 466 people. Beyond the village the land is largely in agricultural use with a scattering of farms and some pockets of woodland.

3.3 The Plan Area, shown in Figure 1, adjoins Northampton to the west whilst the southern boundary is marked by the River Nene. To the east lie the parish and village of Earls Barton whilst to the north the area adjoins the rural parishes of Sywell, Mears Ashby and Overstone.

3.4 The location of Ecton is highlighted in Figure 3. The village lies to the north of the A45 trunk road which links to Northampton and the M1 to the west and to Wellingborough and the A14 (Thrapston) to the east. Directly to the north of the village the A4500 provides a further route to Northampton, Wellingborough and the nearby villages of Earls Barton and Wilby to the east.

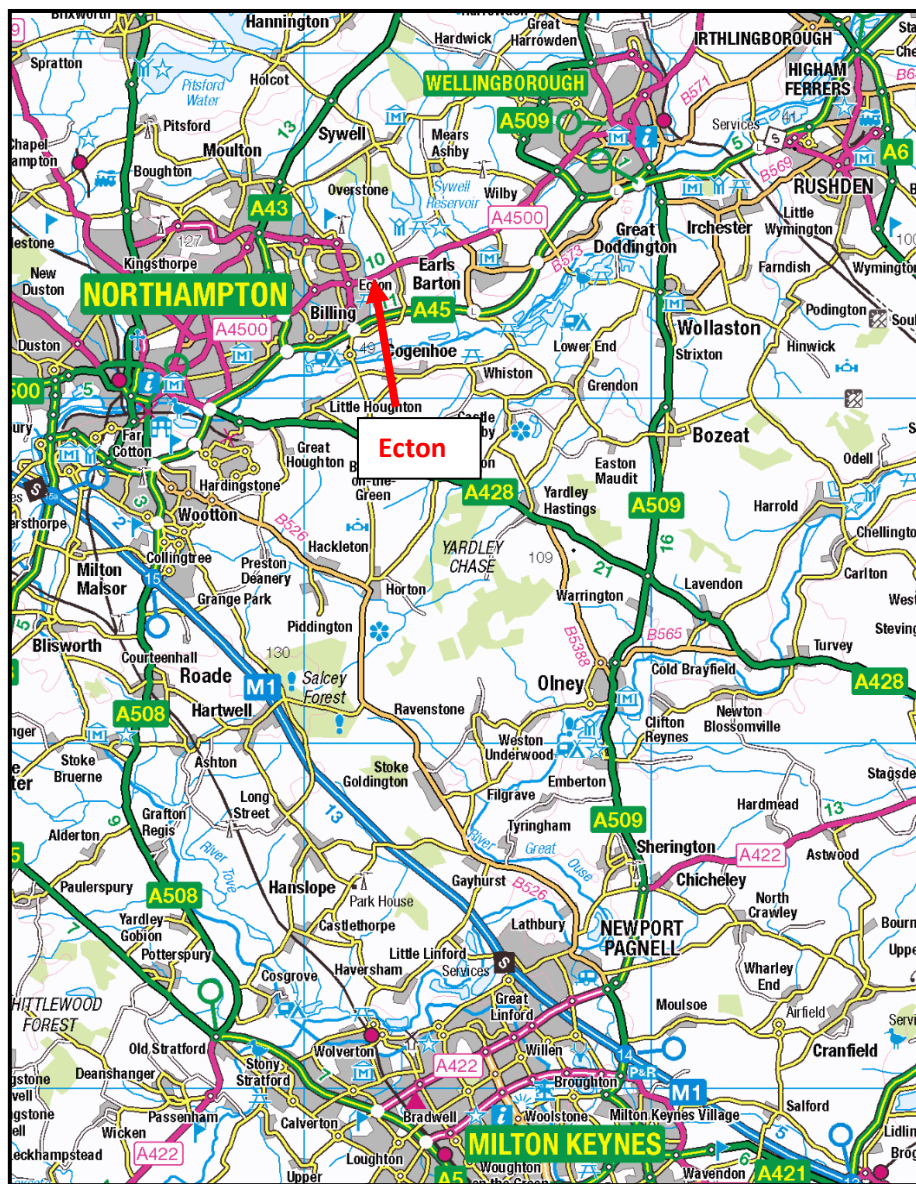


Figure 3: The location of Ecton

History

3.5 A large number of prehistoric and Roman sites have been found in Ecton whilst evidence, including finds from a scheduled monument site off Sywell Lane (see Figure 4), indicates a thriving pottery industry during Roman times. There is evidence of a continuing occupation during Anglo-Saxon times with the name Ecton said to derive from a settlement founded by a Saxon named Ecca. By the time of the Domesday Book (1086) Ecton was a relatively large settlement of 41 people. Over the course of the following centuries there were several owners of the manor, including Henry De Ferrers, the Duchy of Lancaster and the Catesby family, before the estate was sold to the Isted family in 1712.

Ambrose Isted, who inherited the estate in 1731, redeveloped the Hall, demolished property in Little Ecton (to the east of the Hall) to extend the park, undertook extensive landscaping and established 5 lodge farms.

3.6 The church of St Mary Magdalene, largely constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries but with later additions, is the oldest surviving building in Ecton. Within the churchyard are buried relatives of Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman, scientist, inventor and writer. However, the majority of listed buildings in Ecton date from the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1801 the population had reached 474 and continued to rise until reaching a peak of 631 in 1851. The 19th century witnessed not only housing and population growth but also saw the construction of a number of facilities including chapels, the village school and a 'Reading and Recreation Institute'.



The church of St Mary Magdalene

3.7 The agricultural depression of the late 19th century and the better wages offered by the growing footwear industry in Northamptonshire saw the migration of agricultural labourers to the nearby towns. The population gradually declined and work at the Hall came to an end in the 1950's when it was abandoned by its owner. However, more recent improvements in connectivity have enabled people to live in rural areas whilst either commuting to work or working from home. As a consequence, the population of Ecton has stabilised in more recent times whilst the number of dwellings, which has included the conversion of the Hall and outbuildings into apartments, gradually increased from 140 in 1951 to 221 by 2011.

Landscape

3.8 The Plan Area forms part of the 'Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes' landscape character areaⁱⁱⁱ where valley slopes run parallel to the River Nene and are dissected by valleys draining the uplands southwards into the river. The landscape is characterised by medium to large arable fields with areas of pasture on the edge of the village and a significant area of broadleaved woodland associated with the Ecton Hall parkland.

3.9 The village of Ecton is located on the mid slopes of the Nene valley and along a minor road aligned perpendicular to the valley. Part of the village is visible in views from the west and the church tower of St Mary Magdalene forms a significant feature in the landscape. Woodland areas associated with the Hall and its former grounds, including 'The Wilderness', screen the village from the east. The woodland forms an integral part of the character of the village and provides an attractive backdrop, framing the village in views from the west. Between the village and the river the A45 is a major feature of the valley landscape.

3.10 North of the A4500, which is located directly to the north of the village, the landscape is characterised by scattered farms and dwellings whilst the main feature of this area is Sywell Reservoir which forms part of a Country Park and is partly within Ecton Parish. The reservoir is fringed by woodlands, belts of poplar trees, sheep grazed pastures and arable farmland.

3.11 The underlying geology of the Plan Area incorporates both the upper lias clays and terrace gravels of the valley side as well as the alluvial deposits along the valley floor of the River Nene. However, the village and much of the land north of the A4500 lies largely on a bed of Northamptonshire sandstone resulting in the emergence of a number of springs to the south of the village where the sandstone meets the impervious clay beneath.

The historic environment

3.12 The majority of the listed buildings within the Plan Area are located within the village of Ecton where a significant amount of development is within a designated Conservation Area. Within the Plan Area there are more than 40 listings including the Grade I church of Saint Mary Magdalene and the Grade II*

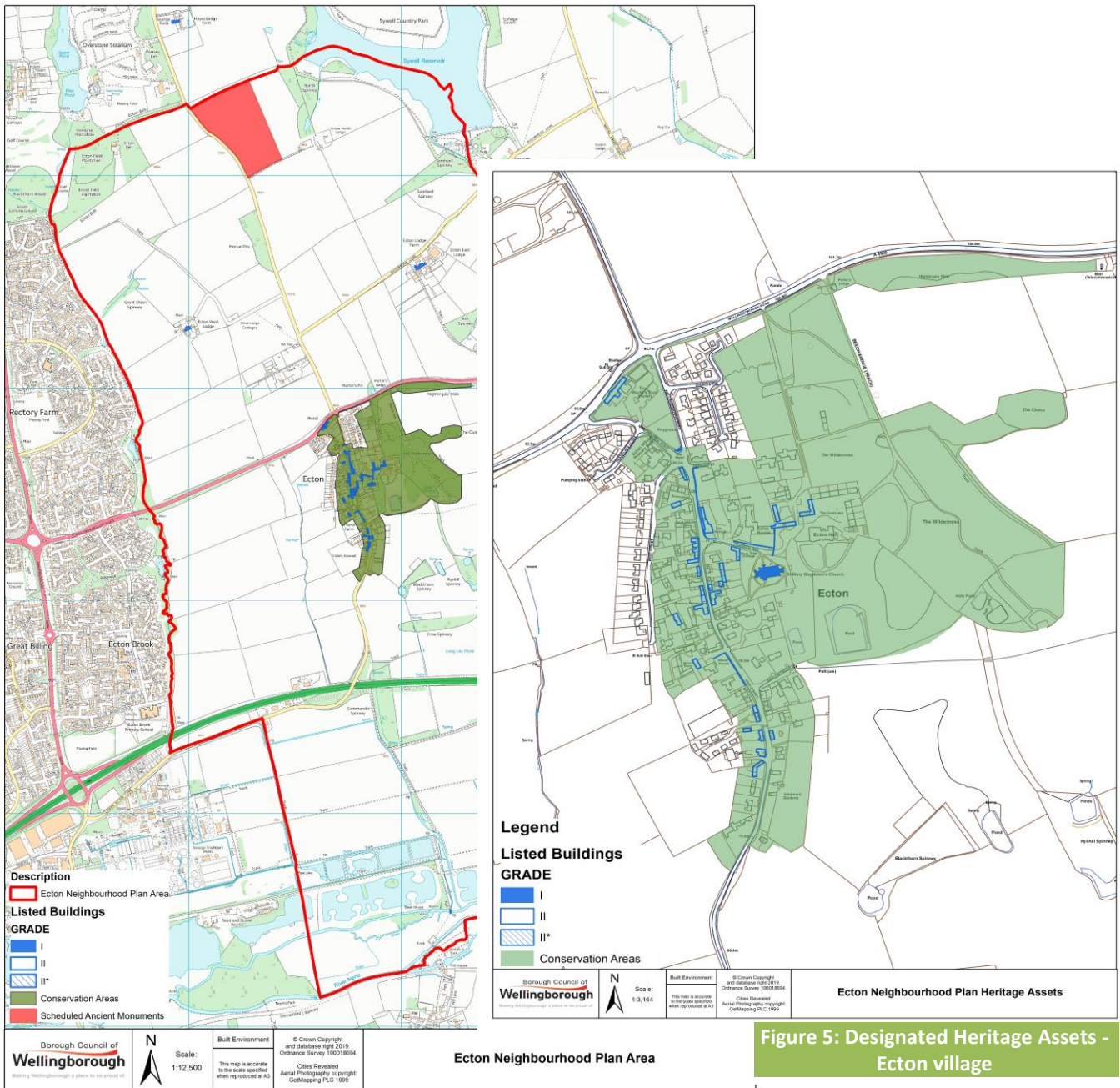


Figure 4: Designated Heritage Assets – Neighbourhood Plan Area

buildings of Ecton Hall; the associated Summerhouse, laundry and game larder; and Ecton House and Manor House. In addition, there is a scheduled monument off Sywell Lane which is the location of a former Romano-British settlement where a number of pottery kilns have been discovered.

