



PLAN-IT X
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SERVICES

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

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**PLANIT-X TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING SERVICES LTD**

21 New Road
Burton Lazars
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire. LE14 2UU

t: 01664 568819
e: info@planit-x.co.uk
w: www.planit-x.co.uk

Registered company no 07387991 | Registered office address: Unit F Whiteacres Whetstone Leicester LE8 6ZG



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Markfield Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning General Regulations 2012 (as amended) (The Regulations) and how the basic conditions of neighbourhood planning and other considerations as prescribed by Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 have been met.
- 1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Development Plans must meet the following basic conditions:
- i. the Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - ii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - iii. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the local planning authority, in this case the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Plan;
 - iv. the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan must meet the relevant EU obligations; and
 - v. prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.3 This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in five sections:
- Section 2 demonstrates the conformity of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
 - Section 3 shows how the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
 - Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2016-2026 and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document;
 - Section 5 demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations and other prescribed matters; and
 - Section 6 addresses other basic conditions that apply besides those set out in the primary legislation.

- 1.4 The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is supported by a Consultation Statement, Equality Impact Assessment (included in this document at Appendix 1) and this Basic Conditions Statement.

Submitting Body

- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan is submitted by Markfield Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

- 1.6 In March 2017 Markfield Parish Council submitted an application to designate a neighbourhood area in order to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan to cover the whole area of Markfield Parish. A six-week public consultation on whether this was an appropriate area to designate for the purpose of undertaking a Neighbourhood Development Plan ended on 14 April 2017. Following the consultation, on 11 May 2017, the Borough Council formally designated Markfield Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 1.7 The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Markfield and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.
- 1.8 It is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is being prepared for part or all of the designated area.
- 1.9 Work on the new Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan began early in 2017. The new Local Plan will set out the overall development strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough for the period 2020 to 2039. The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is aligned with the emerging Local Plan to cover the period 2020 to 2039.
- 1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

