

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan. It explains how the proposed Great Addington 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 11 of Schedule A2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 have been met.

1.2 Paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004 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 North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Adopted July 2016) and the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (Adopted December 2023);
- 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance;
- Section 3 shows how the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to sustainable development;
- Section 4 demonstrates the conformity of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan with the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (2016) and East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (2023)
- 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 Great Addington 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 Great Addington Parish Council, which is a statutory Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Neighbourhood Area

1.6 This Plan applies to the Parish of Great Addington. On 28 February 2000 Great Addington Parish Council applied for the Neighbourhood Area designation. In accordance with Regulation 6, East Northamptonshire Council¹, on behalf of the relevant body (Great Addington Parish Council), completed the necessary statutory process to enable designation of the Great Addington Parish area as a Neighbourhood Area. On 8 April 2020, East Northamptonshire Council designated the whole of Great Addington Parish as a Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with Regulation 7.

1.7 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan relates only to the development and use of land within the Parish of Great Addington and to no other Neighbourhood Areas.

1.8 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan 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 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2021 to 2041 to align with the emerging North Northamptonshire Local Plan.

1.10 No provision for excluded development such as national infrastructure, minerals or waste development is contained within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Great Addington: Location

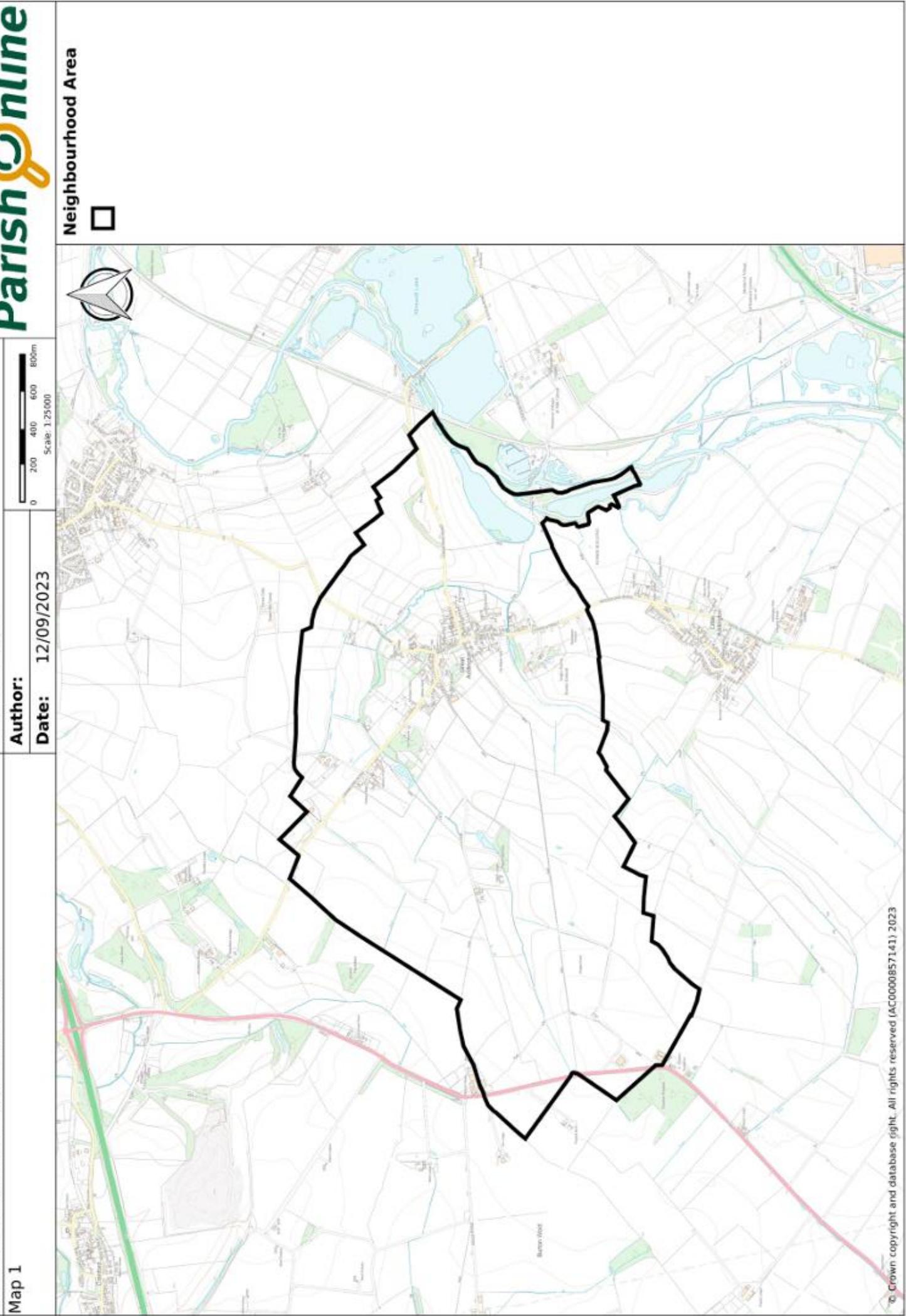
1.11 Great Addington Parish is a rural parish to the south east of Kettering. The eastern boundary of the Area is formed by the River Nene. There were 299 usual residents in Great Addington Parish as at Census Day 2021, living in 125 households.

¹ Following local government reorganisation, North Northamptonshire Council came into being on 1 April 2021. The North Northamptonshire unitary area covers the former district and borough councils of Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough which have been abolished.

1.12 The only settlement in the Parish is Great Addington village and has been in continuous occupation since the neolithic period. Great Addington has limited services comprising a village hall, primary school, pub, recreation ground and church. These are important for the overall viability of the community and quality of life.