3.13 The location of the scheduled monument, the Conservation Area and listed buildings and structures^{iv} in the Plan Area are shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 highlights the designated heritage assets within the village of Ecton. Further details of the scheduled monument and listed buildings can be viewed on Historic England’s website at:

historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/

Further information on the Conservation Area is available on the Borough Council’s website at:

www.wellingborough.gov.uk

In addition, the Historic Environment Record, maintained by Northamptonshire County Council, identifies areas of undesigned archaeological interest within the Plan Area and can be viewed at: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/Pages/mapping.aspx

Biodiversity

3.14 The local countryside includes a number of assets of ecological importance which are predominantly centred on the River Nene and areas of woodland. The Nene and its tributaries were designated as a Nature Improvement Area (NIA) by the Government in 2012 to help promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the restoration, creation and linking of wildlife habitats. At the centre of the NIA lies the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site, which is of international importance for a wide variety of over-wintering birds. The SPA extends for about 35 kilometres along the River Nene and contains 20 separate blocks of land and water

fragmented by various features. Whilst no part of the SPA is located within the Plan Area, parts of the Parish are within established consultation zones where specified types of development could have a significant negative effect on the SPA (see paragraph 2.1).

3.15 Figure 6 illustrates the extent of the NIA within the Plan Area and identifies sites which have been designated at a local level and form an important part of Northamptonshire’s ecological network. These include Local Wildlife Sites, which are of county importance, and Potential Wildlife Sites which are possibly of higher biodiversity value than the general countryside, although this has not been confirmed through ecological survey.

Population and households^v

3.16 Between 2001 and 2011 the population of the Plan Area grew by 6.2% (7.1%) from 439 to 466. At the end of this period there were 211 households with the average size being 2.2 (2.4) persons. Approximately 32.7% (30.2%) of households consist of one person and a further 37.4% (34.2%) are two person households.

3.17 During the decade the proportion of the population aged 0-15 remained fairly static, although by 2011 the figure of 14.7% (18.9%) was below the national average. Approximately 21.3% (16.4%) of residents are aged 65 and over and 26.5% (20.5%) of households consist solely of people in this age group. With population growth during the decade being most marked in the 45-59 age group and approximately 55% (42%) of residents now aged 45 and over, it is anticipated that during the Plan period the needs of the ageing population, both locally and nationally, will increase pressure on services such as health and social care and on the nature of housing that is required to meet their needs.

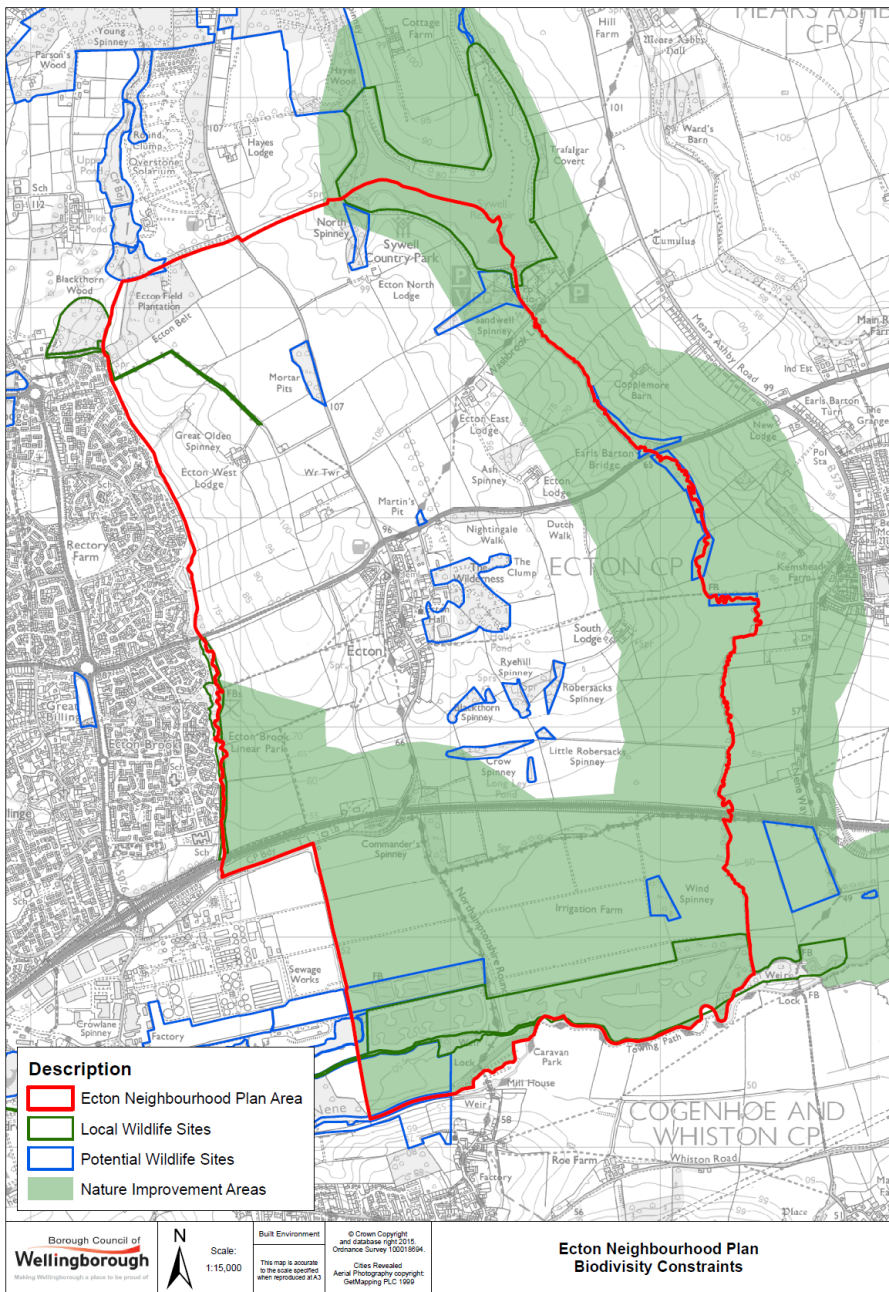


Figure 6: Designated Areas of Biodiversity

Housing

3.18 Approximately 73.9% (63.4%) of housing in the Plan Area is owner occupied whilst 12.3% (17.7%) is social rented and 13.8% (18.1%) is either privately rented or provided rent free. There are no (0.8%) shared ownership properties in Ecton. Dwellings in the Plan Area are likely to have more bedrooms and be in a higher Council tax band than nationally. Approximately 30.8% (39.9%) of homes have two or fewer bedrooms whilst 25.1% (19%) have 4 or more bedrooms and 58.4% (33.8%) are in Council tax band D or above. Dwellings are also more likely to be detached with 39.4% (22.3%) in this category and 26.7% (46.6%) being either terraced or flats.

3.19 A housing needs survey, undertaken in 2017 by the Borough Council with support from the Parish Council, concluded that there was a need for the following dwelling mix in Ecton:-

- market housing: 1x3 bed house and 1x2 bed house or bungalow;
- shared ownership: 1X1 bed property; and
- social/affordable rented housing: 1x1 bed older person dwelling or supported housing.

Business and employment

3.20 Ecton does not have a dedicated employment area and the majority of the population travel beyond the Plan Area to work. However, evidence from internet listings and local knowledge indicates that there are a number of small businesses in Ecton with 17.1% (10.4%) of the working age population of the West Ward of the Borough (which includes Ecton) being self-employed. cursory evidence further suggests that many self-employed people in Ecton work from home and in the service sector. Unemployment in the West Ward is low with 1% (2.8%) of the population aged 16 to 64 claiming out-of-work benefits at September 2019^{vi}.

3.21 Approximately 33.2% (27.4%) of Ecton residents aged 16 and over have a level 4 qualification, which includes a degree, a professional qualification or a level 4-5 NVQ, and 20.4% (10.9%) are described as 'managers, directors and senior officials'. Whilst 19% have no formal qualifications, this figure is below the national average of 22.5%.

Transport and travel to work

3.22 Car ownership levels are relatively high in the Area with 52.6% (32.1%) of households having two or more vehicles. However, 12.3% (25.8%) of households do not have a car or van. Car use dominates as a transport mode with 74.2% (57%) of the working population of Ecton travelling by car. A further 9.2% (5.4%) work from home. Bus operators provide a service approximately every half hour between Northampton and Wellingborough between Monday and Saturday with a less frequent service on a Sunday. However, only 1.3% of the working population use the bus to travel to work.

3.23 The nearest railway stations at Wellingborough and Northampton are approximately 7 miles from Ecton. Wellingborough is on the Midland Main Line between London and Sheffield with an average journey time to London of about 50 minutes. Northampton station is served by London Midland services southbound to London and northbound to Birmingham New Street. Travel times from Northampton to both London and Birmingham are approximately one hour.

