

# **Saddington Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

**2018-2031**

## **Statement of Basic Conditions**

**February 2018**

**SADDINGTON PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

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## 1. Introduction

This statement has been prepared by Saddington Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee to accompany its submission to the local planning authority (Harborough District Council) of the Saddington Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to development and the use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Plan area only. The plan period for the Neighbourhood Plan is 2018 to 2031 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development, in accordance with the Regulations. The manner in which the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Regulations and the Basic Conditions is set out below.

Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) [excluding 2b, c, 3 to 5 as required by 38(C)] sets out in the following way how the neighbourhood plans must meet the basic conditions:

- 1) The examiner must consider the following:
  - (a) whether the draft neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions (see subparagraph (2))
  - (b) whether the draft neighbourhood plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 61E (2), 61J and 61L, as amended by s38C(5)(b)
  - (c) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood plan relates and
  - (d) such other matters as may be prescribed.
- 2) A draft neighbourhood plan meets the basic conditions if:
  - (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 (or any part of that area)
  - (d) the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and
  - (e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan.

Section 2 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan complies with the legal requirements of sub-paragraphs 1 (b), (c) and (d). Section 3 of this Statement sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions contained in sub-paragraph 1 (a) and sub-paragraph 2.

## 2. Summary of Submission Documents and Supporting Evidence

In addition to the Basic Conditions Statement, the following documents have been prepared to support the preparation of the Plan and meet the Basic Conditions:

- The Saddington Neighbourhood Plan 2018 - 2031
- The Saddington Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, Saddington Neighbourhood Plan

## 3. Legal Requirements

The Plan complies with the provisions of sub-paragraph 1(b) as described below.

### 3.1 The Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body

The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Saddington Neighbourhood Forum, which is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for its own Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by an Management Committee, appointed by and reporting to the Saddington Neighbourhood Forum

### 3.2 What is being proposed is a neighbourhood plan

The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

### 3.3 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect

The Neighbourhood Plan states that the period which it relates to is from 2018 until 2031. The period has been chosen to align with that of the emerging Harborough District Council Local Plan.

### 3.4 The policies do not relate to excluded development

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Following consultation, Leicestershire County Council has not raised any concerns relating to the compatibility between the Neighbourhood Plan and the existing adopted Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan.

### 3.5 The proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Plan area and there are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

The whole parish of Saddington was formally designated as a Neighbourhood Area by Harborough District Council on 18 July 2016.

The Plan does not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Plan area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the Neighbourhood Plan area.

In relation to sub-paragraph 1(c), it is not considered that there is any benefit or reason for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan area.

In relation to sub-paragraph 1(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

## 4. The Basic Conditions

This section addresses how the Neighbourhood Plan fulfils the basic conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2). The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to the strategic policies contained in the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006 – 2028.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with reference to the emerging Local Plan which has been subject to consultation through the period of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and which is scheduled to be adopted in 2018.

### 4.1 Having regard to national policies and advice

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed having regard to the NPPF. An explanation of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies have shown regard to the NPPF are outlined in table 1 below.

In general terms:

- The local community has been empowered to develop the plan for their neighbourhood and has undertaken creative exercises in identifying ways to enhance and improve the area including questionnaires, open events and establishing theme groups to capture the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Plan policies are based on robust evidence and provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made, with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.
- The Plan reflects the District Council's housing requirements from the evidence base provided in the emerging Local Plan, whilst putting in place policies to protect the distinctive character of the countryside and the built environment.
- The need for high quality design and good standard of amenity for all existing and future

residents is incorporated in the Plan policies.

- The Plan takes into account the role and unique character of the area and includes policies that protect and enhance these qualities, supporting a sustainable level of growth to ensure ongoing viability.
- The Plan supports the transition to a low carbon future by focusing future development within revised and updated Limits to Development and safeguarding and supporting sustainable local economic development and community facilities, thereby reducing the need to travel outside of the area for work and leisure.
- The Plan recognises and seeks to conserve heritage assets including those which are designated and those that are locally significant.
- The Plan supports local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing by safeguarding and encouraging enhancement of community facilities and opportunities to walk and cycle. The Plan seeks to address traffic issues; reducing congestion and speeding and thereby sustaining good air quality and improving pedestrian safety.