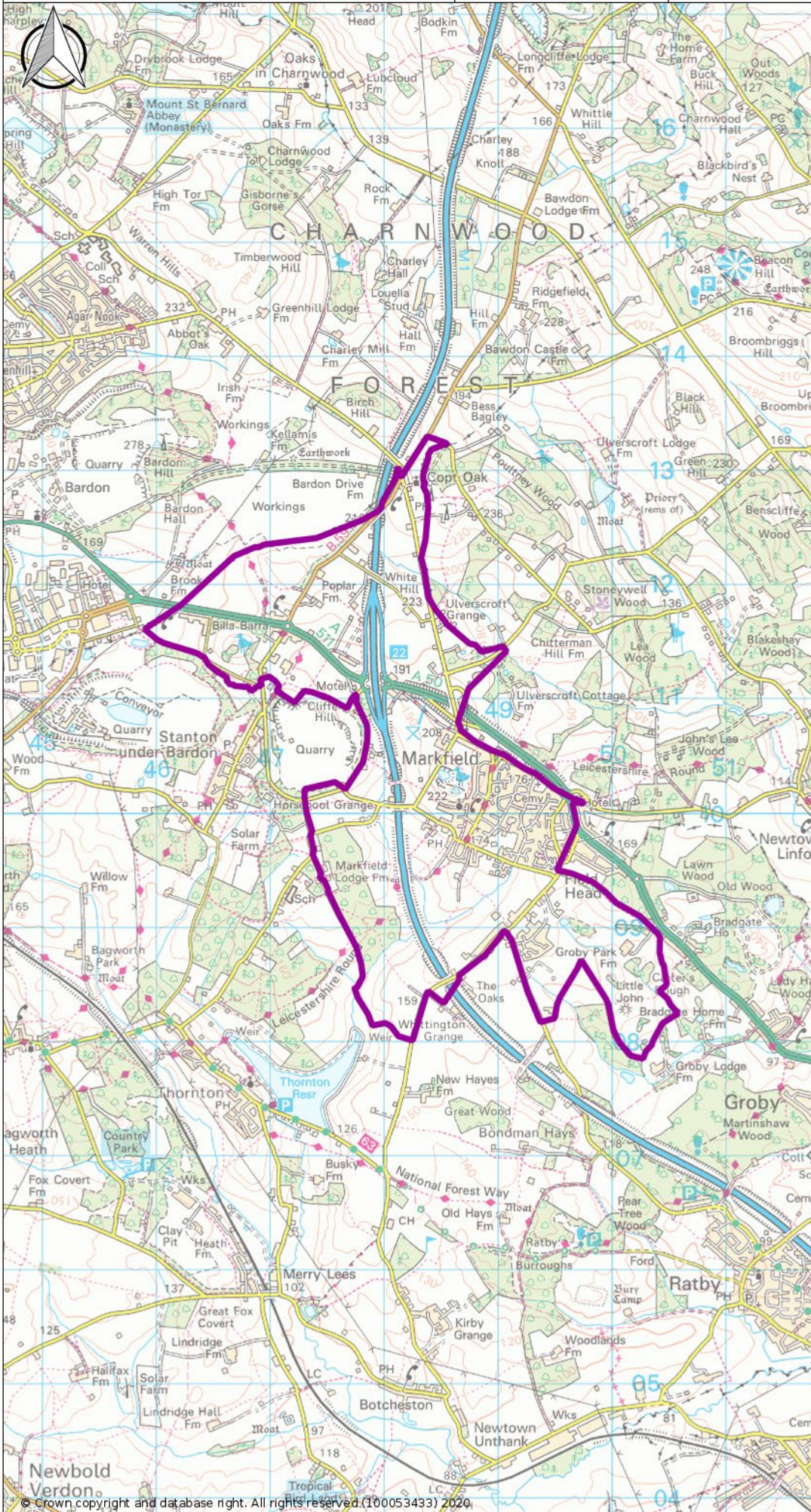
Markfield: Location

- 1.11 The Markfield Neighbourhood Development Plan Area comprises the whole of Markfield parish which lies some (8km) north-west of Leicester in the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough of Leicestershire, England. Markfield parish is located on the very edge of the Borough bordering both Charnwood Borough and North West Leicestershire District. The parish lies in both the National Forest and Charnwood Forest and is bisected by the M1 and the A50/A511.

- 1.12 Markfield has a good range of services and facilities with a primary school, shops, churches, pubs, GP surgery, allotments, library and sports & recreation facilities. These are important for the overall viability of the community.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

- 1.13 The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Markfield Parish Council, supported by the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been the subject of consultation as required by The Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as set out in the Consultation Statement.



2. Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1 It is required that the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 19 February 2019 and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed.
- 2.2 It should be noted that not all sections of the National Planning Policy Framework will be relevant to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan as there is no legal requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan to provide policies covering all the provisions within the National Planning Policy Framework. However, where a Neighbourhood Plan expresses a policy it must have appropriate regard to the relevant parts of the National Planning Policy Framework, as well as the Planning Practice Guidance.
- 2.3 A key theme that runs throughout the National Planning Policy Framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF specifies that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. To achieve sustainable development, the planning has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.
- 2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan in respect of relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance is published on a dedicated website available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
- 2.5 The areas of Planning Practice Guidance which have been particularly relevant to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:
- Brownfield Land Registers;
 - Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment;
 - Design: process and tools;
 - Healthy and Safe Communities;
 - Land Affected by Contamination;
 - Natural Environment;
 - Open space, sports and recreational facilities, public rights of way and local green space;
 - Housing for Older and Disabled People;
 - Housing Needs of Different Groups;

- Plan-making;
- Planning Obligations;
- Transport evidence bases in plan making and decision taking

2.6 The following table identifies the sections of the National Planning Policy Framework that the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>M1: Countryside Protects the Countryside and development will be limited in this location to that which requires a rural location. Policy provides a list of suitable development.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 78 79, 83, 84, 91, 92 151, 170</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>National planning policy recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. This policy mirrors this approach and has regard to the promotion of the rural economy and allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>
<p>M2: Landscape Character Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape. The potential to enhance the landscape should be considered where possible. Sensitivity should be paid to several identified views.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20, 170, 185</p>	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p>	<p>This policy allows account to be taken of the different roles and characters of areas and recognises the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.</p>
<p>M3: Green Infrastructure Development should seek to conserve and enhance the identified strategic and local green infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 91, 96, 171</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722) What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>This policy supports the provision of healthy and inclusive places and takes a positive approach to the maintenance and enhancement of green infrastructure and its network.</p>
<p>M4: Ecology and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Paragraphs 170, 174, 175</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net</p>

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<p>Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats, including several identified features. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features. for biodiversity gain.</p>		<p>provide net gains in biodiversity where possible? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20190721)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>What evidence needs to be taken into account in identifying and mapping local ecological networks? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 8-011-20190721)</p> <p>What is biodiversity net gain? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 8-022-20190721)</p> <p>How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20190721)</p>	<p>loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.</p> <p>This policy seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and seek positives in biodiversity. It also has identified and mapped components of local ecological networks and features.</p>
<p>M5: Trees Policy seeks to resist development that damages trees and ancient trees. Supports their retention</p>	<p>Paragraphs 127, 170, 175</p>	<p>How can I find out whether an area is 'ancient woodland'? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 8-021-20140306)</p> <p>How can I find out whether trees that could be affected by a development proposal are</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment. Development resulting in the loss of ancient trees will not be supported. It also seeks to ensure development is sympathetic to local</p>

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and replacement where necessary.		'aged or veteran' trees? (Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 8-023-20140306)	character including the surrounding landscape setting.
<p>M6: Local Green Spaces Identifies Local Green Spaces within Markfield which will be protected. New development that would harm the openness or special character of a Local Green Space will not normally be supported other than in very special circumstances.</p>	Paragraphs 99-101	<p>What is Local Green Space designation? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306)</p> <p>How is land designated as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306)</p> <p>How does Local Green Space designation relate to development? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306)</p> <p>What if land has planning permission for development? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306)</p> <p>Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)</p> <p>What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. The Local Green Spaces meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework as demonstrated by Neighbourhood Plan Appendix 1: Local Green Spaces: Summary of Reasons for Designation. The full reasons for designation are included in the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.</p>