Involvement of the Local Community and Stakeholders

1.13 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Great Addington Parish Council, supported by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, comprising Parish Councillors and residents, along with input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. The Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by the Regulations and the responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule 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 Great Addington 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 December 2023, and it is against this version of the NPPF which the Great Addington 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 Great Addington 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. In order to achieve sustainable development, the Framework has three overarching objectives, economic, social and environmental.

2.4 This section considers the conformity of the Great Addington 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan, in addition to the guidance on Neighbourhood Planning are:

- Brownfield Land Registers.
- Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment.
- Design: process and tools.
- First Homes.
- Flood Risk and Coastal Challenge.
- Healthy and Safe Communities.
- Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment
- 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.
- Neighbourhood Planning.
- 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan conforms with and provides a supporting commentary. Reference is also made to the relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
GA1: Parking Standards – Expects new development to provide appropriate parking provision in accordance with the Highway Authority standards.	Paragraph 108	<p>Why establish a transport evidence base for Local Plans (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 54-001-20141010)</p>	<p>This policy seeks to provide the appropriate level of car parking infrastructure to support new development, considering the levels of public transport provision, and to avoid exacerbating the adverse impacts being experienced by on-street parking.</p>
GA2: The Countryside - Countryside Protects the Countryside for its intrinsic character, beauty, landscape, heritage, wildlife, natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all. States that development will be controlled in accordance with national and local plan policy.	Paragraphs 84, 88, 124 & 180.	<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 allows some forms of appropriate development.</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
GA3: Locally Important Views – Requires development to be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to the local landscape. Sensitivity should be shown for views that are regarded as highly characteristics. The policy identifies several important views.	Paragraphs 135, 160 & 181	<p>How can planning policies conserve and enhance landscapes? (Paragraph: 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721)</p> <p>How are well-designed places achieved through the planning system? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 26-001 20191001)</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. It also seeks to identify and protect the special qualities of an area.</p>
GA4: Public Rights of Way network - Seeks development to protect the Rights of Way and create new links to the network. Encourages the creation of a specific off-road cycle/footpath links.	Paragraph 104	<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>This policy takes account of the different roles and character of different areas as well as seeks to support the multiple benefits from the use of rural areas, such as recreation and wellbeing, and maximise opportunities for walking and cycling.</p>
Policy GA5: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Mitigation Strategy - Seeks financial contributions, from	Paragraphs 180, 185, 186, 187, 188	<p>Is there a statutory basis for seeking to conserve and enhance biodiversity? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 8-009-20240214)</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework seeks the conservation, restoration and enhancement of SPAs and planning permission should be refused where development cannot be adequately</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
residential development in the SPA buffer zone, to mitigate any adverse impact of development. Identifies there maybe instances when an Appropriate Assessment may be required.		<p>How can planning authorities plan for biodiversity and geodiversity? (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 8-010-20190721)</p> <p>How can protected and priority species be considered in planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 8-016-20190721)</p> <p>What questions are important in applying policy to avoid, mitigate or compensate for significant harm to biodiversity? (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 8-019-20240214)</p>	<p>mitigated against and would result in significant harm to the SPA. Neighbourhood Plan policy supports this approach.</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Policy GA6: Ecology and Biodiversity - Expects development not to harm the network of local ecological features and habitats. New development will be expected to maintain and enhance these features and secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 180, 181, 185</p>	<p>Is there a statutory basis for planning to seek to minimise impacts on biodiversity and 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>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net 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>GA7: Trees and Hedges - Existing trees should be retained/integrated into</p>	<p>Paragraphs 136, 180 & 186</p>	<p>What are the considerations when planning for trees within settlements?</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation and enhancement of the natural and local environment. Development resulting in</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>new development. Policy seeks to resist development that damages or results in the loss of ancient trees, hedgerows or trees of good arboricultural or amenity value. Replanting is supported where appropriate.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 029 Reference ID: 8-029-20190721)</p> <p>How can I find out whether an area contains ancient woodland? (Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 8-031-20190721)</p> <p>How can I find out whether a site contains ancient or veteran trees? (Paragraph: 032 Reference ID: 8-032-20190721)</p> <p>How can local planning authorities assess the potential impact of development proposals on ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees? (Paragraph: 033 Reference ID: 8-033-20190721)</p> <p>What compensation can be provided if development resulting in loss or harm is, exceptionally, permitted? (Paragraph: 034 Reference ID: 8-034-20190721)</p>	<p>the loss of ancient trees will not be supported.</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>Policy GA8: Water Management - Seeks the sustainable management of water. Development should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) accompanied by a maintenance schedule, surface water discharges carried out in accordance with the drainage hierarchy, incorporate water efficiency measures and protect existing drainage systems.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 157, 158 & 173-17</p>	<p>What advice and information on flood risk is available for neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 7-016-20220825)</p> <p>What needs to be considered if there is a risk of flooding in the neighbourhood area? (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 7-017-20220825)</p> <p>What are sustainable drainage systems and why are they important? (Paragraph: 055 Reference ID: 7-055-20220825)</p> <p>What sort of sustainable drainage systems can be considered? (Paragraph: 056 Reference ID: 7-056-20220825)</p> <p>What information on sustainable drainage needs to be submitted with a planning application? (Paragraph: 059 Reference ID: 7-059-20220825)</p>	<p>Policy considers the potential for flood risk and proactively seeks to implement measures to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.</p>
<p>Policy GA9: Locally Valued Heritage Assets - The impact of development on</p>	<p>Paragraphs 189, 190, 194, 195 & 203</p>	<p>How can heritage issues be addressed in neighbourhood plans? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 18a-005-20190723)</p>	<p>This policy supports the conservation of non-designated heritage assets. It recognises that heritage assets are an</p>

