

Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan



Basic Conditions Statement

Version 1.0 June 2025

Amport Neighbourhood Plan Basic Conditions Statement

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Basic Conditions Statement is one element of the document set needed for formal submission and examination. The following documents will make up the complete Amport Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan submission.

- The Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2025 – 2041, including Appendices;
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area;
- This Basic Conditions Statement;
- A Consultation Statement detailing the extensive consultation with residents and other local stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the development process;
- On 10th July 2025 Test Valley Borough Council confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore, an Appropriate Assessment for the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan is not required. The Amport Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan does not require a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).
- An evidence base comprising the evidence base documents identified in the Neighbourhood Plan including:
 - A: Historical Environment,
 - B: Parish Profile,
 - C: Character Appraisal,
 - D: Local Green Spaces, and
 - E: Design Guidance and Codes.

For additional information please see [Amport Parish website](#)

2 LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirements of Neighbourhood Plans, and the related procedural obligations, are set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

As part of the process of writing this Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has had regard to the various legal requirements contained in the key legislation. The following paragraphs of this statement describe those requirements and the compliance assessment.

Is Amport Parish Council a 'Qualifying Body' authorised to act in relation to the Neighbourhood Area?

This requirement is described in Sections 61E(1) / 61E(6) and 61F (1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Amport Parish Council is a Qualifying Body and is therefore authorised to act in relation to the production of a Neighbourhood Plan covering the Neighbourhood Area.

Has the Neighbourhood Area been designated by Test Valley Borough Council?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

Amport Parish Council submitted an application for the designation of a neighbourhood area, which was approved on 18th February 2022. The specified area follows the Parish boundary and as per Regulation 5A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The designated neighbourhood area can be seen in Figure 1 below.

Does the designation follow an application for designation by the 'Relevant Body' (i.e. Amport Parish Council)?

This requirement is described in Section 61G(1a) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The Amport Parish Neighbourhood Area application was submitted by the Amport Parish Council who are the 'Relevant Body' for the purposes of Section 61G(1a).

The designated Neighbourhood Area is indicated below in Figure 1.

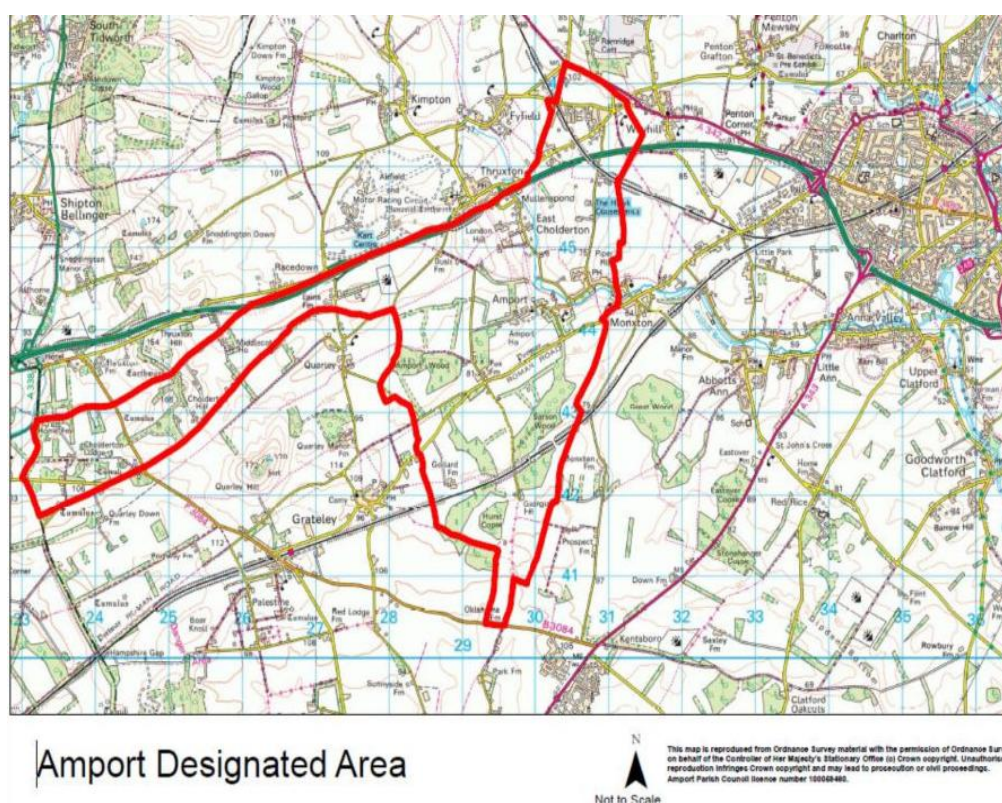


Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

Does the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Basic Conditions Statement specify the period for which the Plan is to have effect?

This requirement is described in Section 38B (1a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

Both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Basic Conditions Statement specify the period over which the Plan is to have effect, namely the period 2025 - 2040.

