



BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review 2011-2029

November 2023
Regulation 15/16 - Submission
Neighbourhood Plan

Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review (Regulation 15)

Basic Conditions Statement

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B Statement and Paragraph
11 of Schedule A2 to the Planning and Compulsory
Purchase Act 2004 Act**

Sherborne St John Parish Council

November 2023

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared by ET Planning who have been instructed as the Planning Consultant by Sherborne St John Parish Council ('SSJ PC') who are the qualifying body, to accompany its submission of the review of the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared by Sherborne St John Parish Council for the area covering the whole of Sherborne St John Parish as shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 The policies outlined in the SSJ NP pertain to the land within the designated Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Area for the Neighbourhood Plan review covers the same area of the Parish area, and that which was previously used for the Original Neighbourhood Plan. This was designated by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council on 27 March 2013 as shown in Figure 1.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Plan is effective from 2011 to 2029 and aligns with the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan. None of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan aim to regulate "excluded development" as defined by the Regulations.
- 1.5 When a Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to the Local Planning Authority it needs to be submitted with a statement, known as the basic conditions statement which explains how the modification proposal meets the basic conditions requirements of how the neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

1.6 This Basic Conditions Statement, as per Regulation 15(1)(d), sets out how the modification proposal meets the basic conditions requirements of how the neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Specifically, the Regulations state that the Modified Plan will be considered to have met the conditions if they:

- a) Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to modify the made Neighbourhood Development Plan,
- b) This has been excluded as it relates to orders only.
- c) This has been excluded as it relates to orders only.
- d) The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- e) The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
- f) The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with retained EU obligations.
- g) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Plan (in respect of the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and other material considerations).

1.7 In response to the above the relevant basic conditions have been outlined (these are a, d, e, f and g) which are relevant to the

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modification to the Review of the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan are therefore referenced in the relevant section of this statement.

- 1.8 The policies within the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 1.9 The Parish Council published its Modification Proposal and Modification Proposal Statement in September 2023 for the statutory minimum six-week consultation period in accordance with Regulation 14. The representations made on those documents have been analysed to inform minor amendments to the submitted documentation. A full record of the consultation process and outcome is provided in the separate Consultation Statement, as required per Regulation 15 (1)(b).