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<p>a number of identified Non- Designated Heritage assets will be assessed in terms of their harm or loss of the asset and the significance of the heritage asset.</p>		<p>What are non-designated heritage assets? (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18a-039-20190723)</p> <p>How are non-designated heritage assets identified? (Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 18a-040-20190723)</p> <p>What are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest and how important are they? (Paragraph: 041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723)</p>	<p>irreplaceable resource and seeks their conservation and enhancement and plans positively with respect to non-designated heritage assets. Non-Designated Heritage assets within the plan area have been identified so they can be appropriately considered.</p>
<p>Policy GA10: Design – To support high quality design new development should reflect the Great Addington Design Guide. Development that is not well designed will not be supported.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 131, 132, 133, 134, 135 & 139</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?</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</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 26-004-20191001)</p> <p>What are local design guides? (Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 26-005-20191001)</p>	<p>development that is of a design that reflects the local area.</p>
<p>Policy GA11: Local Green Space – Identifies a Local Green Space within the Neighbourhood Area which will be protected. Development in this designation will only be supported in very special circumstances.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 105-107</p>	<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?</p>	<p>Regard is had to national policy which allows for neighbourhood plans to identify for the protection green areas of importance to them. Development in this designation will only be permitted in very special circumstances.</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		(Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306)	
Policy GA12: Ultrafast Connectivity - New development to incorporate open access ducting and facilitate access to fibre optic broadband technology. Exceptions will only be considered if unviability of a development can be demonstrated.	Paragraphs 118	Not relevant.	This policy supports sustainable economic development and the provision of high-quality communications infrastructure in accordance with the NPPF.
Policy GA13: Retention of Community Services and Facilities - This policy supports the protection, diversification and improvement to identified services and facilities.	Paragraphs 88 & 97	<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>	The policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages and plans positively against their unnecessary loss and seeks improvement of facilities that meet day to day needs.
Policy GA14: Infrastructure - Supports the provision of	Paragraphs 7, 11, 28 & 34	Where should policy on seeking planning obligations be set out?	This policy identifies and plans positively for the provision of community facilities to

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
new or improved infrastructure together with financial off-site contributions. Policy includes a list of identified infrastructure requirements.		<p>(Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 23b-004-20190901)</p> <p>Should a neighbourhood plan consider infrastructure?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 045 Reference ID: 41-045-20190509)</p>	enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environment.
Policy GA15: Housing Requirement – Identifies the housing requirement for Great Addington. This is to be met by existing committed developments, allocations and windfall development.	Paragraphs 67, 68, 69 & 70	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009 20190722)</p> <p>How should a housing requirement figure be set for designated neighbourhood areas?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 101 Reference ID: 41-101 20190509)</p> <p>How should local planning authorities identify indicative housing requirement figures for designated neighbourhood areas, when these are needed?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 102 Reference ID: 41-102 20190509)</p>	This policy makes provision to meet the local housing requirement for the Neighbourhood Area.
Policy GA16: Infill -- Supports housing infill development within the	Paragraphs 70, 72 & 83	What is previously developed (brownfield) land?	Supports the development of windfall sites – giving weight to the benefits of

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
<p>defined Settlement Boundary for Great Addington.</p> <p>Outside of the Settlement Boundary, housing development will be limited and determined in accordance with the Local Plan.</p>		<p>(Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 59-003-20170728)</p> <p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p>	<p>using suitable sites within existing settlements</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
Policy GA17: Land North of Cranford Road, Great Addington – Allocates approximately 0.61 hectares of land for the development of approximately 16 dwellings, subject to criteria.	Paragraphs 70, 71, 83	<p>What is neighbourhood planning? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 41-001-20190509)</p> <p>How should neighbourhood planning bodies use a housing requirement figure that has been provided to them? (Paragraph: 103 Reference ID: 41-103-20190509)</p> <p>Can a neighbourhood plan allocate sites for development? (Paragraph: 042 Reference ID: 41-042-20170728)</p> <p>Housing and economic land availability assessment.</p>	The qualifying body has carried out an appraisal of options and an assessment of individual sites against clearly identified criteria.

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
Policy GA18: Housing Mix – Expects development to provide a suitable proportion of homes with 3 bedrooms and less. Will also need to demonstrate how needs of older households will be met.	Paragraph 63	<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>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>	The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan seeks to facilitate a mix of housing in its neighbourhood area that reflects local need and demand.

<p>Policy GA19: Affordable Housing – The priority is First Homes. All affordable housing will be subject to a condition or planning obligation securing those people with a local connection to the Neighbourhood Area.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 63, 64, 65 & 66</p>	<p>How can planning policies support sustainable rural communities? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 67-009-20190722)</p> <p>What is a First Home? (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 70-001-20210524)</p> <p>What are the First Homes criteria? (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 70-002-20210524)</p> <p>What appropriate methods can local authorities use to set out their local requirements for First Homes, including both local First Homes criteria and local First Homes eligibility criteria? (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 70-009-20210524)</p> <p>How should developer contributions be secured for First Homes? (Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 70-012-20210524)</p> <p>How can the 25% First Homes requirement be addressed in plans? (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 70-013-20210524)</p>	<p>First Homes to be provided as part of the affordable housing provision in the district. This policy is responsive to local circumstances and supports housing developments that reflect local needs. It supports the provision of affordable housing.</p>
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Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
		<p>How can neighbourhood plans support the provision of affordable homes for sale, including First Homes?</p> <p>(Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 70-017-20210524)</p>	
Policy GA20: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings – Supports the re-use and adaptation of redundant or disused buildings for residential use.	Paragraph 84	Not relevant.	Policy supports the re-use of redundant or disused buildings in the countryside.
Policy GA21: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings – The re-use, adaptation or extension of rural buildings for buildings will be supported subject to criteria.	Paragraphs 88 & 89	Not relevant	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas and takes a proactive approach in this respect.