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		<p>Scientific Interest, Scheduled 8 Monument or conservation area? (Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306)</p> <p>What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306)</p> <p>How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves? (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306)</p> <p>How big can a Local Green Space be? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306)</p> <p>Is there a minimum area? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306)</p> <p>What about public access? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306)</p> <p>What about public rights of way?</p>	

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		<p>(Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>Does land need to be in public ownership? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306)</p> <p>Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306)</p> <p>Who will manage Local Green Space? (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306)</p> <p>Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value? (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306)</p>	
<p>M7: Renewable Energy This policy details the circumstances that must be met for the development of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms to be supported. The landscape</p>	<p>Paragraphs 148, 151, 154</p>	<p>How can local planning authorities identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 5-005-20150618)</p> <p>How are 'suitable areas' defined in relation to wind energy development? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 5-032-150618)</p>	<p>The NPPF supports and encourages the use of renewable resources including the development of renewable energy and planning is recognised as having a key role to play in the delivery of renewable energy infrastructure. This policy supports the NPPF in that it includes a policy relating to the provision of such</p>

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is not suitable for wind farms and wind turbines.		<p>What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013-20150327)</p> <p>Do local people have the final say on wind farm applications? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 5-033-150618)</p>	<p>infrastructure whilst ensuring adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily. It also supports the view that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities. The views of local communities likely to be affected should be listened to. In the case of wind turbines, a planning application should not be approved unless the proposed development site is an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>M8: Electric Vehicle Charging Points Appropriate developments should provide electric vehicle charging points.</p>	Paragraphs 105 and 110	Not applicable.	This policy seeks the adequate provision of spaces for the charging of plug-in vehicles.
<p>M9: Non-Designated Heritage Assets The determination of planning applications, which will affect 'identified' features of local heritage interest, will balance the need for/public benefit of</p>	Paragraphs 185, 189, 197	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans?(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p>	This policy supports the conservation of heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Heritage assets within the plan area have been

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<p>the proposed development against the significance of the asset and the extent which it will be harmed. The Neighbourhood Plan provides a list of Features of Local Heritage Assets</p>		<p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p>	<p>identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>M10: Design Development that reflects the distinctive and traditional character of Markfield will be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 124, 125,127, 130</p>	<p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p> <p>What role can non-strategic policies play? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to secure high quality design. The subject of good design is attributed great importance in the National Planning Policy Framework and is a key aspect of sustainable development and should contribute positively to making places better for people. This policy has regard to this approach and facilitates the promotion or reinforcement of local distinctiveness. It seeks to deliver development that is of a design that reflects the surrounding area and the character of Markfield.</p>
<p>M11: Community Services and Facilities This policy supports the retention of identified services and facilities unless they are no longer needed or viable or a</p>	<p>Paragraphs 84, 91, 92</p>	<p>How can positive planning contribute to healthier communities? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID:53-001-20190722)</p> <p>What is a healthy place? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID:53-003-20191101)</p>	<p>The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against the unnecessary loss of facilities that meet day to day needs.</p>

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replacement is provided, of equivalent or better provision.			
<p>M12: Markfield Institute of Higher Education This policy supports development for educational, administrative, residential and recreational/ sport purposes associated with the educational use of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education.</p>	Paragraphs 20, 94	How can plans allocate land for education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID:53-008-20190722)	This policy takes a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to development that will widen choice in education.
<p>M13: Local and Neighbourhood Centres This policy supports the modernisation and improvement of the village's Local and Neighbourhood Centres. The sequential test will be applied to planning applications for main Commercial Business and Service Uses and an impact assessment will be</p>	Paragraphs 86, 87, 89, 90	<p>What does the National Planning Policy Framework say about planning for town centres? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 2b-001-20140306)</p> <p>What if the required development cannot be accommodated in the town centre? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 2b-006-20140306)</p> <p>What is the sequential test?</p>	This policy supports the role that the Local and Neighbourhood Centres play at the heart of the local community and takes a positive approach to management and improvement. It seeks to provide for an appropriate range of uses and facilities.

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<p>required for development outside of either centre, where more than 500sqm of retail floorspace is proposed. This policy also seeks the retention of Commercial Business and Service Uses as the dominant within the Village Centre. Development that would lead to the over-concentration of any other one use will not be permitted nor will other uses.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 2b-008-20140306)</p> <p>How should the sequential approach be used in plan-making? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 2b-009-20140306)</p> <p>What is the impact test? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 2b-013-20140306)</p> <p>How should the impact test be used in decision-taking? (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 2b-015-20140306)</p> <p>When should the impact test be used? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 2b-016-20140306)</p>	
<p>M14: Infrastructure Seeks new development to support the provision of new or improved infrastructure, together with financial contributions for education and recreation provision and other</p>	<p>Paragraphs 8, 28, 34, 56, 83, 91, 92 and 94</p>	<p>Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>What evidence is needed to support policies for contributions from development?</p>	<p>This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of highway infrastructure, and community and education facilities to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment. This policy also seeks to ensure that the provision of infrastructure does not undermine the deliverability of the plan.</p>

