

Basic Conditions and Legal Compliance Check – ‘Made’ (Adopted) Neighbourhood Plan

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan – February 2025



GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

Basic Conditions Check

Requirements	Local Planning Authority Comments	Basic Condition met?
<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State and it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>The Council considers that the Neighbourhood Plan is consistent with national policies and advice in that the core land use planning principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) have been embodied in the Neighbourhood Plan. Specifically, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect and enhance biodiversity, deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, and reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution (Policies SNNP1 and SNPP2, SNPP3) - see paragraph 180 of the NPPF which seeks to contribute to and enhance the natural local environment, and paragraph 185 which seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. 	<p>Yes</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect and enhance Local Green Spaces (Policy SNNP4) – see paragraph 180 of the NPPF which seeks to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, and paragraph 185 which seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. • to protect and maintain the connectivity network (Policy SNNP5) - see Chapter 9 of the NPPF which seeks to promote sustainable transport. • to improve and enhance neighbourhood community assets (Policy SNNP6) - see Paragraph 97 of the NPPF which seeks to plan positively for the provision of community facilities and retain shops and services for the benefit of the community. • to protect and support homes and facilities for older people (Policy SNNP7) - see chapter 5 of the NPPF which considers the delivery of a sufficient supply of homes. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve additionally identified Local Heritage Assets (Policy SNNP8) - see Chapter 16 of the NPPF which seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment. • to achieve sustainable and well-designed development in Character Areas through improving the energy and water efficiency of existing and new buildings (Policy SNNP9), and responding to climate change and the risk of local flooding (Policy SNNP10) – see Chapter 14 of the NPPF which sets out how to plan for climate change. • to protect and enhance the local character through design-led development (Policy SNNP11), protect residential amenity in South Newnham (Policy SNNP12), convert existing houses into more than one separate housing unit (Policy SNNP13), protect and enhance the character of neighbourhood garden boundaries (Policy SNNP14) and conserve and enhance existing views and street scenes (Policy SNNP15) - see 	

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	<p>Chapter 12 of the NPPF which seeks to achieve well designed and beautiful places.</p> <p>This conclusion is consistent with the Examiner’s conclusions that the Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to national planning policies and guidance, in that it sets out a clear vision and suite of policies and proposals for the neighbourhood area. The Examiner has recommended a series of modifications to provide clarity and precision to the policies to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan fully accords with national policy and guidance. Cambridge City Council and the South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum have agreed each of the recommended modifications and the modifications are included in the ‘Referendum’ version of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p>The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The Council considers that the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, specifically by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the economic aspects by having policies to meet local housing needs (Policy SNNP7) and promotes a successful economy through improving and enhancing neighbourhood community assets (Policy SNNP6). 	<p>Yes</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the social aspects by seeking to provide a vibrant community by promoting and safeguarding community uses and spaces (Policy SNNP6). • Contributing to the environmental aspect by having a range of policies which include ones which seek to conserve the character of the area (Policies SNNP8, SNNP11, SNNP14 and SNNP15); safeguard natural habitats (Policies SNNP1, SNNP2 and SNNP3); ensure high quality design (Policies SNNP9 and SNNP11); and encourage means of transport other than cars (Policy SNNP5). <p>This conclusion is consistent with the Examiner’s conclusion that the Neighbourhood Plan has set out to achieve sustainable development in the neighbourhood area (see paragraph 6.10 on pages 11 -12 of the Examiner’s Report).</p>	
<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area.</p>	<p>The development plan for Cambridge City Council consists of the adopted Cambridge Local Plan 2011-2031 and Appendix M, Section 2 of the Appendices. The Basic Conditions Statement, submitted by South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum, considers whether the</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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	<p>Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with these strategic policies.</p> <p>The Council considers that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Cambridge Local Plan (2018).</p> <p>This conclusion is consistent with the Examiner’s conclusion that the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan (see paragraphs 6.11 – 6.12). The Examiner considers the extent to which the policies and proposals are in general conformity in detail in Chapter 7 of his Report (see pages 14 – 42 of the Examiner’s Report).</p>	
<p>The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.</p> <p>Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan,</p>	<p>The Council considers that the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach and is compatible with EU Obligations.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): a SEA screening has been undertaken that determines that the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely</p>	Yes

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<p>including that the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European wildlife site or a European offshore marine site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.</p>	<p>to result in significant environmental impacts and therefore does not require a SEA. A HRA screening has also been undertaken that indicates that the Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in conjunction with other plans and projects. These conclusions are supported by the responses from the statutory bodies.</p> <p>As the modifications made to the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan following its examination do not change the essence of its planning policies, the SEA and HRA screening undertaken on a draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan in March 2023, the screening determination published in April 2023 remain valid.</p> <p>This conclusion is consistent with the Examiner’s conclusion that a proportionate process has been undertaken in accordance with the various regulations and the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations (see paragraphs 6.13 – 6.19 on pages 12 – 13 of his Report).</p>	

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	<p>Human Rights: an assessment has been undertaken to examine the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan policies on persons who have a ‘protected characteristic’ and the results of this assessment are included in the Basic Conditions Statement. The Council is supportive of the assessment which concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. No sectors of the community would be discriminated against, and the policies in the plan would generally have public benefits and encourage the social sustainability of the plan area.</p> <p>This conclusion is consistent with the Examiner’s conclusion that he is satisfied across the Plan as a whole, no sectors of the community are likely to be discriminated against. The policies together would generally have public benefits and encourage the social sustainability of the neighbourhood (see paragraph 6.18 on page 13 of his Report).</p>	

CONCLUSION: Cambridge City Council has confirmed that the 'Made' (Adopted) version of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan meets the legislative requirements.