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	National Planning Policy Framework	Planning Practice Guidance	Commentary
GA22: Working from Home – Supports development that facilitates working from home providing it is in keeping with the character of the area, does not harm residential amenity and provides for a safe and suitable access.	Paragraphs 88 & 89	Not relevant	This policy supports sustainable economic development in accordance with the NPPF. It plans to support economic growth in rural areas and takes a proactive approach in this respect.

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 Great Addington 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 Great Addington 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
1 – Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	Provides a steer as to where new housing should be focused. Supports a supply and mix of housing types, including affordable housing, to meet local needs, including the housing needs of older households as well as the provision of smaller homes. Priority will be given to people with a local connection to the Great Addington Neighbourhood Area when affordable housing is allocated.

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
2 – Building a strong, competitive economy	Supports home working, the provision of suitable broadband infrastructure, and the re-use of rural buildings, facilitating the sustainable growth of the rural economy. Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, supporting the vitality of the community.
3 – Ensuring the vitality of town centres	The village of Great Addington has a limited services and facilities, and an ambition of the plan is to protect the vitality of the community, supporting the retention of existing services and facilities. Improvements in community infrastructure is also supported.
4 – Promoting healthy and safe communities	Seeks the protection of the countryside and its improved accessibility as well as the protection of local green spaces. These are recognised as a recreational resource and have potential to improve quality of life. Seeks the retention and improvement of key local facilities, proving opportunities for people to meet and support quality of life as well as the protection of residential amenity.
5 – Promoting sustainable development	Supports housing development within the Settlement Boundary of Great Addington with access to its range of services and facilities. Supports the re-use and conversion of buildings, home working and sustainable economic growth.
6 – Supporting high quality communications	Supports the provision of infrastructure that facilitates the provision of fibre optic broadband technology.
7 – Making effective use of land	Supports infill housing development within the Settlement Boundary of Great Addington. Facilitates the re-use and conversion of buildings.
8 – Achieving well-designed places	Includes policies requiring 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.
9 - Protecting Green Belt Land	Not applicable

National Planning Policy Framework	How the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan supports objective
10 - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	Supports the conversion and re-use of buildings. As there are well-established national and local policies that manage development and flood risk, there is no need for the Neighbourhood Plan to duplicate them. However, the Neighbourhood Plan does seek the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and the sustainable management of surface water.
11 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Protects the character of the countryside, 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. Seeks to positively contribute to, and manage, the district's historic environment.
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 North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) and the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2) (December 2023).
- 4.2 The following section identifies how the policies of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan are in general conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) and the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2) (December 2023).

North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 - 2031

- 4.3 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following policies of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy 2:	Historic Environment
Policy 3:	Landscape Character
Policy 4:	Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy 5:	Water Environment, Resources and Flood Risk Management
Policy 7:	Community Services and Facilities
Policy 8:	North Northamptonshire Place Shaping Principles
Policy 10:	Provision of Infrastructure
Policy 11:	The Network of Urban and Rural Areas
Policy 13:	Rural Exceptions
Policy 19:	The Delivery of Green Infrastructure
Policy 25:	Rural Economic Development and Diversification
Policy 26:	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
Policy 29:	Distribution of New Homes

Policy 30: Housing Mix and Tenure

4.4 Policy 1 is the overarching Joint Core Strategy and takes a proactive approach to delivering sustainable development within the context of North Northamptonshire (the Local Plan area). This is a theme that runs throughout the Joint Core Strategy and reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. It is considered that this theme runs throughout the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan, and this is demonstrated in the Basic Condition Statement. It is therefore considered to be in conformity with Policy 1 of the Joint Core Strategy.

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 - 2031	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
GA1: Parking Standards	Policy 8	Seeks satisfactory parking provision.
GA2: Countryside	Policies 11, 13 & 26	Seeks to protect and retain the character and role of the countryside as defined in the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy. Supports appropriate forms of development in the countryside.
GA3: Locally Important Views	Policy 3	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 provides a list of important views where particularly sensitivity should be shown.
GA4; Public Rights of Way	Policy 19	Supports improvements to green infrastructure corridors that improve access between settlements and their surrounding countryside.

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 - 2031	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
GA5: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Mitigation Strategy	Policy 4	<p>Protection of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar Site.</p> <p>Development to take account of the SPA Supplementary Planning Document: Mitigation Strategy and residential development to contribute towards the implementation of this strategy, where necessary.</p> <p>A project level Appropriate Assessment may be needed.</p>
GA6: Ecology and Biodiversity	Policy 4	<p>Seeks to protect the network of local ecological features and habitats.</p> <p>Seeks to protect these features and ensure new development does not harm these features.</p> <p>New development should conserve and enhance these features.</p> <p>Seeks a net gain in biodiversity.</p>
GA7: Trees and Hedges	Policy 3	<p>Provides for landscape mitigation and seeks the retention of existing landscape features such as trees and hedgerows.</p>
GA8: Water Management	Policy 5	<p>Seeks the sustainable management of surface water and water resources, contributing to improvement in water quality and reduction in flood risk.</p>
GA9: Locally Valued Heritage Assets	Policy 2	<p>Supports the conservation and enhancement of the area's heritage assets.</p>
GA10: Design	Policy 8	<p>Requires new development to be of a high-quality design and to reflect and protect the rural and tranquil character of Great Addington</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 - 2031	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
GA11: Local Green Space	Policies 3 & 19	The Neighbourhood Plan has identified a Local Green Space for its recreational value.
GA12: Ultrafast Connectivity	Policies 10 & 25	Supports the provision of infrastructure to support rural economic development and enhance quality of life.
GA13: Retention of Community Services and Facilities	Policy 7	<p>Supports the safeguarding of services and facilities in Great Addington.</p> <p>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</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the facilities to be safeguarded</p>
GA14: Infrastructure	Policy 10	<p>Development is to be supported by the appropriate infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>However, the scale of obligations must not negatively impact on the viability of a development.</p>
GA15: Housing Requirement	Policies 11 & 29	<p>Supports housing growth in accordance with the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the scale of future housing growth considering local needs and to provide support for the future sustainability of the village.</p>