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<p>community infrastructure improvements. The viability of development will be taken into account.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 23b-005-20190315)</p> <p>What funding is available for education? (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 23b-007-20190315)</p> <p>What contributions are required towards education? (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 23b-008-20190315)</p> <p>Are planning obligations negotiable? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 23b-010-20190315)</p> <p>How should plan makers set policy requirements for contributions from development? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 10-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should plan makers and site promoters ensure that policy requirements for contributions from development are deliverable?</p>	

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		<p>(Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 10-002-20190509)</p> <p>How should viability for education provision be addressed? (Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 10-029-20190509)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p>	
<p>M15: Housing Provision The housing provision for Markfield for the period 2020 to 2039 is 334 dwellings.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 65,66</p>	<p>What happens if the local planning authority does not provide a housing requirement figure for a designated neighbourhood area that wishes to plan for housing? (Paragraph: 105 Reference ID: 41-105-20190509)</p>	<p>The Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has determined a housing requirement figure itself, taking account of relevant policies, the existing and emerging spatial strategy, and characteristics of the neighbourhood area.</p>
<p>M16: Housing Allocation-Land south of London Road Identifies the development of land south of London Road for around 280 dwelling and the housing type to be provided. It also</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 67, 68, 110, 118, 119, 127,148,157, 163,170,174,175, 178, 179</p>	<p>Can a neighbourhood plan allocate sites for development? (Paragraph: 042 Reference ID: 41-042-20170728)</p> <p>What factors can be considered when assessing the suitability of sites / broad locations for development?</p>	<p>This policy seeks to allocate land to meet identified housing need. It plans positively for new homes whilst protecting the character of the area including environmental features.</p> <p>The policy also has regard to a range of other issues contained within the National</p>

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<p>stipulates the form of access, cycle/footway links, the required landscaping scheme and the need for a Ecological Assessment Survey. Trees and hedgerows are to be retained and reinforced. Development should respect the distinctive and traditional character of Markfield, appropriate surface water and foul water drainage strategies should be devised alongside a sustainable drainage system.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 3-018-20190722)</p> <p>What factors can be considered when assessing availability? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 3-019-20190722)</p> <p>What factors should be considered when assessing achievability including whether the development of the site is viable? (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 3-020-20190722)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>Planning Policy Framework including the provision of sustainable links and flooding.</p>

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		<p>What are the links between health and planning? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 53-002-20140306)</p> <p>What is a healthy community? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 53-005-20140306)</p> <p>How can the character of landscapes be assessed to inform plan-making and planning decisions? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 8-001-20140306)</p> <p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001-20191001)</p> <p>How can plans support well-designed places? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 26-002-20191001)</p>	

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		<p>What is the general planning approach to development and flood risk? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 7-001-20140306)</p>	
<p>M17: Windfall Housing Development Provides for housing development within the settlement boundary. The policy also identifies the limited forms of housing development that will be allowed outside of the settlement boundary.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 68, 69, 77, 79 117, 127, 148</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan defines the Limits to Development which takes into account the character and built form of Markfield. The policy promotes sustainable development by seeking to locate housing where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of existing communities. The limited forms of housing development allowed outside the settlement boundary, including exceptions, brownfield land, buildings of innovative design, the sub division of dwellings and rural worker accommodation is in conformity with the NPPF.</p>
<p>M18: Housing Mix Seeks a mix of housing to meet the needs of older households and/or the need for smaller, low-cost homes for sale.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people?</p>	<p>The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to deliver a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need.</p>

Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p> <p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	
<p>M19: Markfield Court Retirement Village and Woodrowe House Policy supports the extension of accommodation and facilities at the Retirement Village and Nursing & Residential Home.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How do the housing need of particular groups relate to overall housing need calculated using the standard method? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 67-001-20190722)</p> <p>Why is it important to plan for the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 63-001-20190626)</p>	<p>The need to provide housing for older people is critical. People are living longer lives and the proportion of older people in the population is increasing. The NPPF requires the delivery of homes to be informed by a local housing needs assessment and for planning policies to plan for the identified housing need. The Neighbourhood Plan supports this approach and seeks to housing policies to</p>

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		<p>What range of needs should be addressed? (Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 63-003-20190626)</p> <p>What evidence can plan-makers consider when identifying the housing needs of older people? (Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 63-004-20190626)</p> <p>How can the housing requirements of particular groups of people be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 63-006-20190626)</p>	<p>address the housing needs of older and disabled people.</p>
<p>M20: Affordable Housing Seeks to ensure priority will be given to people with a local connection to Markfield Parish.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 61, 77</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>This policy is responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community.</p>
<p>M21: Markfield Industrial Estate Safeguards this site for employment development. Expansion of existing</p>	<p>Paragraphs 83 and 84</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas, including the protection and expansion of existing businesses.</p>

Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
business and new employment development on this site will be supported.			
<p>M22: Brownfield Land This policy supports the redevelopment of previously development land for employment uses while safeguarding environmental value.</p>	Paragraph 117, 118, 121	What is previously developed (brownfield) land?	This policy supports the redevelopment of previously development land for employment.
<p>M23: Business Conversion of rural buildings This policy identifies the circumstances the re-use and adaptation of redundant and extension of rural buildings for business use will be supported.</p>	Paragraph 83	Not applicable	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas.
<p>M24: Business Expansion Allows for the expansion of existing businesses in suitable locations.</p>	Paragraphs 83 and 84	Not applicable	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas.