Local Services and facilities

3.24 Ecton offers a limited range of local services and facilities which include a village hall, a primary school with a pre-school facility, a church, a children's play area, allotments and two public houses (one of which incorporates a hotel, bar, restaurant and children's play area). In addition, Ecton village is served by superfast broadband.

3.25 The village hall provides an ideal facility for community events and is well used by residents and visitors. The management committee aims to organise a community event once a month providing social activities for all ages. There are also regular clubs and classes promoting well-being, such as bowls, Pilates and art. The pub similarly offers a venue for music, a popular quiz, and darts and skittles teams. The village also has a thriving youth club and an older persons group. All of these events and groups contribute to a strong, sociable and vibrant community.



The Three Horseshoes Public House

There were 16 children at the pre-school in 2016 of whom 25% were from Ecton. The primary school has capacity for 105 children. There were 82 children at the school in 2016 of whom only 11% lived locally. Current forecasts provided by the Local Education Authority suggest that whilst the number of children at the school is likely to increase slightly over the period to 2021, there will continue to be sufficient capacity to accommodate anticipated growth. Children from Ecton generally attend secondary school in either Wellingborough or Northampton.

3.26 The Ecton Acorns pre-school, which is based at the primary school, has a capacity of 20 places.

4. Key Issues and the Vision and Objectives

The Vision

Ecton will retain its distinctive village character whilst the built and natural heritage of the Parish, including its valued countryside, will be retained and enhanced. Ecton will feel safe and will continue to be a vibrant, thriving and inclusive rural community.

4.1 The vision outlined above, together with the objectives listed in the table on page 12, forms the foundation of the Neighbourhood Plan. The vision provides a short description of what Ecton should be like in 2031 whilst the objectives set out what we want to achieve to help make the vision a reality.

4.2 The vision and objectives have been drawn up after careful consideration of the following questions:

- what do we want to achieve during the Neighbourhood Plan period?;
- What do we want Ecton to look like in the future?; and
- what land use and development challenges may need to be addressed?

4.3 To answer these questions, evidence was gathered from a range of sources including:

- consultation with the local community, businesses and organisations;
- the Development Plan and associated evidence base documents;
- other baseline information outlined in section 3 and listed in the 'evidence base' which is available on the website at <http://www.ectonvillage.co.uk>; and

- discussions at meetings of the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

4.4 The evidence raised a number of issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address:

- What type of development is needed in Ecton?
- How much development should be permitted and where?
- How can the separate identity of Ecton village be retained?
- What are the distinctive characteristics and features of Ecton that development should respect?
- Which open spaces should be protected from development and do they meet Government criteria for the designation of Local Green Space?
- Where are there key views and vistas that should be protected?
- Which community facilities should be protected?
- What are the key highway and road safety issues facing Ecton?
- Is Ecton a suitable location for a community based renewable energy project?

4.5 It is evident from consultation that the local community values the distinctive characteristics that give Ecton a strong sense of place and identity. These strengths are highlighted in the following description which was widely endorsed in responses to the 2013

questionnaire referred to in the Consultation Statement (see paragraph 1.5):

‘Ecton is situated on a hill, built around a church and an historic hall, all set in green fields and mature trees. Ecton is a sociable village with lots of community activities across all age groups using village assets such as the village hall, the church, the school and the two pubs. Partly in a conservation area, the character of the village is typified by houses built of traditional ironstone and more recent brick houses. The village celebrates a historical connection to the ancestors of Benjamin Franklin.’

4.6 The Neighbourhood Plan vision and objectives seek to maintain and, where possible, enhance the important features and characteristics of Ecton whilst providing some opportunities for development that can add to the sustainability of the local community. The vision and objectives were

widely supported by residents who responded to the 2016 questionnaire referred to in the Consultation Statement (see paragraph 1.5). The objectives are grouped around the following topics:

The objectives are grouped around the following topics:

- housing;
- community facilities and local green space;
- the historic environment;
- landscape character and the natural environment;
- highways;
- fibre optic broadband

4.7 The following table lists the objectives, the policies and any supporting actions designed to contribute towards the achievement of each objective. The policies and supporting actions are set out in section 5.

Topic	Plan Objective	Related policies and supporting actions
Housing	To limit development at Ecton village to small scale infill development and ‘rural exceptions’ housing.	Policies in the JCS largely restrict housing to infill and rural exception sites. However, Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that proposals are sensitively designed
	To ensure that housing meets the needs of the local community.	Policy 2 and Policy 3
Community facilities and local green space	To safeguard and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities and services.	Policy 4 and Policy 5 Supporting Action 1
	To protect and enhance important areas of open space, both public and private.	Policy 6
The historic environment	To ensure that the design of new development maintains and, where possible, enhances the historic environment of Ecton.	Policy 7, Policy 8 and Supporting Action 2
	To protect and enhance important areas of open space, both public and private.	Policy 6 and Policy 7
	To safeguard important views and features of landscape importance.	Policy 7 and Policy 10
Landscape character and the natural environment	To maintain the separate identity of Ecton village.	Policy 9
	To safeguard important views and features of landscape importance.	Policy 7 and Policy 10
	To conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and the landscape character and setting of Ecton.	Policy 11
Highways	To support and encourage a safe highway network.	Policy 12 and Supporting Action 3
Fibre optic broadband	To support and encourage the availability of communications technology.	Policy 13

5. Planning policies and proposals

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Section 4 sets out the overall vision for Ecton while this section of the Neighbourhood Plan contains the policies to support and help deliver the vision.

5.1.2 However, it is not the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan to include all land use planning policies for Ecton. Rather, the Neighbourhood Plan contains a series of policies which provide a distinct, local application of policies in the wider Development Plan where this will assist the community in achieving its vision for Ecton. Accordingly, proposals for development must be judged against **all** relevant policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and against **all** other relevant policies of the Development Plan.

5.1.3 The policies in this section are grouped under the topic headings listed at paragraph 4.6. Objectives

relevant to each topic are included in a box with a green background. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are contained within a box with a blue background and are accompanied by a reasoned justification to explain the purpose and reason for the policy.

5.1.4 This section of the Neighbourhood Plan also includes:

- a Policies Map (see pages 27-28) to identify land to which an area specific policy applies. For example, it illustrates areas designated as Local Green Space in Policy 6 (Local Green Space) of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- ‘supporting actions’ which the Parish Council will pursue in order to help realise the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. The supporting actions are contained within a box with a pink background.

5.2 Housing

Objectives

To limit development at Ecton village to small scale infill development and ‘rural exceptions’ housing.

To ensure that housing meets the needs of the local community.

Introduction

5.2.1 Policy 11 (The Network of Urban and Rural Areas) of the JCS largely limits new housing in Ecton to small scale infilling on sites within the village and ‘rural exception’ schemes intended to secure affordable housing on land adjacent to the village. Policy SS1 (Villages) of the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough establishes a ‘Village Boundary’ to interpret whether a site is within or adjacent to the village of Ecton.

5.2.2 It is explained in the JCS (at paragraph 5.17) that infilling refers to the development of vacant and

under-developed land within the main built-up areas of the village on land which is bounded by existing

built curtilages on at least two sides, such as the filling in of a small gap in an otherwise substantially built-up frontage.

5.2.3 The JCS also enables additional land to be allocated in Ecton for housing, where agreed as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. However, consultation responses in 2013 indicated that such provision would not be supported by the local community and the Neighbourhood Plan does not therefore allocate land for housing.

5.2.4 The housing section of the Neighbourhood Plan complements the JCS by adding detail to policies concerned with residential amenity, dwelling size and rural exception housing.

Residential Amenity

5.2.5 Policy 8 (North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles) of the JCS highlights the need to give careful consideration to the likely impact that

development can have on the amenities of future occupiers of the new dwellings and neighbouring properties and on the wider area in terms of noise, other forms of pollution, loss of light and overlooking.



Example of infill development, High St

5.2.6 The following policy complements and supports the JCS through the inclusion of additional criteria to ensure that off-street car parking and refuse and recycling storage facilities do not detract from the street scene.



High St – an example of recent development in Ecton

Policy 1 – Residential amenity

To be supported, proposals for residential development must include:

1. car parking spaces in accordance with the standards of provision adopted by the Highway Authority; and
2. refuse and recycling storage facilities.

All car parking spaces and refuse and recycling storage facilities must be located so as not to have an adverse visual impact on the street scene.

Dwelling size

5.2.7 The JCS supports a mix of dwelling sizes and tenures to include homes that will help to meet the need for affordable housing; enable older households to down-size; provide for the growing number of smaller households; and address any gaps in provision.

5.2.8 The Neighbourhood Plan complements the policies of the JCS by placing greater emphasis on both the type of housing to be supported in Ecton (Policy 2) and on the occupation of housing to be provided as part of any rural exception scheme (Policy 3).

5.2.9 At a Borough-wide level the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update (SHMA)^{vii} predicts that the need for small dwellings in North Northamptonshire will grow significantly as a consequence of first time buyers trying to get onto the property ladder and as a result of an increase in both households of retirement age and small households.

5.2.10 Due to benefit restrictions related to under occupancy it is likely that affordable housing will be limited to the minimum requirement. However, in the market sector there is likely to be a preference by consumers and providers for an additional bedroom. Research by the New Policy Institute^{viii} indicates that older people want at least two reasonable sized bedrooms and that many (especially couples) prefer to have three bedrooms. The SHMA concludes that the main requirement will be for single bedroom dwellings followed by three bedroom properties.

5.2.11 Evidence from the 2017 Ecton Housing Needs Survey^{ix}, summarised at paragraph 3.19 of the Neighbourhood Plan, further indicates that current, though limited need for housing in Ecton, is for small dwellings. Additionally, some residents aged over 55 have expressed interest in downsizing to housing more appropriate to their needs. Responses to the 2016 questionnaire further reinforce local support for smaller dwellings to develop a more balanced housing stock.

5.2.12 Policy 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan places particular emphasis on the provision of small dwellings to deliver relatively affordable homes; to provide opportunities for older residents wishing to downsize; and to help redress the housing imbalance in Ecton where over 25% of homes have 4 or more

bedrooms compared to a national average of approximately 19%.

Policy 2 - Dwelling size

1. To be supported, proposals for new housing must demonstrate how they address the most up-to-date published evidence of housing needs in Ecton.
2. The provision of dwellings with 3 or fewer bedrooms will be supported. Alternative provision will only be supported where up-to-date evidence of need in Ecton is demonstrated.