Table 1: Neighbourhood Plan Policies regard to NPPF

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy                             | NPPF Ref (para.)  | Commentary   |
|---|-------------------|--|
| <b>Policy H1</b><br><b>Residential allocations</b>    | 16 & 47           | Inclusion of housing allocations with support from the community supports ‘the presumption in favour of sustainable development’ by planning positively and shaping and directing development. The policy in identifying sites to deliver minimum housing targets utilising evidence underpinning the emerging local plan, supports the NPPF aims of delivering a wide choice of quality homes.  |
| <b>Policy H2</b><br><b>Limits to Development</b>      | Para. 17, 30 & 95 | One of the core principles of the NPPF is to recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Actively managing patterns of growth, within the current built up area of Saddington, seeks to ensure that sufficient sites for new homes and economic activity are available in locations that will not adversely affect the countryside and setting of the village. Further, Limits to Development facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport with both benefits to the environment and the health of the community, both underlying premises of the NPPF. |
| <b>Policy H3</b><br><b>Housing Mix</b>                | Para 50           | The policy seeks to support a mix of housing that meets an identified need in the community. The NPPF advocates for inclusive and mixed communities, which will require a mix of housing types based on current and future demographic trends.   |
| <b>Policy H4</b><br><b>Brownfield Sites</b>           | Para 17           | Policy H4 prioritises the use of brownfield sites for development and in so doing, has regard to one of the core planning principles of the NPPF which encourages ‘the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value’.  |
| <b>Policy H5</b><br><b>Windfall Sites</b>             | Para 55           | The policy for small scale windfall sites has regard to the NPPF; by seeking to meet the identified housing requirements for the area, maintain and enhance the vitality of the villages, whilst protecting their character and setting.   |
| <b>Policy H6</b><br><b>Building Design Principles</b> | Para 58 & 60      | This policy outlines a number of design principles and supports the NPPF principle of requiring good design; and in particular the need to respond to local character and history of the local surroundings. Importantly the policy does not impose architectural styles and hence does not stifle an innovative approach.   |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy  | NPPF Ref (para.)         | Commentary   |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Policy H7</b><br/><b>Tandem and Backland Development</b></p>                 | <p>Para 17 &amp; 53</p>  | <p>This policy seeks to discourage tandem development, a type of development not supported by the local community. A core principal of the NPPF is that planning should seek ways to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity and resist inappropriate development of residential gardens, where it would cause harm to the local area.</p> |
| <p><b>Policy H8</b><br/><b>Use of street lighting</b></p>                          | <p>Para 95 &amp; 125</p> | <p>A policy to limit the impact of light pollution from development is supported in the NPPF with regards its impact on local amenity, intrinsically and dark landscapes and nature conservation. Moreover, it further supports the transition to a low carbon future.</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy Env1</b><br/><b>Areas of Separation</b></p>                           | <p>17 &amp; 109</p>      | <p>The policy seeks to ensure that the physical separation of the settlements is maintained thereby protecting their individuality and character. A Core principle of the NPPF is that planning should empower local people to shape their surroundings and contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting valued landscapes.</p> |
| <p><b>Policy Env2</b><br/><b>Local Green Space</b></p>                             | <p>Para. 76 &amp; 77</p> | <p>Protection of Local Green Spaces identified as being special by the community is advocated through the NPPF. Proposed designations meet the criteria set out in the NPPF.</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy Env3</b><br/><b>Other Sites of environment Significance</b></p>       | <p>109 &amp; 135</p>     | <p>This policy seeks to protect environmental features of other open space with environmental value on. This has regard to the NPPF principles conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. It takes into account the designation hierarchy and the protection is commensurate with their status.</p>                                      |
| <p><b>Policy Env4</b><br/><b>Other Important Open Space</b></p>                    | <p>109 &amp; 135</p>     | <p>This policy seeks to protect other open space with environmental value on account of their natural and/or historical features. This has regard to the NPPF principles conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment.</p>  |
| <p><b>Policy Env5</b><br/><b>Biodiversity and wildlife corridor</b></p>            | <p>Para. 109</p>         | <p>The policy seeks to protect local habitats and species and where possible create new habitats. The policy has regard to the NPPF, which states that the planning system should contribute to enhancing the natural and local environment by minimizing impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains where possible.</p>                                |