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011 - 2031	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy
GA16: Infill	Policy 11	Supports small scale infill development within the Settlement Boundary of Great Addington, in accordance with the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy.
GA17: Land North of Cranford Road, Great Addington	Polices 11 & 29	Supports housing provision in accordance with the spatial strategy of the Joint Core Strategy. Regard is had to the housing requirements, houses that have been approved and the future needs of village residents.
GA18: Housing Mix	Policy 30	Provides for a mix of housing to cater for current and future needs.
GA19: Affordable Housing	Policy 30	Provides for a mix of housing to cater for current and future needs. Priority will be given to people with a local connection to Great Addington.
GA20: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
GA21: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings.	Policy 25	Supports rural diversification and the appropriate re-use of rural buildings.
GA22: Working from Home	Policy 25	Supports the sustainable development of the rural economy.

East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)

4.5 The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan is considered to conform to the following strategic policies of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2). The table below provides a further explanation of the conformity.

Policy En1: Spatial Development Strategy

Policy En2: Development Principles

Policy En3: Development on the periphery of settlements and rural exceptions housing.

Policy En6: The Greenway

Policy En7: Designation of Local Green Space

Policy En11: Design of Buildings/Extensions

Policy En13: Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Policy En26: Housing mix and tenure to meet local need

Policy En27: Older people's housing provision

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)
GA1: Parking Standards	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA2: Countryside	Policies En1 & En3	Supports rural diversification or the re-use or conversion of rural buildings.
GA3: Locally Important Views	Policy EN2	Supports development that do not compromise key views.
GA4: Public Rights of Way	Policy EN6	Supports extension and links to the Greenway, focusing on walking and cycling.
GA5: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Mitigation Strategy	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA6: Ecology and Biodiversity	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA7: Trees and Hedges	Not applicable	Not applicable

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)
GA8: Water Management	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA9: Locally Valued Heritage Assets	Policy En13	Supports the identification of non-designated heritage assets through Neighbourhood Plans.
		Seeks the conservation of non-designated heritage assets.
GA10: Design	Policy En11	Seeks high quality design that relates to and enhances the surrounding area and local character.
GA11: Local Green Space	Policy En7	Supports the designation of Local Green Space through Neighbourhood Plans subject to criteria.
GA12: Ultrafast Connectivity	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA13: Retention of Community Services and Facilities	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA14: Infrastructure	Not applicable	Not applicable
GA15: Housing Requirement	Policies En1 and En2	Supports the spatial development strategy. Allows for infill development and the Neighbourhood Plan provides a housing allocation.
GA16: Infill	Policy En2	The Neighbourhood Plan defines a Settlement Boundary to manage development.
GA17: Land North of Cranford Road, Great Addington	Policy En2	The Neighbourhood Plan defines a housing allocation for Great Addington, in accordance with the spatial development strategy.
GA18: Housing Mix	Policies En26 & En27	Expects development to provide a suitable mix and range of housing that recognises local need, with a particular emphasis on smaller dwellings and housing appropriate for an aging population.
GA19: Affordable Housing	Policy En26	Expects development to provide a suitable mix and range of housing that recognises local

Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Policy	East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)	Explanation of Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan Conformity with the East Northamptonshire Local Plan (Part 2)
		need, including affordable housing.
GA20: Residential Conversion of Rural Buildings	Policy En1	Allows for the appropriate conversion of rural buildings within the countryside.
GA21: Business Conversion of Rural Buildings.	Policy En1	Allows for the appropriate rural diversification or the re-use or conversion of rural buildings.
GA22: Working from Home	Not applicable	Not applicable.

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

5.2 Formal screening for the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan was not undertaken by North Northamptonshire Council. However, given the presence of a European designated site and the intention of the Neighbourhood Plan to allocate land for development, it is concluded that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required.

5.3 A Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report for the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan (March 2024) has been produced by AECOM. The purpose of this report was to establish a suggested scope for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Scope explored a number of environmental themes, and the policy context for the Neighbourhood Plan, established a baseline, identified problems or opportunities and developed a SEA framework comprising objectives and assessment questions. Options and proposals within the emerging neighbourhood plan were assessed using this framework.

5.4 The statutory consultation bodies, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England were invited to comment on the need for SEA as well as the content of the Scoping Report.

5.5 AECOM has produced an independent Strategic Environmental Assessment Report (May 2024) for the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan. It was published alongside the 'pre-submission draft' version of the Plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

5.6 The SEA identifies no potential significant effects through the policy appraisal of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan. Significant effects are considered likely in relation to community wellbeing. Minor positive effects are considered likely for the historic environment, landscape and biodiversity. These effects reflect the incorporation of the HRA findings to mitigate effects to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits site. Minor positive effects are also concluded for transportation and movement. Broadly neutral effects are considered likely for climate change and flood risk, and land, soil and water resources.

