

Directions for Growth



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Scope, Issues and Options Consultation
January 2018

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce this new 'Direction for Growth - draft Local Plan' to you for public consultation.

This stage of the draft Local Plan is crucial to shaping the future of the borough. We've set out a clear ambition [through our Corporate Plan] to make Hinckley and Bosworth a 'place of opportunity', so that everybody can achieve their ambitions and succeed locally.

We set out our proposed strategy to help shape and create the opportunities to meet economic and housing needs to the period 2036. This is also an opportunity for you, our local communities and stakeholders, to put forward your preferences for where in the borough you would like to see new development delivered.

The potential opportunities, over the next twenty years, will bring tangible benefits to the quality of life of both people who live in the borough and those who work, or visit the borough as well as local businesses.

If we want a borough where businesses can thrive, jobs are accessible to local people, and where homes are affordable for future generations, then we have to create that environment – it will not happen by itself.

Yet, it is about finding a balance.

A balance between enabling development growth and protecting as much of our existing open green spaces, heritage and neighbourhoods as we can. It is about ensuring that new development is of a high quality design, complimentary to existing (including smaller rural) settlements and supports the creation of lifetime neighbourhoods through the delivery of a range housing types and affordability levels, and a vibrant local economy.

The draft Local Plan is inextricably linked to the draft Strategic Growth Plan. Within this wider context it is more than just about housing and jobs, and I would urge you to look at it in this wider context. We recognise, and the draft Local Plan explores, that with development comes a need for infrastructure for transport, health, education, leisure and social needs. Through further work and evidence building, we will seek to ensure these are identified and provided in a timely manner.

I believe that it is vital for as many of you to provide your views, comments and feedback on the proposals as possible, and I would urge you to not miss this opportunity.

I look forward to receiving your comments on this important document.



*Councillor Miriam Surtees
Executive Member for Regeneration,
Asset Management and Growth*

CONSULTATION INFORMATION

How to respond to this consultation

Consultation on the Scope, Issues and Options, referred to in this document, runs for 8 weeks from **8 January 2018 to 4 March 2018**.

You can respond to this consultation by

- completing our online survey
- by our online contact form:
www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/planningQ
- by post to:
Planning Policy,
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road
Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 0FR

Any comments that we receive as part of this consultation cannot be treated as confidential, the Council is required to make these available for public inspection. Any personal data provided will be handled in accordance with the current data protection legislation and will not be published.

How to find out more

All the information published as part of this consultation can be viewed and downloaded from our website.

You can review paper copies of the consultation documents (including supporting studies) during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Ratby - Community Library
- Market Bosworth - Community Library
- Earl Shilton Library
- Markfield Library
- Hinckley Hub
- Hinckley Leisure Centre

Alternatively, a copy can be made available upon request by contacting us, either by email or by post (see previous column).

Drop-in to a public exhibition or workshop

We will hold a number of drop-in sessions across the Borough for local people, groups and organisations to discuss and give their views. To find out about these events and when they are taking place, visit:

www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/localplanreview

NEXT STEPS

We will use the results from this consultation to prepare a 'Preferred Options' Plan. The Preferred Options plan will include more detailed policy proposals, site allocations as well as further evidence. The Local Development Scheme contains details on the future stages of the Local Plan process.



Rural conference 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Borough is a great place to live, work and visit. We are reviewing our existing Local Plan (Core Strategy, adopted in 2009) to ensure that it is consistent with national policy and guidance, such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Much has changed since 2009 - a new Local Plan will provide direction on the future growth of the area, ensure that the borough grows sustainably and protect the essential qualities of our borough. While at the same time it will seek to identify land for the homes, jobs, and services that people need. The new Local Plan will cover the period up to 2036, and once adopted, its policies will replace the 'saved' Core Strategy policies.

In preparing a new Local Plan we must follow processes and requirements set out nationally within planning law. This includes a requirement to cooperate on strategic planning matters and work with our neighbours on cross-boundary issues. We are also working with our Leicestershire partner local authorities, utility providers and other statutory bodies (eg Environment Agency).

The timetable for preparing the Local Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme (December 2017). We intend to submit our draft Local Plan for independent examination in autumn 2020 and adopt (subject to the examination's outcome) in 2021.

Scope, Issues and Options stage

The Scope, Issues and Options consultation begins the process for producing our new Local Plan. It sets out the scope for the review, the issues and the options that we are considering to ensure the new Local Plan is deliverable. We have to consider all options otherwise we risk the plan being found 'unsound' at Examination in Public.

Scope

While the review covers the entire Core Strategy, the Hinckley Town Centre and Earl Shilton & Barwell Area Action Plans and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, it is envisaged that many of the changes to the more recent documents will be relatively minor, except those that are discussed in this Scope, Issues and Options consultation.

Issues

The strategic issues discussed in this Scope, Issues and Options consultation document include:

- Future directions for growth and managing growth opportunities relating to infrastructure proposals in the draft Strategic Growth Plan
- A revised vision and set of objectives
- Sustainable communities and places, including our heritage assets
- The number of new homes we should be looking to plan
- Economic development
- Healthy lives and places
- Environment

The Local Plan preparation process is likely to result in fundamental changes to the overarching development strategy, policies and vision and objectives.

Options

In looking at options for development, we will need to consider the above and other Borough-wide issues as well as cross-boundary issues if our Local Plan is to be successful. The Scope, Issues and Options consultation document sets out our proposed approach in the following areas:

Vision and Strategic Objectives

A new vision to reflect the ambitions we hold for the Borough to exploit the once-in-a-generation opportunities is being proposed. This ambitious growth is finely balanced with the need to ensure our existing communities are supported and well served, as well as ensuring that we protect our irreplaceable natural environment.

A series of strategic objectives based around the Corporate Plan vision for the Borough as a 'place of opportunity' will help us to deliver on this new vision.

Managing Growth

The Local Plan 2036 is an opportunity to set out a spatial strategy for where development of all kinds is located. The Scope, Issues and Options consultation document proposes six options to consider for a new spatial strategy. Two of these six options are closely aligned to options being considered in the draft Strategic Growth Plan. The options are:

1. Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution
2. Core Strategy approach
3. Key Transport and accessibility corridors
4. Garden village/ new settlement
5. Proportionate growth of key rural centres
6. A combination of the above options

Through the Local Plan preparation process we will refine and narrow these down to our 'preferred option(s)' which will be submitted for independent Examination.

Approach to Policy development (the issues)

The Scope, Issues and Options consultation includes policy themes on which we invite you to give your comments on through answering a number of questions. These themes are:

- Communities and places (sustainable communities and the need to balance between housing and employment growth against local constraints such as heritage assets, health provision (eg GPs), Education (schools), road & public transport capacity etc)
- Housing (need to meet our housing needs, including provision for custom & self-build, an ageing population and affordable housing)
- Economic Development (including employment land needs, affordable workspaces, retail, commercial and leisure development)
- Tourism (including a vibrant rural economy)
- Infrastructure (transport, utilities, social infrastructure, and delivery)
- Environment (flood risk and watercourse, air quality and carbon emissions, ecology and biodiversity)
- Design (including role in creating sense of place, key corridors and gateways, residential standards, public realm)
- Health (health and wellbeing, leisure and open spaces)



Ashby Canal near Shenton

These approaches will be developed into policies, which will be used to assess planning applications once the new Local Plan is adopted. The evidence base to support policy production is still ongoing, and evidence produced to date is set out under the Evidence chapter.

Draft policies including detailed wording will be set out in the next stage of the plan preparation process. We would invite you to comment on the proposed direction of the policies to inform the draft Local Plan (preferred options).

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PART A

Setting the Scene

List of Abbreviations

DPD	Development Plan Document	LCA/LSS	Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Study	SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
ELPS	Employment Land and Premises Study	LLFA	Lead Local Flood Risk Authority	SHELAA	Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment
FEMA	Functional Economic Market Area	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework	SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
HEDNA	Housing and Economic Development Need Assessment	NPPG	National Planning Policy Guidance	SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
HMA	Housing Market Area	PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy	SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage
IDP	Infrastructure Delivery Plan	SA	Sustainability Appraisal	SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension

1. INTRODUCTION

Why we are reviewing the Core Strategy

- 1.1 We have started our journey on preparing a new Local Plan.¹ As part of this, we are looking at ideas and options for the longer term growth of the borough. These have resulted from a series of workshops that took place in early 2016 and the emerging draft Strategic Growth Plan.²
- 1.2 While the Local Plan will [principally] guide development in the borough to 2036, it is also an opportunity for us to set out our longer term aspirations for unlocking potential growth opportunities (especially those arising out of the draft Strategic Growth Plan) through identifying ‘future directions for growth’.³
- 1.3 Before we go into the details of the ideas and options for the longer term growth, chapters 2-4 look at why we are reviewing the Local Plan and its place within the planning policy framework. They also look at what our evidence and starting point is, the process we will go through as we move forward, and details of how you can get involved at this stage of the plan making process.

¹ The ‘Local Plan’ currently comprises the Core Strategy (adopted 2009), the Area Action Plans for Hinckley Town Centre (2011), Earl Shilton & Barwell (2014), and the Site Allocations DM Policies DPD (2016) together with the Neighbourhood Plan for Market Bosworth (2015)

² <http://www.lstrategicgrowthplan.org.uk/>

³ The period covered by the draft Strategic Growth Plan extends 2050 which is beyond the Local Plan period (2036).



Castle Street, Hinckley

2. CONTEXT

Why we are reviewing the Local Plan

- 2.1** The Local Plan will set out a vision and development strategy to ensure that, over the Plan period, we have an effective planning policy framework in place; that development proposals are not granted in a piecemeal way (sometimes involving costly planning appeals) and that we are planning positively for sustainable development by having in place policies that are current with national legislation and guidance.
- 2.2** A Local Plan is typically reviewed every five years or so and future iterations can adjust or modify the development strategy where appropriate to make sure the long term vision is being achieved.

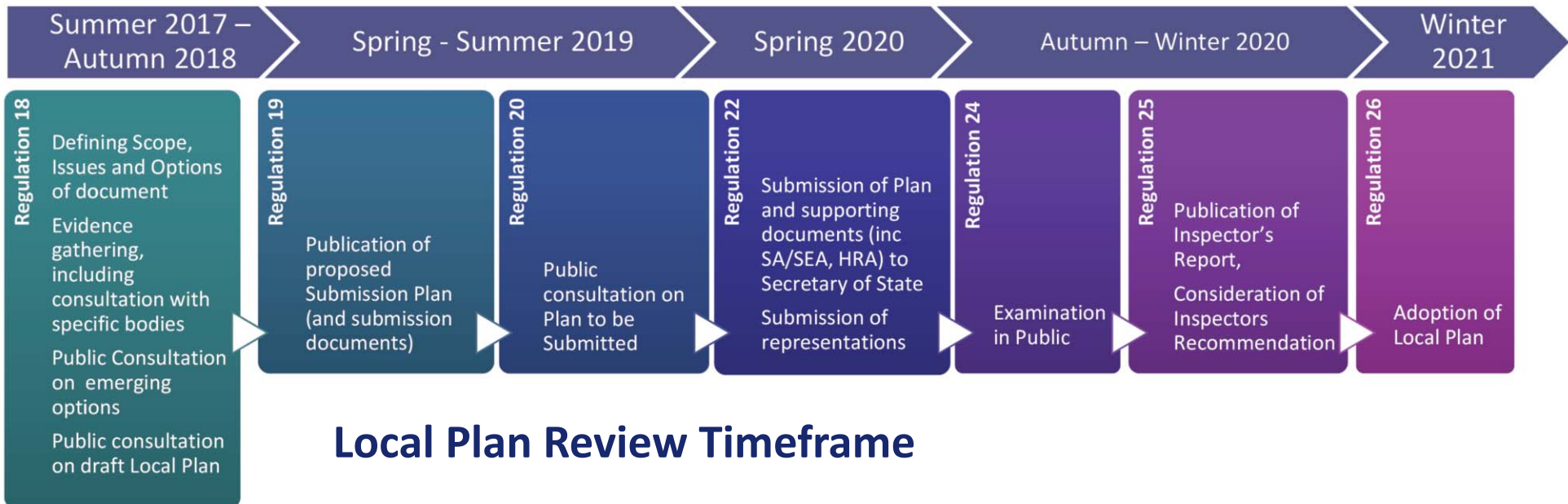
2.3 In reviewing and preparing our Local Plan we need to address borough-wide strategic planning issues and be able to:

- Identify a sufficient number of suitable sites to meet the borough’s identified development needs, and the wider Housing Market Area (HMA)
- Contribute to growth and help deliver the emerging Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan
- Help inform and assist our towns, parishes and neighbourhoods with their Neighbourhood Development Plans
- Respond to the wider economic context, challenges and ambitions
- Provide up to date development management policies
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents, visitors and workers by planning for heritage, green spaces, parks and leisure and entertainment.

2.4 The process for preparing a Local Plan is set out in statutory regulations⁴, and all Local Plans have to be prepared in accordance with guidance published as part of the National Planning Policy Framework⁵- this sets out the Government’s policies for sustainable development. Our Local Development Scheme details the timetable that we have set for reviewing and preparing our Local Plan. The diagram below sets out the stages of plan preparation against this timeframe.

⁴ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

⁵ See NPPF, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>



Local Plan Review Timeframe



Purpose of the Scope, Issues & Options consultation

2.5 The Scope, Issues and Options document gives residents, businesses and other interested parties an early opportunity to comment and help shape the future planning of the borough. While the main focus of the consultation will inevitably be drawn towards potential sites for future housing development, we also outline our initial thoughts on other strategic policy matters, including some ideas for the longer term growth of the borough [aligned with/to the draft Strategic Growth Plan]. Your comments will help us to develop these thoughts into detailed policies for the next stage of plan preparation.



Consultation workshop on Evidence Base Study 2017

- 2.6** In preparing our Local Plan there are some important limitations placed on us. Our Local Plan must:
- Be positively prepared and take account of national planning policies, their support for sustainable development and be based on an objective assessment of the borough's development and infrastructure needs
 - Be supported by a robust evidence base, including evidence of market demand for different types of development and the availability of land that can be expected to be developed
 - Have regard to various other Council strategies and policies and those of its partners
 - Take into account environmental constraints on development (such as flood risk) and the need to conserve the built and natural heritage; and
 - Be supported by a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This is a legal requirement. We are consulting on the scope for the Sustainability Appraisal alongside consultation on this document.
- 2.7** Under the 'Duty to Cooperate' requirement, we must work with our neighbouring authorities in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA) to help accommodate the wider development needs. The draft Strategic Growth Plan is our attempt at fulfilling this requirement.

2.8 As we are at an early stage of plan preparation, further work needs to be done before we can give consideration of potential sites for the allocation for housing or other uses. Therefore, this stage of the plan **does not contain potential locations for allocation for housing or other uses**, but the draft Local Plan does include options for potential directions for growth.