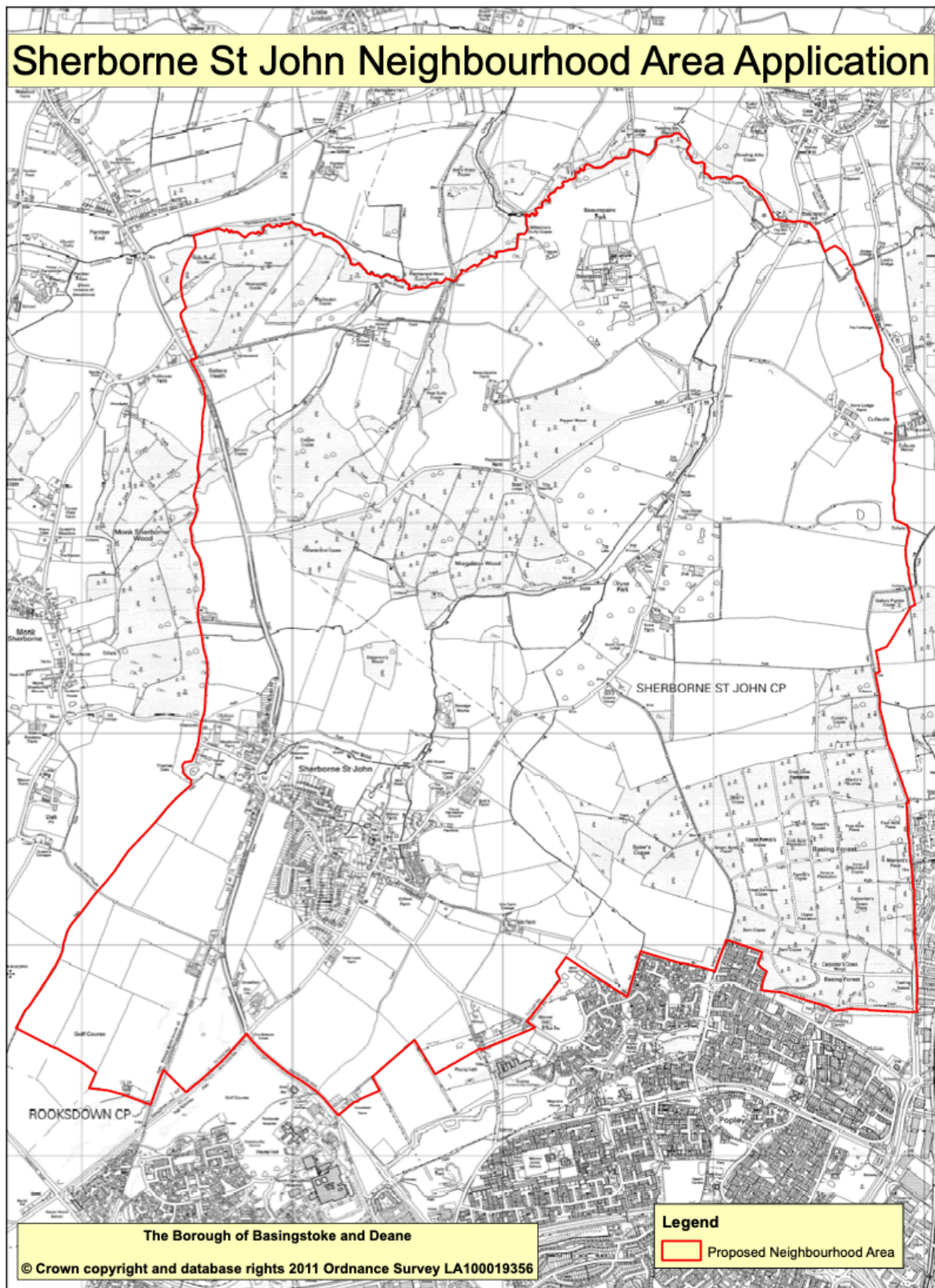


Figure 1: Sherborne St John Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

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Background for the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review

- 1.10 The Made Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan comprises of three polices. The Neighbourhood Plan Review proposes to make modifications to a number of these existing polices and seeks to subdivide some of these policies into their own policies. Therefore the submission draft proposes 10 policies in total within the Reviewed Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.11 The project has benefitted from a positive relationship between the Parish Council and Borough Council with effective communication and advice taken throughout a number of stages of the process including engagement with the Planning Policy Team at an early stage of the review process.
- 1.12 This statement focuses on explaining how the modified, new and updated policies meet the basic conditions. The policies continue to relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood area.
- 1.13 The submission documents comprise of:
- The Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review 2011-2029
 - The Basic Conditions Statement
 - The Consultation Statement
 - The Modification Proposal Statement
 - Statement from BDBC relating to the re-screening on the NPR for Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations
 - Evidence base documents

2. Conformity with National Planning Policy

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is required to take into account national policy and follow guidance provided by the Secretary of State. It must also align with the overall strategic policies of the development plan that applies to the specific area. The conformity assessment below provides a summary of how the Neighbourhood Plan relates to the applicable national planning guidance and strategic development plan policies.
- 2.2 In relation to condition a) having regard to national planning policy, the following section outlines how the Review of the Neighbourhood Plan achieves this.

National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
- 2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework must be taken into account in preparing the development plan, and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Planning policies and decisions must also reflect relevant international obligations and statutory requirements.
- 2.5 The Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared with full regard to the national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2023). This is demonstrated in the table overleaf.