3. Contributing to sustainable development

3.1 Sustainable development is about positive growth- making economic, environmental, and social progress for this and future generations. The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development of which there are three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform several roles:

- a) an **economic** objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordination the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a **social** objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural wellbeing; and
- c) an **environmental** objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

3.2 The following section summarises how the above sustainability objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework compare with the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan. This has been done by assessing the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan against each of the Planning Policy 'subjects' as contained within Sections 5 to 17 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Providing a steer as to where new housing should be focused and the form development should take. Supporting a supply and mix of housing types to meet local needs, including the needs of older households, the need for smaller homes and gypsy and traveller accommodation. Affordable housing to be provided in perpetuity and priority will be given to those with a local connection to Markfield Parish when affordable housing is allocated.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Support local businesses and employment, including the safeguarding and expansion of existing business establishments. Supports sustainable economic growth including through the business conversion of rural buildings. Seeks the protection, improvement and enhancement of community services and facilities, supporting the viability of the community, as well as the provision of new facilities.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The village of Markfield has a good range of service and facilities and an ambition of the plan is to protect the viability of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside, Rights of Way, local green spaces and provision of footpath links and cycle ways as well as community and recreational facilities. Provides opportunities for people to meet and protect quality of life.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports infill housing development within the defined Markfield Limits to Development with its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings and sustainable economic growth and the provision of rural worker accommodation.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the defined Markfield Limits to Development, the redevelopment of brownfield land and the re-use and conversion of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies to require development to respect the scale, form and character of its surroundings, and local materials and features, including landscape as well as the built environment. Seeks the protection of residential amenity and the protection of the countryside and the setting of Markfield Village.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Shapes new and existing developments in ways that reduce carbon dioxide emissions and positively build community resilience to problems such as extreme heat or flood risk. Supports the delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in locations where the local environmental impact is acceptable.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, Locally Important Views, the network of local ecological features and habitats and Local Green Space. Protects natural landscape from the harmful impacts of development. Requires the impact of development to maintain and enhance ecological corridors and landscape features for biodiversity.
12 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Prevents against the loss of the historic environment, including non-designated assets of local importance.
13 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable.

4. Conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan

4.1 Neighbourhood Development Plans must demonstrate that they are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area. The current adopted plan for the area is the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026 (Adopted December 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) 2006-2026 (Adopted July 2016).

4.2 The following sections identifies how the Policies of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy (Adopted 2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016).

Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026

4.3 The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy 7: Key Rural Centres

Policy 8: Key Rural Centres Relating to Leicester

Policy 15: Affordable Housing

Policy 16: Housing Density, Mix and Design

Policy 17: Rural Needs

Policy 18: Provision of Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Policy 19: Green Space and Play Provision

Policy 20: Green Infrastructure

Policy 21: National Forest

Policy 22: Charnwood Forest

Policy 23: Tourism Development

Policy 24: Sustainable Design and Technology

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026
M1: Countryside	Policy 21,22	Supports the provision of new housing development within the

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026
		settlement boundaries. Allows for rural housing. Allows for the provision of recreation facilities and tourism development.
M2: Landscape Character	Policies 8, 21, 22	Development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting and where possible enhance its distinctive qualities. Safeguard and where possible, enhance important views and vistas. The Neighbourhood Plan identified important views where particularly sensitivity should be shown. Support proposals that contribute to the delivery of the National Forest Strategy and Charnwood Forest Regional Park. Protect open space linkages to the west which are of importance to the context of the village as supported by the Hinckley & Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment.
M3: Green Infrastructure	Policies 8, 20.	Supports improvements to green infrastructure corridors that improve access between settlements and their surrounding countryside. Implements the strategic green infrastructure network detailed in Policy 20. Support measures to reduce the noise and air pollution currently experienced by the village due to its proximity to the M1.
M4: Ecology and Biodiversity	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M5: Trees	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M6: Local Green Spaces	No relevant policies	Not applicable