Does the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan include provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1b) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

'Excluded Development' is defined in Section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) as development that consists of a county matter (i.e. minerals and waste matters); or the carrying out of prescribed operations/development/development in prescribed area; development within Annex 1 to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment; or nationally significant infrastructure projects.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain provisions about development that is 'Excluded Development'.

Does the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(1c) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

As noted above, the Neighbourhood Plan covers the entire area within the parish boundary.

Are there any other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Amport Parish Neighbourhood area?

This requirement is described in Section 38B(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Act 2004 (as amended). There are no made Neighbourhood Plans currently in place covering this area.

Does the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan contain policies that relate to the development and use of land?

The Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan contains policies which relate to the development or use of land and are therefore appropriate for inclusion within a Neighbourhood Plan.

Does the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan meet the 'Basic Conditions'?

The requirement to meet 'Basic Conditions' is set out in Schedule 4b(8(1a)) to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), with the basic conditions themselves being set out in Schedule 4b(8(2a-g)).

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The rest of this Statement is devoted to assessing the degree to which the submission Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4b.

For the sake of completeness, the basic conditions that are relevant to Neighbourhood Plans such as this are as follows:

- (a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.
- (b) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- (c) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (in this case Test Valley Borough Council).
- (d) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations as incorporated into UK law
- (e) The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites (this is a 'Prescribed Condition').

Basic Conditions (d) and (e) are addressed together in Section 6 of this Statement. Schedule 4b (8(6)) also indicates that it is necessary to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is "compatible with the Convention rights". The interpretation section (s.17) in Schedule 4b confirms that "the Convention rights" have the same meaning as in the Human Rights Act 1998. This will be considered in Section 6 of this Statement.

3 CONFORMITY WITH NATIONAL POLICY/ADVICE

The Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) dated December 2024. The Neighbourhood Plan has also had regard to the guidance set out on the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) website, published by the Government in 2014 and updated on a rolling basis.

The Parish Council believes that the Neighbourhood Plan plans positively for future development in the parish area and that it is consistent with the provisions of the adopted Test Valley Borough Council's Local Plan Review 2011-2029.

It should be noted that a Draft Local Plan 2040 is currently being prepared. Although the Plan reached Regulation 19 stage, this was abandoned in December 2024 and a new Regulation 18 Plan being prepared at the time of writing. The original emerging Regulation 19 Local Plan policies have also been identified and acknowledged in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan.

Set out in Table 1 overleaf, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF and NPPG. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

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Neighbourhood Plan Policy Number and Title	NPPF/NPPG Paragraph	Comment on Conformity
Policy AM1: Landscape Character and Settlement Identity	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 124-128 (making effective use of land), 129-130 (character, density and setting), 131-141 (design, character and Design Codes), 161-169 (climate change), 135, (amenity etc), 202-221 (heritage) and 192-196 (biodiversity/net gain/green infrastructure).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001- 20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 6-001-20140306 to 6- 012-20190315 (climate change), 66- 004-20190722 to 66-005- 20190722 (density), 66-006- 20190722 to 66-007- 20190722 (amenity/daylight), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 and 18a-039-20190723 to 18a041-20190723 (heritage), and 8- 004-20190721 to 8-035- 20190721 (biodiversity/net gain and green infrastructure).</p>	<p>This policy reflects the policy approach in the NPPF at Section 12 about good design. NPPF notes that Neighbourhood Plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development.</p> <p>The policy sets out the approach to development within the character areas in a way that is consistent with the NPPF sections 11, 12, 15 and 16 in particular.</p>
Policy AM2: Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscape and Planting	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 187-190 (conserving and enhancing the natural environment)</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity/net gain and green infrastructure).</p>	<p>The policy reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF and NPPG in the column to the left, which seek to conserve and enhance the identified green and blue infrastructure elements. The criteria will ensure that development proposals take into account the sensitive nature of these areas, maintain and enhance links between sites and improve connectivity between green and blue infrastructure elements within the Plan area.</p>
Policy AM2.1: Protection of Pillhill Brook Policy AM3: Flooding and Drainage	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 170-182 (flood risk)</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 6-001-20140306 to 6-012-20190315 (climate change), 7-002-30240306 to 7-068-20140306 (flood risk).</p>	<p>The policy identifies the individual areas in the Plan area that are at risk of flooding from different sources and highlights that proposals for new development should be in accordance with the requirements set out in the NPPF. It is also noted that new development should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs), when appropriate ground conditions allow.</p>