Druid Street, Hinckley

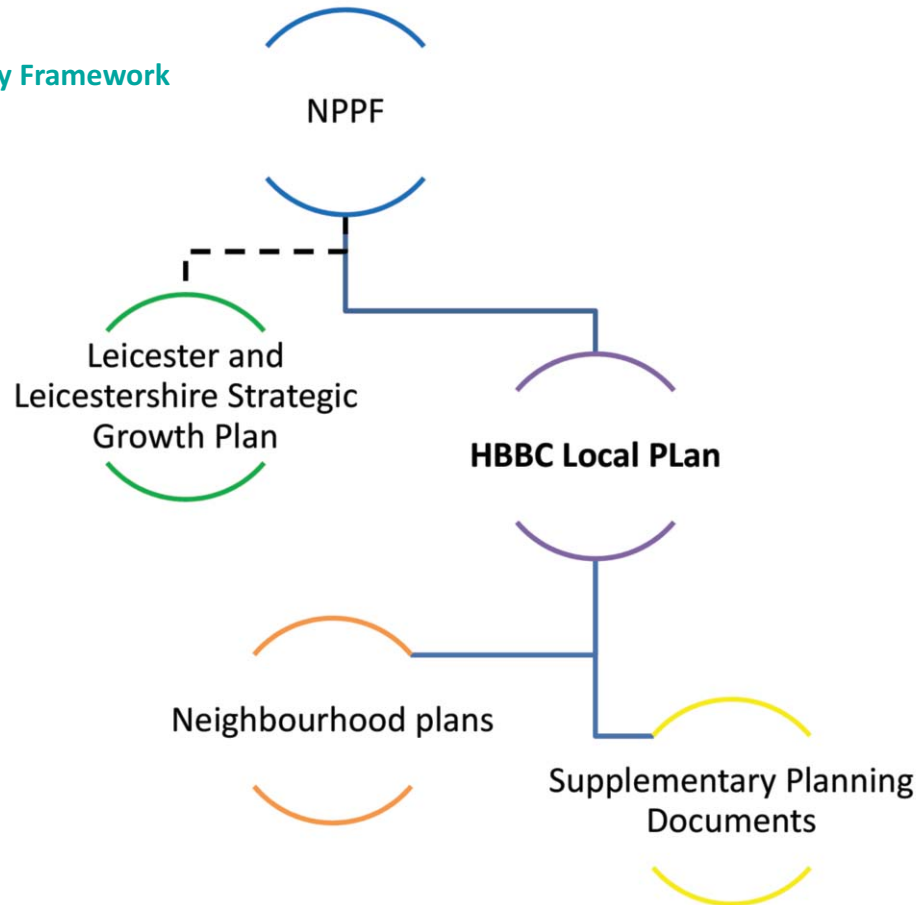
The Local Plan's place in the planning policy framework

- 2.9 In preparing our Local Plan we must have regard to local, regional⁶ and national plans, policies and strategies which relate to the future development of the borough, as well as other relevant evidence.
- 2.10 The Local Plan is a Development Plan Document (DPD) and is part of the planning policy framework in England (see Figure 1).⁷ Once

adopted, the Local Plan will replace the existing Core Strategy and become **the key planning policy document** against which planning applications within the Borough will be determined.

- 2.11 Where necessary, we will develop separately to the draft Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) to provide further detail and guidance for a particular locality or to support understanding and effective implementation of a particular policy.

Figure 1:
Planning Policy Framework
(England)



Burbage

⁶ The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategy Growth Plan is a non-statutory document

⁷ Introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004



National Planning Policy

2.12 The policies in our Local Plan must be ‘consistent’ with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This Scope, Issues and Options document should therefore be read in conjunction with the NPPF. However, Government reform of the planning system, starting with the introduction of the NPPF and associated National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), is ongoing and is likely to be revised again in spring 2018. While it is too early to predict what and how the forthcoming NPPF revisions will impact on our draft local plan, we will need to acknowledge and reflect any changes in the next iteration of this document.

2.13 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 paves the way in legislation for a range of significant changes to planning policy and the preparation of Local Plans. The technical details of these changes and how they will operate will be set out through a combination of new regulations and updates to the NPPF and NPPG. Key measures within the Act that will affect the preparation and/or content of our Local Plan include:

- **Starter Homes requirement** (duty to plan proactively for these as part of our Affordable Housing offer)
- **Brownfield Sites Register 1** (coming into effect in 31 December 2017, will provide up to date information on sites that we consider are appropriate for residential led development)
- **Brownfield Sites Register Part 2 (Permission in Principle (PiP))** for sites that the local planning authority has decided would be suitable to grant permission for development. These sites will need to be allocated in Local and Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

2.14 Many parts of the Borough (eg Burbage, Sheepy and Markfield) are preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) which will, once made, (such as the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan) sit alongside the Local Plan and form part of the Borough’s overall development plan document. These need to conform to our Local Plan strategic policies and can allocate sites for development and set local policies for their area.

2.15 Neighbourhood Development Plans do not take effect unless there is a majority of support in a referendum of the neighbourhood. They also have to meet a number of conditions to ensure plans are legally compliant and take account of wider policy considerations (e.g. national policy). To meet these conditions NDPs must:

- Have regard to national planning policy;
- Be in general conformity with strategic policies in the development plan for the local area (i.e. such as in a local plan); and
- Be compatible with EU obligations and human rights requirements.

2.16 If proposals pass the referendum, the Local Planning Authority is under a legal duty to bring the neighbourhood plan into force. Once it is in force, it becomes part of the legal framework and planning decisions for the area must be taken in accordance with it, as well as the Local Plan for the wider area

Duty to Cooperate



Rural Conference

2.17 Local planning authorities and public bodies are required by the Localism Act 2011, under the ‘Duty to Cooperate’ requirement to work constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis to maximise the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation in the context of strategic cross boundary matters. We are using the preparation of the draft Strategic Growth Plan process as the main mechanism for complying with this requirement.

2.18 As mentioned in 2.6 we have begun some work to think about the sorts of things we will need to include in our Local Plan, building on the growth workshops we ran in early 2016 for stakeholders as well as regular cross-boundary work and evidence gathering to date. We will need to build on this initial work throughout the subsequent plan-making stages.

3. EVIDENCE BASE

- 3.1** We are working to prepare a robust evidence base to help understand some of the issues that we face. The table to the right provides an overview of the evidence studies that have been prepared or are currently in preparation.
- 3.2** We will prepare further evidence and information, including a Habitat Regulations Assessment, to support the next iteration(s) of our draft Local Plan to ensure that we are able to satisfy 'Soundness' tests

Sustainability Appraisal

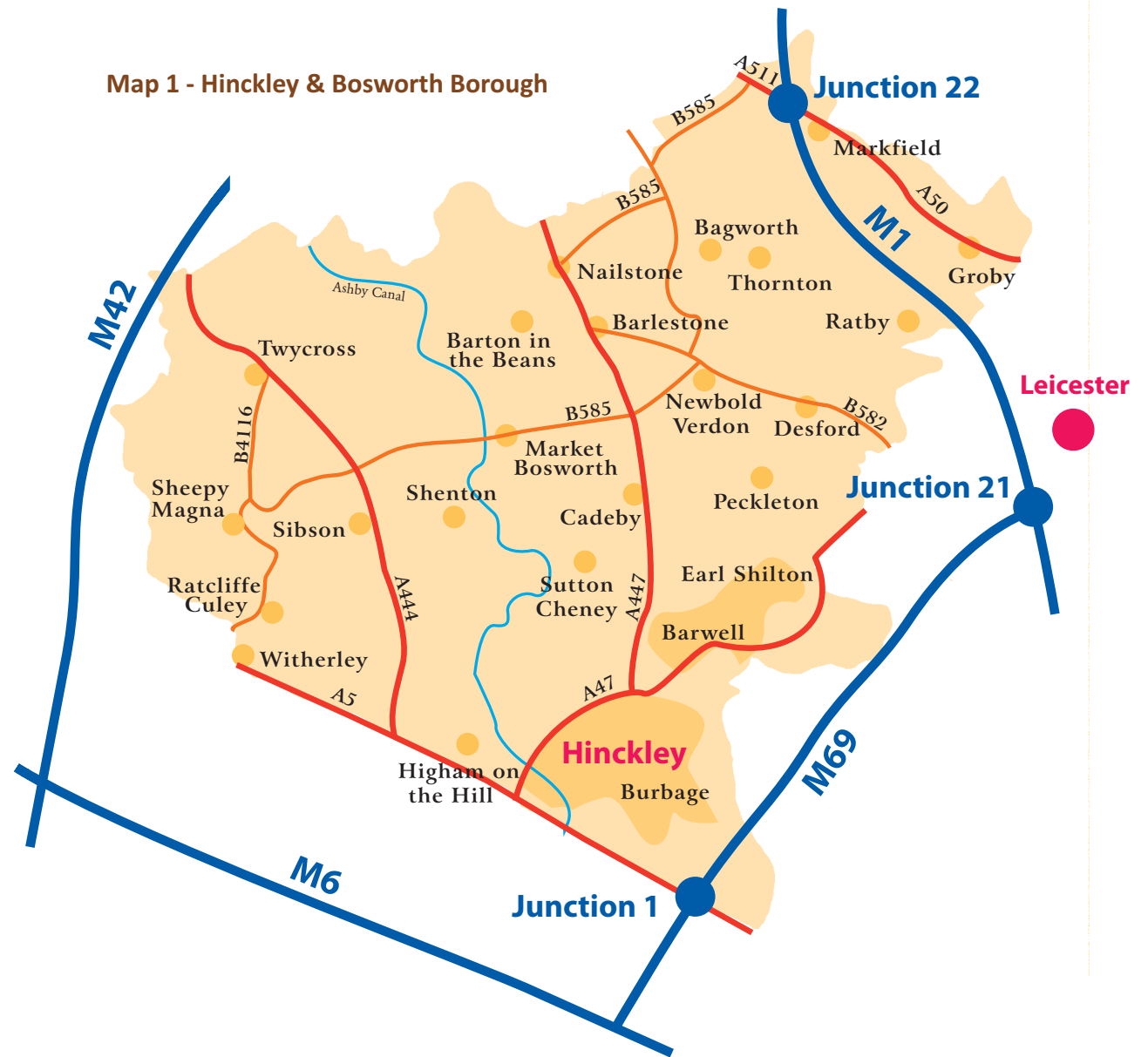
- 3.3** At this Scope, Issues and Options stage, we are consulting on a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Scoping Report sets out the framework against which our draft Local Plan will be assessed.
- 3.4** We will commission a Sustainability Appraisal to support the next stage of our draft Local Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal will test the overall planning strategy and different policy approaches and allocations against a number of social, economic and environmental objectives to identify which options are the most sustainable.

Study title	Description
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of the Local Plan from the outset of the preparation process to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.
Housing and Economic Development Need Assessment (HEDNA)	A study that seeks to identify the future quantity of housing and employment land needed in Leicester and Leicestershire up to 2031 and 2036. In terms of housing, the HEDNA identifies the overall amount of housing and the type, tenure and size requirements. In terms of employment land it seeks to identify the future quantity and type of employment land needed and gaps in the current supply.
Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Study (LCA/LSS)	An assessment of the landscape character of the Borough and replaces the previous 2006 assessment. The Landscape Sensitivity Study provides context for potential built development in key settlements and areas of the Borough.
Employment Land and Premises Review (ELPS)	An assessment of the current position and recent trends within the Borough's economy, and the potential scale and type of future economic growth and business needs to achieve the Council's ambitions for long term economic growth.
Economic Regeneration Strategy 2016-2020	Sets out the vision and aims for ensuring the Borough as a whole prospers from economic development. A detailed Action Plan aligning to the Strategy's key objectives is in place.
Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment	An assessment of the future accommodation needs of the existing gypsy and travellers community.
Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)	An assessment of the provision and quality of existing playing pitch facilities in the Borough - across the sports of hockey, football, rugby, tennis, bowls and golf (some of which are beyond the normal scope of Playing Pitch Strategy).
Open Space, Sports and Recreational Facilities Study	A study to identify local need for open space, sports and recreational facilities, by providing a record of existing sites and their current standards. The study will also provide a clear framework to protect and improve open space, sport and recreational facilities.
Heritage Strategy	The document provides an overarching strategy to guide conservation and heritage activities within the borough over the period 2018-2023.
Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)	A key component of evidence required to support the delivery of sufficient land and potential development in suitable locations across the Borough, in line with Government objectives/policy. To assist in this process the council carries out various 'call for sites' to find land available for potential allocation through the Local Plan review.
North Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Destination Management Plan	Provides a strategic framework for capitalising on the opportunities for tourism growth across the two areas over the next five years.
Hinckley & Bosworth Town & District Centre Study	Evidence study to inform leisure and retail allocations and policies in the new local plan. It assesses the need for new comparison and convenience floorspace, looks at spending patterns, and recommends a future settlement hierarchy and general approach to retail strategy.
Hinckley Town Centre Car Parking Assessment	An assessment of the car parking provision in Hinckley Town Centre.

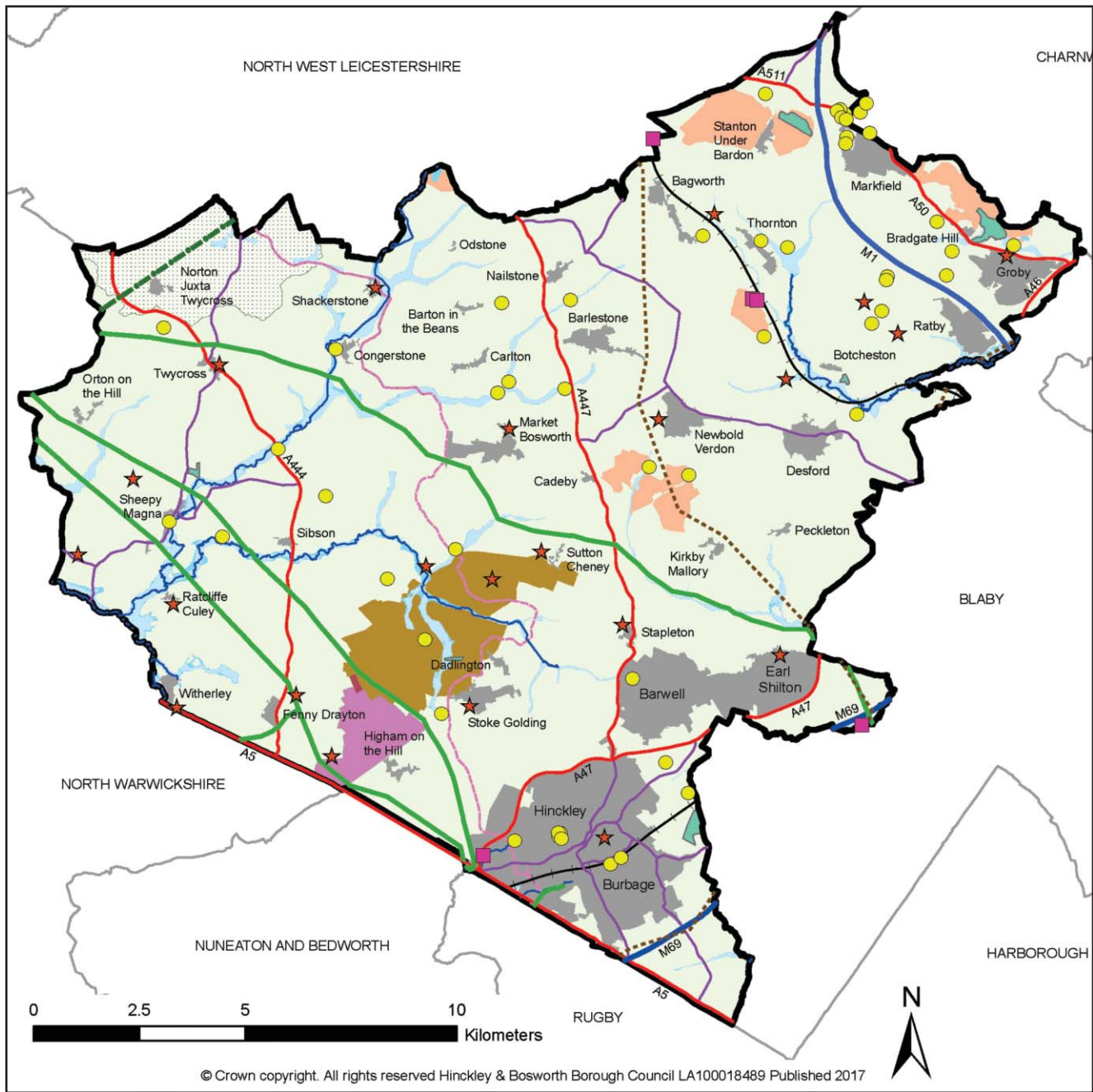


THE OPPORTUNITY

- 3.5** Hinckley & Bosworth is a largely rural borough in south-west Leicestershire. However, it enjoys a key position on the strategic road transport network in the East Midlands, has direct rail links to Birmingham, Leicester and Cambridge, and is also within easy reach of three international airports.⁸ Hinckley, Burbage, Barwell and Earl Shilton are the main population centres and a number of villages, smaller settlements and hamlets are spread across our borough.
- 3.6** With direct access onto the M69 in the south, the M1 in the north, and the A5 (east-west) marking the southern boundary, the borough is uniquely placed to realise its growth potential. Using the existing transport infrastructure, future planned improvements and proposed new infrastructure as the catalyst for growth, our borough's future growth is only as restricted as our ambitions and the constraints identified in **Map 2 on the following page**.
- 3.7** The borough's history is inextricably linked to the industrial revolution, hosiery and automotive manufacturing, which employed many of the local population. While the world famous Triumph and Caterpillar brands continue to be major employers, hosiery has much declined as a major employment sector.



