



Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Dharmista Patel – Planning and Design
October 2014
V2

Contents:**Page:**

1.Introduction	1
2.Sustainable Development	2
3.The Sustainability Appraisal Methodology	4
Step 1 – Selecting the criteria	4
Step 2 – Assessing each Neighbourhood Plan policy and aspiration against the criteria	6
Step 3 – Analysis and Recommendations	7
4. The Assessment Conclusions	8
5. Policy Assessment	8
CE1 – Character and Environment	9
CE2 – Local Green Space	10
CE3 – Important Views and Vistas	11
CE4 – Trees	12
CE5 – Landscape of the wider Parish	13
BD1 – Affordable Housing	14
BD2 – Site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road	15
BD3 – Design guidelines for site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road	16
Appendix - Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion Letters	17

1.Introduction

This report forms the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan. It appraises whether the plan contains projects, policies and aspirations that are likely to contribute to the delivery of sustainable development. It thereby supports the accompanying Statement of Basic Conditions.

The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the development plan for the area if it meets the basic conditions, is supported by referendum and 'made' by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It will cover a number of issues relating to the management of development of the neighbourhood plan area in the future.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action. In 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'), the Directive entered into force in the UK in July 2004 and can apply to a range of plans and programmes including Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans.

The SA extends the concept of the SEA to encompass economic and social concerns. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, An SA should be undertaken for the constituent DPD's of the Local Plan. A SA therefore is a statutory requirement for a Local Plan, but not a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

However under national and European legislation, a SEA may be required when new planning policies are proposed, such as the introduction of a Neighbourhood Plan. A Screening Report has been produced by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (May 2014) to determine whether or not the contents of the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a SEA in accordance with the above legislation, this report can be found in Appendix 1. This concluded:

“As a result of the assessment in section 4, it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy (2009) or the Pre-submission Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. As such, it is the opinion of Hinckley and Bosworth Planning Authority that the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

“In addition the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area is not in close proximity to any European designated nature sites (and) so does not require an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations.”

Although the screening report concluded that an SEA was not required, the Parish Council concluded that a SA would still be useful as a means to ensure and

demonstrate that the principles of sustainable development as defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have been taken into account in the preparation of the plan and will form part of the submission documents for the independent examination.

This appraisal has been prepared by utilising templates and advice developed by Planning Aid England, and Locality.

2. Sustainable Development

The Government introduced legislation through the Localism Act (2011) which came into effect in April 2012 that allows communities to prepare a new type of planning document – a Neighbourhood Plan. Although the Neighbourhood Plan must conform to local and national planning policies, it can still contain policies on issues which are important to the community, especially those which are not adequately met by existing legislation. Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Forum has prepared its own Neighbourhood Plan which is now ready for public consultation.

One of the key issues in planning is the concept of sustainable development. The Government's main planning document The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012, defines sustainable development as, 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

The NPPF defines there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system, of which Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan will be a part, to perform a number of roles:

- An economic role – contributing to building 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 and innovation; and by identifying the coordinating development requirements including the provision of structure;
- A social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of houses required to meet the needs of the present and future generations; and by creating high quality built environment, with

accessible local services that reflect the community's need and support its health, social and cultural well being; and

- An environmental role - contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

Furthermore paragraphs 8 and 9 highlight the need to address these roles in an integrated way:

'These roles should not be undertaken in isolation, because they are mutually dependant. Economic growth can secure higher social and environmental standards, and well designed buildings and places can improve the lives of people and communities. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. The planning system should play an active role in guiding development to sustainable solutions.

Pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment, as well as in peoples quality of life, including (but not limited to):

- Making it easier for jobs to be created in cities, towns and villages;
- Moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains for nature
- Replacing poor design with better design
- Improving the conditions in which people live , work, travel and take leisure; and
- Widening the choice of quality homes.'