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<p>Policy AM4: Local Green Spaces</p>	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 106 -108 (Local Green Spaces) and 187-191 (conserving and enhancing the natural environment)</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035-20190721 (biodiversity/net gain and green infrastructure).</p>	<p>This policy reflects the policy approach in the NPPF at Section 8 with regard to promoting healthy and safe communities. In particular Paragraphs 106 to 108 which set out the identification and protection of green areas of importance to communities. The policy draws on the evidence base, which uses a tested methodology to assess the green spaces for designation - see NPPF Section 15.</p>
<p>Policy AM5: Important Views and Vistas</p>	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 129(d)-130-131 (preserving character and design), 174, 176, 198(c) (dark landscapes).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 26-001- 20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8- 042-20190721 (landscape) and 31- 001-20191101 to 31-007- 20191101 (light pollution).</p>	<p>This policy draws on the evidence contained in the Appendices (Character Appraisal) to identify and manage the impact of development on the important views that are listed, in a way that is consistent with the requirements at NPPF in Paragraphs 129(d), 130 (character), 131 (high quality places), 187, 189/190 (landscape), 198(c) (dark landscapes) by ensuring that the design of development reflects the special qualities of the area and ensuring that appropriate weight is afforded to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and views within the Plan area are protected.</p>
<p>Policy AM6: Biodiversity and Habitats</p> <p>Policy AM6.1: Protection of Amport Fen</p> <p>Policy AM6.2: Hawk Conservancy Trust</p> <p>Policy AM2.1: Protection of Pillhill Brook</p>	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 10 (sustainable development), 189-190 (National Landscapes and landscape) and 192-195, 187 and 164 (biodiversity/net gain/green infrastructure).</p> <p>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape) and 8-004-20190721 to 8-035- 20190721 (biodiversity/net gain and green infrastructure)</p>	<p>This Policy builds on NPPF (Section 15) requirement to demonstrate how a net gain can be achieved in addition to the mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement applied to new major development applications.</p> <p>It references the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre information, which identifies the number of statutory and non-statutory environmentally protected sites that are contained in the Plan area. It seeks to manage new development in a way that will ensure the preservation of significant habitats and wildlife corridors and also sets out a list of biodiversity enhancements that would allow developers to meet the statutory mandatory figure of biodiversity net gain.</p>

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		<p>Individual policies on the protection of Amport Fen, the area around the Hawk Conservancy and the Pillhill Brook set out specific criteria for maintaining and improving biodiversity directly related to these sites.</p> <p>Proportionate opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements in and around all developments will be encouraged, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity and therefore the policy is considered to be in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.</p>
Policy AM7: Dark Night Skies	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 126-135 (design), 174, 176, 198(c) (dark landscapes) and 135 (amenity). NPPG Paragraphs 26-001- 20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 8-036-20190721 to 8- 042-20190721 (landscape), 66- 004-20190722 to 66-005- 20190722 (density), 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity).</p>	<p>By encouraging good design and buildings in sustainable locations, this policy seeks to minimise light pollution within the Plan area in order to maintain its rural character (as applicable). This is consistent with the NPPF approach to limiting the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation (NPPF paragraph 198(c)), as well as recognising the need for quality design, protecting and enhancing the landscape in the Plan area and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>
Policy AM8: Historic Environment	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 123-125 (making effective use of land), 131-140 (design), 180 (landscape), 135, 193 (amenity), 191(c) (dark landscapes) and 195-199 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment).</p>	<p>This policy draws largely from the Parish Character Appraisal and Design Code and sets out a list of the identified non-designated heritage assets in the Plan area.</p> <p>This policy reflects national policy on conserving and enhancing designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs) in the NPPF.</p>
Policy AM9: Design Principles	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 124-128 (making effective use of land), 129-130 (character, density and setting), 131-141 (design, character and Design Codes)</p>	<p>This policy draws primarily from the Parish Character Appraisal and the Design Code, as well as guidance in the National Design Guide. It seeks to ensure that all development proposals, including smaller scale proposals for housing extensions and replacement</p>

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	<p>NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042-20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (heritage), 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design), 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722 (amenity/daylight).</p>	<p>dwellings respect and maintain the distinctive character of Amport Parish.</p>
<p>Policy AM10: Housing, Infill and Redevelopment</p> <p>Policy AM10.1: Development of Housing to Meet Local Need</p>	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 7-14 (sustainable development), 61-71 (delivering housing), 82-84 (rural housing), 124-128 (making effective use of land), 129-130 (density, character and design codes), 131-138 (design), NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 61, 63 (housing need NPPG Paragraphs 67-001-20190722 to 67-015-20210524 (housing need and affordability), 63-001-20190626 to 63-019-20190626 (housing for older and disabled people), 56-001-20150327 to 56-023-20160519 (technical standards)</p> <p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable transport), 112-114 (parking standards) 131-138 (design), NPPG Paragraphs 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport) and 26-001-20191001 to 26-023-20191001 (design). NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable development), 92 (healthy communities), 104-106 and 112-114 (transport), 130 (design). NPPG paragraphs 37-004-20140306 (rights of way) and 42-013-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport).</p>	<p>Policies AM10 and AM10.1 set out details for replacement dwellings, infill and larger scale residential development to meet local need.</p> <p>AM10 draws upon Neighbourhood Development Plan evidence from community consultation exercises to develop a policy approach that is consistent with national planning policy and guidance on infill housing.</p> <p>Policy AM10.1 draws upon housing policies in the NPPF and seeks to develop a policy approach that is consistent with national planning policy and guidance on housing developments. It is a supportive policy to enable a development up to 20 dwellings as set out by TVBC.</p> <p>There is emphasis on housing to meet local needs that reflects the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF (61) and the associated guidance in the NPPG. The NPPF contains detailed guidance on meeting the accommodation needs of communities through the provision of certain forms of housing development where the need is supported by good evidence, in this case a housing needs survey.</p> <p>Section 5 of the NPPF and the associated NPPG provide a great deal of detail in this regard and policy AM10.1 seeks to capture this approach by asking developers to demonstrate how their proposals meet specific needs of the local community in the Plan area.</p>