⁸ Birmingham, East Midlands and Coventry airports are all within a short (less than hour) distance by road from Hinckley.



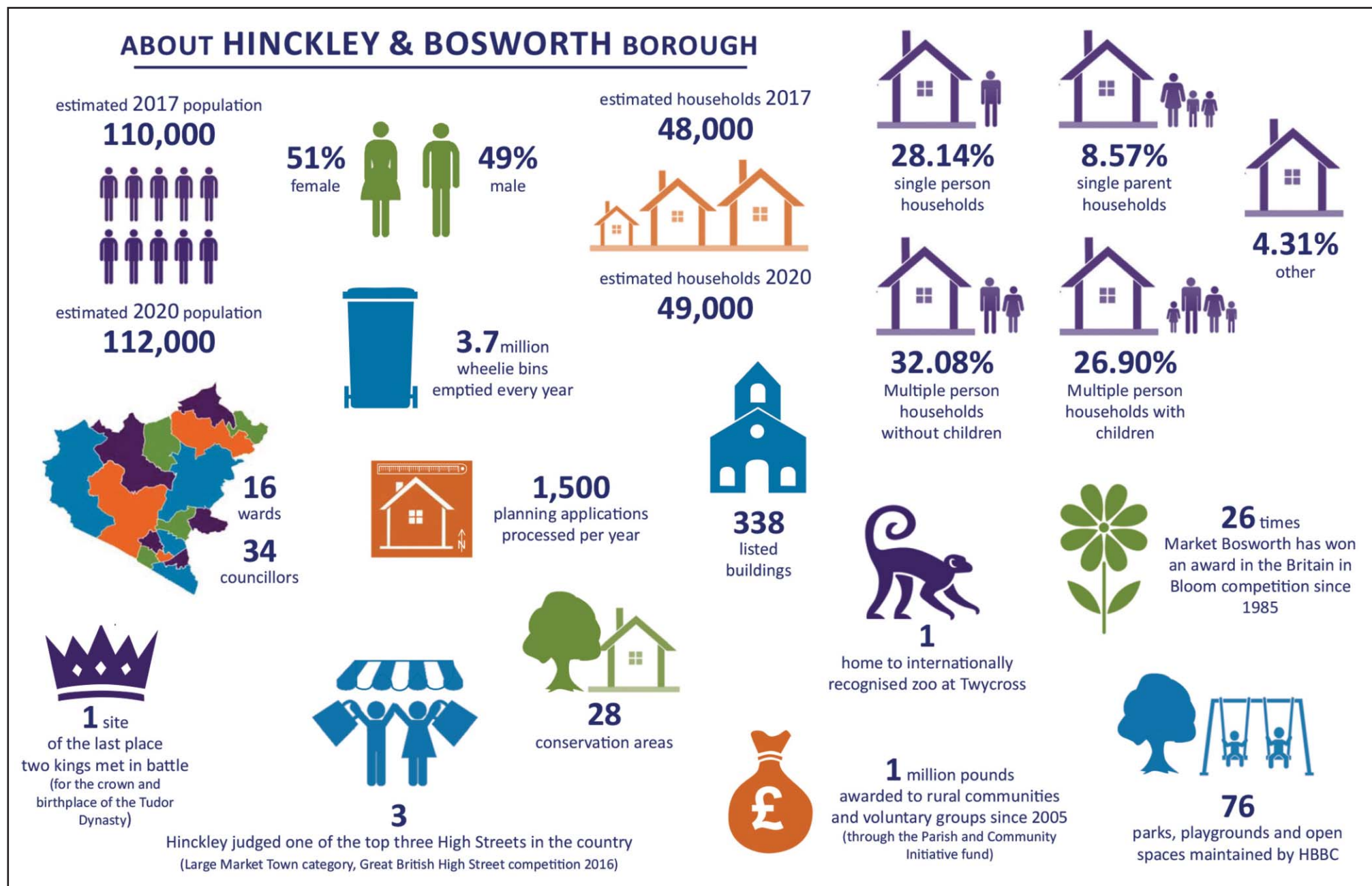
Key:

- Borough Boundary
- Settlement
- MIRA
- Motorway
- A-Road
- B-Road
- Railway
- River
- Ashby Canal
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- River Mease Catchment (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Wildlife Site
- Hazardous (Notifiable) Installation
- Electricity Overhead Line
- Gas Pipeline
- Oil Pipeline
- Active Mineral Extraction Site
- Bosworth Battlefield
- Scheduled Monument

3.8 The council, through the creation of strong public-private sector partnerships, is at the forefront of successful efforts to regenerate the economy, infrastructure and environment. We continue to build on the rich history, connectivity, land availability and green spaces to attract inward investment. For example, logistical firm DPD has set up a key base in the Borough in recent years; the Borough hosts one of the best performing Enterprise Zones in the country which is the location for Europe’s largest automotive research and development cluster at the MIRA Technology Park.

Map 2: Constraints Map

3.9 The infographic below provides some further key information about the Borough.



4. DIRECTION FOR LONGER TERM GROWTH

A longer term vision

- 4.1** A key element of any Local Plan is to set out a long-term vision for the area. Normally, this will be for a 15-20 year horizon, and the development strategy in the Local Plan will focus on delivering the vision in that timescale.
- 4.2** As part of our current thinking, we want to look at including a longer term view beyond the plan period and to think about what sort of place our borough could become, how big it could be and in what ways the different towns and villages might grow, and what it could look like further into the future. This longer term approach will allow us to make sure that developments, we plan and create now, help achieve the draft Strategic Growth Plan's longer term vision to 2050 by unlocking the potential growth opportunities to the benefit of the Borough and our communities.



Aerial photograph of Lower Bond Street, Hinckley

Draft Strategic Growth Plan aims

- 4.3** The ten Leicestershire partner organisations are working together to prepare a draft Strategic Growth Plan in order to shape the longer-term future of Leicestershire to 2050. It is our 'offer' (as a partner organisation) to government and partners for how we can deliver new homes, jobs and ancillary uses in our region.
- 4.4** Through an ambitious but realistic and achievable growth agenda, the draft Strategic Growth Plan considers a range of wider possibilities and focuses on four key matters. These are:
- Delivering new housing
 - Supporting the economy
 - Identifying essential infrastructure
 - Protecting our environment and built heritage
- 4.5** The draft Strategic Growth Plan builds on earlier work⁹ and sets out our strategy for building more development on strategic sites and, in doing so seek to reduce the level of new development delivered in existing towns, villages and rural areas.

Our Borough's potential

- 4.6** In terms of growth, it is likely that we will continue to need to deliver at least 450 dwellings per annum until 2031¹⁰. As work on the draft Strategic Growth Plan progresses, we will need to consider how to deliver the level of housing arising from the longer term need. Naturally, not all the space in new developments will be taken up by housing and there is an expectation to allocate land for employment, infrastructure and other uses.
- 4.7** In order to help our initial thinking, we held two growth 'visioning' workshops with stakeholders and Parish Councils in 2016. The aim of these was to consider and explore how best to exploit the growth potential to benefit our borough; contribute to the growth agenda, and in doing so, positively impact on our residents' quality of life.
- 4.8** These 'visioning' workshops provided an excellent opportunity to understand what people's priorities are for the immediate and longer term future. Through facilitated table activities, delegates were encouraged to express their ideas on maps, for the four growth options. Further detail about the priorities identified and the outputs from the workshops is included in the Workshop Report.¹¹
- 4.9** In chapter 7, the ideas debated at the growth workshops and those identified in the draft Strategic Growth Plan are distilled into a set of discrete options for how we could potentially deliver growth in the Borough.

⁹ undertaken by government and other regional bodies

¹⁰ The Government is currently consulting on a standard methodology for every Local Planning Authority to use from spring 2018 in determining its own housing need.

¹¹ The Workshop Report is available on the Council's website

Growth directions

- 4.10** The draft Strategic Growth Plan identifies a number of options for future growth.¹² While all the options are relevant, two options are crucial to explore in greater length here:

Draft Strategic Growth Plan option	Corresponding Draft Local Plan option
1. The primary growth areas	Key transport and accessibility corridors
2. The secondary growth areas	Garden Village

Key transport and accessibility corridors

- 4.11** The A5, marking the southern boundary of the borough, is identified in both the Midland Engine¹³ and the draft Strategic Growth Plan as a location to focus primary growth upon. Both documents do not identify in great detail the level of growth nor where exactly along the corridor the growth should occur.
- 4.12** The south east-north west road corridor provides important access to the M69, M42 and M6 Toll for vehicles. It also provides an important access for tourists towards Twycross Zoo and the Bosworth Battlefield via the A444. Although the A5 is single carriageway two sections are dual carriageway (between the MIRA Technology Park and the A444 junction and further west the Atherstone bypass).

¹² The options are: the primary growth areas; the secondary growth areas; key centres; areas of managed growth and our villages and rural areas.

¹³ Link to Midlands Engine Strategy. The Midlands Engine Strategy is governments commitment and vision to the region's place in driving the UK economy and growth.

- 4.13** Ongoing growth of the MIRA Technology Park – the UK's only transport sector research and development enterprise zone of international importance - alongside plans for the future expansion of the site towards the west of Hinckley, as well as proposals to upgrade the A5 to an expressway standard make this an attractive location with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deliver growth at a level of regional and national significance.

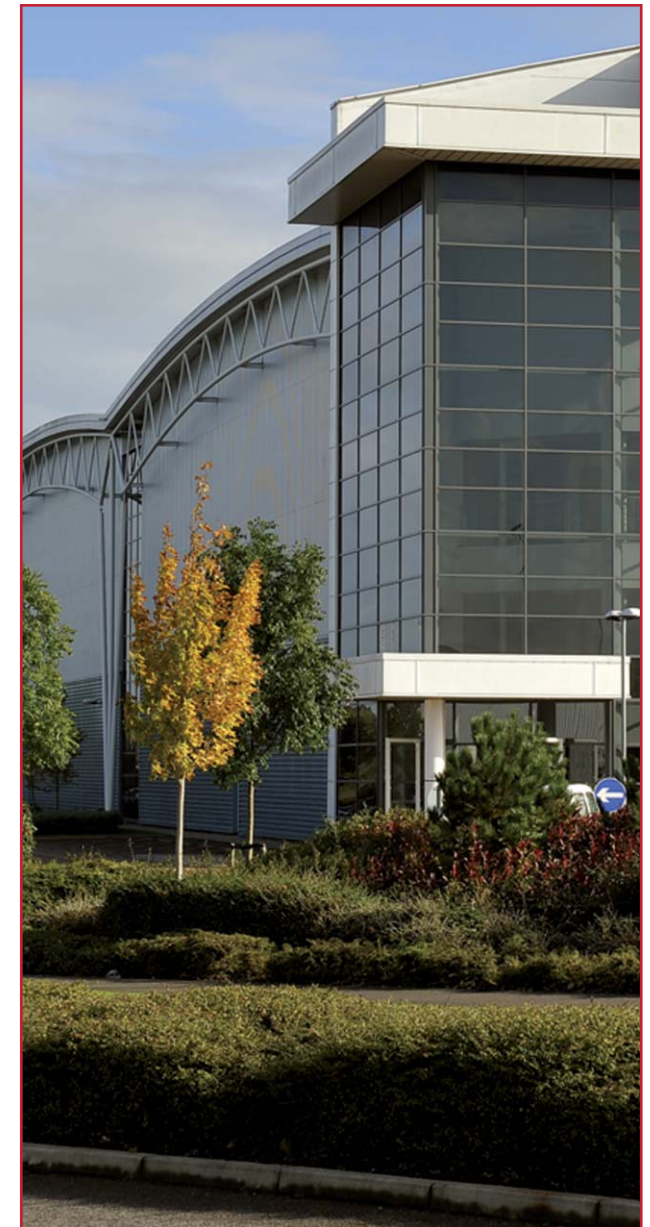
Garden Village

- 4.14** The draft Strategic Growth Plan identifies potential capacity in Leicester and Leicestershire to deliver development at a new settlement scale (ie 1500+ dwellings) in one single location. Development at a garden village scale will be influenced by the Garden City Principles. Holistically planned, any new settlement will need to be self sustaining with a mix of uses (affordable housing, community uses, employment) while enhancing the natural environment.

Unlocking the growth potential

- 4.15** We realise that the idea of future development can cause worry and concern within communities that might be potentially affected by development, particularly large scale development. As we have explained, the directions for growth included in this consultation are as a result of our work with stakeholders, partners and communities.
- 4.16** The options above and in chapter 7 at this stage do not represent our preferred options. Before any final decision is reached on which option(s) to adopt, there will be a number of

opportunities for further consultation and direct engagement with communities and partners as set out in paragraph 2.4.



Logix Park, Burbage

PART B

The Big Strategic Issues

5. HOW TO USE THIS SECTION OF THE DOCUMENT

5.1 Part B of this document is structured differently from the previous Part A. The policy issues being considered at this stage are set out under a series of themed headings, which is preceded by chapters detailing a new vision, objectives and an overarching spatial strategy (Figure 2 below).