Rural exception sites

5.2.13 Affordable housing, which is defined in the glossary to the NPPF, includes housing for sale or rent for those whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing can be provided on 'rural exception' sites of a small scale located on land where planning permission would not usually be granted for housing, for example agricultural land next to the village boundary. The NPPF indicates that opportunities to bring forward such sites to meet an identified need should be supported.

5.2.14 Policy 13 (Rural Exceptions) of the JCS and Policy H6 (Single Plot Exception Sites for Self-Build) of the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough focus on the scale, location and type of dwellings that should be provided on rural exception sites and on ensuring that the homes remain available and affordable in perpetuity to meet local needs. The Neighbourhood Plan complements these policies, focusing primarily on ensuring that people with a strong local connection to Ecton are given priority access to the affordable housing.

5.2.15 Applicants on the housing waiting list are placed in one of five bands (A to E) set out in the Housing Allocation Policy of the Borough Council. Persons in band 'A' have the highest priority need while those in band 'E' are adequately housed but have a local connection to the Parish as defined in the Housing Allocations Policy. This latter group may, for example, include young people living with their parents because they are unable to afford market housing. Where a rural exception site is developed in Ecton, priority will be given to people with a local connection. This will ensure, for example, that

applicants in band 'E' with a local connection are given priority over those in greater need (i.e. in a higher band) but without a local connection to Ecton. For the purposes of Policy 3 (Rural exception sites) of the Neighbourhood Plan, the definition of 'local connection' shall be as defined in the 2018 Housing Allocation Policy^x of the Borough Council or any later revision of that policy.

5.2.16 A legal agreement should be used to ensure that the housing remains available in perpetuity to meet a local need for affordable housing. This should also grant the nomination rights to the Borough Council, its successor or another appropriate body able to ensure that people with a local connection to Ecton are afforded the greatest priority

Policy 3 - Rural exception sites

1. Development proposals for affordable housing in accordance with Policy 13 (Rural Exceptions) of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Policy H6 (Single Plot Exception Sites for Self-Build) of the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough will be supported.
2. Nomination agreements, secured where necessary through the use of a legal agreement, will be used to ensure that priority access to affordable housing is given to people in need of affordable housing with a local connection to the Neighbourhood Area.
3. Planning obligations will be used to ensure that the affordable housing is made available in perpetuity for people with a local connection to the Neighbourhood Area.

5.3 Community facilities and local green space

Objectives

To safeguard and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities and services.

To protect and enhance important areas of open space, both public and private.

Retaining community facilities

5.3.1 Uses within use classes A1 to A5 and D1 and D2 of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) are, for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan, defined as community facilities. Within Ecton these include the village hall, the public houses and restaurant, the church and the primary school.

5.3.2 Whilst recent decades have witnessed a decline in the availability of services in Ecton, including the closure of the last village shop, the remaining community facilities make a significant contribution to the vitality, viability and quality of village life and provide an important focal point for social interaction. They can offer an important service, particularly for those who do not have access to a car, and can reduce the need to travel. In some instances they also provide local employment opportunities.

5.3.3 Both the NPPF and JCS indicate that valued community facilities should be retained unless they are no longer viable; no longer needed for a community use; or are to be relocated. All of the residents who responded to the 2016 questionnaire recognised the need for a policy to support the retention of the remaining facilities in the village.

5.3.4 Planning permission, however, is not always required to change the use of a building or land and this may restrict the opportunity to secure the continued use of a facility threatened with closure. Notwithstanding this, Policy 4 and the following text explain how the Neighbourhood Plan will contribute towards the objective of safeguarding and improving community facilities and services, where possible.

5.3.5 Where the grant of planning permission would result in the loss of a community facility it will be necessary to demonstrate that there is no

reasonable prospect of securing either the continued use or an alternative community use of the land or building.

5.3.6 The following policy complements Policy 7 (Community Services and Facilities) of the JCS by providing greater clarity regarding the level of evidence required to demonstrate that there is no prospect of a continued community use and the preferred location where it is proposed to provide a replacement facility. The 'Village Boundary', which is referred to in the policy and is used to interpret whether sites are within or adjoining the village, is defined in the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough and is identified on the Policies Map – Village Inset.



The village hall – a vital community facility

Policy 4 - The protection of community facilities

Proposals to redevelop or change the use of an existing community facility or land or buildings last used as a community facility will only be supported where one of the following conditions is met:

1. A replacement facility of sufficient size, layout and quality to compensate for the loss of the existing facility is to be provided on an alternative site within the Village Boundary identified on the Policies Map – Village Inset. Exceptionally, the replacement facility will be permitted adjacent to the Village Boundary where there is a clear local need for the facility to be relocated and a more central site within the village is not available; or

2. It has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the existing use is no longer economically viable and that there is no reasonable prospect of securing either a continuation of the existing use or an alternative community use. Evidence must be provided to demonstrate that the property has been satisfactorily marketed by a commercial property agent for a period of at least 12 months at a price which reflects an independent professional valuation and it is verified by the agent that no interest in acquisition has been expressed.

5.3.7 The Community Right to Bid, introduced in the Localism Act 2011, provides additional protection against the loss of a community asset. It allows the Parish Council and community groups to nominate land and buildings for listing by the Borough Council as an 'Asset of Community Value' (ACV) where the facility has recently been, or is presently used, to further the social wellbeing or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community.

5.3.8 When an ACV comes up for sale, the Parish Council and community groups are given a six month period to develop a proposal and bid for the asset. However, the owner is not required to sell to the community and may choose to sell the asset on the open market following due consideration of the community bid. Where planning permission is required to change the use of an ACV the local planning authority may determine that the listing is a material consideration and a significant factor in the determination of a planning application.

Supporting Action 1 - Assets of Community Value.

Ecton Parish Council will nominate buildings or land for inclusion on the Assets of Community Value register held by the Borough Council, or its successor, where justified. This will be particularly important where there are no other facilities in Ecton which provide adequate, alternative provision of a similar nature.

The provision of new community facilities

5.3.9 The NPPF indicates that planning policy should promote the provision of community facilities.

The JCS aims to focus facilities intended to serve the Borough as a whole within the town of Wellingborough whilst villages, including Ecton, should provide for the day to day needs of the local community.

5.3.10 Policy 5 enables the development of additional community facilities in Ecton in order to diversify and enhance the range and choice available to local residents whilst also ensuring that the facilities are conveniently accessible and will not have a detrimental impact on the local environment.

Policy 5 - The provision of new community facilities

Proposals that diversify or enhance the range of community facilities will be supported provided that the development is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle.

Local green space

5.3.11 Green spaces are a vital part of a vibrant and healthy community and are of great importance to the character and identity of a place. The NPPF enables land which is demonstrably special to the local community to be designated as 'Local Green Space', thereby ruling out new development other than in very special circumstances.

5.3.12 Sites may be designated as Local Green Space for a wide range of reasons including their visual amenity, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or their richness of wildlife. The NPPF indicates that the designation must not be applied to an extensive tract of land. However, the land does not need to be publicly accessible; although it must be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

5.3.13 The sites listed in Policy 6 are designated as Local Green Space on the Policies Map (see page 29) for the following reasons:

1. *Play area at the junction of Wellingborough Road and Northampton Road:* The play area is located within immediate proximity to the local community and is important not only for its recreational value but also because it forms a valuable area of open space and backdrop to

the war memorial at the southern end of the site.



Play area - Northampton Rd/Wellingborough Rd junction

- 2 *Grounds of St Mary Magdalene's Church:* The churchyard is located within immediate proximity of the local community and is valued not only as an area of tranquillity within the village but also because it enhances the setting of the Grade I listed church. Its historic importance is further strengthened by the gravestones, including the listed headstones which honour the memory of relatives of Benjamin Franklin.
- 3 *Allotment land to the east of High Street:* The walled allotment gardens are owned by the Ecton Estate and were originally allocated to its tenants. The allotments are within close proximity of the local community and continue to be enjoyed by a number of residents for their recreational value, their tranquillity and the pleasant views across the adjoining countryside.

- 4 *Land to the rear of the village hall:* The land is in close proximity to the local community and is used for village events and by residents using the hall. In addition, it is valued for the imposing views that it provides across the Nene valley and adjoining countryside.

Policy 6 - Local Green Space

The following areas identified on the Policies Map are designated as Local Green Space and will be protected from development due to their particular local significance or community value:

1. The play area at the junction of Northampton Road and Wellingborough Road;
2. The grounds of St Mary Magdalene's Church, Church Way;
3. The allotment land east of High Street; and
4. Land to the rear of the village hall, High Street.

Development on land designated as Local Green Space will only be supported in very special circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will not detract from the special character of the site.

5.4 The historic environment

Objectives

To ensure that the design of new development maintains and, where possible, enhances the historic environment of Ecton.

To protect and enhance important areas of open space, both public and private.

To safeguard important views and features of landscape importance.

Introduction

5.4.1 Ecton has a distinctive historic character with attractive buildings and features, including many heritage assets set within a rural landscape. The historic environment is strongly valued by the local community not only as a cultural asset but also as an important resource which contributes to an attractive environment for people wishing to live, work or invest in the area.

5.4.2 Elements of the historic environment that hold significance are termed 'heritage assets' and can either be 'designated' or 'non-designated'.

Designated assets have statutory status and within the Neighbourhood Plan area include a scheduled monument, listed buildings and the Ecton Conservation Area.



World's End, Northampton Rd - a Grade II Listed Building

5.4.3 A non-designated asset is a building, monument, site, place area or landscape of lesser significance identified by the local planning authority as having a degree of heritage interest which merits consideration in determining planning applications.

5.4.4 A core planning principle of the NPPF is to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations. Policy 2 (historic environment) of the JCS provides for the conservation and, where possible, enhancement of the distinctive historic environment including its heritage assets and their settings and key views and vistas of heritage assets. The policy further recognises the need for proposals to complement their surrounding historic environment in terms of form, scale, design and materials.

Ecton Conservation Area

5.4.5 In recognition of its special architectural or historic interest, much of the village is located within a designated Conservation Area (see paragraphs 3.12 – 3.13). This is a key part of Ecton and must be carefully managed in order to conserve and enhance its character.

5.4.6 The Conservation Area was extended in 2018. As part of the review a Conservation Area Appraisal^{xi} was prepared and adopted by the Borough Council. The Appraisal illustrates the distinctive elements and characteristics that should be considered in the design of new buildings and extensions and has influenced the design policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.4.7 The following policy seeks to protect and enhance the Conservation Area not by stifling all change but by managing new development to ensure that it respects and reflects the character of the area which is derived not only from the buildings but also from street patterns, building lines, spaces, trees, roofscapes, vistas and other features.