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		<p>The criteria contained in policy AM10.1 echo the national policy objectives for road safety at Paragraphs 112-114 of the NPPF, whilst also referencing good practice in designing for rural locations. The policy accords with national planning policy and guidance in this regard. Local Plan policies: TRANS2: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility, TRANS5: Consideration of Development Proposals have had a strong influence in the development of this policy.</p> <p>Both policies also refer to the Design Code to maintain high quality design standards.</p>
<p>Policy AM11A: Community</p> <p>Policy AM11B Local Economy</p>	<p>NPPF Paragraphs 8 (sustainable transport), 129(b) (viability), 85-87 (strong, competitive economy), 96-100 (healthy/safe communities), 103 (open space/recreation), 198 (pollution/amenity) NPPG paragraphs 37 003-20140306 (open space/recreation); 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs); 53-007-20190722 (delivering sufficient school places); 10-007-20190509 to 10- 028-20180724 (viability)</p> <p>NPPF Paragraphs 12 (sustainable development), 85-89 (economy), 109-118 (transport), 124-126 (making effective use of land), 142-156 (Green Belt), 135, 198 (amenity) and 202-206 (conserving and enhancing the historic environment). NPPG Paragraphs 8-036-20190721 to 8-042- 20190721 (landscape), 18a-001-20190723 to 18a-063-20190723 (historic environment), 41-045-20190509 to 41-046-20190509 (infrastructure needs), 42-001-20140306 to 42-015-20140306 (transport), 64-001- 20190722 to 64-004-20231219 (Green Belt) and 66-006-20190722 to 66-007-20190722</p>	<p>This policy seeks to protect existing community infrastructure and facilities. This is central to the Government's theme for supporting a prosperous rural economy and encouraging healthy communities (Sections 6 and 8 of the NPPF).</p> <p>The NPPF strongly supports employment development, which helps to build a strong competitive economy (Section 6) and this policy seeks to support all appropriate proposals for employment opportunities in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>This policy sets out a number of criteria, which reflect the points raised in Paragraphs 85 to 89 of the NPPF and seeks to support new rural employment opportunities where it can be demonstrated that it will not unacceptably harm the countryside or have adverse traffic impacts.</p>

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	(amenity).	
Policy AM12: Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	NPPF Paragraphs 96-108, and 109-118, encouraging healthy and safe communities, travel plans for developments, protecting public rights of way and promoting sustainable transport through well-designed walking and cycling networks.	<p>The criteria contained in this policy echo the national policy objectives for road safety at Paragraphs 109-118 of the NPPF, whilst also referencing good practice in designing for rural locations. Both elements of the policy are in general conformity with national planning policy and guidance.</p> <p>This policy seeks to ensure that development is sustainably located and that proposals for new development protect existing cycle and pedestrian routes and provide enhancement where possible. This is consistent with the approach to the promotion of sustainable modes of transportation as set out in detail in the NPPF and, to a lesser degree, in the NPPG.</p>

4 CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are three over-arching objectives to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental (see NPPF Paragraph 8). The three objectives are mutually dependent.

In addressing the above basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Development Plan pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that:

“Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but on doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area”.

When testing the policies set out in the Neighbourhood Development Plan the following three categories have been assessed and the conclusions are summarised below.

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Sustainable Development Category	Responsibility
Economic (Ec)	<p>The Plan supports community services and facilities and encourages and supports rural businesses, employment of local people and development which have a tangible benefit to community infrastructure and services.</p> <p>The development of small-scale housing in the Parish will add a small economic benefit.</p>
Social (So)	<p>The Plan's policies recognise the social dimension seeking to preserve and enhance community facilities and promoting active and sustainable travel. Emphasis has been placed on the need to manage pedestrian safety and improve cycling facilities in the Plan area as well as parking.</p> <p>The Plan also identifies further Local Green Spaces and a green infrastructure network, which are valued for their social benefits.</p> <p>The development of small-scale housing in the Parish will allow for organic growth to support the needs of older people and those looking for smaller homes.</p>
Environmental (En)	<p>The Plan encourages development to respect the local character, landscape, biodiversity, heritage and a range of other environmental attributes of the Plan area, as well as protecting the identity of Amport Parish by using appropriate landscape and design policies.</p>

The following sets out the Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives.

1. Parish Wide Objectives for the Natural Environment (Not in Order of Priority)

- a) Maintain and enhance the identified key landscape features including those elements outside of the villages and hamlets which contribute towards the character of each settlement.
- b) Retain the parish's separation from other neighbouring settlements by protecting gaps between settlements.
- c) Protect the rural tranquil nature of the parish and specifically the hamlets and pockets of development within the open countryside.