Once the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan is 'made', it will become part of Hinckley and Bosworth's Borough Council's planning policies for the parish area and they will use it to determine planning applications. The NPPF states that an application which can be shown to be sustainable should normally be permitted, unless there are important reasons not to do this. It is essential, therefore, to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan's policies will promote sustainable development

A sustainability appraisal shows how planning policies contribute to sustainable development, particularly with regard to their environmental, social and economic impact. It ensures that the concept of sustainable development remains an important consideration throughout the entire planning process. The sustainability appraisal ensures a robust planning document demonstrating conformity with national and other local planning policies.

The sustainability criteria have been adapted from the NPPF and Hinckley and Bosworth's Borough Councils adopted Core Strategy (2009).

In accordance with the NPPF the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which address:

- Environment
- Design
- Heritage, and
- Community.

3.0 The Sustainability Appraisal – Methodology

The sustainability appraisal shows how planning policies and site allocations contribute to sustainable development, particularly with regard to their environmental, social and economic impact. It ensures that the concept of sustainable development remains an important consideration throughout the entire neighbourhood planning process.

There are three steps to the sustainability assessment:

1. Select the criteria which will be used to assess the sustainability of the neighbourhood plan's policies;
2. Using these criteria, measure the impact each policy will have on sustainability;
3. Analyse the results and make recommendations.

Step 1 – Selecting the Criteria

A set of criteria have been put forward that reflect key considerations of what contributes to sustainable development. These criteria have taken account of the core planning principles set out within the NPPF and Hinckley and Bosworth's Borough Council's adopted Core Strategy. This ensures a level of consistency with both national and local planning policy.

Criteria	Description	Example
Infrastructure	Improving transport choices and safety. Ensuring full range of facilities available to support growth.	Infrastructure provision, transport and community facilities.
Economy	Creating a strong and diverse local economy	Jobs, employment land, education, training
Population and Housing	Addressing future housing needs and provision of affordable housing in a range of house types and tenures	Development site, affordable housing
Rural centre	Access and provision of a range of community facilities	Shops, education, leisure facilities
Inclusiveness	To improve quality of life for residents and community input to decision making	Range of facilities, addressing needs of specific groups
Health	Reducing health inequalities and addressing health needs and creating a healthy living environment	Green areas, health centres, sports provision / activities, facilities for walking and cycling
Safety	Designing out crime	Design, appropriate land uses.
Landscape and Heritage	Preserving and enhancing of the natural, historic and built character of the town and area	Character, views, landscape, archaeology, design
Cultural	Provision of a range of facilities to reflect the town's role in the wider community.	Community, facilities, tourism
Climate	Addressing causes and effects of climate change by reducing the impacts of growth on the environment	Use of resources, renewable energy, green infrastructure
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity	Green spaces, hedges, trees, ponds

Key:

Economic
Social
Environmental

Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies (2014)

Policies and Aspirations
CE1 – Character and Environment
CE2 – Local Green Space
CE3 – Important Views and Vistas
CE4 – Trees
CE5 – Landscape of the wider Parish
BD1 – Affordable Housing
BD2 – Site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road
BD3 – Design guidelines for site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road

Step 2 – Assessing each Neighbourhood Plan policy and aspiration against the criteria

The sustainability appraisal is based on a policy integration methodology by assessing each of the policies against the social, economic and environmental sustainability objectives and more detailed components of them. The Neighbourhood Plan is appraised to test whether it adequately addresses each of the objectives of sustainable development with the minimum harm to others according to the grading below:

++	significant positive benefit;
+	some positive benefit;
0	no overall impact, or not applicable;
-	some negative effects;
--	significant negative effects;
?	uncertain, may have either positive or negative influences.

When the plan does not help to achieve an objective a reason is given and where necessary opportunities to improve the plan are identified. It is not possible to achieve all sustainable development objectives and sometimes there may be conflicts between objectives, where these conflicts cannot be resolved the sustainability appraisal provides a means to be open and transparent about the reasons why.

This results in a summary of the overall assessment of the plan and its policies and aspirations in delivering sustainable development as shown in the table below.