| <p><b>Policy Env6</b><br/><b>Designated and non-designated heritage assets</b></p> | <p>Para 17 &amp; 135</p> | <p>This policy recognises Saddington’s historic character as one of its most important assets and seeks to protect and enhance it. It has regard to the NPPF with regards to identifying non-designated heritage assets for protection. The policy supports the protection of heritage assets and their setting, a core principle of the NPPF.</p>           |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy   | NPPF Ref (para.) | Commentary  |
|---|------------------|---|
| <b>Policy Env7</b><br><b>Ridge and Furrow Fields</b>                        | Para. 139        | This policy seeks to protect ridge and furrow fields and has regard for the NPPF, which considers that non designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments should be subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.   |
| <b>Policy Env8</b><br><b>Important Views</b>                                | Para. 109        | The policy seeks to protect views identified as being significant to the community. In accordance with the NPPF, the planning system should contribute to and where possible; enhance the landscape. Views are a key component of the landscape.  |
| <b>Policy Env9</b><br><b>Footpaths and Bridleways</b>                       | 30 & 75          | This policy aims to protect and improve pedestrian pavements and footpaths. In doing so, it has regard to the NPPF in terms of ‘promoting sustainable transport’, reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions and ‘promoting healthy communities’.   |
| <b>Policy Env10</b><br><b>Flood Risk</b>                                    | 100 & 103        | The policy seeks to address potential flooding by ensuring development is not undertaken in high risk zones without suitable mitigation measures, integrating appropriate design measures and that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. This policy has regard for the NPPF and in particular meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding. |
| <b>Policy Env8</b><br><b>Renewable Energy and generation infrastructure</b> | 93, 97           | The policy supports the NPPF aim of meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting the delivery of renewable energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily.  |
| <b>Policy CF1</b><br><b>Retention of Community Facilities and Amenities</b> | Para. 28 & 70    | This policy seeks to protect key community facilities. This has regard for the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities through amongst other things, planning positively for community facilities and guarding against their unnecessary loss.  |
| <b>Policy CF2</b><br><b>New or improved Community Facilities</b>            | Para. 70         | In seeking new or improved community facilities, the policy supports the NPPF principle of promoting healthy communities.   |
| <b>Policy BE1</b><br><b>Support for Existing Employment Opportunities</b>   | Para 28          | This policy seeks, where viable, to safeguard existing employment sites. This has regard for the NPPF in terms of supporting a prosperous and rural economy.  |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy   | NPPF Ref (para.)           | Commentary   |
|---|----------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Policy BE2</b><br/> <b>Support for New Employment Opportunities</b></p>       | <p>Para 9, 28 &amp; 37</p> | <p>The policy supports new employment opportunities through small scale new build and/or small-scale expansion of existing employment premises. ‘Making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages’ is a key element in the pursuance of sustainable development as outlined in the NPPF. The policy aims to support a prosperous rural economy, to grow and where possible, diversify the local economy, providing local employment opportunities. Further, the policy has regard for the need to promote sustainable transport by minimising journey lengths for employment.</p> |
| <p><b>Policy BE3</b><br/> <b>Working from Home</b></p>                              | <p>Para. 28 &amp; 29</p>   | <p>This policy supports the use of part of a dwelling for office or light industrial use in order to facilitate working from home. Working from home is a further strand in ensuring a prosperous rural economy and also supports the transition to a low carbon future by the reduced need to travel.</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy BE4</b><br/> <b>Reuse of Agricultural and Commercial Buildings</b></p> | <p>17 &amp; 28</p>         | <p>Re-use of agricultural buildings for small businesses, recreation or tourism further support a prosperous rural economy and the transition to a low carbon future by encouraging the use of existing resources.</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy BE4</b><br/> <b>Tourism</b></p>  | <p>Para 21&amp; 28</p>     | <p>The policy in supporting development proposals for tourism and leisure facilities recognises the role that the area can play in ‘building a strong, competitive economy’ and ‘supporting a prosperous rural economy’ through sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments.’</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy BE5</b><br/> <b>Tourism</b></p>  | <p>Para. 42 &amp; 43</p>   | <p>This policy recognises the need for super-fast broadband service and improved mobile telecommunications network for sustainable economic growth in the area. The NPPF advocates planning that supports high quality communications infrastructure.</p>  |
| <p><b>Policy TR1</b><br/> <b>Traffic Management</b></p>                             | <p>Para.17</p>             | <p>The policy seeks to introduce traffic management solutions to address the impact of increased traffic. This policy represents an important response to identified issues, which will improve safety and amenity of the parish.</p>  |