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- d) Safeguard and improve/add further Local Green Spaces to offer diverse leisure opportunities that promote the health and wellness of the community.
- e) Conserve and enhance existing habitats and create wildlife corridors, particularly in relation to Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping.
- f) Protect and enhance the important native trees and hedgerows.
- g) Minimise noise and light pollution to protect the tranquillity of our night skies and the well-being of residents and wildlife alike.
- h) Protect and improve views of the natural environment from rights of way, alongside working with landowners to ensure that hedges (particularly non-native species) do not conceal important views.
- i) Protect bird flight lines and views around Hawk Conservancy Trust.
- j) Preserve the character of the natural environment by discouraging inappropriate housing development outside the settlement area.
- k) Protect the Pillhill Brook and its immediate environment and habitat from disruption and pollution.
- l) Support the creation and maintenance of safer footpaths, pedestrian walkways, bridleways and cycle paths to improve connectivity and accessibility for all residents - particularly as much of the parish has no formal footways and conflicts with vehicles are commonplace.
- m) Protect and enhance established footpaths and permissive paths and (including the path to the Weyhill industrial estate) walking space and green space, particularly Michaelmas Field.
- n) Work with landowners and public rights of way team to improve accessibility to Local Green Spaces so that green and blue infrastructure becomes more inclusive to a wider population.

2. Parish Wide Objectives for the Built Environment (Not in Order of Priority)

- a) Protect and enhance the significance of the existing designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHAs) in the parish including each conservation area.
- b) Retain the balance of green fields, residential development and light industry around Weyhill. Inappropriate urban creep and sprawl, or large-scale development, would detrimentally change the feel and character of the Parish.
- c) Development which would change the character from rural villages towards a suburban area would not be supported.
- d) Protect the historic characteristics of Amport House and its formal Parkland, ensuring that future options are sustainable but not intrusive for other residents, especially regarding traffic.
- e) Ensure that historic building materials which enhance the character of the area, such as old brick and flint walls and cob walls, are properly maintained and repaired.

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- f) Minimise disruption, pollution and harm to existing occupants from new or extended development.**
- g) Ensure new development respects the identified character of the area and aligns with the Amport Parish Design Code regarding appropriate densities, plot sizes, layout, mass and appearance etc.**
- h) Support small scale development in sustainable locations, recognising the need for housing for first-time buyers and those seeking to downsize.**
- i) Promote the enhancement of identified community services and facilities as appropriate to the rural environment.**
- j) Recognising the needs of our ageing population we will advocate for improved public transport services.**
- k) Further housing and business development within the Parish requires appropriate additional infrastructure to minimise wastewater impacts including flooding, sewage/drainage capacity, open space/community facilities, communications, public transport and access and highway safety improvements.**
- l) On site provisions to be made for the management of surface water, to avoid run off from new development into a foul or combined public sewer network.**
- m) Improve the availability of fast fibre throughout the Parish.**
- n) Limit light pollution by not adding further street lighting where currently little or none exists.**
- o) If there were to be a significant increase in the number of dwellings proposed, Southern Water should be asked to assess the capacity of the sewer network once a planning application has been submitted.**

The following table overleaf shows how the Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives relate to the more detailed sustainability themes.

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Sustainability Theme	Category	General Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Objective
Biodiversity	Environmental	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features and avoid irreversible losses.	1e, 1f, 1i, 1k,
Water Resources and Flood Risk	Environmental	Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	1k, 2l, 2o
	Environmental	Protect people and property from risk of flooding.	1k, 2l, 2o
Climatic Change	Environmental	Minimise our impacts on climate change and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.	1j, 1k, 2o
Landscape and Townscape	Environmental	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of Amport Neighbourhood Plan's rural landscapes and settlements, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1f, 1g, 1h, 1j, 1k, 1n, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2n
Healthy Communities	Social	Provide a safe and healthy environment in which to live.	1d, 1g, 1j, 1l, 1m, 1n, 2f, 2h, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2n
Education and Skills	Social	Raise educational attainment and provide opportunities for people to improve their workplace skills.	1i, 2i
Economy and Enterprise	Economic	Encourage a vibrant and diversified local economy and provide for long-term sustainable economic growth.	1i, 2i, 2k, 2m

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	Economic	Ensure adequate provision of employment land and diverse employment opportunities to meet the needs of local businesses and a changing workforce.	4
Land and Soil Resources	Environmental	Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the use of suitably located previously developed land and buildings.	1j

The degree to which policies meet key sustainable development objectives is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
++	The policy will result in a very positive effect on the sustainability objective in question.
+	The policy will result in a positive effect on the sustainability objective in question.
0	The policy will result in a neutral effect on the sustainability objective in question.
-	The policy will result in a negative effect on the sustainability objective in question.
—	The policy will result in a very negative effect on the sustainability objective in question.

The following table shows how these conclusions have been reached. The Plan's policies have been assessed in terms of how they will deliver sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability and the assessment shows that the Plan's policies address all three objectives in clear and logical ways.