Policy 7 – The Conservation Area

To be supported, development proposals, including extensions, must demonstrate consideration of the impact on the significance of the Ecton Conservation Area, in particular with respect to the following positive and locally distinctive characteristics identified in the Ecton Conservation Area Appraisal:

1. the existing street pattern and proximity of buildings to the highway; the scale, height, orientation and juxtaposition of existing buildings; and the importance of open spaces around buildings;
2. the use of traditional materials and architectural features including building and roofing materials and fenestration and chimney stack details;
3. the traditional use of pitched roofs and the varied roofscape within the Conservation Area;
4. the need to retain and replicate traditional stone walls within the public realm and the railings which are a distinctive feature associated with Ecton Hall and its former curtilage;
5. visually important trees;
6. the setting of heritage assets; and
7. the opportunity, where relevant, to remove existing, unsightly and inappropriate features in order to enhance the character of the Conservation Area.

Standard designs which fail to capture or complement the distinctive and traditional character of the Conservation Area will not be permitted.

Contemporary designs need not imitate earlier architectural periods or styles but must be of a high quality and sympathetic to the form and scale of surrounding development.

Non-designated heritage assets

5.4.8 The local planning authority has responsibility for preparing a local list of non-designated heritage assets and has adopted a supplementary planning document^{xiii} which establishes selection criteria and a process for determining if an asset should be included on the local list. Additionally, the Historic Environment Record provides an important source of information on archaeological sites and the historic environment.

5.4.9 The process of identifying non-designated heritage assets will provide an opportunity for the community and the local authorities to work in partnership. Determining the location and significance of the assets will provide clarity on the desirability of their conservation and enhancement and will assist in the development of a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment of Ecton.



The war memorial. An example of a structure which is not listed but should be assessed for inclusion on a local list of heritage assets.

Supporting Action 2 - Non designated heritage assets

Ecton Parish Council will seek to work with the local authorities, the local community and other parties to identify non-designated heritage assets to be included on the Local List of Heritage Assets.

5.4.10 In accordance with the NPPF, where a heritage asset is affected by development it will be

necessary for an applicant to submit a report which assesses the impact on the significance and setting of the asset. Where the site includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, a desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation should form part of the planning application.

5.4.11 Where a non-designated heritage asset is affected by development proposals, every effort should be made to conserve and, where possible, enhance the asset and its setting. Extensions and alterations should be designed sympathetically. Where an asset is proposed for demolition or removal on economic grounds, a marketing report explaining the measures taken to sell or let it at a market price may provide acceptable evidence. The aim of marketing is to reach potential buyers who may be willing to find a use for the heritage asset and secure its conservation. Whilst there is no obligation on an owner to sell the asset, the existence of a potential purchaser will be taken to indicate that redundancy has not been demonstrated.

5.4.12 Where demolition of a building or structure is warranted, the NPPF provides for the recording of the heritage asset, the submission of this information for inclusion as part of the Historic Environment Record and for reasonable measures to be taken to ensure that the new development will take place following demolition of the heritage asset. The Borough Council has advised that, where possible, it would prefer these requirements to be the subject of a planning condition rather than a legal agreement.

Policy 8 - Non-designated heritage assets

1. Development which affects a non-designated heritage asset or its setting shall:
 - a. establish and take account of the individual significance of the asset; and
 - b. ensure that, where possible, the conservation of the asset and its setting in terms of quality of design and layout (scale, form, bulk, height, character and features) and materials is not compromised and is enhanced where possible.
2. Where development involves the loss of the whole or a material part of the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, the proposals must demonstrate that:

- a. all reasonable efforts have been made to either sustain the existing use, find a viable alternative use, or mitigate the extent of the harm to the asset; and
 - b. the benefits of permitting the development outweigh the scale of any harm or loss.
3. Where planning permission is granted for development that will result in the loss of the whole or a material part of the significance of a non-designated heritage asset, planning

- conditions or a legal agreement will be used to ensure:
- a. the recording of the significance of the heritage asset and the subsequent deposit of the evidence with the Historic Environment Record and of any archives with a local museum; and
 - b. that any loss does not take place until after the new development has commenced or, where this is not possible, immediately before it commences.

5.5 Landscape character and the natural environment.

Objectives

To maintain the separate identity of Ecton village.

To safeguard important views and features of landscape importance.

To conserve and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and the landscape character and setting of Ecton.

Introduction

5.5.1 The rural environment of Ecton forms an intrinsic part of the character of the Parish and provides opportunities for informal recreation. The NPPF indicates that the planning system should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and support thriving rural communities within it. Similarly, the JCS supports the conservation and enhancement of the character and qualities of the local landscape including features of landscape importance, important views and vistas, and the landscape setting and separate identities of settlements.

5.5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan complements the NPPF and JCS. It includes a specific policy to protect the distinct identity of Ecton; it identifies a number of important views and vistas; and it provides additional detail to protect and enhance natural features and secure appropriate landscaping of development sites.

The separate identity of Ecton village.

5.5.3 The village of Ecton is located approximately 0.5 miles to the east of Northampton and much of the intervening countryside is rural and undeveloped in character. There is pressure from the development industry to extend beyond the Ecton Brook, which currently forms a firm, eastern boundary to Northampton.

5.5.4 Whilst the inspector who held the examination into the North Northamptonshire JCS^{xiii} concluded that development beyond the Ecton Brook is not necessary, he recognised that proposals may need to be considered in the long term to help meet the county's needs. However, he stated that this would be a matter for a review of either the North Northamptonshire JCS or West Northamptonshire JCS to address in due course. Further explanation in the North Northamptonshire JCS indicates that it is not necessary for North Northamptonshire to identify land for housing or other development specifically related to meeting the needs of Northampton before 2029. However, 'for the period post 2029 options outside of the West Northamptonshire boundary area may need to be tested alongside others for meeting Northampton's longer term development needs'.

5.5.5 The land between Ecton village and Northampton forms part of the Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes landscape character area as defined in the Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment (see paragraph 3.8). The JCS (at para 3.24) indicates that the Character Assessment should

be used to ensure that the diversity of the North Northamptonshire landscape is respected, retained and, where possible, enhanced.

5.5.6 Policies 3 and 11 of the JCS highlight the need for the landscape setting of settlements, their individual and distinct character and their separate identity to be protected. Additionally, local residents who responded to the 2016 questionnaire recognised the important role that the countryside has to play in protecting the village setting and preventing coalescence with Northampton.

5.5.7 The Environmental Character Assessment further highlights the vulnerability of the Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes, including the Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes, to development pressure and concludes that, when considering proposals for development, it will be important to give careful consideration to the integration of development with the local landform as well as to the wider setting and to the relationship with existing built areas.

5.5.8 In recognition of the desire to protect the character of Ecton village an area ‘sensitive to coalescence with Northampton’ has been identified on the Policies Map (see page 27). The purpose of this designation is not to preclude development that accords with the strategic policies of a Local Plan but to highlight the need for the landscape impacts arising from the scale, location and design of development to be carefully considered to ensure that the landscape setting of Ecton village, its individual and distinct character and its separate identity are protected.

Policy 9 – Maintaining the separate identity of Ecton village.

Within the area designated on the Policies Map as ‘sensitive to coalescence,’ proposals for development will not be supported if, individually or cumulatively, they will:
harm the landscape setting and distinct identity of the village of Ecton; or
undermine the visual or physical separation of Ecton village from Northampton; or
result in the coalescence of Ecton village and Northampton.

Important views and vistas

5.5.9 The landscape setting of the village on the mid slopes of the Nene valley provides extensive, locally valued views from the public rights of way network and public highways within the village and wider Plan Area.

5.5.10 Important views and vistas within the Plan Area include those of the distinct and positive characteristics and features of the countryside (see paragraphs 3.8 – 3.13) and of heritage assets within the village which, in some instances, are visible within the wider landscape. Overall, these views add significantly to the character of the Plan Area and enjoyment of the public rights of way network.



View of Ecton Hall from the Ecton to Earls Barton public footpath (TE1)

5.5.11 Paragraphs 5.5.12 to 5.5.16 (below) describe a number of key views within and around the village. However, these views are not intended to form an exhaustive list and do not include the outlying areas of the Plan Area where there are numerous panoramic and attractive views across open countryside.

5.5.12 To the west of the village the network of public footpaths provides attractive views across the Nene Valley and towards the settlement. Prominent within the views of the village are the church tower and mature trees, including the woodland areas to the east of the settlement. The trees and church tower provide strong, vertical elements within the landscape. The public footpath on the east side of the village offers glimpses of the frontage of Ecton Hall and extensive views across its former parkland.



View of Ecton village from the west

5.5.13 Within the village, the winding nature of High Street and the significant number of buildings and walls which either abut the highway or are in close proximity to it, creates a series of curtailed but distinctive vistas which generally lead the eye along the road and form part of the special character of the Conservation Area. The views widen out at the north end of High Street where the war memorial acts as a focal point within the village and where several roads converge.

5.5.14 Church Way represents the heart of the village from which Ecton has evolved and includes several key buildings including the grade I listed church and the grade II* Ecton Hall and Ecton House. The low walls along parts of the street frontage and the railings in the vicinity of Ecton Hall enable a number of these significant buildings and their settings to be viewed from the public highway.

5.5.15 Important viewpoints along High Street and Church Way are also identified in the Conservation Area Appraisal.



View of the church tower from West Street



View of the church tower from High Street

5.5.16 There are also various points within the village from which the church tower can be viewed or glimpsed. Examples are highlighted in the above photographs.

5.5.17 Policy 10 identifies key public views and vistas within the Plan Area. Where proposals may impact on an important public view, an application should be accompanied by evidence both to illustrate the impact of the design, scale, height and massing of the development on existing public views and to indicate how such views could be enhanced.

Policy 10 – Important public views and vistas

To be supported, development proposals must demonstrate that their layout will safeguard and, where possible, enhance the following important views:

- views of Ecton village, including adjoining areas of woodland and the Church Tower, seen from locations on public footpaths reference TE2, TE3, TE4 and TE5 to the west of Ecton identified on the Policies Map;
- 2. views of Ecton Hall and the adjoining former parkland seen from locations along the public footpath reference TE1 identified on the Policies Map;
- 3. views along High Street, including views of the War Memorial;
- 4. views along Church Way; and
- 5. views of the Church Tower from publicly accessible locations within the village boundary.