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Conformity to general paragraphs in the NPPF

The Parish Council consider that the NP meets paragraph 16 of the NPPF. In line with paragraph 28 of the NPPF the Neighbourhood Plan contains non-strategic policies, which can include *'allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.'*

2.6 The below table sets out how the modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan have regard to the NPPF:

Policy Number	Policy Title	NPPF paragraph reference	Commentary
SSJ1	Settlement Boundaries and Building in the Countryside	7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 28, 31, 79, 80, 101, 102, 124, 127, 130, 174	The Sherborne St John Settlement Policy Boundary takes into account the NPPF. It is not proposed to amend the SPB through the Review of the Neighbourhood Plan. The spatial strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to focus development to within the Settlement Policy Boundary and allow development outside the SPB where it complies with the relevant paragraphs in the NPPF.
SSJ2	Delivering a mix of housing sizes	7, 8, 9, 28, 31,	The policy seeks to provide a mix of housing in the Parish. This is in line with the NPPF which seeks

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Policy Number	Policy Title	NPPF paragraph reference	Commentary
	to meet local needs	69, 70, 62, 78, 79, 130,	balanced communities and requires plans to cater for current and future needs, and to identify size, type and tenure to provide affordable needs where suitable.
SSJ3	The Rural Character of the Parish	28, 31, 78, 79, 130, 174	The policy requires that the character and visual amenity of the landscape is retained. Specific features are highlighted within the policy. This policy is considered to be in line with the NPPF.
SSJ4	Design Code and High-Quality Design	8, 28, 31, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 153, 154, 155, 157, 185, 186, 190	<p>The design policy encourages development which is of high quality and in keeping with the existing rural nature of the parish.</p> <p>The NPPF seeks for new development to be of a high quality design and emphasises the use of Design Codes, particularly at a parish level. The policy and design code is therefore considered to be in accordance with the requirements and aspirations of the NPPF.</p>

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Policy Number	Policy Title	NPPF paragraph reference	Commentary
SSJ5	Local Green Space	28, 31, 100, 101, 102, 103	<p>The proposed Local Green Spaces within the plan (of which 8 have been identified and proposed to be designated) have been assessed against the criterion within the NPPF. This has also been evidenced within the Local Green Spaces report, which has also been submitted and forms the evidence base of the Modified Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The policy aligns with the requirements outlined in paragraph 101 by making designation proposals that are supported by evidence to meet the criteria in paragraph 102. The language used in the policy also reflects the Green Belt equivalency stated in paragraph 103.</p>
SSJ6	Local Gap	8, 28, 31, 79, 101, 102, 153, 174, 175, 179, 180	<p>The policy seeks to promote sustainable development in rural areas, and seeks to ensure that the distinct identity of Sherborne St John Village is retained. It also has three main functions, which include preserving the settlement</p>

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Policy Number	Policy Title	NPPF paragraph reference	Commentary
			identity, protection and conservation of landscape setting and a role in providing opportunities for green infrastructure provision.
SSJ7	Biodiversity and Ecology	28, 31, 153, 174, 175, 179, 180	The policy seeks biodiversity net gain in planning, as required by the NPPF. It also seeks to protect the natural environment.
SSJ8	Landscape and Key Views	28, 31, 130, 174, 176, 190	The policy seeks to protect the landscape and identifies key views. This is in line with the NPPF which requires applications to contribute to and enhance the local landscape setting.
SSJ9	Reducing light pollution	8, 28, 31, 174, 185	The policy seeks to reduce light pollution from new development. This is in line with the NPPF which supports reducing pollution and nature conservation and enhancing the natural and local environment, in particular limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light (185c).

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Policy Number	Policy Title	NPPF paragraph reference	Commentary
SSJ10	Heritage	28, 31, 127, 190, 193, 194, 197, 205, 207, 208	This policy has been drafted in accordance with section 16 of the NPPF which seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment and paragraph 190 which requires that plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

2.7 It is therefore considered that the modified Neighbourhood Plan complies with basic condition a) as demonstrated within this section.