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Policy Number, Category and Description		Achievement of Sustainable Development		
		Economic	Social	Environmental
Policy AM1	Landscape Character and Settlement Identity	++	+	++
Policy AM2	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscape and Planting	0	+	++
Policy AM2.1	Protection of Pillhill Brook	+	+	++
Policy AM3	Flooding and Drainage	+	+	++
Policy AM4	Local Green Spaces	0	+	++
Policy AM5	Important Views and Vistas	0	+	++
Policy AM6	Biodiversity and Habitats	0	+	++
Policy AM6.1	Protection of Amport Fen	0	+	++
Policy AM6.1	Hawk Conservancy Trust	++	+	++
Policy AM7	Dark Night Skies	0	+	++
Policy AM8	Historic Environment	++	+	++
Policy AM9	Design Principles	++	+	++
Policy AM9	Housing, Infill and Redevelopment	++	+	0
Policy AM10.1	Development of Housing to Meet local Need	++	+	0
Policy AM11a	Community	++	+	+
Policy AM11b	Local Economy	++	+	0
Policy AM12	Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	+	+	++

5 CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

The Development Plan consists of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan Review (TVBLPR) 2011-2029, which was adopted in 2016.

The policies of the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan can be seen in the table below. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy is accompanied by a statement describing the 'general conformity' with strategic policies of the Development Plan.

The Development Plan strategic policies that have not been included in the table below are not considered to be directly relevant to the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Policies within the emerging Local Plan Regulation 19 Plan to 2042 have also been considered in the preparation of this Neighbourhood Plan as these were available at the time of writing.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy Number and Title	Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2011 - 2029	Comment on Conformity
Policy AM1 - Landscape Character and Settlement Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. E5: Biodiversity. E8: Pollution. 	<p>This policy seeks to preserve the locally specific characteristics of the highlighted features, as described in the latest Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment and Parish Character Appraisal/Design Code.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in TVBC policies SD1, E2, E5 and E8.</p>
Policy AM2 - Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscape and Planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. E5: Biodiversity. E8: Pollution. 	<p>This policy seeks to preserve the locally specific characteristics of the highlighted green and blue infrastructure features, as described in the Parish Character Appraisal/Design Code.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the approach that is set out in TVBC policies SD1, E2, E5 and E8.</p>
Policy AM2.1 - Protection of Pillhill Brook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. 	<p>The policy seeks to redirect development away from those areas that have been identified, as shown on the detailed maps in the Neighbourhood Plan, to be liable to flooding. It also provides additional information in</p>

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Policy AM3 - Flooding and Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E7: Water Management. • E8: Pollution. 	<p>connection with the discharge of foul and surface water.</p> <p>This policy is considered to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the TVBC that are set out in the column to the left.</p>
Policy AM4 - Local Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • E4: Residential Areas of Special Character. • E5: Biodiversity. • E6: Green Infrastructure. • LHW4: Amenity. 	<p>This policy reflects the NPPF and lists a number of green spaces that are proposed for designation. It complies with Local Plan policies and benefits the local community as well as biodiversity, heritage/landscape and townscape as per the reason for designation.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that the policy is in conformity with the relevant policies of the Development Plan.</p>
Policy AM5 - Important Views and Vistas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • E3: Local Gaps. • E4: Residential Areas of Special Character. • E5: Biodiversity. 	<p>Identifies Important Views and seeks to manage the effect of development on the character of the landscape and to respond positively to the Important Views. This reflects the policy approach in policies SD1, E1, E2, E3, E4 and E5 of the TVBC and therefore is considered to be in general conformity with the above policies.</p>
Policy AM6 - Biodiversity and Habitats Policy AM6.1 - Protection of Amport Fen Policy AM6.2 - Hawk Conservancy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • E5: Biodiversity. 	<p>This policy seeks to protect and when appropriate enhance the numerous identified priority habitats and designations in the parish and in and around the specific sites listed.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan policy seeks to provide more locally significant information to ensure that all assets and important local habitats (including those which otherwise may be overlooked) are identified and given appropriate levels of protection in the Plan area. It also seeks to encourage those areas which have</p>

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Policy AM2.1 - Protection of Pillhill Brook		<p>been restored and to link into wider wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Moreover, it requires development proposals to deliver a net gain of at least 10%, as applied to new major development applications.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with TVBC SD1, E2 and E5.</p>
Policy AM7 - Dark Night Skies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • E8: Pollution. • LHW4: Amenity. • E5: Biodiversity 	<p>Policy AM7 is written to conserve and enhance tranquillity in relation to light pollution and dark night skies, which is largely to the south of the A303. This policy aims to provide detailed guidance to developers to ensure that proposals for external lighting will respect the tranquil environment of Amport Parish and minimise light pollution and impacts on biodiversity.</p>
Policy AM8 - Historic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • E4: Residential Areas of Special Character. • E9: Heritage. 	<p>The policy draws from Non-Designated Heritage Assets identified in the Character Appraisal and sets out a list of the identified Non-Designated Heritage Assets in the Parish, which development proposals should aim to preserve their unique historic features.</p> <p>It is accordingly considered that this policy is in general conformity with TVBC SD1, E1, E2, E4 and E9.</p>
Policy AM9 - Design Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • LE16: Re-Use of Buildings in the Countryside. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E4: Residential Areas of Special Character. • E9: Heritage. • LHW4: Amenity. 	<p>The policy draws from both the Character Appraisal and Design Code documents and seeks to create a design framework, which will preserve and improve the locally specific features that positively enhance the individual character of each of the Parish Character Areas.</p> <p>Consequently, it is considered that this policy is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the TVBC that are set out in the column to the left.</p>