5.7 Two recommendations are made relating to biodiversity and geodiversity and the historic environment. These recommendations will help to protect the integrity of a key habitat area and the special qualities of a designated building through the development of the site. However, uptake of these recommendations will not lead to changes to the likely overall effects. As a consequence, appropriate changes have been incorporated in the Submission Version of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan. These changes related to Policy GA17. Criterion D of this policy was amended, and criterion F was added.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

5.8 AECOM also undertook a Habitat Regulations Assessment (May 2024) separately to inform of the potential effect of the Neighbourhood Plan on Habitats (previously European) Sites (Special Areas of Conservation, SACs, Special Protection Areas, SPAs, and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar convention) and how they are being addressed in the draft NP.

5.9 The assessment recognises that two policies, GA15 and GA17, had the potential to cause a likely significant effect and the assessment discussed these policies with regards to their impacts relating to Upper Nene Gravel Pits Special Protection Area/Ramsar Sites.

5.10 Each policy of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed to determine the effects on historic environment, Natura 2000 sites and Habitats Regulation Assessment. The Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a substantial effect of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required. It concludes the policy wording will provide a sufficient policy framework to ensure that no adverse effects on the integrity of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar will arise in isolation or in combination for:

- Recreational pressure;
- Loss of functionally linked land;
- Water quality (Surface water runoff);
- Water quality (treatment of sewage effluent); and,
- Water quantity, volume and flow.

5.11 For technical reasons the assessment recommended additional wording to Policy GA17. These changes have been incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.12 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 Great Addington 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan will not affect any Natura 2000 sites in line with the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment undertaken of the Great Addington 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 Great Addington 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan complies with paragraph 11 of Schedule A2 to the Town and Country Planning Act 2004.

Appendix 1: Great Addington 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 Great Addington 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.

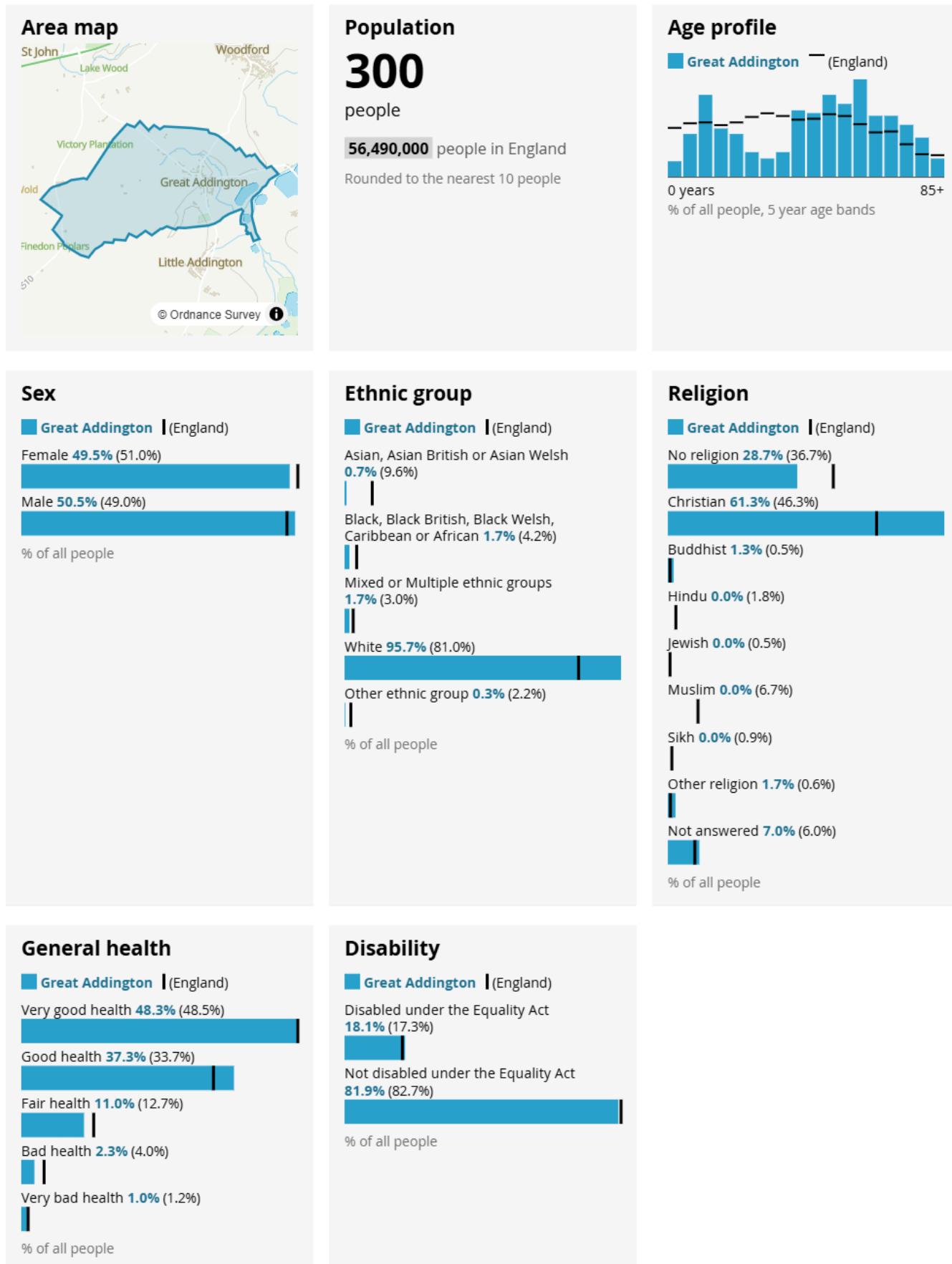
Low impact: almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation-led.