## 4.2 Achieving sustainable development

The Neighbourhood Plan is positively prepared, reflecting the presumption in the NPPF in favour of sustainable development. In this regard, the Plan supports the strategic development needs in the emerging Local Plan, shaping and directing development in the area that is outside of the strategic elements of the Local Plan.

The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three dimensions; economic, social and environmental. The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed with regard to these principles and has jointly sought environmental, economic and social gains.

The principal ways in which the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to achieving sustainable development are set out below:

- Encouraging the effective use of land by supporting the re-use of land that has been previously developed.
- Safeguarding and enhancing existing open space, community facilities and pedestrian and cycling facilities for the health, social and cultural wellbeing of the community.
- Protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of the built and natural environment through high quality design and maintenance of important views and open space around and within villages to retain their setting.
- Supporting strong, vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities by making provision for a supply of housing of the right type and in the right place which meet identified need.
- Supporting the transition to a low carbon future through actively managing patterns of growth within existing settlements, maintaining and enhancing footpaths and supporting local employment opportunities.
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy through the protection of existing employment, supporting small scale business development including working from home and supporting the provision of high quality communications infrastructure.
- Contributing to conserving and enhancing the natural environment by minimising the impacts and where possible improving biodiversity and important habitats.
- Contributing to conserving and enhancing the historic environment by seeking to reduce adverse effects on heritage assets and their setting.

## 4.3 General conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in general conformity with the saved strategic policies of the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028. To meet the basic conditions, the

Neighbourhood Plan is only required to demonstrate general conformity with the adopted Local Plan. However, given how dated this Local Plan is, considerable regard has been paid to the evidence base of the emerging Local Plan, particularly in relation to housing provision. Table 2 provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the Strategic Policies of Harborough District Council Core Strategy.

Table 2: Assessment of how each policy of the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to the saved strategic policies of the Harborough Core Strategy