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Policy AM10 - Housing, Infill and Redevelopment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • COM2: Settlement Hierarchy. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • LHW4: Amenity. 	<p>This policy seeks to build upon the policies of the Local Plan by maintaining the character of the settlements in the Plan area. It draws upon Neighbourhood Development Plan evidence from the Character Appraisal and Design Code to develop a policy approach that is in general conformity with the strategic policies</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with TVBC policies listed.</p>
Policy AM10.1 - Development of Housing to Meet Local Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • COM2: Settlement Hierarchy. • COM7: Affordable Housing. • COM9: Community Led Development. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • LHW4: Amenity. 	<p>This policy supports the development of up to 20 dwellings (as originally requested by TVBC in their Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan) to meet local need, including affordable and community-led housing where it also demonstrates a thorough understanding of each character area.</p> <p>It also seeks to reinforce existing housing development plan policies by supporting housing development that will meet the local housing needs, provided that certain criteria are met.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with TVBC policies listed.</p>
Policy AM11A - Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • COM14: Community Services and Facilities. • COM15: Infrastructure. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • LHW4: Amenity. • T1: Managing Movement. 	<p>This policy applies to a specific group of facilities as defined. The policy provides clear guidance about the retention or replacement of village facilities, matters which are in general conformity with development plan policies which protect existing community facilities/infrastructure and support the provision of new facilities/infrastructure.</p>

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Policy AM11B - Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • LE16: Re-Use of Buildings in the Countryside. • LE17: Employment Sites in the Countryside. • E1: High Quality Development in the Borough. • E2: Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough. • LHW4: Amenity. • T1: Managing Movement. • E8: Pollution. 	To enhance the prospects for local businesses giving certainty to business owners as to what is expected, given the locally specific issues relating to a rural environment, rural roads and access, pollution, pedestrian and cycle access and the health and well-being of surrounding residents. In conformity with the range of employment policies, particularly in rural areas.
Policy AM12 - Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development. • COM15: Infrastructure. • T1: Managing Movement. • T2: Parking Standards. 	<p>The policy sets out a list of criteria that development proposals will need to meet in order to demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable harm to highway safety. This policy also deals with parking, accessibility and safety matters and proposals which seek to enhance Public Rights of Way and improve the linkage between the settlements in the Plan area.</p> <p>This approach is considered to be in general conformity with TVBC SD1, COM15, T1 and T2.</p>

6 COMPATIBILITY WITH EU OBLIGATIONS (AS INCORPORATED INTO UK LAW) / PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS

The EU Directives (as incorporated into UK law) that are of most relevance to the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC.
- The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- The Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

The above has been transposed into UK law in the following ways:

- The SEA Directive is transposed into UK legislation by way of the Environmental

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Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- The Habitats and Wild Birds Directives have been transposed into UK legislation by way of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Other Directives that are not directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU.
- The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).
- The Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC).
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

The above have been transposed through the following main legislative tools (which may be subject to further amendments):

- Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (Waste Regulations 2011), SI 2011/988; Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, SI 2020/904.
- Air Quality Standards Regulation 2010 (as amended).
- Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

The fifth Basic Condition requirement that 'Prescribed Conditions' are met means, for the purposes of this Neighbourhood Plan, that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan must not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulations assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

This requirement was introduced by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

Furthermore, it is necessary to consider whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations, which are the same as those set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Human Rights Act 1998

Dealing with this last matter first, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, being cognisant of the obligations in relation to Human Rights, have sought to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the ECHR and that it complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

These rights can be summarised as follows:

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- The right to life.
- The prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment.
- Protection against slavery and forced labour.
- The right to liberty and freedom.
- The right to a fair trial and no punishment without law.
- Respect for privacy and family life and the right to marry.
- Freedom of thought, religion and belief.
- Free speech and peaceful protest.
- No discrimination.
- Protection of property.
- The right to an education.
- The right to free elections.

The process of developing this Neighbourhood Plan has involved a significant amount of public consultation, seeking to engage with as full a range of consultees as possible to ensure the greatest opportunity for discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (see Consultation Statement for details).

This engagement with the local community (through consultation with a wide array of individuals, businesses, landowners and community organisations) has provided many opportunities for the community to feedback and be involved in the process. This has meant that in having the opportunity to consider the draft Neighbourhood Plan and to seek to influence it where appropriate, respondents have been able to ensure, through discussion and feedback, that those rights identified above have been protected throughout the process.