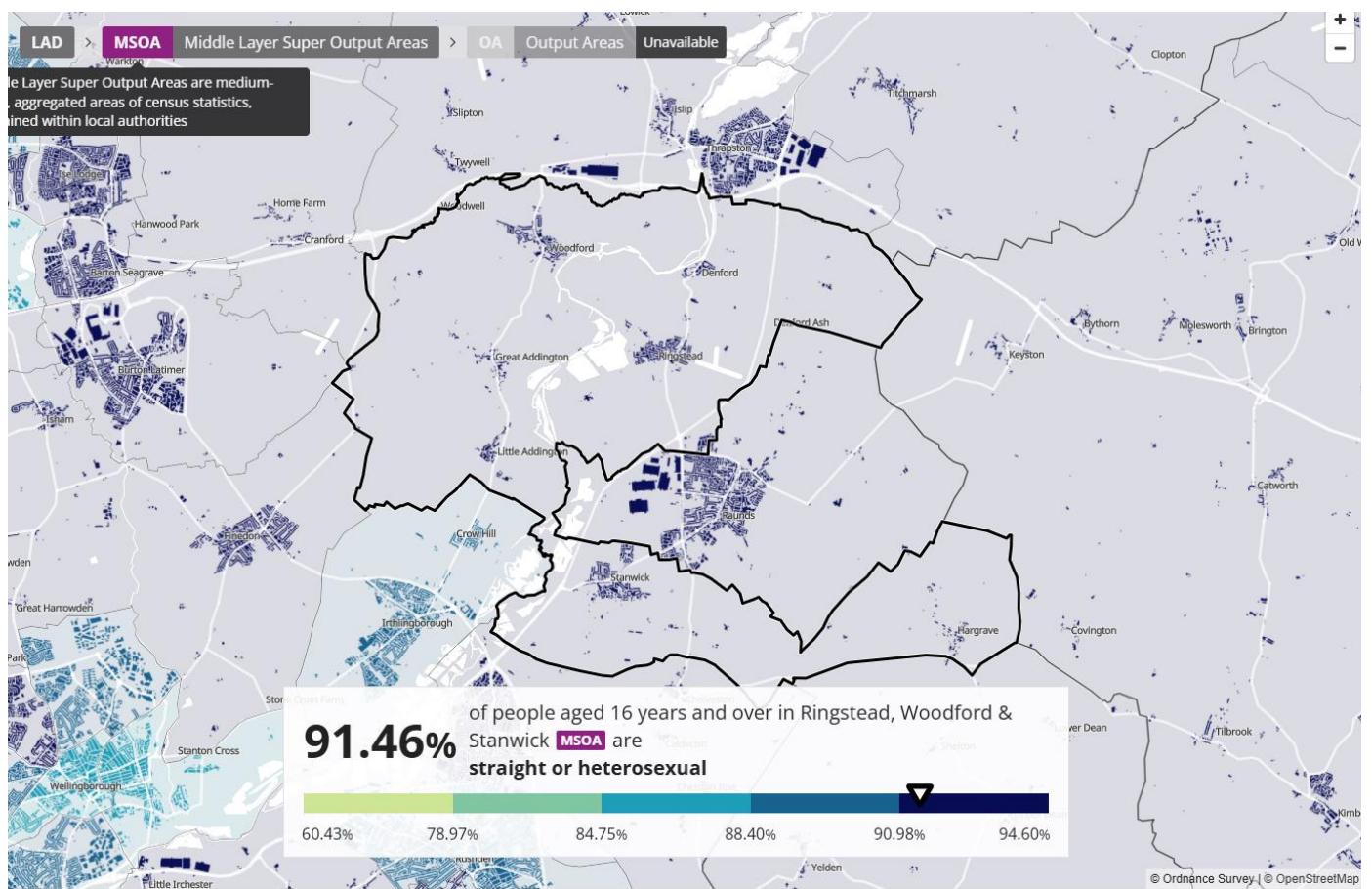
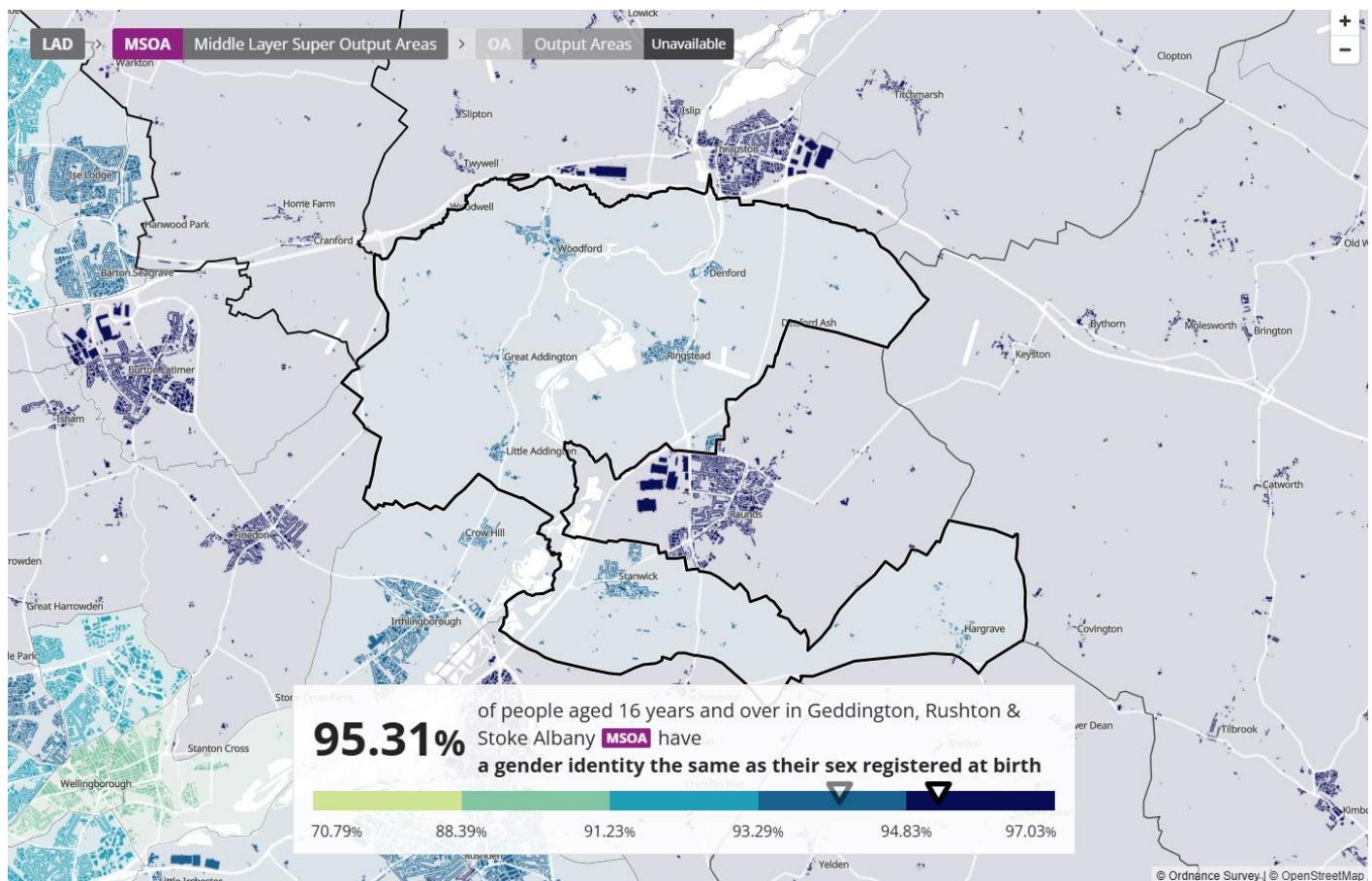
Baseline Data