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy                                  | Core Strategy Policies | Commentary  |
|--|------------------------|---|
| <b>Policy H1</b><br><b>Residential Allocations</b>         | CS1, CS2, CS3          | This policy identifies sites for development that help to ensure that the needs of the community are met through sustainable growth and suitable access to services, in line with Policy CS1. It also seeks to accommodate growth sensitively in line with CS2 and to provide an appropriate mix of housing in line with CS3. |
| <b>Policy H2</b><br><b>Limits to Development</b>           | CS1, CS2, HS8, CS11    | The application of limits to development are supported in the Core Strategy as outlined in policies CS1 and CS2 and identified in the proposal map. Policy HS8 (Local Plan 2001, saved policy) supports development within the defined limits of development where certain design criteria are met.                           |
| <b>Policy H3</b><br><b>Housing Mix</b>                     | CS1, CS3               | The Core Strategy supports development that provides for the varied housing needs of the community.   |
| <b>Policy H4</b><br><b>Brownfield Sites</b>                | CS1                    | The Core Strategy gives priority to the use of previously developed land.   |
| <b>Policy H5</b><br><b>Windfall Development</b>            | CS17                   | Policy H5 is in general conformity with CS17 which supports small scale development in Selected Rural Villages located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting.  |
| <b>Policy H6</b><br><b>Design</b>                          | CS11, CS17             | The pursuance of high quality design is consistent across both the Neighbourhood Plan and Core Strategy and in particular the need for development to respect local character and distinctiveness.  |
| <b>Policy H7</b><br><b>Tandem and Backland Development</b> | CS11                   | There are no provisions in the strategic policies of the Core Strategy that are contrary to the principles outlined in Policy H8. Policy CS11 states that all development should respect the content in which it is taking place and avoid areas of land important to the form and character of a settlement or locality.     |
| <b>Policy H8</b><br><b>Use of Street Lighting</b>          | CS5                    | The key principles of Policy H8 are reflected in the Core Strategy, specifically the need to contribute to low carbon outcomes, including safe pedestrian and cycling facilities  |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy  | Core Strategy Policies | Commentary   |
|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>Policy ENV 1</b><br><b>Areas of Separation</b>                                  | CS8, C17               | The strategic policies in the Core Strategy advocate for the protection and enhancement of local landscape, character and heritage, consistent with the values attributable to Areas of Separation.  |
| <b>Policy ENV 2</b><br><b>Local Green Spaces</b>                                   | CS8                    | The policy to protect local green space is in general conformity with policy CS8 which seeks to ensure a high quality, accessible and multi-functional green infrastructure network across rural areas.  |
| <b>Policy Env 3</b><br><b>Other Sites and Features of Environment Significance</b> | CS1, CS8, CS17         | CS8, CS14 Policies ENV2, ENV3 and ENV4 seek to preserve and where possible, enhance the natural environment for biodiversity, geodiversity, heritage and/or recreation value. These policies are in general conformity with CS8 which seeks to protect and enhance green infrastructure which contribute to healthy lifestyles and a rich, diverse natural environment, including support for proposals that protect and increase tree and woodland cover. |
| <b>Policy Env 4</b><br><b>Other Important Open Spaces</b>                          | CS1, CS8, CS17         |  |
| <b>Policy Env 5</b><br><b>Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors</b>                  | CS1, CS11, CS17        |  |
| <b>Policy Env 6</b><br><b>Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets</b>        | CS1, CS11              | The Core Strategy supports development which protects, conserves and enhances the Districts heritage assets and their setting, including non-scheduled nationally important archaeological remains and areas of historic landscape. Further, it supports the identification of heritage assets of local importance.  |
| <b>Policy Env 7</b><br><b>Ridge and Furrow</b>                                     | CS1, CS11              | The Core Strategy supports development which protects, conserves and enhances the Districts heritage assets and their setting, including non-scheduled nationally important archaeological remains and areas of historic landscape. Further, it supports the identification of heritage assets of local importance.  |
| <b>Policy Env 8</b><br><b>Important Views:</b>                                     | CS8                    | The Core Strategy supports the protection and enhancement of heritage assets and local landscape. Important views are an important element of the character of the landscape and thus their identification and protection is consistent with the aims of Policy CS8.   |
| <b>Policy Env 9</b><br><b>Roads, Pavements and Footpaths</b>                       | CS8, CS17              | The Core Strategy endorses improving the green infrastructure network, including increased opportunities for public access to the countryside. Rights of Ways and Greenways are identified as priority strategic green infrastructure assets for the District.   |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy   | Core Strategy Policies | Commentary  |
|---|------------------------|---|
| <b>Policy Env 10</b><br><b>Flooding</b>   | CS10                   | ENV10 is in general conformity with the Core Strategy and in particular CS10 which requires that new development does not increase the level of flooding experienced in other area and that surface water run- off is managed.                      |
| <b>Policy Env 11</b><br><b>Energy Generation and Conservation.</b>                    | CS9                    | This policy seeks to support renewable energy generation at a level appropriate to the community. This is compatible with policy CS9 which supports development which adapts to climate change and helps to reduce the District’s carbon emissions. |
| <b>Policy CF1</b><br><b>Protection of Existing Community Amenities and Facilities</b> | CS1 &CS6               | Policy CF1 concurs with the principle aims of CS6 which is to retain and enhance neighbourhood retail facilities and CS1 which supports the protection of existing services in smaller settlements.   |
| <b>Policy CAF2</b><br><b>New or Improved Community Amenities</b>                      | CS6                    | Policy CF2 conforms with the principle aims of CS6 which is to retain and enhance neighbourhood retail facilities.  |
| <b>Policy BE1</b><br><b>Support for Existing Employment Opportunities</b>             | CS17                   | Policy E1 is in general conformity with the Core Strategy which supports proposals that reduce the need to travel, including development for shopping provision.  |
| <b>Policy BE2</b><br><b>Support for New Employment Opportunities</b>                  | CS7                    | The Core Strategy supports proposals to renew or upgrade the environment of employment areas not identified as ‘Key Employment Areas’.  |
| <b>Policy BE3</b><br><b>Working from Home</b>   | CS17                   | Policy E4 is in general conformity with the Core Strategy which supports proposals that reduce the need to travel, including development which provides or increase the opportunity to work from home.  |
| <b>Policy BE4</b><br><b>Re-Use of Agricultural or Commercial Buildings</b>            | CS7                    | Policy E3 is supported by the Core Strategy and in particular policy CS7 which supports employment development within the countryside in certain circumstances including aiding farm diversification.   |