3. Contributing to Achieving Sustainable Development

- 3.1 In relation to condition d) contributing to achieving sustainable development, this section outlines how the modified Neighbourhood Plan meets this basic condition.
- 3.2 The NPPF (2023) states that the planning system's purpose is to contribute to sustainable development, which means meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This is in line with the United Nations' Global Goals for Sustainable Development.
- 3.3 The planning system has three main objectives: economic, social, and environmental.
- The economic objective involves ensuring sufficient land is available for growth and coordinating infrastructure provision.
 - The social objective aims to provide enough homes and well-designed, accessible places that support community well-being.
 - The environmental objective focuses on protecting and enhancing the natural, built, and historic environment.
- 3.4 These three objectives should be pursued through the preparation and implementation of plans and policies, taking local circumstances into account. The Framework has a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The table overleaf sets out how the Modified Neighbourhood Plan and its policies contributes to sustainable development:

NPPF sustainable development criterion (Paragraph 8):	How the SSJ NP Review contributes to this element of sustainable development:
<p><i>a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;</i></p>	<p>Policy SSJ1 (Settlement boundaries and building in the Countryside) supports sustainable development and the development of new housing within the settlement boundaries (and where criterion are met outside of the SPB). This is also echoed in Policy SSJ3 (The rural character of the parish)</p>
<p><i>b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being;</i></p>	<p>Policy SSJ1 (Settlement boundaries and building in the Countryside) supports sustainable development including development within the SPB and where criterion are met outside of the SPB.</p> <p>Policy SSJ3 (The rural character of the parish) maintains and enhances the rural landscape and character related to the design objective and Policy SSJ4 (Design Code</p>

<p>NPPF sustainable development criterion (Paragraph 8):</p>	<p>How the SSJ NP Review contributes to this element of sustainable development:</p>
	<p>and High Quality Design) seeks high quality design.</p> <p>Policy SSJ2 (Delivering a mix of housing sizes to meet local needs) provides a range of housing and seeks a mix of smaller dwellings, ensuring the needs of present and future generations are met.</p>
<p><i>c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.</i></p>	<p>Policy SSJ4 (Design Code and High Quality Design) seeks high quality design within the parish and enhance the character of the village and supporting the inclusion of locally distinctive materials.</p> <p>Policy SSJ7 (Biodiversity and Ecology) supports development that conserves and enhances the local environment and gains in biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy SSJ6 (Local Gap) supports the inclusion of a local</p>

NPPF sustainable development criterion (Paragraph 8):	How the SSJ NP Review contributes to this element of sustainable development:
	<p>gap which seeks to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>Policy SSJ5 (Local Green Space) supports the natural environment by maintaining areas of Local Green Space.</p> <p>Policy SSJ 8 (Landscape and Key Views) seeks to protect the natural environment and retain a number of identified key views.</p> <p>Policy SSJ9 (Reducing light pollution) also seeks to lower light emissions.</p> <p>Policy SSJ10 (Heritage) seeks to protect the historic environment.</p>

3.5 In addition, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council along with the three statutory consultees have determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

3.6 In summary, the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review contributes to the achievement of sustainable development by:

- Planning positively for windfall housing development, to help meet the needs of present and future generations.
- Provide opportunities for a range of housing sizes to be delivered through the inclusion of a housing mix policy.
- Protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment of Sherborne St John and surrounding countryside through a design, key views, biodiversity, ecology, light pollution and local gap policies.
- Securing social, physical and green infrastructure needed to support the Parish.

3.7 It is therefore considered that the modified Neighbourhood Plan complies with basic condition d) as demonstrated within this section.

4. General Conformity with the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan

- 4.1 In relation to condition e) general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plans are required to adhere to the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. These policies are the essential high-level strategic elements in the local plan that are crucial to achieving the overall planning and development strategy for the local area.
- 4.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Review has been prepared to ensure it is in general conformity with the Development Plan for the Borough which is the Adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029 (ALP).
- 4.3 Whilst it is noted that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have committed to reviewing the existing Local Plan, no formal drafts have been published to date nor has there been any formal consultation on the update. It is expected that the Regulation 18 Local Plan Update will go out to consultation in January 2024. In addition, this can not be given any weight at present and therefore the modification of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to be in general conformity with the Adopted 2011-2029 Local Plan.

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011-2029 (adopted in May 2016)

- 4.4 The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029) was adopted in May 2016 and includes a number of policies relating to a number of key policy areas including delivery of the spatial strategy,

community needs, environmental management and climate change and economic development.