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026
M7: Renewable Energy	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M8: Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M9: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M10: Design	Policies 7, 8, 24	Supports development which reflects local distinctiveness and enhances settlement identity. Require development to be of the highest environmental standards.
M11: Community Services and Facilities	Policy 7	Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Markfield. Facilities will be safeguarded unless it can be demonstrated they are no longer viable, are no longer needed by the community, are not needed by any other community use or the facility is being replaced by equivalent or better provision. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded.
M12: Markfield Institute of Higher Education	Policy 8	Supports the Markfield Institute of Higher Education which is linked to Loughborough University.
M13: Local and Neighbourhood Centres	Policy 7	Support new retail development to meet local need within defined local centre boundaries
M14: Infrastructure	Policies 8, 20	Address the existing deficiencies in the quality, quantity and accessibility of green space and play provision in Markfield. Support improvement in the quality of the following local facilities. Deliver safe cycle routes as detailed in Policy 14.
M15: Housing Provision	Policy 8	The Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy makes provision for the development of a minimum of 80 new homes in

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026
		Markfield over the period 2006 - 2026. This was met with the granting of planning permission for the redevelopment of The George Inn on Main Street, the Hopwood Drive development south of London Road and Markfield Court, Ratby Lane.
M16: Housing Allocation- Land south of London Road	Policies 7, 8, 19	Address the existing deficiencies in the quality, quantity and accessibility of green space and play provision in Markfield. Deliver safe cycle routes as detailed in Policy 14, in particular from Markfield to South Charnwood High School. Support measures to reduce the noise and air pollution currently experienced by the village due to its proximity to the M1.
M17: Windfall Housing Development	Policy 7	Supports housing development within settlement boundaries.
M18: Housing Mix	Policies 7, 16	Requires a mix of housing types based on evidence of housing need.
M19: Markfield Court Retirement Village and Woodrowe House	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M20: Affordable Housing	Policy 15	On large private-sector developments, 40% of dwellings should be affordable.
M21: Markfield Industrial Estate	Policies 7, 8	Ensure there is a range of employment opportunities. Supports additional employment provision.
M22: Brownfield Land	Policies 7, 8	Ensure there is a range of employment opportunities. Supports additional employment provision.
M23: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policies 7, 8	Ensure there is a range of employment opportunities.

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy 2006-2026
		Supports additional employment provision.
M24: Business Expansion	Policies 7, 8	Ensure there is a range of employment opportunities. Supports additional employment provision.

Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted 2016)

- 4.4 The strategic policies of the adopted development plan for the local area are contained in the Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy. Nonetheless, the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is also considered to conform to many of the policies of the Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.
- 4.5 The relevant Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD policies are:
- Policy DM2: Delivering Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development
 - Policy DM3: Infrastructure and Delivery
 - Policy DM4: Safeguarding the Countryside and Settlement Separation
 - Policy DM5: Enabling Rural Worker Accommodation
 - Policy DM6: Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geological Interest
 - Policy DM8: Safeguarding Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities
 - Policy DM9: Safeguarding Natural and Semi-Natural Open Spaces
 - Policy DM10: Development and Design
 - Policy DM12: Heritage Assets
 - Policy DM13: Preserving the Borough's Archaeology
 - Policy DM14: Replacement Dwellings in the Rural Area
 - Policy DM15: Redundant Rural Buildings
 - Policy DM19: Existing Employment Sites
 - Policy DM20: Provision of Employment Sites
 - Policy DM21: Locating Sustainable Town Centre Uses
 - Policy DM22: Vitalising District, Local and Neighbourhood Centres

Policy DM25: Community Facilities

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
M1: Countryside	Policy DM4	To protect its intrinsic value, beauty, open character and landscape character, the countryside will first and foremost be safeguarded from unsustainable development.
M2: Landscape Character	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M3: Green Infrastructure	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M4: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policies DM6, DM9	Conserve and enhance features of nature conservation and geological value.
M5: Trees	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M6: Local Green Spaces	Policy DM8, DM9	Safeguarding Open Space
M7: Renewable Energy	Policy DM2	Support of appropriately designed and sited renewable energy and low carbon developments.
M8: Electric Vehicle Chargepoints	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M9: Non-Designated Heritage Assets	Policies DM12, DM13	Identifies non-designated heritage assets to be offered protection through the Neighbourhood Plan. Includes non-designated archaeological assets.
M10: Design	Policy DM10	Policy seeks to secure high quality design.
M11: Community Services and Facilities	Policies DM8, DM25	Safeguarding Sport and Recreational Facilities. Supports the retention of community facilities.
M12: Markfield Institute of Higher Education	Policy DM25	Supports the retention of community facilities.
M13: Local and Neighbourhood Centres	Policies DM21, DM22	Maintains and enhances the vitality and viability of the Local and Neighbourhood Centres in Markfield. A sequential test will be applied to planning applications for Commercial,

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD	Explanation of Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the Hinckley and Bosworth Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD
		Business and Service Uses that are not within either Centre.
M14: Infrastructure	Policy DM3	Where development will create a need to provide additional or improved infrastructure, amenities or facilities, developers will be expected to make such provision directly or indirectly through the appropriate funding mechanism.
M15: Housing Provision	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M16: Housing Allocation- Land south of London Road	Policy DM3	Where development will create a need to provide additional or improved infrastructure, amenities or facilities, developers will be expected to make such provision directly or indirectly through the appropriate funding mechanism.
M17: Windfall Housing Development	Policies DM5, DM14, DM15	Enables Rural Worker Accommodation and replacement dwellings in the rural area. Also, the re-use and/or adaptation of redundant rural buildings.
M18: Housing Mix	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M19: Markfield Court Retirement Village and Woodrowe House	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M20: Affordable Housing	No relevant policies	Not applicable
M21: Markfield Industrial Estate	Policy DM19	Seek to retain existing site for employment use.
M22: Brownfield Land	Policy DM20	Supports the development of new employment sites on previously developed land
M23: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy DM15	Supports the re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for business use.
M24: Business Expansion	Policy DM20	Supports the extension of existing employment sites.