5.2 At the start of each themed section, where relevant, the current position is described and the issues under consideration are detailed. Set out within a shaded box is a potential policy position on which we would welcome views. Stakeholders are then invited to provide their comments and

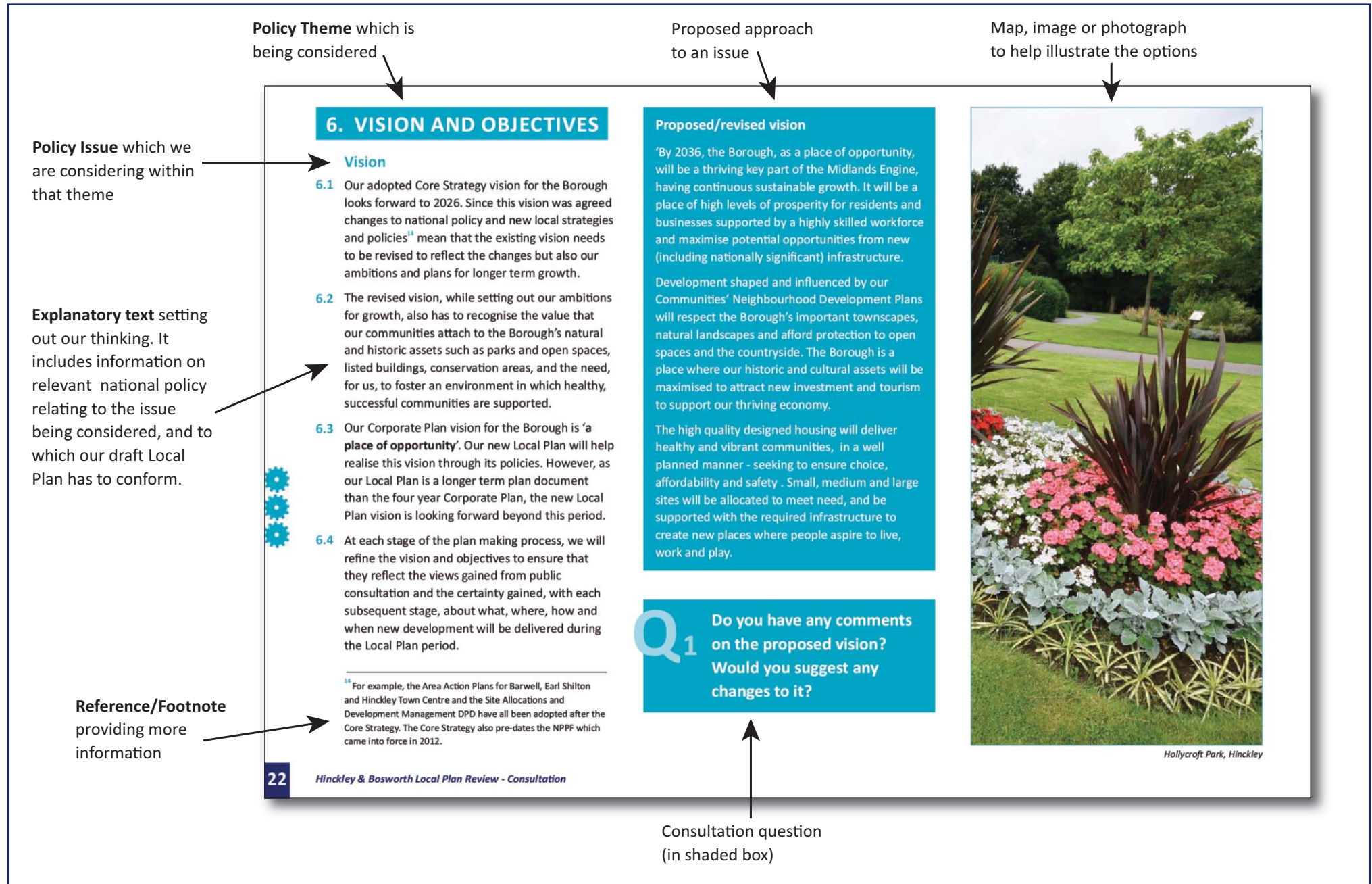
suggest additional policy issues that may be required to cover specific policy issues (Figure 3 on following page).

5.3 In order to keep this section of the document succinct and spatial, the draft Local Plan does not seek to reiterate national policy, where it provides sufficient policy detail.

Fig 2: Themes for consideration

6 VISION AND OBJECTIVES	8 ISSUES	TOURISM	P43
P22	P35	INFRASTRUCTURE	P44
Vision	EXISTING CORE STRATEGY POLICIES	Infrastructure type	P45
Objectives	Core Strategy 2009 Policies	Transport infrastructure	P45
	Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan Policies	Other infrastructure	
	Barwell & Earl Shilton Area Action Plan Policies	Infrastructure Delivery Plan	
	Site Allocations & Development Management DPD	ENVIRONMENT	P46
7 OVERARCHING SPATIAL STRATEGY	COMMUNITIES AND PLACES	Countryside and Green Wedges	
P24	P36	Air quality and Carbon emissions	
Arrive at a future development pattern	HOUSING	Flood risk and watercourses	P47
Options for spatial strategy distribution	P37	Ecology and Biodiversity	
Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution	Overall housing need	DESIGN QUALITY	P47
Option 2: Core Strategy Approach	Other Strategic Housing Matters	Design's role in creating a sense of place	
Option 3: Key Transport and Accessibility corridors	P38	Key corridors and gateways	P48
Option 4: Garden Village /New town	Custom and self-build	Public realm	
Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centre	Ageing populations	Residential standards	
Option 6: A mix of the above options	Affordable housing	HEALTHY LIVES AND PLACES	P48
	Gypsy and Travellers	Health and wellbeing	
	P39	Leisure and Open Spaces	P49
	Call for sites	9 GLOSSARY	P50
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
	Employment and Industrial functions		
	Open workspaces		
	Retail, Commercial and Leisure Development		

Fig 3 - Illustrative page showing layout for following section



6. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

- 6.1** Our adopted Core Strategy vision for the Borough looks forward to 2026. Since this vision was agreed changes to national policy and new local strategies and policies¹⁴ mean that the existing vision needs to be revised to reflect the changes but also our ambitions and plans for longer term growth.
- 6.2** The revised vision, while setting out our ambitions for growth, also has to recognise the value that our communities attach to the Borough's natural and historic assets such as parks and open spaces, listed buildings, conservation areas, and the need, for us, to foster an environment in which healthy, successful communities are supported.
- 6.3** Our Corporate Plan vision for the Borough is 'a **place of opportunity**'. Our new Local Plan will help realise this vision through its policies. However, as our Local Plan is a longer term plan document than the four year Corporate Plan, the new Local Plan vision is looking forward beyond this period.
- 6.4** At each stage of the plan making process, we will refine the vision and objectives to ensure that they reflect the views gained from public consultation and the certainty gained, with each subsequent stage, about what, where, how and when new development will be delivered during the Local Plan period.

¹⁴ For example, the Area Action Plans for Barwell, Earl Shilton and Hinckley Town Centre and the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD have all been adopted after the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy also pre-dates the NPPF which came into force in 2012.

Proposed/ revised vision

'By 2036, the Borough, as a place of opportunity, will be a thriving key part of the Midlands Engine, having continuous sustainable growth. It will be a place of high levels of prosperity for residents and businesses supported by a highly skilled workforce and maximise potential opportunities from new (including nationally significant) infrastructure.

Development shaped and influenced by our Communities' Neighbourhood Development Plans will respect the Borough's important townscapes, natural landscapes and afford protection to open spaces and the countryside. The Borough is a place where our historic and cultural assets will be maximised to attract new investment and tourism to support our thriving economy.

The high quality designed housing will deliver healthy and vibrant communities, in a well planned manner - seeking to ensure choice, affordability and safety . Small, medium and large sites will be allocated to meet need, and be supported with the required infrastructure to create new places where people aspire to live, work and play.

Q1 Do you have any comments on the proposed vision? Would you suggest any changes to it?



Hollycroft Park, Hinckley

Objectives

6.5 The Core Strategy spatial objectives will also need to be updated to reflect the revised vision for the borough that is ultimately agreed upon. The objectives will set out in greater detail the issues to be addressed and the council's priorities, to give an indication of how we may help achieve the vision.

We suggest the objectives in the table shown to the right.

Issue	Objective
Development / Land supply	To allocate suitable, available and well located land to meet all identified development (incl. affordable housing) needs and maintaining a balance between housing and employment.
Economic Growth/ resilience	To ensure that suitable buildings, sites and high quality infrastructure are provided to support strong economic growth and a varied local economy. These should provide flexibility and be able to adapt to changing economic needs.
Positive planning	A positive and proactive approach will be taken to development proposals which accord with the policies of this Local Plan.
Protect / Enhance existing assets	To protect, maintain or enhance those elements of the built and natural environment of local or historic value and mitigate for climate change.
Achieving high quality design	To ensure that new development is designed to a high quality standard. High quality design will help meet the borough's current and future needs and, make a positive contribution to maintaining and enhancing local character, distinctiveness and an attractive environment. Through quality design, minimising crime and the fear of crime will also be sought.
Town and Village Centres	To plan for the continued regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre to accommodate a range of uses to support and expand its role as the borough's main retail, leisure and cultural centre. To support and develop the vitality and viability of all other identified retail centres within the borough.
Communities & Places	To support and create strong, healthy and self-reliant communities (urban and rural) where the identities of existing settlements are respected. Communities have access to the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services they need in their places, which in turn help them to thrive, grow sustainably and improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all.
Transport	To promote a sustainable transport system which enables reliable access to services and facilities, by a choice of transport modes, and mitigates the impacts of new development on the highway network.
Tourism	Seek to support sustainable tourism and leisure developments within the borough, which respect the landscape and the local surroundings, support local communities and their economies.
Infrastructure	To ensure that the future infrastructure needs of the borough's new and existing communities are properly assessed, planned for and delivered at the right time in the development process.

Q₂ Do you agree with these objectives? If not, what changes would you suggest?

Q₃ What additional objectives do you consider will be needed to deliver the Vision?



7. OVERARCHING SPATIAL STRATEGY

- 7.1** In identifying future development needs and growth potential a key aim for the draft Local Plan is to establish the broad principles for the distribution and location of new development. Although evidence of the level of need to be accommodated is still being finalised, we are seeking your views on a number of potential options to consider once development needs are more certain.
- 7.2** The Borough is under pressure for development and its population is growing. However, much of the undeveloped land in the borough is subject to a variety of constraints, as is shown in the Constraints Map (Map 2 - page 15).
- 7.3** In determining our future development pattern for growth (mainly for options not considered as part of the draft Strategic Growth Plan), we need to have regard to the locational principles in national policy and guidance. These include encouraging the effective use of previously developed land, prioritising land of lesser environmental value, focussing development in sustainable locations and promoting the vitality of main urban areas. Government policy also supports new settlements, where the scale of development would make it sustainable and viable. We also need to take account of all available evidence as well as the draft Strategic Growth Plan. The result of this evidence gathering work will help formulate our final strategy and policy position.

Arriving at a future development pattern

- 7.4** We need to consider all potentially deliverable and developable sites across the borough when considering ways to meet our housing need. This must be done without regard to policy constraints unless they are unsurmountable. An assessment of each site's suitability, achievability and availability for various uses must be made. The resultant development capacity is provided through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability (SHELAA).
- 7.5** Once the locations and capacity of sites compared with overall growth needs, constraints and infrastructure is established, possible options for the distribution of new development can be identified. Considering how best to distribute development around the borough, which towns

and villages should grow, and by how much, which should stay mainly as they are and where major new employment is to be provided, is a sensitive topic and will impact on the future of new and existing local communities.

- 7.6** Our current development strategy is to broadly direct development to locations where services and jobs are most accessible. This concentrates development in larger settlements (eg Sustainable Urban Extensions of Earl Shilton & Barwell, Hinckley West) and limits development in less sustainable countryside locations. The draft Local Plan provides an opportunity to review our current approach, look at the SHELAA outputs and within the limits of national policy consider possible alternatives.



Aerial view of Hinckley and surrounding area





Burbage Horsepool

Options for spatial strategy distribution

7.7 For this stage of the plan preparation process we have identified a number of spatial options. While these options are not fully developed and further work (including giving our communities opportunities to state their preference for where growth should occur) is needed at this stage we consider these to be realistic and meaningful possibilities on which to consult publicly.

Option 1: Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution

7.8 The Localism Act 2011 introduced powers for Parish Councils to have a greater role in planning. We firmly believe in supporting our local communities to develop Neighbourhood Development Plans in order to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in their neighbourhood. We consider that local people and communities are best placed to decide where and how much development (housing, employment etc) is acceptable in their

area. Although we have a clear ambition for all our Parishes to work towards adopting Neighbourhood Plans, not all our Parishes are preparing Neighbourhood Developments Plans.

7.9 We are considering a policy position in which the distribution pattern for new development is determined by Parish Councils and the Borough Council. Under this option, for the Local Plan period, Local Parishes will be expected to put forward an annual figure for the number of new homes, employment and other land uses that they will bring forward through their Neighbourhood Development Plans. The cumulative figure will then be offset against our Borough's Objectively Assessed Housing Need to establish a residual figure. The Local Plan will distribute, through its spatial strategy, the residual housing, employment and other land uses. In some areas, this will be in addition to what is included in a Neighbourhood Plan.

7.10 The opportunities and challenges associated with this option are included in the table below:

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Greater role for neighbourhoods to shape new development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small scale development most likely to not deliver strategic infrastructure ■ Not all parishes have a Development Plan adopted or are choosing to prepare one, therefore not all Parishes are able to determine future development ■ May require adjustment to the Green Wedge boundary for developments beyond the urban area



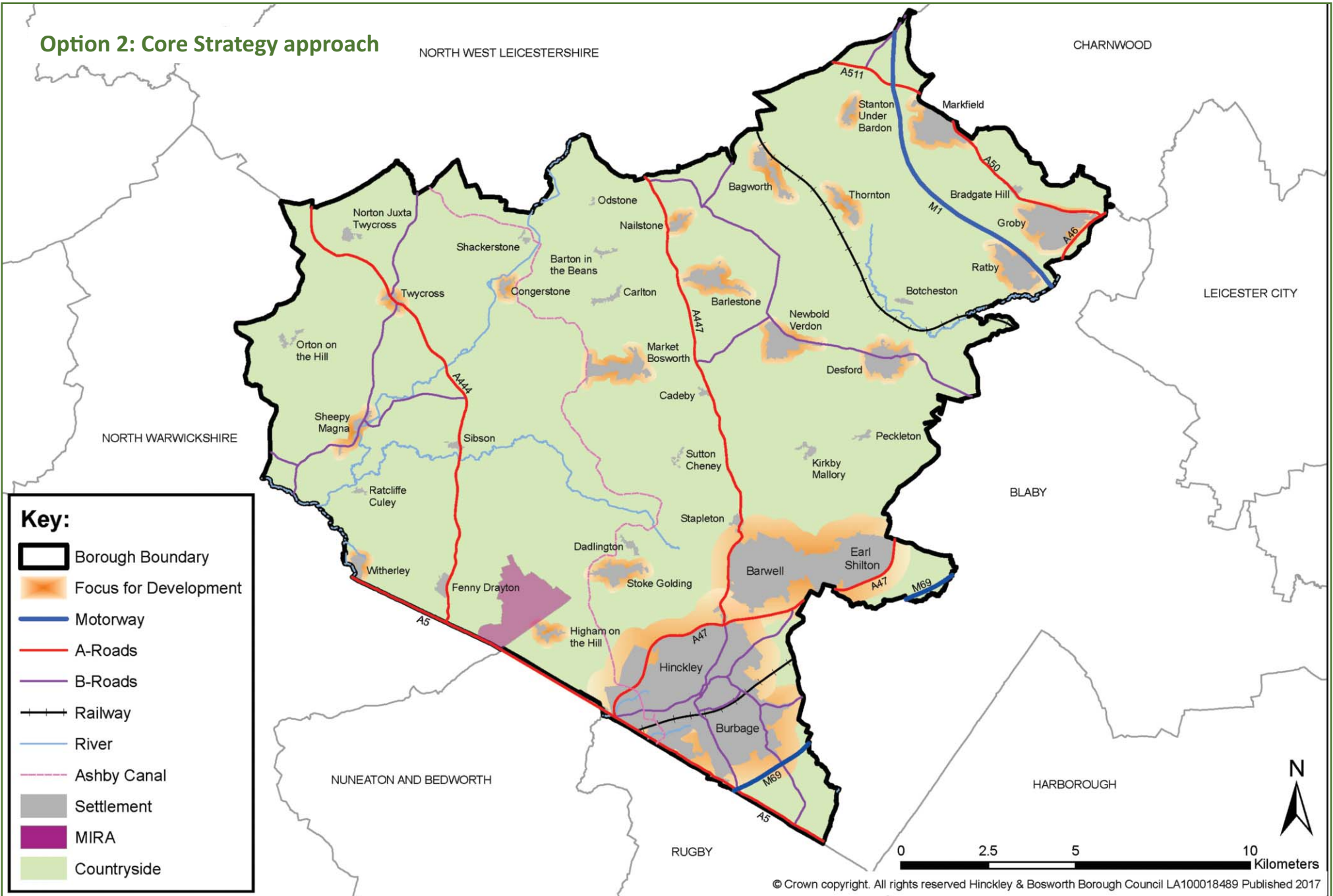


Option 2: Core Strategy approach

- 7.11** Option 2 is the existing Core Strategy approach. Until our new Local Plan is adopted, development will be directed in accordance with the Core Strategy; our new Local Plan could continue with this approach. The map opposite illustrates this option.
- 7.12** Some of the opportunities and challenges presented through this option are set out in the table below.