4.5 The main Local Plan policies which are considered as most relevant to Sherborne St John have been identified as:

- Policy SD1 (Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development)
- Policy SS1 (Scale and Distribution of New Housing)
- Policy SS5 (Neighbourhood Planning)
- Policy SS6 (New Housing in the Countryside)
- Policy CN1 (Affordable Housing)
- Policy CN3 (Housing Mix for Market Housing)
- Policy CN4 (Housing for older people/specialist housing)
- Policy CN6 (Infrastructure)
- Policy CN9 (Transport)
- Policy EM1 (Landscape)
- Policy EM2 (Strategic Gaps)
- Policy EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation)
- Policy EM5 (Green Infrastructure)
- Policy EM6 (Water Quality)
- Policy EM7 (Managing Flood Risk)
- Policy EM8 (Commercial Renewable/Low Carbon Energy Generation)
- Policy EM9 (Sustainable Water Use)
- Policy EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development)
- Policy EM12 (Pollution)
- Policy EP4 (Rural Economy)
- Policy EP5 (Rural Tourism)

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4.6 A review of the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan Review and the Adopted Local Plan has been undertaken below. This shows that the NPR is in general conformity with the Local Plan and the rationale can be found in more detail below:

No	Policy title	Commentary
SSJ1	Settlement Boundaries and Building in the Countryside	This policy is consistent with the spatial strategy of the BDBC Local Plan in directing development to within the settlement policy boundary as per Policy SS1 (Scale and Distribution of New Housing) of the ALP and allowing development in exceptional circumstances in line with Policy SS6 (New Housing in the Countryside) and Policy SS5 (Neighbourhood Planning) of the ALP and the NPPF. The policy therefore provides more detail and supplements the ALP and does not seek to re write or change elements of the ALP.
SSJ2	Delivering a mix of housing sizes to meet local needs	This policy is in general conformity and consistent with Policy CN3 (Housing Mix for Market Housing) of the ALP and provides locally distinctive criteria building upon Policy CN3. This policy was included within the made Neighbourhood Plan with limited changes through the modification. There has been no identified or known conflicts between this policy and the ALP to date. This policy has also been designed to complement the Housing SPD (2018).

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No	Policy title	Commentary
		The Policy is also considered to be in general conformity with Policy CN1 (Affordable Housing) of the ALP.
SSJ3	The Rural Character of the Parish	This policy is consistent and in general conformity with Policy EM1 (Landscape) and Policy EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development) in the ALP. A number of these elements of the policy remain unchanged from the made Neighbourhood Plan with a more slimline policy.
SSJ4	Design Code and High-Quality Design	This policy supplements Policy EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development) and emphasises the importance of a high quality built environment. The Design Code has been produced by AECOM and throughout the process it has also been reviewed by the Council’s Urban Designer who provided comments which have been actioned by AECOM. The guidelines are also in line with Policy EM11 (The Historic Environment) in relation to heritage assets.
SSJ5	Local Green Space	It is noted that at present the Local plan doesn’t specifically allocate Local Green Spaces. It is considered that the policy is complementary to the Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy (November 2018) in identifying green spaces that are in line with the relevant NPPF policies. It is considered that the policy is in line with Policy EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and

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No	Policy title	Commentary
		Nature Conservation) and Policy EM5 (Green Infrastructure) of the ALP.
SSJ6	Local Gap	<p>The policy is considered complementary to the existing Policy EM2 (Strategic Gaps) of the Local Plan but seeks to add locally distinctive criteria and ensure that the Local Gap remains relevant.</p> <p>Policy EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation) and Policy EM5 (Green Infrastructure) of the Local Plan are also considered to be relevant to the policy, and it is also considered to be consistent with these policies.</p>
SSJ7	Biodiversity and Ecology	<p>The policy has been written to complement policies Policy EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation) and Policy EM5 (Green Infrastructure) of the adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>The policy is also in line with the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees SPD which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p>
SSJ8	Landscape and Key Views	<p>The policy is considered to be complementary to Policy EM1 (Landscape) of the Local Plan. The policy identifies 17 key views, the policy seeks to ensure that visual amenity is taken into consideration and the relationship with the countryside is respected.</p>