Natural features and the landscaping of development sites

5.5.18 Trees, hedgerows and water features are significant to the overall landscape quality of Ecton and are examples of natural features which help to maintain and enhance the visual attractiveness of the area and often provide important habitats for wildlife. Such features may also define routes and views whilst trees and hedgerows can also screen out noise or unsightly development; provide shelter; have a positive impact on air quality and reduce the predicted effects of a warming climate.

5.5.19 Some of these natural features have protection under the Hedgerow Regulations, Tree Preservation Orders or by being situated in the Ecton Conservation Area. However, other controls, such as planning conditions, restrictive covenants and Forestry Commission felling restrictions may apply. Details of Tree Preservation Orders within the Plan Area can be viewed on the interactive mapping section of the Borough Council’s website at: http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/a_to_z/l



Trees at the junction of High Street and Barton Fields



View from Northampton Road. Trees are significant to the overall landscape quality of Ecton

5.5.20 The following policy makes provision for the retention and enhancement of natural features of nature conservation and/or amenity value and for landscape works in specified circumstances. Planning conditions will be used to secure the implementation of landscaping schemes and the conservation of natural features of importance (including their protection during construction of the development) or replacement, where appropriate. Further useful guidance on landscape design and the protection of trees on development sites is set out in a ‘Trees and Landscape Supplementary Planning Document’^{xiv} whilst the ‘Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document for Northamptonshire’^{xv} provides guidance on biodiversity issues.

Policy 11 – Natural features and landscape works

To be supported, proposals for development shall:

1. Incorporate existing natural features of nature conservation and/or amenity importance and protect them from damage, destruction or deterioration in quality; and
2. Incorporate appropriate landscaping works where required to soften the visual impact of the development and/or enhance existing natural features of importance.

Exceptionally, where development would result in the unavoidable loss of a natural feature of importance which is outweighed by the benefit of the development, the grant of planning permission will, where possible, be conditioned to require the replacement of the natural feature.

5.6 Highways

Objectives

To support and encourage a safe highway network.

Supporting Action 3 – Highway safety

Ecton Parish Council will seek to work with the local community, the highway authority, the Police and other parties to support suitable measures to improve highway safety within Ecton.

Introduction

5.6.1 Road safety in Ecton has been identified as an issue by many residents concerned by the perceived speed of vehicles travelling through the village and the dangers of on-street parking in the vicinity of the school at the start and end of the day. Similarly, concerns have been expressed about the speed of traffic along the A4500 and the need to cross the road to reach the bus stop.



Ecton primary school - Illustrating parking at the end of the school day

5.6.2 Responsibility for assessing and, where appropriate, undertaking highway improvements, including the introduction of speed restrictions, is the responsibility of the highway authority rather than a matter for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council has informed the highway authority of the issues raised. Following an investigation the County Council, working in partnership with the Police, has concluded that there is no compelling evidence to support a lower speed limit within the village or along the A4500 at the present time. The following action signals the desire of the Parish Council to support suitable measures to improve highway safety.

Car parking and electric vehicle charging

5.6.3 With respect to new development, the JCS emphasises the need to create a safe and pleasant environment through a series of measures including prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users; resisting developments that would prejudice highway safety; and ensuring that development has a satisfactory means of access and includes provision for parking, servicing and manoeuvring in accordance with adopted standards.

5.6.4 Car ownership levels in Ecton are high (see paragraph 3.22), reflecting both the rural location and limited availability of public transport. In addition, the level of off-road parking is inadequate in parts of the village. The Neighbourhood Plan complements the policies of the JCS through the inclusion of measures to prevent the loss of off-street parking and to ensure that, where planning permission is required, extensions and alterations for additional bedrooms include the corresponding number of parking spaces for the size of property.

5.6.5 Clarification regarding adopted parking standards was issued by the County Council to the Borough Council in 2017. The clarification indicates that a double garage can be counted as one parking space while a single garage can be included as a parking space where external storage, such as a shed, is to be provided. Where it is necessary to count a proposed garage as a parking space in order to ensure compliance with adopted parking standards it will be appropriate to include a condition to prevent its future conversion for use as an additional room without planning permission.

5.6.6 The following policy also has regard to the Government's aspiration that, by 2040, every new car will be an ultra-low emission vehicle (ULEV). Electric

vehicles offer significant benefits in terms of air quality and carbon reduction and the NPPF indicates that applications for development should be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations. Evidence indicates that most private owners of electric vehicles charge them overnight, at home, and currently have a strong preference for doing this rather than using public or workplace charging^{xvi}.

Policy 12 – Car parking and electric vehicle charging

1. Where development, including extensions and alterations, would result in the loss of existing garage and/or parking spaces, planning permission will only be granted where adequate off-street parking is provided to meet the adopted parking standards of the Highway Authority.

2. Where it is necessary to count a proposed garage as a parking space to ensure compliance with the adopted parking standards of the Highway Authority, permission will be subject to a condition preventing its future conversion for use as an extension to a dwelling without planning permission.
3. Where development includes proposals for off-street parking or a garage, safe and accessible provision shall be made for the charging of electric vehicles.

5.7 Superfast broadband

Objectives

To support and encourage the availability of communications technology.

5.7.1 A high-speed broadband network is of vital importance to Ecton. It will not only support working from home but will provide opportunities to improve business performance and reduce the need to travel. It will also enhance access to an increasing number of on-line applications and services and help to reduce social exclusion.

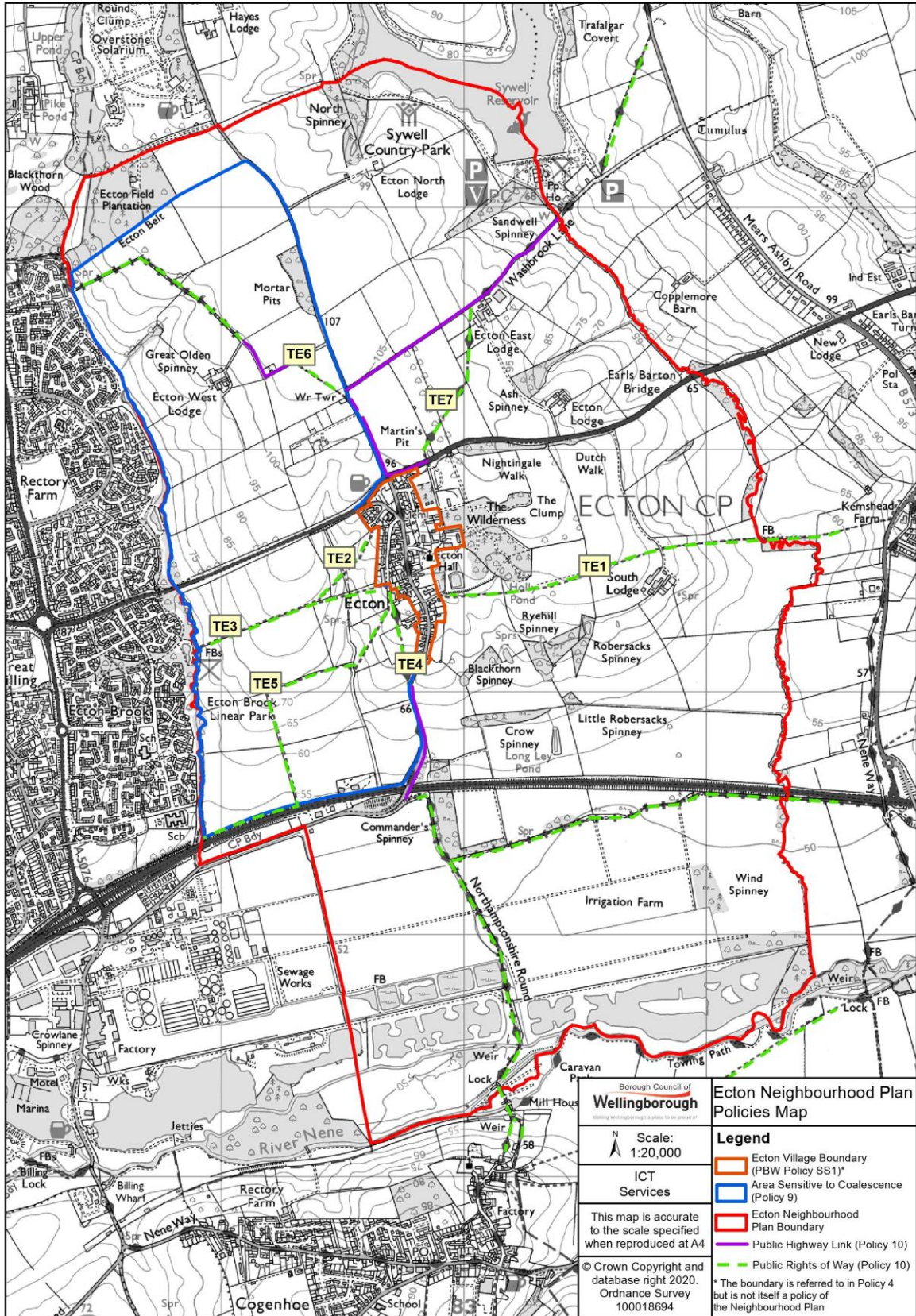
5.7.2 The NPPF and JCS support the provision of high-speed broadband. The County Council’s ‘Superfast Northamptonshire’ project aims to secure access to superfast broadband of 24Mbps and above to most premises in the County by 2021. The plans are largely based on the use of fibre-optic technology between the exchange and a cabinet located close to the community and use of the existing copper network between the cabinet and premises. However, the project also aims to secure access to ultrafast broadband of 100Mbps and above to 65% of premises by 2021.

5.7.3 Taking fibre all the way to the premises rather than to the cabinet is more costly. However, ‘fibre to the premises’ can support much higher speeds of up to 1Gbps and demand for such technology is expected to increase as a consequence. The following policy therefore aims to secure the provision of suitable ducting to enable new residential and commercial development to be readily served by fibre to the premises at a future date.