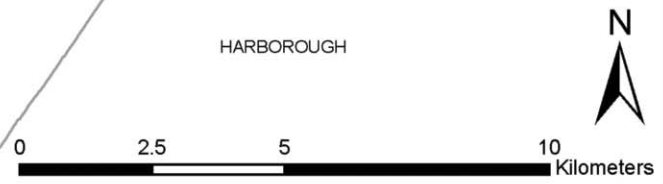
Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Spreads development and its impact over a greater number of settlements/areas ■ Urban areas are the principal locations for employment, education, services and facilities ■ Approach tested at Examination ■ Might sustain some services at local level in smaller settlements ■ Regeneration focus (brownfield sites, SUEs etc) so environmentally sustainable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recovering housing market favours Greenfield sites and attractive locations. Will not necessarily support certain regeneration locations and sites: without a mix of different housing sites, it is unlikely that housing delivery will be maximised ■ Delivery of Barwell and Earl Shilton urban extensions has taken longer than scheduled ■ Might not meet the level of need (especially housing) ■ Harder to secure infrastructure ■ Some development might be directed to smaller settlements with limited services (ie not sustainable development) ■ Risk of urban sprawl and joining up of settlements ■ May require adjustment to the Green Wedge boundary for developments beyond the urban area

Option 2: Core Strategy approach



Key:

- Borough Boundary
- Focus for Development
- Motorway
- A-Roads
- B-Roads
- Railway
- River
- Ashby Canal
- Settlement
- MIRA
- Countryside



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Clickers Way, Earl Shilton

Option 3: Key Transport and Accessibility Corridors

- 7.13** Work, as part of the draft Strategic Growth Plan, identifies locations across Leicestershire for future growth. Under this option, growth would be focussed around key (national/regional) transport corridors (in our Borough these are the M69, A5). We could, through the Local Plan Review extend this to include the other key roads in the Borough as show in the map opposite (ie the A444, A47).
- 7.14** Some of the opportunities and challenges presented through this option are set out in the table below.

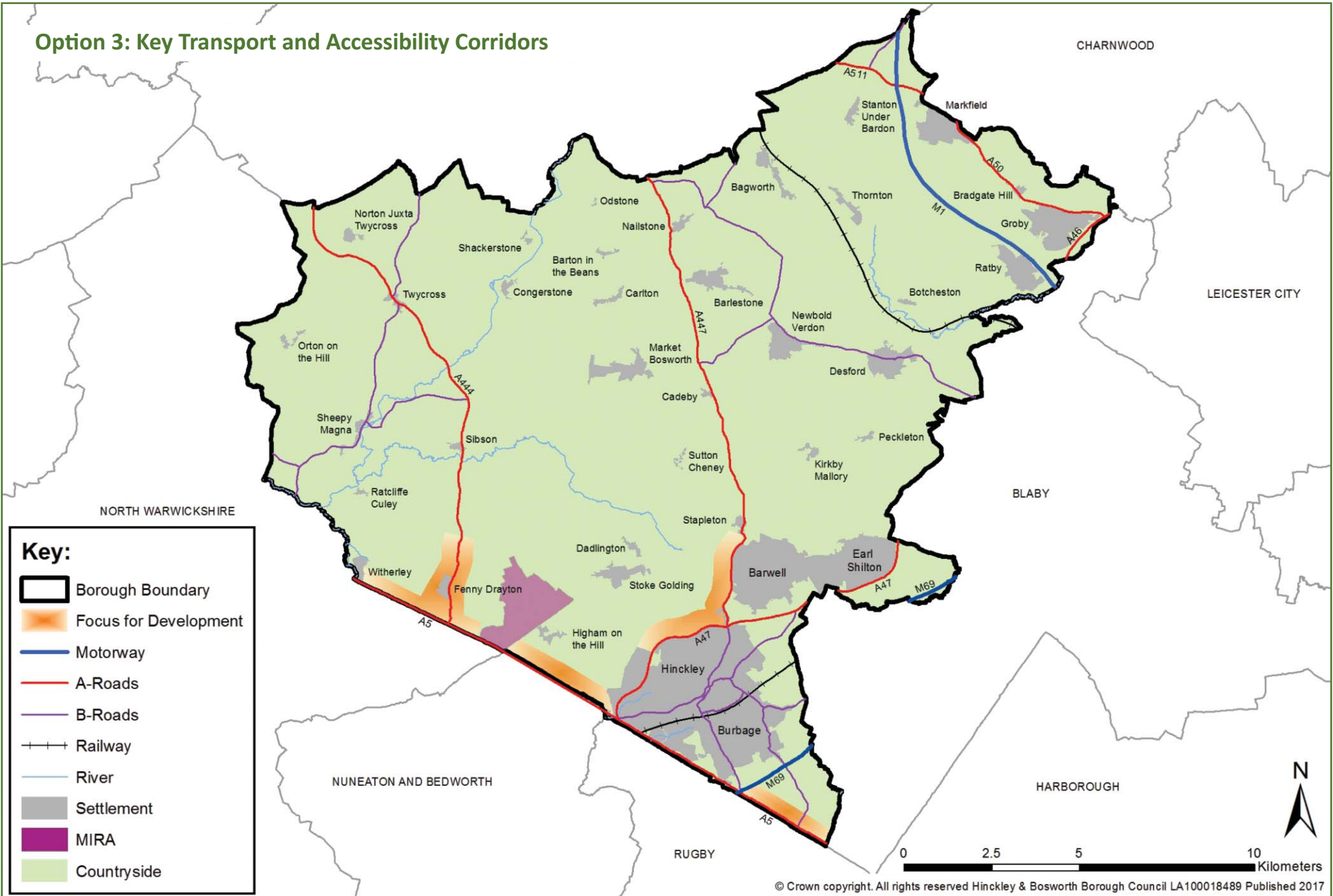


Battlefield Railway Line

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Would provide housing in areas where the market for housing is strongest; and provision of affordable housing the greatest ■ Provides a greater number of opportunities for economic investment associated with major infrastructure corridors that are attractive to the market (eg. A5) ■ Can facilitate the extension/expansion of public transport if the quantum of development is sufficient ■ Potential to increase the services from Hinckley train station as part of the wider rail network improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Limited scope adjacent to locations in the urban area ■ May require adjustment to the Green Wedge boundary for developments beyond the urban area ■ May overlook potential sites in other parts of the borough and may not address local issues in those locations ■ Capacity of public transport to accommodate growth in rural locations



Option 3: Key Transport and Accessibility Corridors



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Dragon Lane, Newbold Verdon

Option 4: Garden Village / New Town

- 7.15** Governments have in recent years expressed a desire to see a new round of New Towns or Garden villages to address the country’s chronic housing shortage and to improve the quality of new urban/suburban environments.
- 7.16** Under this option a new village gives us an opportunity to holistically plan and bring at least 1500 new homes to an area of the borough. Inspired by the original garden city principles¹⁵, a new villages’ features will include a new community with a strong character, design, landscaping and open spaces that bring the very best of town and country living to deliver a vibrant new place.
- 7.17** Alongside the new homes, the new village will need community facilities, including a primary school, shops, public house, playing fields, community buildings, doctors and dentists, as well as an integrated transport infrastructure.



- 7.18** At this stage, we have not identified any particular locations in the borough, however, the draft Strategic Growth Plan does intend for Local Plan decisions to be made in line with the strategy it sets out – close to important employment centres and along transportation corridors.

¹⁵ <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/garden-city-principles>

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potential to provide a vibrant mixed use new settlement in line with garden village principles ■ Potential to significantly boost the supply of housing ■ Reduces the pressure on smaller villages/ rural areas ■ Infrastructure led development so planned in from the beginning of the development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Delivery would be towards the end of the Local Plan period ■ Will mean less support for local services in the more rural parts of the Borough ■ Likely to involve the development of large areas of countryside with impacts on biodiversity and landscape ■ May require adjustment to the Green Wedge boundary for developments beyond the urban area





Groby

Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centres

- 7.19** Under this option new residential development would be broadly distributed amongst the key rural centres¹⁶ on a pro-rata basis in addition to other sustainable locations eg urban areas. For example, if a village's population is the equivalent to 5% of the Borough's total population, the village would receive 5% of the total new development. All the key rural centres are likely to receive some development in an equitable manner.
- 7.20** The map on the following page illustrates which key rural centres would take the development under this option, while the table below contains some of the opportunities and challenges associated with this option.

¹⁶ Key rural centres are Markfield, Groby, Ratby, Barlestone, Desford, Newbold Verdon, Bagworth & Thorton, Market Bosworth and Stoke Golding

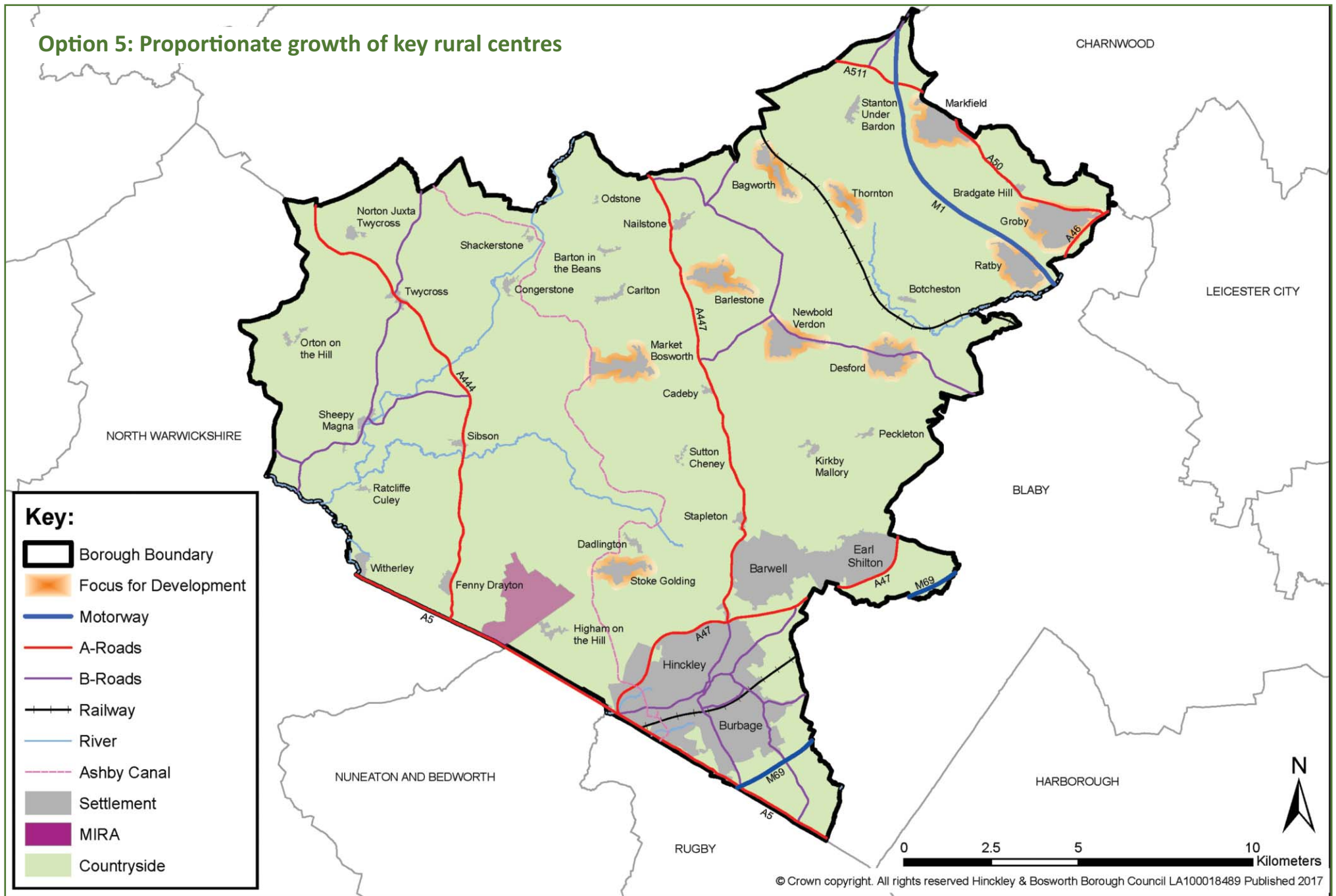


Market Bosworth

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Development in these locations would minimise the amount of new development allocated to smaller rural villages and isolated locations ■ Could protect rural landscape and character ■ New development can benefit rural areas though providing housing, new employment opportunities and maintaining services and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some settlements with very limited services would receive some growth, with residents then having to commute to access services ■ Would require a comprehensive review of settlement boundaries for the villages ■ May require adjustment to the Green Wedge boundary for developments beyond the urban area ■ Potential greater loss of countryside relative to other options ■ Dispersal of development will not maximise direct regeneration of poorer urban areas, although could generate indirect regeneration benefits through greater development on higher value locations