This Assessment has relied on Census data for 2021 published by the Office for National Statistics. For certain geographies, data is available for age, disability, gender identity, race, religious belief, sex and sexual orientation. There is no known data for pregnancy and maternity. Not all Census 2021 topics are available for all geographies. (Note: The data and

boundaries displayed in the profile below are aggregated from small areas on a best to fit basis, and therefore may differ slightly from other sources).

Great Addington





Summary

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

The proportion of older people in the Neighbourhood Area is significantly higher than the national picture, and the proportion of 0-15 year olds is lower.

The proportion of people in the Neighbourhood Area who are Disabled under the Equality Act is similar to the average for England and Wales. Those who consider themselves to be in very good health (48.3%) is also similar to the national picture (48.5%)

The Neighbourhood Area lies in a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) along with Ringstead, Woodford and Stanwick. In the MSOA 95.31% of people aged 16 years and over have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth.

The proportion of ethnic minorities is noticeably lower than the national picture.

The proportion of Christians in the Neighbourhood Area (61.3%) is higher than England and Wales (46.3%) whilst the proportion of other religions is markedly lower.

In the MOSA, 91.46% of people aged 16 years and over, are straight or heterosexual. This is a less than England and Wales as a whole (94.6%).

Key Issues and Policies of the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following key priorities for the Great Addington Neighbourhood Area that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to address.

- The impact of vehicular traffic on village life
- Protecting the character of the countryside and access to it
- Conserving local heritage and village identity, including existing stone walls
- Footpaths and access to The Greenway
- Protection green areas in the village
- Improving and retaining local services and facilities
- Nature conservation
- Meeting local housing needs
- Noise and disturbance.

These issues are reflected in the following Vision for the Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan, comprising six broad objectives.



The Neighbourhood Plan contains a suite of 22 policies to deliver against that vision and respond to the issues and objectives.

Impact of Policies on Groups with Protected Characteristics

Age

Policy GA18 requires new developments to deliver a mix of housing, including smaller dwellings, and demonstrate how their proposals will meet the housing needs of older households.

Policy GA19 supports the provision of affordable housing including a priority for First Homes.

Policy GA13 seeks the retention of key community services and facilities and Policy GA14 requires new development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. These policies are seen as important for the long-term sustainability of the area. 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. Their retention is considered to have a strong benefit for young and old alike and is considered to have a positive impact.

Policy GA11 requires the designated local green space to be protected, and development will only be supported in very special circumstances. The Addingtons Playing Field provides recreation value, which is likely to benefit the young who are engaged in play, and this is considered to have potential for a positive impact.

Disability

In requiring new developments to provide for a mix of homes to reflect local need (GA18) 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 GA18 perhaps has only the potential for a neutral impact. There is no evidence, however, that would suggest a negative impact.

Policy GA13 seeks the retention of community services and facilities. Policies GA14 requires new development to be supported by appropriate infrastructure. These policies are seen as important for the long-term sustainability of the Neighbourhood Area and provide access to locally based services for those with lower mobility levels.

Policy GA12 facilitates home working which could potentially have a positive impact on those with less mobility.

Gender reassignment

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy GA10, 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 and improvement of key services such as the memorial (Policy GA13). 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, including the village hall (GA13) with potential for multi-use facilities. However, the uncertain prospects for demand and delivery draw the same conclusion that there is only a neutral impact although the potential for positive impacts should again be noted.

Sex

This assessment found no impacts on this protected characteristic.

Sexual orientation

The potential to secure high quality design under Policy GA10, 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.

Conclusion

The Great Addington 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 and those with limited mobility.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not explicitly address the needs of religious groups, or 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 Great Addington Neighbourhood Plan to be appropriate and that the duty of care prescribed by the Equalities Act 2010 is met.