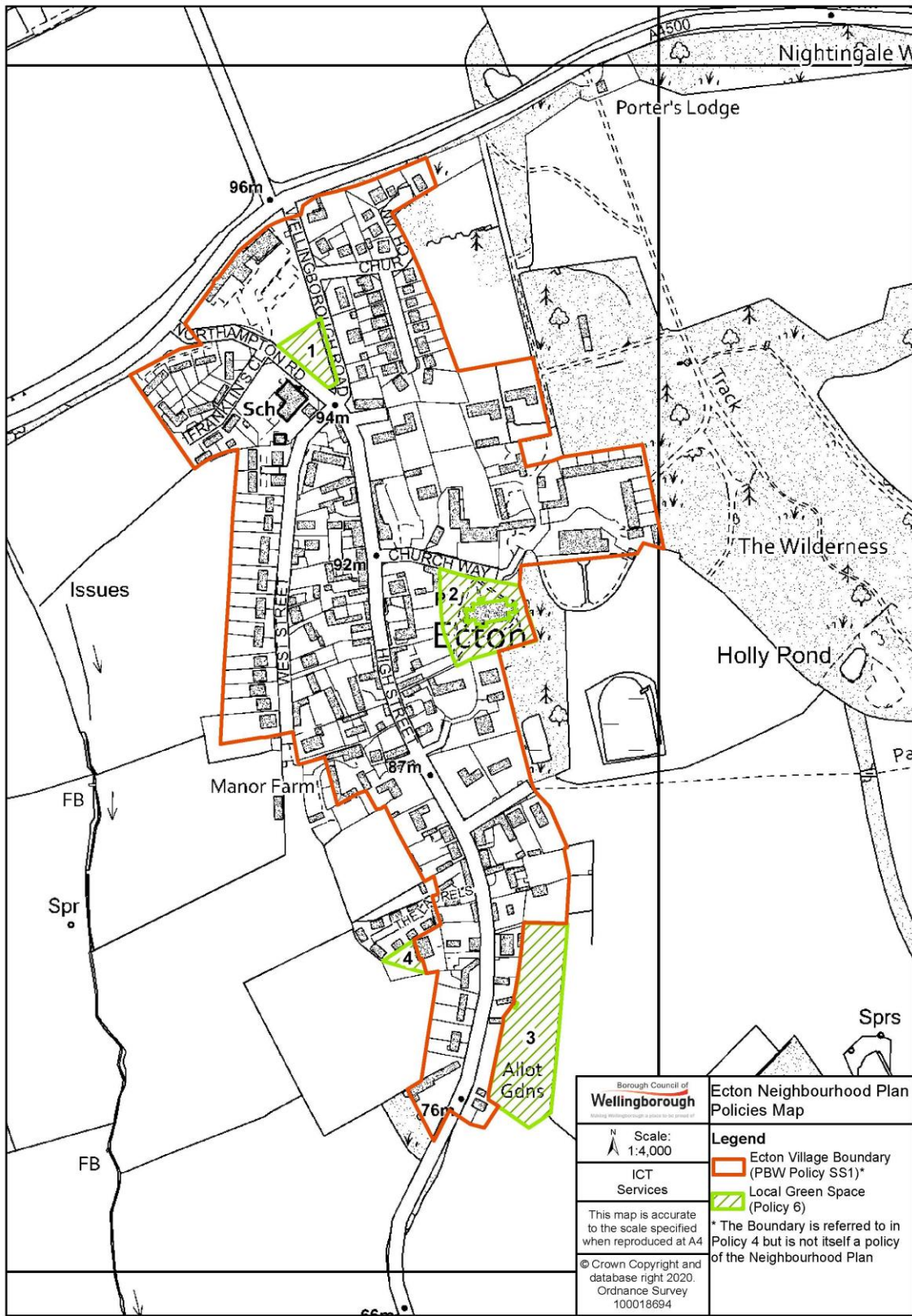
Policy 13 - Fibre to the premises

Planning permission for new dwellings or commercial development will be subject to a condition requiring the provision of ducting that can support the provision of fibre to the individual premises unless it can be demonstrated that such provision would not be practical or viable.

Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map



Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map – Village Inset



Borough Council of Wellingborough <small>Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of</small>		Ecton Neighbourhood Plan Policies Map	
N Scale: 1:4,000	Legend		
ICT Services	[Orange outline] Ecton Village Boundary (PBW Policy SS1)*		
This map is accurate to the scale specified when reproduced at A4	[Green hatched] Local Green Space (Policy 6)		
© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100018694	* The Boundary is referred to in Policy 4 but is not itself a policy of the Neighbourhood Plan		

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Affordable Housing:

Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers); and which complies with one or more of the definitions in the glossary to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Asset of Community Value (ACV):

Land or property of importance to a local community which is subject to additional protection under the Localism Act. Voluntary and community organisations can nominate an asset to be included on their local authority's register of ACVs. The owner of an ACV must inform the local authority if they wish to sell the asset. If a group wants to buy the asset it can trigger a moratorium for six months to give it an opportunity to raise the money to purchase the asset. The owner does not have to sell to a community group, the ACV listing only improves the chances of community groups being able to purchase by providing more time to raise funds.

Conservation Area:

An area valued for its special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Areas are designated by the local planning authority. Designation provides the local planning authority with extra powers to control works and demolition of buildings to protect or improve the character or appearance of the area. The Ecton Conservation Area was extended in 2018.

Conservation Area Character Appraisal:

A published document defining the special architectural or historic interest that warrants an area being designated as a Conservation Area.

Development Plan:

A document setting out the policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in an area. This includes adopted Local Plans and 'made' neighbourhood plans and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Heritage Asset:

A heritage asset can be either 'designated' or 'non-designated'. Within the Plan Area sites designated under legislation include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and the Conservation Area. Non-designated heritage assets are identified by the local planning authority. This category includes buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions but which are not formally designated heritage assets.

Historic Environment Record (HER):

Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use. HERs contain details of local archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and historic landscapes and are regularly updated. This information is usually held in a database with a digital mapping system.

Infill development

The development of a relatively small gap between existing buildings.

JCS:

See North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

Listed Building:

A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II.

Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest - only 2.5% of listed buildings in England are Grade I.
Grade II* buildings are of more than special interest - only 5.5% of listed buildings in England are Grade II*.
Grade II buildings are of special interest and account for 92% of all listed buildings.

Local Green Space:

An area of local open space which is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife. Such areas can be designated and protected through Neighbourhood or Local Plans.

Local Plan:

The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. At the present time the Local Plan consists of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, (JCS) and the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough (PBW). The JCS is sometimes called the 'Part 1 Local Plan' and the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough is sometimes referred to as the 'Part 2 Local Plan'.

Localism Act 2011:

The Act which enables the Parish Council to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

The main document that sets out the Government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG):

Government guidance to support the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework

Nature Improvement Area (NIA):

An inter-connected network of wildlife habitats intended to re-establish thriving wildlife populations and help species respond to the challenges of climate change. The Nene Valley NIA was designated by the Government in 2012.

Neighbourhood Plan:

A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS):

The JCS is the strategic Local Plan for Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough and was adopted in 2016. It outlines a big picture which has been developed in more detail by the Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough. More detailed policies applicable at a local level are included in Neighbourhood Plans. The JCS covers the period to 2031.

Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

The land use planning strategy for minerals and waste related development in the county.

Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough (PBW):

The PBW was adopted in 2019. It adds detail to some of the policies in the JCS and covers the period to 2031.

Policies Map:

A map which shows the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan capable of being shown on a map.

Ramsar Site:

Wetland of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site have identical boundaries

Rural Exception Sites:

Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding.

Scheduled Monument:

A nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Special Protection Areas (SPA):

An area which has been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA has been designated due to the importance of the area for over-wintering birds.

Strategic policies:

Local Plan policies that cover the 'big ideas' such as the amount of housing and employment land to be provided for.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD):

A document that provides further guidance on one or more policies in the Development Plan.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A mechanism for securing the preservation of single or groups of trees of acknowledged amenity value. A tree subject to a TPO may not normally be topped, lopped or felled without the consent of the local planning authority.

Appendix 2 Endnotes

- ⁱ Ecton Parish Council. Consultation Statement (2019) <http://www.ectonvillage.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>
- ⁱⁱ Borough Council of Wellingborough. Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area SPD (2015) http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200132/local_development_framework/1164/supplementary_planning_guidance-documents_and_informal_guidance
- ⁱⁱⁱ River Nene Regional Park. Northamptonshire Environmental Character Assessment. <http://www.rivneneregionalpark.org/>
- ^{iv} there are other buildings, structures or objects constructed before July 1948 which are ‘deemed’ to be listed by virtue of being within the curtilage of a listed building and are afforded the same protection as a listed building with its own listing entry. Curtilage listed buildings, structures and objects are not shown in Figure 4 or Figure 5.
- ^v Unless otherwise stated, percentage figures used in this section are derived from the 2011 Census (see <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>). Figures in brackets are for England as a whole and provide a comparison with data for Ecton Parish.
- ^{vi} Nomis official labour market statistics. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>
- ^{vii} North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit Strategic Housing Market Assessment Update. (2012). <http://www.nnjpdu.org.uk/publications/strategic-housing-market-assessment-august-2012/>
- ^{viii} New Policy Institute. Market Assessment of Housing Options for Older People (2012). <https://www.npi.org.uk/publications/>
- ^{ix} Borough Council of Wellingborough. Ecton Housing Needs Survey (2017). http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200149/affordable_housing_and_development
- ^x Borough Council of Wellingborough. Housing Allocation Policy (2018). http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/a_to_z/H
- ^{xi} Borough Council of Wellingborough. Ecton Conservation Area Appraisal (2017). http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/1170/conservation_area_appraisals
- ^{xii} Borough Council of Wellingborough. Local List of Heritage Assets Supplementary Planning Document (2013). http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200132/local_development_framework/1164/supplementary_planning_guidance-documents_and_informal_guidance
- ^{xiii} Planning Inspectorate. Report on the Examination into the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2016). <http://www.nnjpdu.org.uk/publications/?q=inspectors+report>
- ^{xiv} Borough Council of Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire Council. ‘Trees and Landscape Supplementary Planning Document’ (2013). http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200132/local_development_framework/1164/supplementary_planning_guidance-documents_and_informal_guidance
- ^{xv} Borough Council of Wellingborough ‘Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document for Northamptonshire’ (2015) http://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/info/200132/local_development_framework/1164/supplementary_planning_guidance-documents_and_informal_guidance
- ^{xvi} Office for low emission vehicles. Uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in the UK. (2015). <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles>

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ECTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Decision Statement published pursuant to Section 38A (9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

North Northamptonshire Council on **XX 2021** resolved to make the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan under Section 38A (4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Ecton Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the development plan for the area.