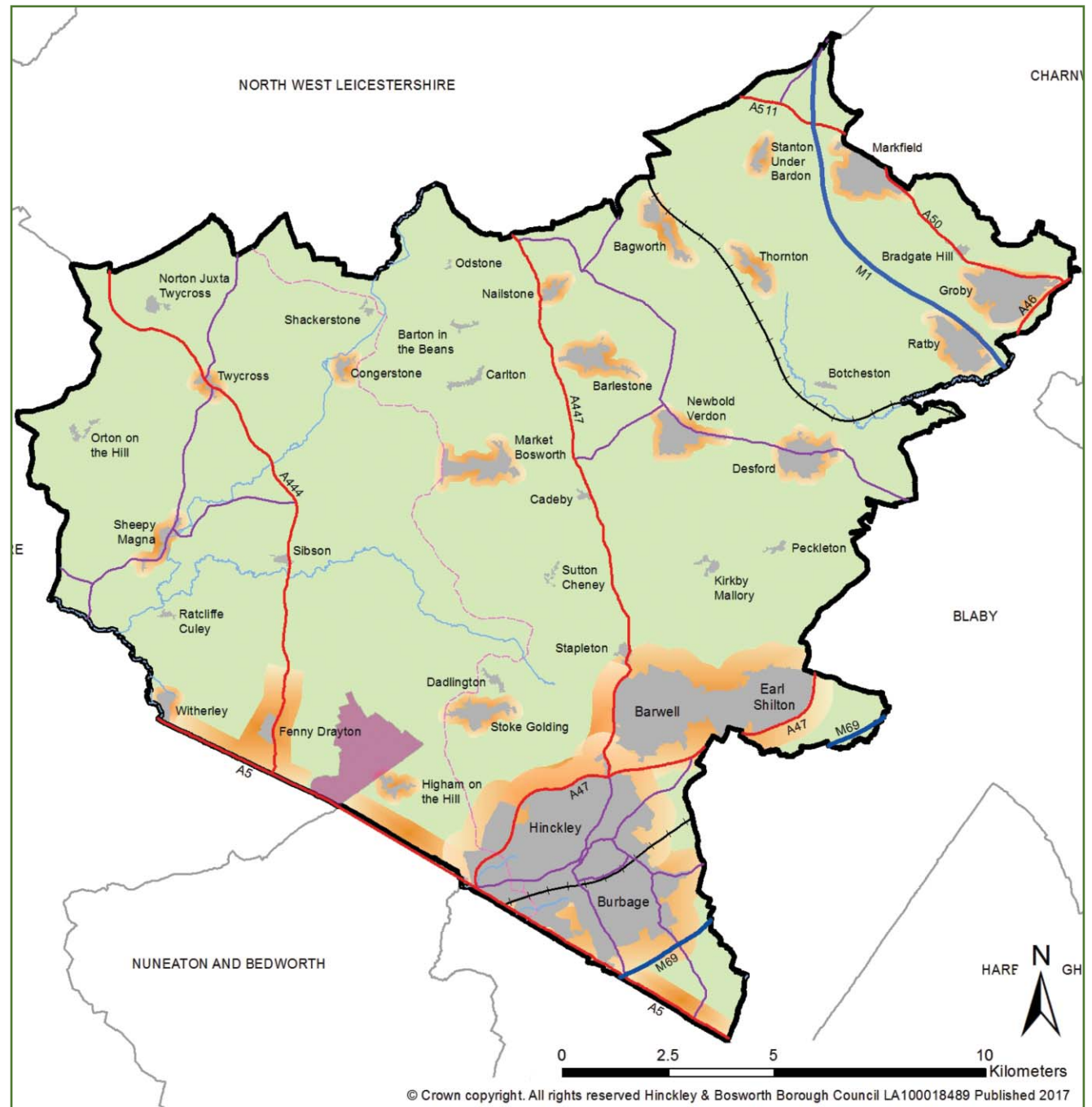
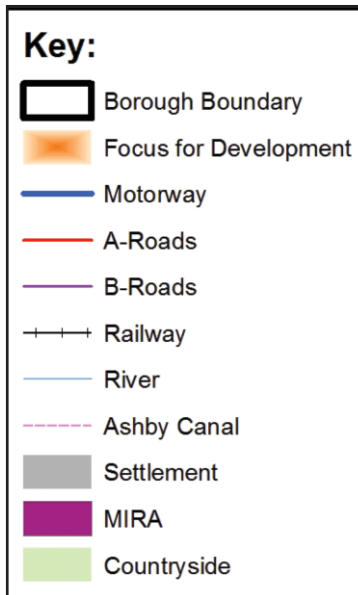


Option 5: Proportionate growth of key rural centres



Option 6: A mix of the above options

7.21 Options 1-5 should not be considered in strict **either/or** terms; it may be that the preferred option uses elements of two or more of the above options. The map here illustrates where development would take place under this option.



Questions for spatial strategy

Please rank Options 1-6 for the spatial distribution of development in order of preference (1 being most preferred, and 6 being least preferred):

Option	Order of preference (1-6)
1. Neighbourhood Development Plan led spatial distribution	
2. Core Strategy approach	
3. Key Transport and Accessibility corridors	
4. Garden Village / new settlement	
5. Proportionate growth of key centres	
6. A mix of the above options	

please find these questions in the attached questionnaire

Q4

Do you have alternative options to those identified above that you think we should consider?

Q5

Do you think we have identified all the challenges and opportunities presented by each of the spatial distribution options? Please reference the Option(s) number in your answer.



Local Plan Review workshop 2017



8. THE ISSUES

- 8.1** In this section under a series of themed headings, we set out the issues and outline the choices that we think should be considered at this stage. The issues within these themes will help shape what development is delivered and how to manage it in order to achieve our vision as well as respond to future policy changes.
- 8.2** The themes covered in this section include:
- Existing Core Strategy Policies
 - Communities and Places (including heritage)
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Tourism
 - Infrastructure (including transport)
 - Environment
 - Design quality
 - Healthy Lives and Places

EXISTING CORE STRATEGY POLICIES

Core Strategy policies

- 8.3** Appendix 3, takes the existing Core Strategy (2009) policies as a starting point to identify which policies need to be replaced; which need only minor amendments; and which can be simply rolled forward in their existing form.
- 8.4** The strategic policies will steer and shape future development in the borough and will seek to both promote new development (for example, new homes, shops, jobs, leisure and recreation)

and protect land from inappropriate development. The policies may specify sites where residential, industrial or retail development should go, or where land should be safeguarded for new cycle paths or open space amenities etc.

Area Action Plans

- 8.5** Since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2009, we have adopted Area Action Plans (AAP) to provide additional policies to guide development decisions for Hinckley Town Centre (2011) and a separate AAP for Barwell and Earl Shilton (2014).

Site Allocations and Development Management DPD

- 8.6** The Site Allocations and Development Management DPD policies provide more specific policies to help guide decisions on planning applications. We adopted this in 2016. As this is recently adopted, the policies within it have been assessed as being fit for purpose and only some require minor (technical) changes to provide greater clarity.

Q6 Do you agree with our assessments for each of the policies? If not, which assessment do you disagree with and why?



Consultation workshop on Evidence Base Study 2017



COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

- 8.7** Our borough's total resident population is estimated to be approximately 110,000. Just under half of this population live in the urban area in the south-east of the borough, while approximately a further quarter live in the north-east in a number of key settlements. The remainder of our residents live in smaller villages and hamlets spread across the rest of the borough.
- 8.8** National policy encourages local planning authorities to allocate sites for development and set clear policies for expected land use and planning principles for development. It also requires Local Plans to include policies that establish a strong sense of place, using design and buildings to create attractive places to live, work and enjoy.
- 8.9** To ensure that new development delivers a strong sense of place, one objective of our draft Local Plan is to ensure that residential neighbourhoods retain a distinct sense of place. The urban areas have already absorbed much of the growth - two major urban extensions are allocated (Barwell and Earl Shilton SUEs) in the current plan. Key rural settlements have experienced growth to help meet their own local needs as well as contribute to the overall borough's housing need, while smaller settlements and hamlets have seen limited growth.
- 8.10** The extent of 'organic' growth that has taken place in many neighbourhoods means that the scope for intensification is likely to be limited and is only likely to work if planned in a more comprehensive manner. Where development or redevelopment does take place, it will be important that it does so in a way which enhances the sense of place.

- 8.11** Our rich heritage is a major strength for the character and identity of our borough, its economy; for attracting inward investment and the quality of the street scene plays a central role in the appearance of an area. Design innovation will enable new development to respect and enhance this heritage and the street scene, especially of areas which are of local or historical value – be they elements of the built or natural environment.¹⁷
- 8.12** The identities of some settlements (eg Market Bosworth) and neighbourhoods are partly derived by the existence of Conservation Areas, historic buildings, parks, open spaces or local landmarks. New development should ensure that these elements act as reference points for high quality and locally-distinctive design as well as inspire and celebrate contemporary architecture (where appropriate) for the future prosperity of our borough.
- 8.13** A defining feature of any neighbourhood or settlement is the local facilities it provides for its community. Providing facilities close to home reduces the need to travel by private car and creates desirable and more inclusive places to live. One aim of the draft Local Plan is to support the vitality and viability of local centres so that they function for their population.
- 8.14** Health and wellbeing is one of the most important objectives of the draft Local Plan. Planning can play a significant role in improving the health and wellbeing of all residents and reduce inequalities through providing opportunities for residents to live positive, healthy, active and independent lives.

- 8.15** By having robust and well thought policies, places and neighbourhoods can be made as adaptable as possible, so that people can live their whole life within their community supported by the required services and community infrastructure.

¹⁷ A new Heritage Strategy has been adopted by the Council in December 2017.

Q7 How should we ensure that communities and places gain maximum benefit from development while respecting the heritage and distinctiveness of the places?



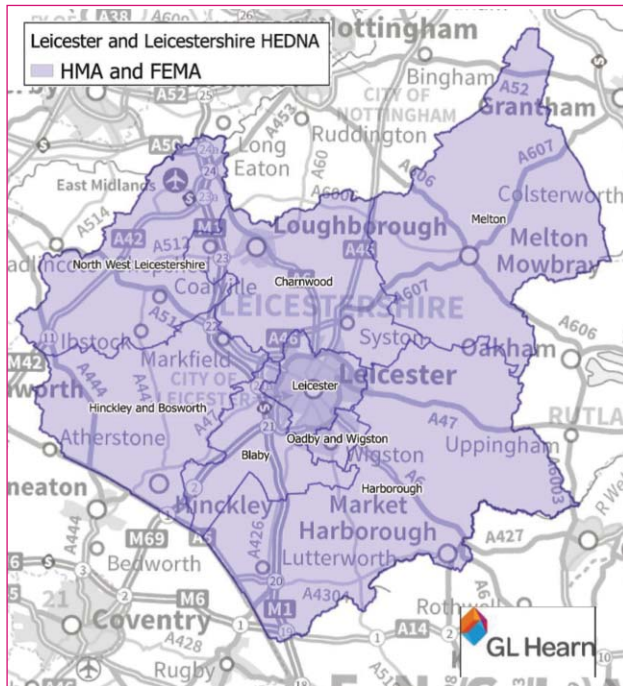
Rural Conference 2017



HOUSING

Overall housing need

- 8.16** National Policy requires the council to objectively assess the needs for market and affordable housing, identify key sites critical to the delivery of its housing strategy, and demonstrate expected rates of housing delivery.
- 8.17** The Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2017) (HEDNA) identifies Leicester and Leicestershire as the relevant Housing Market Area (HMA) and Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) for our Borough.



- 8.18** The HEDNA provides an assessment of the future housing needs for this wider area and informs our draft Local Plan. While the HEDNA does not account for constraints such as environmental designations, infrastructure, viability, land availability or our potential to accommodate unmet need from other HMA authorities, it does assess the housing needs of specific groups such as older and younger people, affordable housing and the mix of housing.
- 8.19** The HEDNA provides an objectively assessed housing need for our Borough of a minimum 454 dwellings per year between 2011-2036. This figure is the identified housing need figure rather than the final housing requirement figure to be included in our submission version Local Plan.
- 8.20** For comparative purposes, the Core Strategy identified an annual housing requirement figure of 450 dwellings.¹⁸
- 8.21** We are also required, under the ‘duty to cooperate’¹⁹ to consider whether we can help take some of Leicester City’s unmet housing need.²⁰ However, at this early stage it is not possible to state what this unmet housing need figure will be, but it does mean that the figure of 454 dwellings per year could go up, and should only be considered as an indication of the housing figure at this time.

¹⁸ See Table 1 on Page 22 of Core Strategy, identified the ‘number of houses to be provided 2006-2026’ as 9000. This is over a 20 year period, and would equate to a 450 dwellings per annum.

¹⁹ See Glossary

²⁰ This will also apply to other HMA authorities where, through future reviews/evidence of local plans unmet need is identified.

Suggested policy approach

We consider that 454 new dwellings per annum is **the minimum number of homes we need to find sites for** through the draft Local Plan. We need to allow some flexibility for non-delivery of sites and further work needs to be completed as part of the Local Plan preparation process before a housing target can be included and appropriate sites are identified.

Q8

Do you believe that it is appropriate to plan for the minimum number of homes identified above? If not, why not and what do you consider should be the figure we plan to meet?



Mythe Barn, Pinwall

Other strategic housing matters

8.22 Government is seeking to encourage through planning policy certain types of housing. This includes, housing for older people, starter homes, and custom/self-build housing.

Custom and Self-build

8.23 The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 requires local planning authorities to keep a register of individuals and groups seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the area in order to build their own homes. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduces amendments to include the provision that local planning authorities ‘...must give suitable development permissions in response of enough serviced plots of land to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in the authority’s area’.

8.24 Currently, we keep a register of individuals wishing to build their own homes so we are able to incorporate the needs for such plots in to the Local Plan process. If there is demand for Self Build or Custom Build land, then through the Local Plan, we will look to allocate sufficient land to enable people to build their own homes.

An ageing population

8.25 National population projections forecast an ageing population, with an associated need for specialist housing. We will need to explore innovative options for encouraging or requiring developments to help meet the wide range of housing needs of older people from the active retired to those unable to care for themselves.

Affordable housing

8.26 In recent years, Government has made significant changes to affordable housing. This is also the case for our borough. We want to respond to issues of affordability, pressure for housing and the Government’s agenda to encourage more home ownership options, particularly for young people by taking a more pro-active approach.

8.27 Our evidence (HEDNA) suggests that we need to secure the maximum level of affordable housing that is viable and national policy seeks that identified housing needs, including affordable housing, should be met in full wherever possible. However, in the context where most affordable housing is provided in whole or part by cross subsidy from market housing and with the withdrawal of Government subsidy for affordable housing at social rent, it will be a challenge for us to meet this need, particularly when we consider that delivery under the existing Core Strategy has been lower than the identified need.

8.28 Under Core Strategy policy 15 we require housing sites to contribute towards meeting local needs for affordable housing at different levels. However National Planning Policy Practice Guidance²¹ states that affordable housing contributions should not be sought on sites of ten or fewer homes (subject to a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres). We will need to revisit our current policy position.

²¹ Paragraph 031 of NPPG



Newbold Verdon

Suggested policy approach

Allocate land (either specific sites or parts of larger allocations) for the following types of housing:

- Housing for older people
- An Affordable Housing requirement
- Custom and Self-build homes

Q₉

Do you agree with the suggested approach to other strategic housing matters above? If not, what alternative would you suggest?



Gypsy and Travellers

- 8.29** We conducted an assessment of the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople in the borough in 2016 to take account of the government's change to the definition. This assessment was for planning purposes as set out in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015). The Study identifies there was no additional pitch needs for travellers resident in the borough who meet the new definition but there was a minimum need of (1 pitch) for 'travelling' gypsy and traveller households that may meet the definition over the plan period.

Suggested policy approach

We consider that the findings of the 2016 study mean that existing provision for the needs of gypsies and travellers is sufficient.

Q10 Do you agree with our position on gypsies and travellers needs? If not why?

Call for sites

- 8.30** The council undertook a 'Call for Sites' in 2016. This gave landowners wishing to see their sites considered for development the opportunity to submit them to us for consideration. A large number of sites were submitted and the suitability of all the submitted sites is being considered through the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability process.
- 8.31** If you are aware of any site either Brownfield or Greenfield, in the urban area, countryside or rural settlements that may have development

potential or has special value that means it should be protected from certain types of development, please complete the 'Call for Sites' form which is available on our website alongside this consultation.

- 8.32** If you have previously submitted a site for consideration during previous 'Call for Sites' consultations or your site is in the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2016, then there is no need to resubmit your site unless you have additional information to provide

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 8.33** Economic development covers public and community uses, main town centre uses such as retail, leisure and entertainment as well as traditional office, industrial and storage uses. NPPF requires us to undertake objective assessments of the need for economic development for an appropriate geographical area. For business, industrial and storage uses,

this is often referred to as the functional economic market area (FEMA). For retail and leisure uses, catchment areas are used.