5. Compliance with European Union obligations

5.1 A neighbourhood plan or Order must be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. There are three directives that may be of particular relevance to neighbourhood plans:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (often referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive). This seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing plans and programmes.
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively). These aim to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement

5.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan (April 2020) has been used to determine whether or not the contents of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood Plans only require a SEA where they are likely to lead to significant effects. The Screening Report provides a screening opinion as to whether the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects. This statement includes a commentary on whether these effects are likely to be significant.

5.3 The environmental assessment consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) have been consulted on this Screening Report and their responses are summarised below:

- Historic England – no response received.
- Natural England – confirmed that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England also agreed with the report's conclusions that Markfield Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.
- Environment Agency – did not disagree with the conclusion of the report that an SEA does not need to be undertaken.

- 5.4 Considering the Screening Report and the consultation responses received from Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England; Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council has determined that the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to result in significant environmental effects and accordingly does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 5.5 The Screening Report AECOM also considered the proximity and potential effects on European sites to determine whether the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan will require a Habitats Regulation Assessment. As referred to above, there are no sites of European sites within 10km of the neighbourhood area and it has been concluded that the proposals within the emerging MNP are unlikely to result in significant adverse effects on such sites. The Borough Council has also considered the conclusions of its Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report which informed the preparation of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, published in 2016 and the consultation response received from Natural England. The 2014 screening report concluded that it was not considered necessary to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the plan, which included an allocation south of Markfield, of which the proposed site allocation would be an adjacent extension to the south of the settlement.
- 5.6 Other European directives, such as the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) or the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) do not apply to the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan.

6. Other basic conditions

- 6.1 Regulations 32 and 33 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) prescribe 2 basic conditions in addition to those set out in the primary legislation. These are:
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites;
 - having regard to all material considerations, it is appropriate that the Neighbourhood Development Order is made (see Schedule 3 to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), where the development described in an order proposal is Environmental Impact Assessment development.
- 6.2 As set out in above, it is considered that the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not.
- 7.2 Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Equalities Impact Assessment of the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 1) has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made and the assessment finds the Neighbourhood Development Plan to be appropriate and that the duty prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) are met by the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

Appendix 1: Markfield Neighbourhood Plan – Equalities Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) places a duty of care on public bodies to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity for specified equality groups. Under the Act a document like a Neighbourhood Plan must be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment before it can be adopted or implemented. The Assessment must address the 'protected characteristics' identified within the Act:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to help understand and ultimately protect the groups identified above from any adverse impact. This Assessment considers the needs of these particular groups and how they might be affected by the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Methodology

The assessment considers whether the Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics (in so far as data is available) by reference to the Key Issues and Policies of the Plan. Where an adverse impact is identified the Assessment considers whether that impact is high, medium or low.

High impact: a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact: some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence.

Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2011 published by the Office for National Statistics. Data is available for Markfield for age, disability, race, religious belief and sex. There is no known data for gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or sexual orientation.

In 2011 there were 4,454 people living in Markfield Parish, 48.5% were Male and 51.5% were Female. By Comparison, the figures for the United Kingdom were 49.3% (Male) and 50.7% (Female).

14.9% of the population was 0-15 years old and 25.5% were 65 or over. The UK proportion of over 65's was 16.3% and 18.9% for 0-15's.

4.2% of the population was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. The proportion of the UK population classed as 'non-white' was 14.3%. In addition, 0.1% of the population of Markfield identified as being Gypsy or Irish Traveller,

65.9% of the population was Christian and 3.2% other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh. By comparison 59.4% of the UK population consider themselves to be Christian whilst 8.3% considered themselves to be Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim or Sikh.

10.6% of residents considered that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot through health and disability and a further 10.6% considered that their activities were limited a little. The comparable proportions for the UK were 8.9% (limited a lot) and 9.3% (limited a little).

52.5% of people who were 16 or over were married or in a registered civil partnership compared to 48.7% of people in the UK.

Gender reassignment and sexual orientation are generally invisible characteristics for which little reliable data exists at local level. There was also no data available for pregnancy or maternity.

Summary

Generally, the proportion of Male/Females is comparable to the national picture.

The proportion of older people is significantly greater than the national picture, while the proportion of 0-15 year olds is a little less.

The proportion of BMEs is noticeably lower than the national picture, common with rural areas.