Reasons for the Decision

The Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions and is compliant with legal and procedural requirements. Paragraph 38A(4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting in the referendum upon the plan have voted in favour of the plan being used to help decide planning applications in the area. 87.77% of those voting supported the plan in a referendum on 6 May 2020.

The Council has assessed that the making of the plan would not breach or would not otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

In accordance with the regulations the Ecton Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and will be used to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area alongside existing planning policies and their successors.

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EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY 22nd JUNE 2021

Report Title	Corby Town Fund
Report Authors	Valerie Finke Valerie.finke@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Steven North – Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration
Consultees	Organisations with an economic development focus and/or interest in North Northamptonshire

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Forward Plan Reference (if yes to Key Decision)	
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To consider the revised Corby Town Deal Board (the Board) membership and to approve Head of Terms set by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in connection with Corby's Towns Fund.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 North Northamptonshire Council has been successfully awarded £19.9m for four projects detailed within Corby's Town Investment Plan in connection to the Town Fund. Following this decision, MHCLG has offered Heads of Terms in connection with this funding.
- 2.2 The deadline for all parties to agree and sign these Heads of Terms is 29th June 2021 to allow progression to the next stage of the process.

- 2.3 Following on from local government reorganisation and the creation of North Northamptonshire Council and the local government elections that took place in May this year, there is a need to review the Board membership to take account of these changes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Confirm the continuation of the Corby Town Deal Board which was established by Corby Borough Council
 - b) Agree membership of the Town Deal Board Members as detailed in section 5.

Delegate authority to the Leader and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place and Economy to approve and sign Heads of Terms in connection with Corby's Town Fund from MHCLG.

- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations: -
- To ensure that NNC is appropriately represented on the Board.
 - The options proposed align with MHCLG's guidance on the Town Fund should Members wish to proceed.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 In September 2019, the MHCLG announced 101 towns who were eligible to bid for up to £25m through the Towns Fund. The objective of the Towns Fund is to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of our towns for long-term economic and productivity growth. This two-stage process was approved by Corby Borough Council's (CBC) One Corby Policy Committee in December 2019 (stage 1) and in January 2021 (stage 2) to:
1. Establish a Town Investment Plan for Corby - by the formation of the Town Deal Board and to produce a Town Investment Plan (TIP).
 2. Use the TIP to bid for Town Deal funding – bid for £25m for the four projects selected by the Town Deal Board.
- 4.2 This was delivered by working in partnership with key stakeholders in Corby, including the community and local businesses, through the Corby Town Deal Board. This comprised of the members listed in section 5.
- 4.3 All the projects within the TIP have been identified through wide-ranging consultation and engagement, and through collaboration with key partners who can help deliver change.
- 4.4 Corby's TIP was submitted to MHCLG within the deadline set by government at the end of January 2021.

- 4.5 On the 8th June 2021 government confirmed that the Corby Town Deal had been successful in securing £19.9m.

5. Issues and Choices

Town Deal Board

- 5.1 In January 2020, Corby Borough Council established a Town Deal Board in line with the government's Towns Fund guidance. Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board in January 2020.. The principal purpose of the Board was to act in an advisory capacity to Corby Borough Council in producing Corby's Town Investment Plan and informing a business case for a Town Deal to Government.
- 5.2 In June 2020, the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government (on behalf of Government) issued "Town Funds Guidance". This set out key information about roles of different stakeholders and showed the path towards implementation of Town Deals. Guidance was included about the governance requirements that were applicable to the Board. In particular, the Town Board is required to align with the governance standards and policies of the Council.
- 5.3 The Local Government (Structural Changes)(Transitional Arrangements)(No 2) Regulations 2008, provides continuity provisions as part of local government reorganisation which allows the Board to continue following Vesting Day. It is prudent however for North Northamptonshire Council to confirm that the Board is established and review membership.
- 5.4 As noted earlier in the report, Terms of Reference were agreed by the Board when it was established but following the creation of North Northamptonshire Council, these will be reviewed to ensure that they meet Government Guidance and that they reflect the new Council as the lead authority. In addition, in accordance with the Guidance, the Council will ensure that members of the Board are advised of any revised governance standards of the Council.
- 5.4 The current Town Deal Board membership reflects Government Guidance and those stakeholders that must be members of the Board. It also includes additional members who will be key to the Boards success. Current membership is as follows:

Chair – Lorna Dodge representative of Love Corby (Business Group in Corby)
Deputy Chair - Tom Beattie former Leader at Corby Borough Council

Members of the Board

- Jean Addison - former Deputy Leader Corby Borough Council (now opposition Leader)
- Tom Pursglove – Member of Parliament for Corby
- Georgina Agar - Vice Principle at Tresham College
- Simon Phipps - Senior Leasing, Development & Asset Manager for Sovereign Centros (acting on behalf of the Town Centre Management)

- Lyn Buckingham - Chair of Central Neighbourhood Association (now ward councillor for the Lloyds estate)
- Owen Davison - Chair of Rural Area Forum
- Hilary Chipping - Chief Executive at SEMLEP
- Rachel Grey - Police Sergeant at Northamptonshire Police
- Ian Achurch - former Head of Economy & Strategy at Northamptonshire County Council (now Head of Economy & Strategy NNC)
- Dan Pickard - representative of the Corby Business Group
- Paul Ilko - Works Engineer at TATA Steel
- Kyra Joy - Tresham College Student Apprenticeship Ambassador
- Helen Wilmot - Programme Director for Made with Many
- Nick Bolton - Co-Founder of Electric Corby
- Paul Thompson - Employment and Skills Manager SEMLEP
- Jessica Daldas - Senior Partnership and Business Development Manager Holmes England
- Cath Conroy - Regional Programme Manager One Public Estate

Following local government elections for North Northamptonshire in May 2021, the membership of the Board needs to be updated.

It is a requirement that all tiers of Local Government are represented on the Board and therefore, a member of Corby Town Council shall need to be appointed and should be nominated by them.

The Terms of Reference state that a member of the lead authority and a member of Northamptonshire County Council shall be members of the Board. As North Northamptonshire Council has replaced both Corby Borough Council and the County Council, it is proposed that two members of North Northamptonshire Council are appointed as members of the Board. It is suggested that these are the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Growth and Economy. They will replace previous appointed members.

- 5.5 In addition, it proposed that the Chief Executive and Assistant Director for Growth and Regeneration also join the Board. Ian Achurch (Head of Economy & Strategy) would step down.

Head of Terms

- 5.6 The next stage of the process is to consider the Heads of Terms sent by MHCLG and if meeting the Council's approval to sign agreement of them. The deadline for this is 29th June 2021. This will be delegated to the Leader and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economy. Once approved by Members, the Heads of Terms will be sent to the Town Deal Board for their comment and agreement. These will be agreed by the Chair of the Board.
- 5.7 The next steps subsequent to Heads of Terms being agreed will be to finalise the projects moving forward within the financial envelope of £19.9m. This will be presented to the Town Deal Board for their input, with the Council having the final decision as to the projects going forward. This process is anticipated to take two months to complete and present to central government. Further reports will be brought back to the Executive as the work progresses.

- 5.8 Once the projects are confirmed, full Business Case development for each project is required, which entails full business case analysis based on the Green Book appraisal method set by government.
- 5.9 The Green Book is guidance issued by HM Treasury on how to appraise policies, programmes and projects. Compliant business cases will require clear and robust evidence of how each proposed investment has been fully option assessed and will deliver quantifiable and measurable economic, social and environmental benefits. Therefore there is significant business case development to be undertaken in demonstrating these requirements following the '5 Cases' within the Green Book format, setting out the strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management justification for public investment. This could take up to 12 months to be completed, although shovel-ready projects can be expedited, such as the Sixth Form Centre and Connected Corby.
- 5.10 Projects have 5 years thereafter to be completed and all funds including match funding need to be spent.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.2 On the 8th June 2021 government confirmed that the Corby Town Deal had been successful in securing £19.9m.
- 6.3 Corby TIP proposed a range of projects as part of its submission to government.

These included:

- Developing the Sixth Form Centre at Chisholm House
- Delivering Market Walk East
- Implementing the Corby Town Centre to Station Link (via Oakley Road)
- Delivering a Smart and Connected Corby

The Board will now need to prioritise these projects within the funding envelope being offered following the process outlined in 5.6, 5.7 and 5.8 above.

Further reports will be brought back to the Executive as this is progressed.

6.4 Legal

The subsequent Heads of Terms will through grant agreement, contractually oblige the Council and partners to deliver projects in Corby. Legal advice will be sought on the content.

6.5 Risk

- 6.6 Failure to meet project deadlines, missing out on potential funding opportunities, in particular supporting Corby's growth ambitions. This will be mitigated via external project support.

6.7 Overspend on projects, mitigated via contingency amounts built into the Towns Fund costings and programme delivery structure as detailed in the TIP.

6.8 Full business case analysis may prove projects are not financially viable. This has been mitigated by carrying out initial feasibility studies on the projects and working with partners on delivery options.

6.9 Consultation

6.9.1 The Town Fund involved a range of engagement with Corby residents through various platforms from the dedicated website to telephone market research. Engagement was ongoing with various stakeholders in the form of the Town Deal Board Members, Business and Community Groups. All of which were gathered solely for the Town Fund and to align with the engagement required by MHCLG's guidance. Consultation was also sought with MHCLG including the Town Fund Delivery partners (consultants set by central government to advise) at key stages.

6.10 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.10.1 As the project and work progresses there will be opportunities for scrutiny to look at and scrutinise this important regeneration project for Corby.

6.11 Climate Impact

6.11.1 All projects will seek to have minimal climate/environmental impact.

- The sixth form college will strive to change the carbon footprint of this building from a typical unused older building to a carbon neutral/negative run property.
- Oakley Road to the town centre project will change this road from a car orientated road to an area which is pedestrian and cyclist friendly and therefore promotes sustainable forms of transport.
- Multi-use building is in the early stages but will also strive to achieve as high a standard of energy efficiency / low carbon footprint as possible such as the college project.
- Connected Corby will give invaluable data on traffic, cyclist use and pedestrian use. This information will help to inform future decisions on our road infrastructure to encourage sustainable travel.

6.12 Community Impact

7. In the projects selected for the TIP, the council has prioritised the interventions which will potentially drive the sustainable economic regeneration of the area for long-term economic and productivity growth which meets local need, have local support, and aligns with the criteria set out in the Town Fund guidance.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Towns Fund Prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-prospectus>

8.2 Towns Fund Further Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance>

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