- 8.34** It is important to maximise the economic opportunities arising from the Midlands Engine Strategy and development across the wider Midlands area. While it is too early to assess the impact of each and every one on our borough's economy, the draft Local Plan will need to identify opportunities in order to capture this inward investment.
- 8.35** The draft Local Plan is an opportunity for us to set out clearly to developers and investors our ambition for the borough as a place for economic opportunities and a good place to do business. Making the most of our location within the Midlands strategic road network is part of this. We want our borough to be a place which attracts investment into highly skilled employment sectors (eg manufacturing, research & development in automotive etc.) and be a creative environment to support a strong local economy.



aerial view of MIRA and surrounding area

Employment and industrial functions

- 8.36** We are, through the NPPF, required to support sustainable economic growth to create jobs and prosperity, meet competition and a low carbon future and to plan proactively to meet the development needs of businesses, our communities and support a modern circular economy. Alongside this, the draft Strategic Growth Plan seeks to identify economic/employment opportunities across the FEMA with one aim being to prevent the loss of potential employment opportunities to areas outside our FEMA.
- 8.37** The HEDNA provides an assessment of the office and industrial property market in Leicester and Leicestershire. Additionally, we have commissioned an Employment Land and Premises Study, to support a greater understanding of qualitative and quantitative land needs for economic development within our borough. Tables 96, 98 and 99 in the HEDNA set out the land requirements for each of these need types.
- 8.38** A key issue for the draft Local Plan is to consider the extent to which we should seek to balance employment development (jobs) with housing development (labour force). We need to account for the FEMA and borough's location relative to other economic centres. We know that high levels of in or out commuting require greater capacity on the transport networks, which has to be planned for, if we are to encourage growth and investment in a sustainable manner.

Supporting business, skills and training

- 8.39** Ensuring our residents are given the best possible start in their working life and our borough attracts highly skilled-highly paid employment is dependent on having a highly skilled local labour force. Getting more people into sustained employment is central to the successful regeneration of our existing communities and sustaining new communities.
- 8.40** Providing support to help local people meet their full potential and have the skills that businesses need are priorities for us. Education and training provide the pathways to employment, which in turn make the borough attractive for inward investment.
- 8.41** We intend to play a more active role in implementing and coordinating initiatives to secure employment, training and apprenticeships through our own activities, through development proposals and partnerships with employment and skills providers, for example the Primary Engineer Programme or the Enterprise Advisor Network.
- 8.42** In addition to the HEDNA, an Employment Land and Premises Study (ELPS) is being prepared for our borough to identify local strategic employment needs for employment land and how the borough's employment land portfolio functions within the Leicestershire and Warwickshire sub-regions.²²

²² The borough shares a boundary with a number of Warwickshire authorities.

Q11 Do you agree that we should be making the most of our location and assets to attract particular employment sectors to gain the maximum amount of investment into the Borough?

Q12 Do you agree that we should seek employment and training skills and apprenticeships from new development?



MIRA



Map 6: Strategic employment sites

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

CHARNWOOD

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE

LEICESTER CITY

BLABY

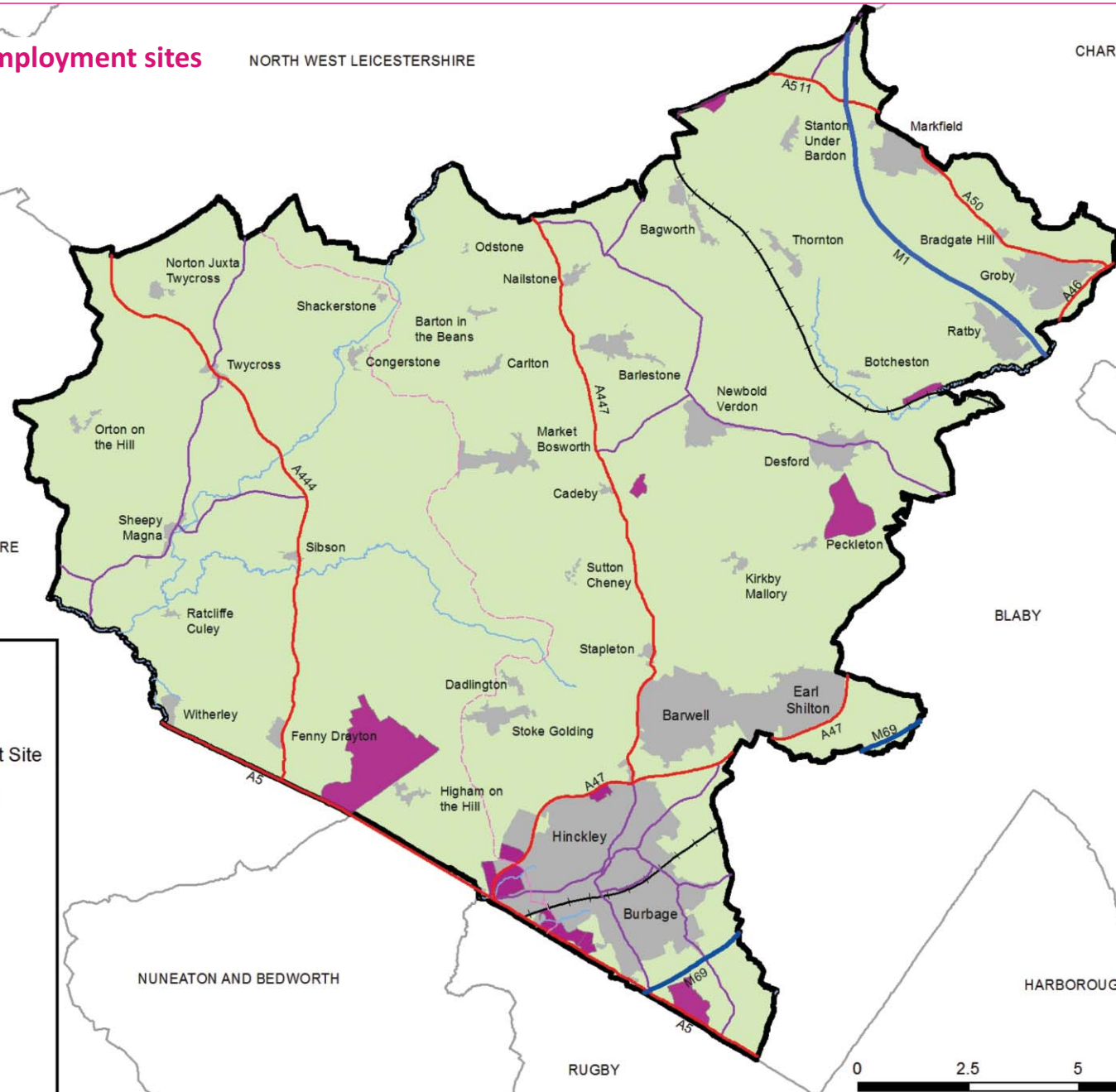
NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH

HARBOROUGH

RUGBY

Key:

-  Borough Boundary
-  Strategic Employment Site
(Existing & Potential)
-  Motorway
-  A-Roads
-  B-Roads
-  Railway
-  River
-  Ashby Canal
-  Settlement
-  Countryside



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Open Workspaces

- 8.43** Evidence from outside the borough suggests that much of the future innovation, enterprise and growth come from small and medium sized companies (SMEs), but that it is increasingly difficult for these companies to find premises at affordable rates. There is also evidence that industrial workspace developers tend to build speculative units that are aimed at large and medium sized businesses rather than at small and start-up businesses.
- 8.44** A key issue for our draft Local Plan will be to explore whether the lack of affordable workspaces is a barrier for economic growth and enable delivery of appropriate floorspace for these types of businesses. The management, design, flexibility and affordability of these spaces can present a challenge to traditional employment spaces and will need to be addressed by the Local Plan.



The Crescent, Hinckley

Retail, Commercial and Leisure development

- 8.45** The NPPF requires positive planning policies to promote competitive town centre environments and to set out policies for the management and growth of centres. Government reforms, have also introduced new Permitted Development Rights that allow considerable flexibility for the use of shops and other town centre premises for other defined purposes without the need for planning permission.
- 8.46** We have prepared a Town and District Centres Study to allow us to set a clear strategy for our network of town and district centres. The size and type of a retail, leisure or mixed-use proposal determines which level of centre will be the most appropriate location within which to locate that type of development.
- 8.47** Our borough has a hierarchy of town, district and local centres - the difference being the size of the centre and the range of shops and services

offered. At the top of this hierarchy is Hinckley, which serves as the main town centre. Earl Shilton, Barwell and Market Bosworth serve more local needs. Neighbourhood shopping parades serve day-to-day needs of people within existing residential areas. Leicester city (outside of the scope of our plan) serves a city centre function for wider Leicestershire.

- 8.48** The role, function and relative importance of our town and local centres will most likely change over time in response to changing consumer preferences (online shopping) and competition from places outside our borough (eg Fosse Park, Nuneaton and the city centres of Coventry, Leicester and Birmingham).

Q13 Should we include policies seeking affordable workspace as part of all new development?

Q14 Do you agree with the hierarchy of town and district centres as identified in the Town and District Centre Study?



TOURISM

8.49 Tourism is a very diverse and an important sector, particularly for the economies of our rural communities. It creates employment opportunities, brings investment into the borough and has a significant impact on the economy and character of our settlements. We are conscious of the need to protect the quality of the natural environment and will seek to do this through the draft Local Plan.

8.50 National planning policy supports building a strong and competitive economy, including the sustainable growth and expansion of businesses in urban and rural areas. It also encourages sustainable tourism which benefits businesses and protects the countryside.

8.51 The borough is already a very popular tourism destination due to our attractive environment, historic towns and villages, and nationally recognised historic sites. There are a number of important heritage assets, such as the Battle of Bosworth Battlefield and recreational features (eg Twycross Zoo) which attract visitors to the area.²³ A number of special events further enhance the tourism offer. Visitors to our borough include short stay holidaymakers, business visitors and the leisure day-trippers.

²³ Battle of Bosworth fields, National & Charnwood Forests, Twycross Zoo

²⁴ North Warwickshire and Hinckley & Bosworth Destination Management Plan 2017-2022

8.52 A Destination Management Plan has been prepared jointly with North Warwickshire Borough Council to capitalise on the opportunities for tourism growth over the next five years.²⁴ In particular it identifies potential growth in tourism, driven by:

- The planned development of Twycross Zoo
- The new Triumph Motorcycles Visitor Centre in Hinckley and the 'Project Thor' adventure attraction at the NEC
- The major plans for the development of The Belfry as a resort and the opportunities for sports tourism across the area
- The projected growth in population in and around the two Boroughs, which will increase demand for day visits, visits to friends and relatives, and business related to weddings and family occasions
- The strengthening national demand for short breaks, growing interest in weekend escapes to the country, and increasing desire to go somewhere different
- The development of MIRA Technology Park, and the significant boost that it will give to business demand
- The potential for the two Boroughs to capitalise on current tourist accommodation development trends.

8.53 However, there can be a downside to tourism arising from public authority costs, traffic, parking congestion, commercialisation of the historic environment and conflicts of use in the countryside. Our current approach in the Core Strategy is to encourage tourism while safeguarding our environment.

Q15 Should policies seek to protect, support and encourage tourism businesses, visitor accommodation and attractions?



Market Bosworth

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure type

8.54 Infrastructure is the facilities, services and installations needed to make development acceptable and sustainable, to support our communities and to enable our local economy to thrive. It includes:

- Transportation – roads, bus routes, rail networks, footpaths and cycling routes
- Education facilities - schools, adult learning centre and early years education
- Utilities - water supply, power grids, renewable energy, drains, sewers and treatment works
- Telecommunications - including broadband and mobile networks
- Community facilities – sports and leisure facilities, community centres, libraries places of worship
- Health care – hospitals, GPs, pharmacy and dental surgeries.
- Emergency services
- Waste – facilities for collection, recovery, recycling and disposal.
- Green spaces - playing fields, sports pitches and wildlife areas



8.55 Proposals for growth and development often raise concerns about the capacity of the existing infrastructure. It is important to have realistic expectations about what we can achieve via the planning system and prioritise what is necessary, both to facilitate new development and to sustain it in the longer term.

8.56 The type and scale of infrastructure needed will depend on the scale and pattern of development. Provision of basic on-site infrastructure, to enable development to take place and to meet on-site needs of future occupiers, is part of the normal development costs met by the developer. Where development is shown to have wider than site-specific impacts, we can seek additional contributions (in cash or kind) provided they meet the three national policy tests.²⁵

8.57 It is also important to be clear about what **we cannot do, which is to:**

- expect developers to fund solutions for existing infrastructure problems, (responsibility of infrastructure provider)
- seek provision of benefits and infrastructure over and above that necessary to make the impacts of the planned development ‘acceptable’ and the development sustainable on balance.

8.58 What impact is ‘acceptable’ is a planning judgement and it does not necessarily mean the outcome would be ‘better’ or ‘no worse’ than existing conditions. For example, Government policy says that ‘development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe’.²⁶

²⁵ The three tests are: 1) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, 2) directly related to the development 3) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

²⁶ NPPF paragraph 33



Transport infrastructure

- 8.59** There are a number of important strategic transport issues to consider for encouraging growth and bringing forward sustainable development. While the borough is in a good position when looking at the existing road transport infrastructure, especially the strategic road network, public transport is not as well placed and is predominantly confined to the urban areas. Hinckley railway station is the only station in the borough on a regional rail network.
- 8.60** As a district authority we have a limited role in delivering new infrastructure and work with other partners to ensure that it is delivered. The Department of Transport, Highways England and Leicestershire County Council continue to monitor the capacity of all transport provision in the borough.

- 8.61** Considering the strategic implications of transport improvement usually involves cross boundary working. For example, we are working through the A5 Partnership to explore the potential upgrading of the A5 to expressway standard, as well as facilitating local improvements. We will also look at what opportunities exist to improve the railway infrastructure. It is also important to recognise this strategic context and the influence of projects identified in the draft Strategic Growth Plan.

Other infrastructure

- 8.62** In locations where housing development is proposed local communities often express concern about a number of key pieces of infrastructure - health, education and utilities. Through the planning system we will work with developers and infrastructure providers to identify opportunities for providing the required infrastructure.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 8.63** An Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) will also be developed alongside the draft Local Plan. The IDP will include defined infrastructure projects required to make new development sustainable and be supported by robust evidence such as transport modelling, assessment of school capacity, and an assessment of open space, play and sports facilities. Parish Councils will also play a key role in developing the IDP through their Neighbourhood Development Plans.
- 8.64** In recognising that the infrastructure requirements will change over the Plan period, we will work with service/infrastructure providers, including Leicestershire County Council on transport, education and mineral resources, and neighbouring local authorities to identify and deliver the required infrastructure for proposed developments. We are, as part of the Local Plan making process, gathering further evidence on what new infrastructure will be needed and what priority should be accorded to each piece of infrastructure.



Groby

Q16a Do you agree that we should continue to work with all partners to ensure the infrastructure implications of new development are adequately understood?

Q16b What particular pressures on existing infrastructure do you consider that the Borough is experiencing?





Market Bosworth Park

ENVIRONMENT

- 8.65** The NPPF sets out a number of core principles for achieving sustainable development and states that Local Plans should plan positively for the creation, protection, and enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure, including ‘proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change’.
- 8.66** While our borough is predominantly rural, pressure on our natural environment is likely to continue from climate change, industry, agriculture, leisure and new development. Policies will, as now, need to carefully consider our historic environment and manage development in the countryside to balance these complex and potentially competing pressures to create a unique environment which provides a tangible link with the past and a positive sense of place.