In addition, as Appendix A to this Statement demonstrates, an Equalities Impact Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan has been carried out to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements.

Other EU Obligations as Transposed into UK Legislation

Furthermore, the Plan does not contain policies which would have implications for air quality, water or waste and it is therefore compatible with the EU Directives dealing with those matters, as transposed into UK legislation.

Finally, the Plan does not propose individual projects or projects of a scale which would trigger the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and therefore the Plan is also compatible with EIA Directive as transposed into UK legislation.

Equality

Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions

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being made which fail to take account of their requirements; and that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the policies of the Neighborhood Plan is provided at in Appendix A to this document. The assessment concludes that the policies in the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Plan submission will in some cases result in positive impacts for all road users and those with disability and for the community facilities of the area. In other cases the policies will have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Having undertaken an analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan in the preceding sections of this Statement, it is concluded that the Plan meets the basic conditions set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

APPENDIX A - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The explanatory notes to the Equality Act 2010 explain that the Act “.... has two main purposes - to harmonise discrimination law, and to strengthen the law to support progress on equality”.

It goes on to note that the Act combines a number of Acts of Parliament and sets of Regulations dating back to 1970. It places various duties on public bodies and identifies a series of ‘protected characteristics’ that could either accidentally or deliberately be discriminated against during the course of decision making or policy processes. These protected characteristics are:

- Age.
- Disability.
- Marriage and civil partnership.
- Pregnancy and maternity.
- Race.
- Religion and belief.
- Sex.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender reassignment.

The purpose of this section is to assess the submission draft of the Amport Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan against the above protected characteristics.

Where the policies are found to have a negative effect on a protected characteristic then this can be used to identify necessary amendments to policies or to inform the consideration of potential amendments during the examination into the submission Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The degree to which policies meet equality characteristics is scored using the scoring scheme shown in the following table.

Score	Commentary
+	The policy will result in a positive effect on the equality characteristic in question.
0	The policy will result in a neutral effect on the equality characteristic in question.
-	The policy will result in a negative effect on the equality characteristic in question.

This assessment is intended as a final check in the process of preparation of the Plan for submission. Earlier consultation exercises with the local community have engaged with a range of individuals and groups, providing an opportunity for them to comment on all aspects of the draft Plan, including whether the draft Plan supports equality.

The table overleaf identified each policy and assessed the policy against each of the protected characteristics. The final row of each table is for comments including any actions arising from the assessment of each specific policy.

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Finally, conclusions are drawn from the exercise and the conclusions are fed into the Basic Condition Statement findings.

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Policy Reference	Policy Description	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Marriage and Civil Partnership	Race	Religion and Belief	Sex	Sexual Orientation	Pregnancy and Maternity	Comments
Policy AM1	Landscape Character and Settlement Identity	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	<p>Policy retains the character of the areas including those focused around green spaces which are beneficial for health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Policy supports the provision of improved access and accessibility to new development, including conversions and car parking</p>
Policy AM2	Green and Blue Infrastructure, Landscape and Planting	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	<p>Minimises adverse impacts arising from development. Retains and, where possible, enhances the tranquility of the Plan area. Quality of, and access, to natural environment are essential for health and wellbeing.</p>
Policy AM2.1 and AM3	Protection of Pillhill Brook and Flooding and Drainage	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	<p>Mitigates flooding issues of all types. Of particular significance for those who are less mobile or housebound</p>

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Policy AM4	Local Green Spaces	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Policy protects valued spaces/recreation facilities which are available to various age groups and those with disabilities
Policy AM5	Important Views and Vistas	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Protects the quality of the natural environment which is essential for health and wellbeing.
Policy AM2.1	Protection of Pillhill Brook	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Protects the quality of the natural environment which is essential for health and wellbeing
Policy AM6	Biodiversity and Habitats										
Policy AM6.1	Protection of Amport Fen										
Policy AM6.2	Hawk Conservancy Trust										
Policy AM7	Dark Night Skies	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Protects the quality of the natural environment which is essential for health and wellbeing. Absence of artificial lighting is linked to improved sleep patterns.

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Policy AM8	Historic Environment	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	Protects the quality of the historic environment, including historic social, community and religious buildings
Policy AM9	Design Principles	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	Sets out the design of new development, including accessibility to buildings and parking areas which are essential for those with additional needs.
Policy AM10	Housing, Infill and Redevelopment	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Support for small scale housing growth which respects the amenities of other residents.
Policy AM10.1	Development of Housing to meet local Need	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Policy will support a proposal for 20 dwellings with a mix of housing that meets local needs.
Policy AM11	Community	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	Policy supports improved access to facilities (including religious buildings) for all users, including those with disabilities.
Policy AM11B	Local Economy	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	Enhanced business opportunities allow better access to meet the needs of those without access to a vehicle, those with disabilities and those wishing to work part time without

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											long travel distances.
Policy AM12	Accessibility, Road Safety and Sustainable Transport	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Policy has potential to improve road safety and improve linkage between valued spaces for all users, including those with disabilities.