Policies/ Criterion	CE1	CE2	CE3	CE4	CE5	BD1	BD2	BD3
Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Economy	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	++
Population and Housing	0	0	0	0	+	++	++	++
Rural centre	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inclusiveness	+	+	0	0	0	++	+	++
Health	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
Landscape and Heritage	++	++	++	++	++	0	-	-
Cultural	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Climate	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	++	++	0	++	++	0	-	-

Step 3 - Analysis and Recommendations:

The final stage was to analyse the results. This was done in by looking at each row (criterion) and then each column (policies and aspirations).

4. The Assessment Conclusions

The full assessment and justification of each individual policy is set out in the following pages. In summary, the table above demonstrates that where there is an impact that impact is predominantly positive with the exception of Policies BD2 and BD3 which propose the development of an agricultural site for residential and employment uses. Some policies do have a neutral impact when judged against some of the scoring criteria. There is a high level of compatibility with the policies of the NPPF and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Core Strategy.

The results of the sustainability appraisal of the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Development Plan suggest that introducing the Neighbourhood Plan will help to contribute to sustainable development.

5. Policy Assessment

The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced to ensure that policies address each key theme of the vision. Each policy has been assessed against the SA criteria using the scoring matrix. This enables the Neighbourhood Plan as well as each individual policy to be assessed against the principles of sustainability. Many policies are inter related but those linkages are not specifically addressed within the SA with each policy having been assessed in isolation - although they will invariably be used in conjunction with each other and other policies in Development Management decision making.

Policy CE1 – Character and Environment		
NPPF: Due to the wide ranging nature of this policy, its themes can be found throughout the NPPF. The policy supports growth, sustainable development and quality design.		
This policy is intended to ensure that new development has regard for the existing character areas and fingers of landscape that characterise Market Bosworth.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	0	No overall impact
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	+	This policy seeks to retain the quality of environment for the community i.e. walking, recreational etc.
Health	0	No overall impact
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	++	The policy seeks to ensure that new development reflects and respects the existing quality and character of the existing town in both the built form and natural landscape.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	++	The policy seeks to ensure the protection and enhancement of existing landscape infrastructure / features.
Conclusion – The policy meets the objectives of sustainable development and does not introduce any negative impacts. It creates a framework for new development in the town to meet NPPF requirements for good design and conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment.		

Policy CE2– Local Green Space		
NPPF: Section 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the NPPF, specifically paragraph 109 specifies the importance of protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.		
This policy is intended to protect the local green spaces which are of importance in Market Bosworth from development.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	0	No overall impact
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	+	This policy seeks to retain the local green space for use by the community
Health	+	The protection of the green spaces provides areas for recreation and exercise
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	++	Protection of the green spaces and the mitigation of new development to ensure environmental sustainability and the protection of the character and identity of Market Bosworth.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	++	Positive impact on green spaces and landscape features
Conclusion – The policy is considered to have a positive impact on sustainability by protecting natural / landscape assets and mitigation of new development on the identity and character of the town.		

Policy CE3 – Important Views and Vistas		
NPPF: Section 12 Conserving and enhancing the built environment of the NPPF, specifically paragraph 109 specifies the importance of protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.		
This policy is intended to protect key views and vistas into Market Bosworth centre which is a key characteristic of the town.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	0	No overall impact
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	0	No overall impact
Health	0	No overall impact
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	++	Protection of the key views and vistas, and the mitigation of new development ensure environmental sustainability and to protect the character and identity of Market Bosworth.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	0	No overall impact
Conclusion – The policy is considered to have a positive impact on sustainability by protecting key views and vistas and mitigation of new development on the identity and character of the town.		

Policy CE4– Trees		
NPPF: Section 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the NPPF, specifically paragraph 109 specifies the importance of protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and paragraph 114 planning positively for the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure.		
This policy is intended conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of Market Bosworth.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	0	No overall impact
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	0	No overall impact
Health	0	No overall impact
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	++	Enhancing and protection of the landscape character and identity of Market Bosworth and the mitigation of new development ensures environmental sustainability
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	++	Positive impact on enhancing and protecting landscape features / infrastructure.
Conclusion – The policy is considered to have a positive impact on sustainability by protecting natural / landscape assets and mitigation of new development on the identity and character of the town.		