The proportion of Christians is higher to the national average, whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

Key Issues and Policies of the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan has been guided by a vision statement which makes it clear what the Plan is aiming to achieve. The Vision statement is supported by five broad statements of intent which have shaped the structure of the document and its planning policies.

The Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure our Parish remains an attractive and desirable place to live meeting the needs of all, ensuring the community enjoys a good quality of life and feels valued and connected to each other. We aim to enhance and protect heritage assets, wildlife and the landscape in an environment where homes, businesses and facilities meet the needs of a contemporary rural community.

<p>Environment & Heritage</p> <p>To protect and enhance the wildlife, environment and heritage assets. Recognising the need to plan for climate change and ensuring public open spaces are accessible to all and of a good quality.</p>	<p>Facilities & Services</p> <p>To maintain, enhance and where required expand the existing provision of facilities and services and ensure appropriate new provision is made for any future developments both within the Parish and in the surrounding areas.</p>	<p>Housing</p> <p>To ensure that opportunities for residential development in the Parish are managed to provide the types and styles of housing that are needed, considering design, energy efficiency, climate change and the need to meet the requirements of all residents.</p>	<p>Business & Employment</p> <p>To continue to support the local economy, sustaining existing businesses and providing opportunities for business diversification and new businesses to become established on suitable sites in the Parish.</p>	<p>Traffic & Transport</p> <p>To maintain and enhance sustainable transport links within, to and from the Parish. To support moves to reduce vehicle speeds and manage parking in residential areas along with transport generated noise and pollution and increase the opportunities for safe walking and cycling.</p>
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The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 24 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy M18 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of local people.

Policy M19 addresses the accommodation needs of older people through the development of community facilities and the provision of new residential accommodation at Markfield Court Retirement Village.

Policy M6 requires designated local green spaces to be protected and development will not normally be supported on these spaces if harm would occur. As green spaces include spaces which have recreational value this is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact. Furthermore, Policy M14 seeks infrastructure improvement including the provision of children's play area equipment. Policy M7 seeks to create new links to the green infrastructure network including footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.

Policy M11 makes provision for the retention of community services and facilities. This is seen as important for the long-term sustainability of Markfield. In addition, with an increasing proportion of older people in the population, access to locally based services will become increasingly important, reflecting lower mobility levels. Some of the parish services include a post office, convenience store, primary school, village hall, social club, recreation ground and public house. Their retention is considered to

have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact. In addition, Policy M14 seeks infrastructure improvements for the primary school recreation ground, the village hall and other community infrastructure facilities.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect evidence of need (Policy M18) there is a possibility that homes could be sought to the benefit of people with disabilities. However, the lack of evidence to include a specific requirement by reference to type of disability prevents a recommendation by this assessment for modification to the policy and leads to a conclusion that Policy R20 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy M19 supports the development of facilities at Woodrowe House, which providing specialist care and rehabilitation.

Policy M7 seeks the creation of footpath links. This has the potential for a positive impact on this characteristic although the degree will be dependent on the nature and definition of individual disabilities.

Policy M16 requires a safe pedestrian access between the housing allocation and village services and facilities, and consequently there is potential for a positive impact on this characteristic.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy R2, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of recrimination or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Marriage and civil partnership

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Pregnancy and maternity

There are potential benefits for this protected characteristic from the retention of key services and potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision, such as the village halls and the social club (Policies M11, M13 and M14). These impacts might be positive but the lack of data for this characteristic and any tangible evidence suggests that the impact should be considered neutral.

Race

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Religion or belief

There is a potential benefit for this protected characteristic from the protection of key services and facilities and their potential for their replacement by equivalent or better provision (Policies M11, M13 and M14).

The Markfield Institute of Higher Education is a pioneering educational institute at the forefront of Islamic studies in the UK. Policy M12 supports new development that will be used for educational, administrative, residential and recreational/ sport purposes associated with the educational use of the site. Ongoing support for the Institute will contribute to a broader, deeper and critical understanding of Islam in the modern contemporary context with potential benefits for the protected characteristic.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy R2, that creates places that work well for both occupants and users, may benefit the public realm and the opportunity for all the community to enjoy their built environment. Any improvement in sense of place and civic pride is generally believed to lead to positive places where people are better able to express themselves without fear of reprimand or hate crime. As a result, there is potential for a positive impact on this protected characteristic. However, due to the limited data related to this characteristic and the potential for tangible impacts being unknown this assessment concludes the impact to be neutral.

Conclusion

The Markfield Neighbourhood Plan provides a suite of policies to respond to the vision for the benefit of the local community including protected characteristics but perhaps most particularly older people, young people, mothers to be and those with young children, disabled people, those with limited mobility, and those seeking religious education.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of transgender, gay or lesbian groups, or inequalities of sex. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks a range of housing types, and seeks retention of and improvements in facilities and services which will benefit these groups equally. There is also the potential to provide a higher quality public realm where people with protected characteristics will be less liable to be subject to hate crime.

In conclusion, this assessment has found no negative impacts on any protected characteristic by reference to data or evidence. As a result, no recommendations are made, and the assessment finds the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.