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No	Policy title	Commentary
SSJ9	Reducing light pollution	This policy is complementary to Policy EM1 (Landscape) and Policy EM12 (Pollution) of the adopted Local Plan which seek to protect dark skies and reduce light pollution in the borough.
SSJ10	Heritage	This policy seeks to complement Policy EM10 (Delivering High Quality Development) and Policy EM11 (The Historic Environment) of the adopted Local Plan which seek to deliver high quality development and protect and conserve the heritage/conservation area. The policy identifies the setting of the conservation area and non-designated heritage assets. The policy is also considered to be in line with the aspirations of the Heritage SPD (2019) and Conservation Area Appraisal which are material considerations in the determination of planning applications in the Parish.

4.7 It is therefore considered that the modified Neighbourhood Plan complies with basic condition e) as demonstrated within this section.

5. Compatibility with EU Legislation

- 5.1 In relation to condition f and g) compatibility with EU-derived legislations, the following section outlines the compliance of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan Review has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act. The Plan has been subject to extensive engagement with those people local to the area who could be affected by its policies and their views have been taken into account in finalising the Plan.
- 5.3 A screening opinion was issued by BDBC in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan Review, which notes that the NP has no potential significant environmental effects.
- 5.4 No concerns have been raised regarding the potential violation of human rights during previous consultations. Given the compatibility of the plan with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and its adherence to National Planning Policy, it can reasonably be concluded that the implementation of the plan will not infringe upon human rights.
- 5.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan Review which is in Appendix A. This demonstrates how the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan generally has a positive or neutral impact to the local area.
- 5.6 It is therefore considered that the modified Neighbourhood Plan complies with basic conditions f) and g) as demonstrated within this section.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and are considered to be met by the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Plan Review complies with Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act and Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Act.
- 6.2 This Basic Condition Statement has demonstrated in detail how each of the basic conditions have been met., these relate to:
- The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),
 - The modification of the made Neighbourhood Development Plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with retained EU obligations.
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Development Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Plan (in respect of the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and other material considerations).
- 6.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment can be found in Appendix A. This concludes that The SSJNPR outlines a development strategy for the village and includes policies and proposals that will benefit various parts of the local community with protected

characteristics. These include older people, young people, mothers-to-be and those with young children, disabled individuals, and people with limited mobility.

- 6.4 However, it does not specifically address the needs of racial or religious groups, transgender individuals, gay or lesbian groups, or women. Nevertheless, the Neighbourhood Plan does ensure the provision of affordable housing and a diverse range of housing options. Additionally, it aims to enhance social, community, and leisure facilities that will benefit these groups equally. The plan also prioritises creating a safer public environment where individuals with protected characteristics are less likely to experience discrimination.

Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment

1. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not.
2. “Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
3. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is the systematic analysis of a policy or policies, in order to identify the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic. It is a method of assessing and recording the likely differential and/or adverse impact of a policy on people from different groups so that if a policy results in unfairness or discrimination then changes to eliminate or lessen the impact be considered.
4. This report assesses the Submission Sherborne St John Neighbourhood Development Plan Review to ensure that Sherborne St John Parish Council (as the qualifying body responsible for preparing the SSJNPR) is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies, in order to explore the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community. It is a method of assessing and recording the likely differential and/or adverse impact of a policy on people from different groups. If a policy results in unfairness or discrimination, then changes to eliminate or lessen the impact should be considered.