| Neighbourhood Plan Policy                             | Core Strategy Policies           | Commentary   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Policy BE 5</b><br/><b>Tourism</b></p>          | <p>Objectives, CS8,<br/>CS17</p> | <p>A key objective of the Core Strategy is 'to promote sustainable growth of tourism and access to the countryside within the district'. CS8 promotes opportunities to maximise the potential value of existing and new green space through the promotion of issues such as tourism. Policy CS17 seeks to promote sustainable growth of tourism and access to countryside.</p> |
| <p><b>Policy BE 6</b><br/><b>Broadband</b></p>        | <p>C17</p>                       | <p>The Core Strategy supports proposals that reduce the need to travel from rural area to work and or shop through reliable and high speed digital connectivity.</p>   |
| <p><b>Policy T1</b><br/><b>Traffic management</b></p> | <p>CS5</p>                       | <p>Policy T1 is in general conformity with CS5 which supports the majority of future development in areas well served by local services and seeks to reduce the negative impact of the transport system on the environment and individuals.</p>  |

## 4.4 EU obligations

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects, it may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment under the relevant EU Directive. DCLG planning guidance suggests that, whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft neighbourhood plan. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. This determined that “in the opinion on the Local Planning Authority the policies of the Saddington Parish Neighbourhood Plan do not give potential for significant detrimental effects on local historic or environmental sites, Natura 2000 sites, or Habitat Regulations.’

### Habitats Directive

The Neighbourhood Plan area does not include or is not close to a European site that would require a Habitat Regulation Assessment.

A Screening opinion was issued by Harborough District Council with regards a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required under Habitat Regulations. The consultation bodies were asked to comment and no concerns were raised.

### Convention on Human Rights

The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Statement of Consultation. Considerable care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups.

There was extensive consultation and engagement in identifying issues and objectives and the draft Neighbourhood Plan is being consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the appendices to the Statement of Consultation. The Statement of Consultation has been prepared by the Management Committee and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

## 5. Conclusion

The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met by the Saddington Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan has regard to national policy, will contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development, is in general conformity with the saved strategic policies in the Harborough District Core Strategy 2006-2028 and meets relevant EU obligations.

It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Saddington Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.