Policy CE5– Landscape of the wider parish		
NPPF: Section 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the NPPF, specifically paragraph 109 specifies the importance of protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and paragraph 114 planning positively for the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure.		
This policy is intended conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of Market Bosworth.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	+	Supports the provision of re-use / adaption of existing buildings including housing where there is no adverse impact on the landscape
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	0	No overall impact
Health	0	No overall impact
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	++	Enhancing and protection of the landscape character of Market Bosworth and the mitigation of new development ensures environmental sustainability.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	++	Positive impact on enhancing and protecting landscape features / infrastructure.
Conclusion – The policy is considered to have a positive impact on sustainability by protecting natural / landscape assets and mitigation of new development on the identity and character of the town.		

Policy BD1 – Affordable Housing		
NPPF: Paragraph 54 notes the importance of providing affordable housing in rural communities, including through the use of exceptions sites.		
This policy is intended to meet the needs of existing residents in the plan area and those who have connections to the area and are currently unable to access housing at a cost they can afford, either to rent or buy.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	0	No overall impact
Economy	0	No overall impact
Population and Housing	++	The strong emphasis on meeting local needs, through a range of policy approaches (wider than detailed in current planning policies) offers scope for achieving positive impacts on access to local housing for those with local connections.
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	++	The policy seeks to deliver social housing needs
Health	0	No overall impact
Safety	0	No overall impact
Landscape and Heritage	0	No overall impact
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	0	No overall impact
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	0	No overall impact
Conclusion – The policy meets the objectives of sustainable development and does not introduce any negative impacts. It provides parameters to guide the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of the area and to be sensitively integrated in new developments.		

Policy BD2 – Site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road		
NPPF: Due to the wide ranging nature of this policy, its themes can be found throughout the NPPF. This policy supports growth, sustainable development and quality design.		
This policy seeks to ensure that the development sites meets the employment use / land and housing needs and promoted growth in accordance with the NPPF and Core Strategy Policies.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	+	Seeks to ensure appropriate location of new development and promote pedestrian movement and safety
Economy	++	Supports growth and provision of employment land / use
Population and Housing	+ +	Supports growth
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	+	The policy seeks to deliver social housing needs, play spaces and allotments
Health	+	Seeks to deliver community facilities
Safety	+	Seeks to provide safe pedestrian access to Station Road
Landscape and Heritage	-	Development of agricultural land for residential and employment use.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	-	The provision of additional housing and employment uses in the town will increase the number of car movements and emissions
Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	-	Loss of agricultural land
Conclusion – The policy does introduce negative impacts of developing an agricultural site and an increase in transport / traffic movements however the policy does supports the objectives of growth (housing and employment) sustainable development with has an overall positive outcome.		

Policy BD3 – Design Guideline for site allocation south of Station Road and Heath Road		
NPPF: Due to the wide ranging nature of this policy, its themes can be found throughout the NPPF. This policy supports growth, sustainable development and quality design.		
This policy seeks to ensure that the development sites meets the employment use / land and housing needs and promoted growth in accordance with the NPPF and Core Strategy Policies.		
Sustainability Appraisal Criteria	Impact	Explanation
Infrastructure	+	Seeks to ensure appropriate location of new development and promote pedestrian movement
Economy	++	Supports growth and provision of employment land / use
Population and Housing	+ +	Supports growth
Rural Centre	0	No overall impact
Inclusiveness	+ +	The policy seeks to deliver social housing needs
Health	+	Seeks to deliver community facilities
Safety	+	Seeks to provide a housing layout that provides overlooking and surveillance i.e. streets, open spaces etc
Landscape and Heritage	-	Development of agricultural land for residential and employment use. Design guidelines propose that the site is developed to be in keeping and sensitive to the character and scale of Market Bosworth.
Cultural	0	No overall impact
Climate	-	The provision of additional housing and employment uses in the town will increase the number of car movements and emissions

Natural Environment / Nature Conservation	-	Loss of agricultural land
Conclusion – The policy does introduce negative impacts of developing an agricultural site however supports the objectives of growth (housing and employment) sustainable development, high quality design, provision of community facilities etc. with has an overall positive outcome.		