5. The purpose of the analysis is to increase participation and inclusion, to change the culture of public decision-making and to place a more proactive approach to the promotion of equality and fairness at the heart of public policy. The processes involved in conducting the analysis should not be looked on as an end in themselves. Instead, it should be borne in mind that the aim is the promotion of fairness and equality of opportunity and thus it is the outcomes that are of primary concern. In undertaking the EqIA, it is important to keep in mind why the SSJNP is needed, what the intended outcomes are, and how it will be ensured that the policies will work as intended.
6. An assessment has been made on whether the SSJNPR has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available). The vision and objectives of the SSJNPR have been assessed, and individual policies are highlighted where they are considered likely to have a negative impact.
7. All written communication was provided in English and it was not considered necessary to translate them into any other language, based on data available from Nomis.
8. Throughout the preparation of the SSJNPR the Parish Council has encouraged engagement with the local community in planning for the future development of the parish.
9. A specific consultation website was set up via: <https://ssj-np.co.uk>
10. Consultation has taken place after widespread advertisement. Public notices were also published on noticeboards in the local community. Updates have been published monthly in the Parish magazine and online on the Parish website and on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

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11. An open evening was held on 6th October 2023 between 7-10pm at the Sherborne St John Village Hall. Electronic copies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan Review and supporting documents were on the Regulation 14 pre-submission page of the Parish Council website. Printed copies of the draft Neighbourhood Plan Review were also available in key locations within the parish, these were:

- Sherborne St John Village Hall, Kiln Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9HR (10:00-14:30 Mon – Fri).
- Sherborne Village Store, Sireburne Close, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, RG24 9YZ (07:30-21:00 daily)
- St Andrews Church, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, RG24 9HT (Please contact the Church for opening hours on [tel: 07897 562134](tel:07897562134))
- Swan Pub, 3 Kiln Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, RG24 9HS (Monday – Friday: 11:00-23:00- Sat 09:30-23:00- Sun: 09:30- 22:30)

	Objective/policy	Likely impact (Positive/Neutral/Negative?)	Commentary
SSJ1	Settlement Boundaries and Building in the Countryside	Neutral	Policy is intended to preserve the rural character of the area and directs development to the built up area. No mitigation required.
SSJ2	Delivering a mix of housing sizes to meet local needs	Positive	Positive for all ages and a number of categories as the policy seeks to provide smaller dwellings suitable for young families and

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	Objective/policy	Likely impact (Positive/Neutral /Negative?)	Commentary
			older population. It also seeks appropriate housing mix for all groups. No mitigation required.
SSJ3	The Rural Character of the Parish	Neutral	Policy is intended to preserve the rural character of the area. No mitigation required.
SSJ4	Design Code and High-Quality Design	Positive	Policy is intended to improve the design locally and should benefit all categories to improve the overall design of development in the Parish. No mitigation required.
SSJ5	Local Green Space	Positive	Policy is intended to preserve and enhance the built environment. No mitigation required.
SSJ6	Local Gap	Neutral	Policy is intended to preserve the rural character of the area and ensure green infrastructure is provided to benefit all ages and categories. No mitigation required.
SSJ7	Biodiversity and Ecology	Positive	Policy is intended to improve the local

	Objective/policy	Likely impact (Positive/Neutral /Negative?)	Commentary
			environment and would be neutrally beneficial for a number of groups in the parish. No mitigation required.
SSJ8	Landscape and Key Views	Positive	Beneficial for all categories as the policy is intended to preserve the rural character of the area. No mitigation required.
SSJ9	Reducing light pollution	Neutral	Policy seeks to reduce light pollution in the parish and would be neutrally beneficial for a number of groups. No mitigation required.
SSJ10	Heritage	Neutral	Policy seeks to improve the historical character of the area and would be neutrally beneficial for a number of groups locally. No mitigation required.

Conclusion on Equalities impact Assessment

- The SSJNPR outlines a development strategy for the village and includes policies and proposals that will benefit various parts of the local community with protected characteristics. These include older

people, young people, mothers-to-be and those with young children, disabled individuals, and people with limited mobility.

13. However, it does not specifically address the needs of racial or religious groups, transgender individuals, gay or lesbian groups, or women. Nevertheless, the Neighbourhood Plan does ensure the provision of affordable housing and a diverse range of housing options. Additionally, it aims to enhance social, community, and leisure facilities that will benefit these groups equally. The plan also prioritises creating a safer public environment where individuals with protected characteristics are less likely to experience discrimination.