Countryside and Green Wedges

- 8.67** Our countryside is an irreplaceable natural resource. It supports biodiversity and defines the landscape setting settlements. It provides an economic function, supporting the rural economy, agriculture and other local businesses. The countryside is an important place for leisure with Public Rights of Way and navigable watercourses. In addition, the countryside is also a location for rural living, with small hamlets and isolated dwellings.
- 8.68** Green Wedges are identified in the existing Core Strategy, with policies resisting any development. While NPPF does not contain a specific reference to Green Wedges, they reflect its core principles that local plans ‘should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment’. Green Wedges

are fundamental to preserving the form of the original landscape and the natural features that gave the area its particular character.

Suggested policy approach

Within Leicestershire and in our borough a Green Wedge is an important mechanism to prevent coalescence between our main population centres. We will, as is current policy seek to protect Green Wedges from development which is not in line with our stated policy.

Air quality and carbon emissions

- 8.69** However, by placing a greater emphasis on improving air quality, we will contribute towards improving health objectives and minimising carbon emissions from new development (to within government guidelines). This will be a part of our borough’s contribution towards national and local climate change policies.

Q17 Do you agree that we should seek to contribute towards national climate change aims? If not, why not and what are the risks involved?

Q18 Should we seek to strengthen the role of Green Wedges? If not why not?



Flood Risk and watercourses

- 8.70** There is already significant national and local guidance in place for flood risk (in the form of the NPPF and Environment Agency). There is also local guidance provided by the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority (LLFA)²⁷. A review of the current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) will be prepared to identify sources of flooding and take into account the impact of climate change.
- 8.71** Emerging findings from the SFRA suggest that our existing policy on flood risk will need to be updated, including on-site drainage (sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) for developments in the urban areas). The impact of all new development on watercourses is already assessed in terms of the impact on and contribution to ecology, landscape and environmental amenity.

Ecology and Biodiversity

- 8.72** Green infrastructure can be promoted via a number of policies – recreation space requirements, gardens, landscape, street trees/public realm quality etc. The design of new landscaping to create new habitats to support biodiversity is just as important as protecting existing biodiversity. While growth and intensification may mean some loss of existing green spaces and trees, the scope to mitigate for this should be achieved through developing appropriate Local Plan policies.

²⁷ Leicestershire County Council is the designated LLFA

Q 19

Do you agree with the suggested approach to addressing environmental issues? If not, what alternatives would you suggest?

DESIGN QUALITY

- 8.73** It is important that our Local Plan includes within its scope an overarching theme for good design. This can improve the viability of development, enhance the wellbeing of residents and workers, improve the image of the borough and attract visitors and investors.
- 8.74** The NPPF states that local planning authorities should:
- develop policies based on an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics; and
 - develop policies to provide guidance for establishing a strong sense of place, that respond to the local character and history, while not preventing or discouraging innovation.
- 8.75** Good design should not be negotiable and the council has led the way through a number of high profile recent developments. The importance that the Council attaches to good design is further reinforced by its partnership with OPUN (East Midlands), who are invited to provide commentary on the design of developments through mainly the planning application process.



North Warwickshire & Hinckley College

Design's role in creating a sense of place

- 8.76** Achieving high standards of design within areas which form part of the spatial options will be particularly important. A sense of place can either be reinforced or lost by a development through design. Where development is of a scale such that it results in the creation of new neighbourhoods, then design can give that neighbourhood its own distinctive identity. Although it will be important that new neighbourhoods relate to and are linked with adjoining areas, they may not always need to reflect their appearance.



8.77 A good design policy will also cover the natural environment. An area's attractiveness can be enhanced through well planned planting, open spaces, linkages and surfaces.

Key corridors and gateways

8.78 First impressions count and are very important. As a result main road corridors, gateways to the towns/villages and other entry points such as the railway station should be as (or be made) attractive as possible so as to enhance the image of our borough.

Public Realm

8.79 The quality of the urban realm will be particularly important in Hinckley town centre, other district and commercial centres, as well as in the smaller settlements. We consider that through the Hinckley Area Action Plan the standard for other developments to follow and surpass has been established.

Residential standards

8.80 Good design in residential development should address the living conditions for residents and neighbours. This is important for the health and wellbeing of people. Key considerations should include: access to garden/amenity space; day and sunlight, privacy, and if necessary, minimum space standards.

8.81 Government policy only allows councils to adopt nationally prescribed space standards if there is evidence that this is needed in the area. A blanket adoption of this policy can mean fewer homes are delivered and this can lead to 'standardised' house types.

8.84 While local authorities are, with the return of Public Health to the local government fold, in a better position to plan for and deliver public health functions through their local planning role, this is not without the funding and process change challenges facing healthcare nationally.

8.85 We are aware that the NHS is facing challenges, but we will work with our health partners to identify and improve the health of our residents lives through 'active design', so that new development proposals are delivered in a manner which encourages residents to walk, cycle and play. In addition, the draft Local Plan will have to consider the health impacts of traffic congestion and air quality.

Q21 Should we seek to introduce a minimum dwelling size policy and why? If not, why not?

Q22 Do you agree that we should develop specific Health policies? If so, why? And if not, why not?

HEALTHY LIVES AND PLACES

Health and wellbeing

8.82 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to secure accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing.

8.83 The borough's main consideration is the age profile of our residents. Current estimates show that over 23,000 of the borough's population is aged 65 years or over. With an increasing ageing population the draft Local plan will need to plan positively to meet any future requirements needed for older people. This includes providing appropriate accommodation as well as medical infrastructure to care for older people.

Q23 Should we develop a policy to require developers to deliver 'active design'?

Q20 Do you agree that we should develop design policies for all new development proposals (including policies to enhance public realm and gateway improvements)? If not why not?





Outdoor gym in the borough

Leisure and Open spaces

- 8.86** The Borough is well served by leisure provision with a good number of indoor and outdoor sport facilities affording residents a range of activities.
- 8.87** We have commissioned a Playing Pitch Strategy to undertake an audit of existing sports provision and highlight any deficiencies and identify likely future needs for additional/enhanced provision. Findings from the study will inform the new stage of our draft Local Plan.
- 8.88** Open spaces are spaces of value for sport, recreation and visual amenity. They include open spaces within developments, sports pitches, linear corridors and country parks and are not just restricted to publically accessible land. They include woodland, open scrubland and public rights of ways in the countryside as well as formal gardens and parks. To inform our next iteration of the draft Local Plan and supporting evidence base we have commissioned a Play and Open space study.
- 8.89** Open spaces, especially within the urban areas are an important part of the landscape, local character and the setting of our built environment. They can provide health, well-being and social benefits acting as locations for community and social events. Open spaces can also provide the “green lungs” for settlements.
- 8.90** The NPPF gives Local and Neighbourhood Plans the ability to designate areas of open spaces of particular value to a community, as a ‘local green space’. These spaces must meet the criteria in paragraph 77. The preferred approach is for such sites to be identified by local communities and designated in Neighbourhood Plans.

Q24 Should we seek to improve the quality and quantity of existing leisure facilities?

Q25 What new leisure facilities opportunities (indoor and outdoor) particularly where a shortage is identified, should we seek to support?



9. GLOSSARY

Active Design

By designing physical activity opportunities into new housing developments we can make it easier for people to be more active every day. The principles are set out in the document “Active Design” written by Sport England and Public Health England

Area Action Plan

A type of Development Plan Document focused upon a specific location or an area subject to conservation or significant change.

Adopted/ Adoption

The final confirmation of a Local Plan being given full status by a local planning authority.

Affordable Housing (or sub-market housing)

Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.

Amenity Green-space

Open land, often landscaped, that makes a positive contribution to the appearance of an area or improves the quality of the lives of people living or working within the locality. It often provides opportunities for activities such as sports, and can serve other purposes such as reducing the noise from a busy road or providing shelter from prevailing winds.

Brownfield Land and Sites

Previously developed land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure.

Civic Amenity Site

A facility provided by the Waste Disposal Authority that is available to the public to deposit waste which cannot be collected by the normal household waste collection round.

Conservation Area

Area of special architectural or historic interest. This means the planning authority has extra powers to control works and demolition of buildings to protect or improve the character or appearance of the area.

Core strategy

A Development Plan Document setting out the vision and objectives of the planning framework for an area.

Development Plan

Documents which set out the policies and proposals for development and use of land in the area. This includes adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

Development Control & Development Management

The process whereby a local planning authority receives and considers the merits of a planning application and whether it should be given permission.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

Planning policy documents which make up the Local Plan. They guide development within a local planning authority area by setting out the detailed planning policies, which are used to determine planning applications.

Duty to Cooperate

Duty of cooperate is a legal requirement for local planning authorities to work collaboratively with

neighbouring authorities and other public bodies across local boundaries on strategic priorities, such as development requirements which cannot wholly be met within one local authority area.

Dwelling and Dwelling house

Building or part of a building used as residential accommodation, usually housing a single household. A dwelling may be a house, bungalow, flat, and maisonette or converted farm building.

Employment Land Availability (ELA)

The total amount of land reserved for industrial and business use awaiting development.

Evidence Base

The information and data gathered by local authorities.

Flood Risk Assessment

An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area.

Garden Village

Garden villages are designed to be distinct, self-contained communities of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes. They will have their own facilities – such as shops, schools and transport links.

Green Wedges

Green wedges comprise the open areas around and between parts of settlements, which maintain the distinction between the countryside and built up areas, and prevent the merging of adjacent places.

Greenfield Land or Site

Land (or a defined site) usually farmland, that has not previously been developed.



Infrastructure

Services necessary for development to take place, roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.

Listed Building

Building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building, and any buildings or permanent structures.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The local planning authorities plan for the preparation of Local Development Documents.

Local Plan

Plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Current core strategies or other planning policies, which under the regulations would be considered to be development plan documents, form part of the Local Plan. The term includes old policies which have been saved under the 2004 Act.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Government planning policies and how these are expected to be applied, replacing previous Planning Policy statements and Guidance (PPS/PPGs). It must be taken into account in the preparation of local plans and is a consideration in planning decisions.

Neighbourhood Plans

A plan prepared by a Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

New Town

A newly planned settlement.

Open Space

All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

National land use policies for England on different areas of planning. These are gradually being replaced by Planning Policy Statements.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS)

Replace the existing Planning Policy Guidance notes in order to provide greater clarity and to remove from national policy advice on practical implementation, which is better expressed as guidance rather than policy.

Public Open Space

Urban space, designated by a council, where public access may or may not be formally established, but which fulfils or can fulfil a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural usages).

Public Realm

Parts of a village or town, whether publicly or privately owned, that are available for everyone to use. This includes streets, squares and parks.

Spatial Planning

Policies which can impact on land use by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission and which may be implemented by other means.

Starter Homes

A starter home or starter house is a house that is usually the first which a person or family can afford to purchase.

Statutory

Required by law (statute), usually through an Act of Parliament.

Sustainability (sustainable development)

Development that meets the needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)

Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

Sustainability Appraisal (including Environmental Appraisal)

An appraisal of the economic, environmental and social effects of the policies within the Local Plan.

Sustainable Urban Extension S.U.E.

Planned expansion of a city or town and can contribute to creating more sustainable patterns of development when located in the right place, with well-planned infrastructure. This includes access to a range of facilities, and when developed at appropriate densities.



10. APPENDICES

10.1 The following documents are all available as separate documents to download from our consultation website.

Appendix 1: Consultation Questionnaire

Appendix 2: Call for Sites Proforma

Appendix 3: Policies Review Document

Photography and images

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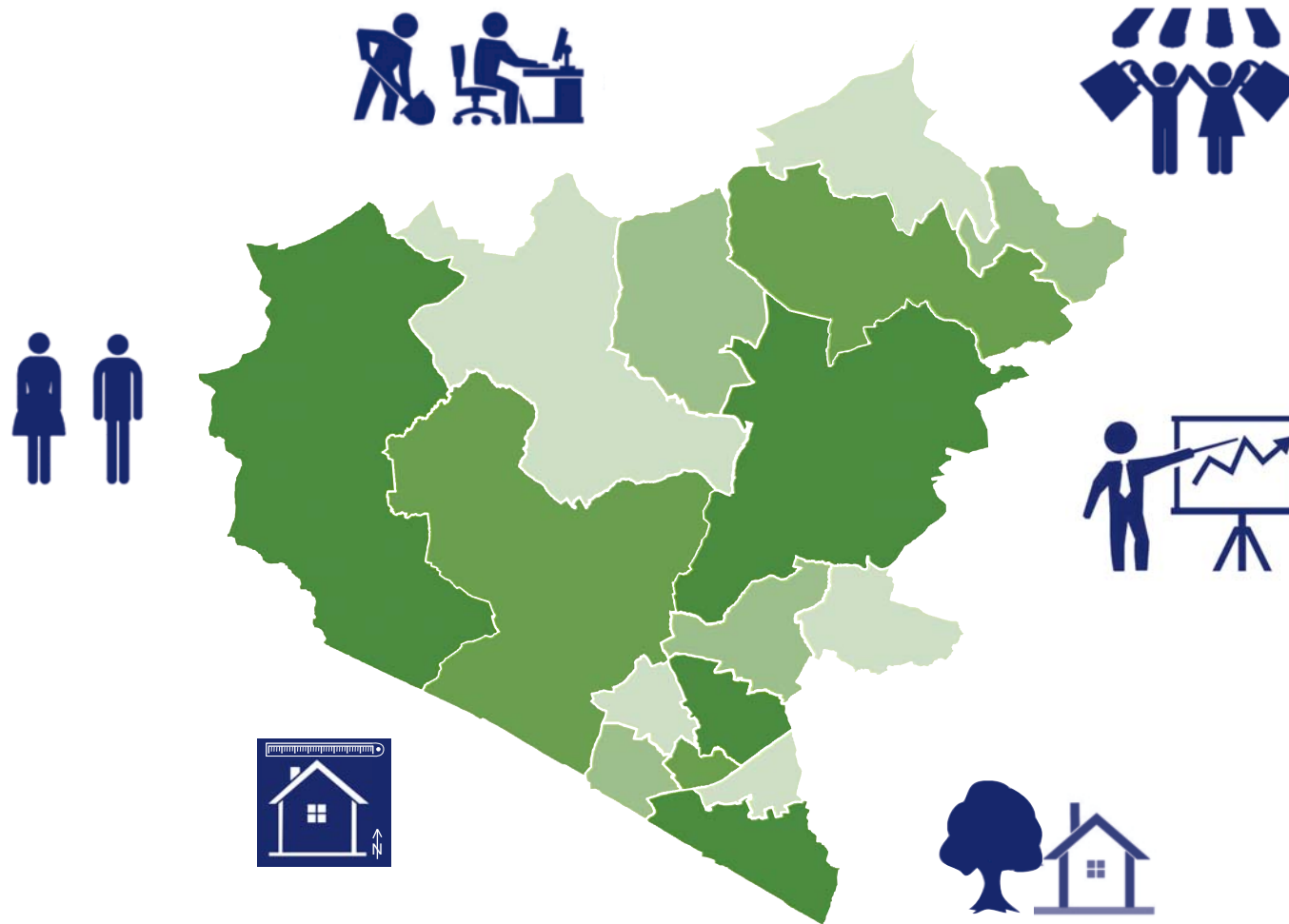
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