

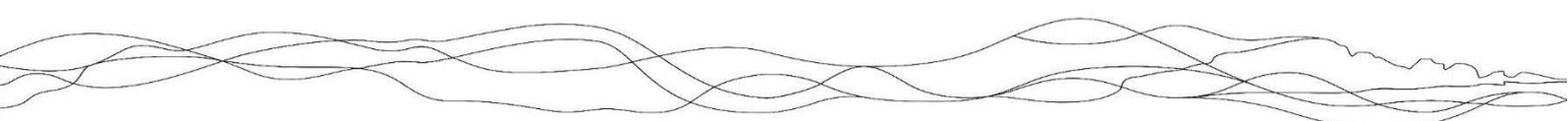
Hook Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018-2032

Basic Conditions Statement

February 2019

Prepared by

Hook Parish Council and



I. Introduction

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared by the South Downs National Park Consultancy Services on behalf of Hook Parish Council. It accompanies the Hook Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2032 that has been submitted to Hart District Council.
- 1.2 The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the Hook NDP meets the legal requirements for a Neighbourhood Plan and the four basic conditions as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied to Neighbourhood Development Plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
- 1.3 The four basic conditions are:
- *having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan,*
 - *the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,*
 - *the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area),*
 - *the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.*
- 1.4 The Statement confirms that:
- The legal compliance requirements have been met (Section 3);
 - The NDP has had due regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State (Section 4);
 - The NDP contributes to sustainable development (Section 5);
 - The NDP is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in Hart District Council's Adopted Local Plan 2011-2029 (Section 6);
 - The NDP does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations, and that its making is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (Section 7).

2. Background

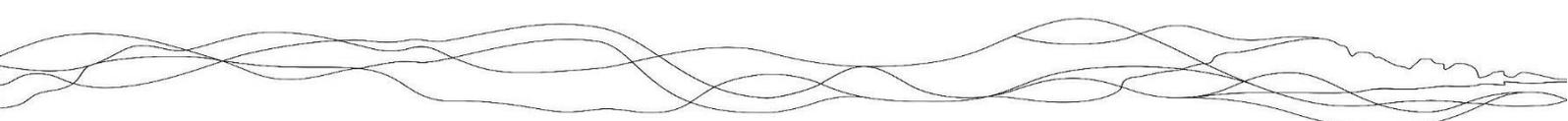
- 2.1 Work began on the Hook NDP in 2014 with the formation of a Steering Group made up of local residents and Parish Councillors. The Neighbourhood Plan was driven by the Steering Group which comprised a cross-community group of residents, a District Councillor, and representatives of the Parish Council who were supported by Hart District Council and various technical experts.
- 2.2 The key motivations for preparing the NDP were to ensure that the Parish Council, with support from the community, was able to retain influence over the future development of the parish. Initially the whole community...residents, employers and employees were consulted on how they wanted to see Hook develop, then at each stage of the plan, residents have had the opportunity to have their say. It was decided that due to the huge demand and ever-changing housing requirement at the Hart District Council level, that the Neighbourhood Plan would develop alongside the Local Plan.
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Consequently, because of various delays in the Local Plan process, this meant the Neighbourhood Plan has taken some years to complete.

- 2.3 The NDP has been prepared to be in general conformity with the relevant development plan policies. The **Hart District Local Plan and First Alterations (1996 - 2006): Saved Policies** is the current adopted plan for the District. It is however due to be superseded by the new Local Plan during 2019.
- 2.4 The **Hart Local Plan Strategy and Sites 2016 – 2032** was submitted for examination by the District Council in June 2018 and includes strategic policies and a number of allocations as well as development management policies. The National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force, if it is to meet basic conditions. Therefore, as detailed in Section 6, as it is likely that the new Local Plan will be in place shortly, this NDP has been significantly influenced by the policies and evidence supporting it ensuring it has longevity.
- 2.5 A screening opinion request was made to Hart District Council as to whether **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)/Sustainability Appraisal (SA)** and / or **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** were required. Hart District Council confirmed, following consultation with Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England, that Hook NDP did require an SEA under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).
- 2.6 With regards to the Habitats Regulations Assessment and whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, the Council concluded that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan was not likely to have a significant effect on European designations. This was supported by the response from Natural England. Natural England further advised that if sites were to be allocated in the Plan then a further Habitat Regulation Screening will be required once these sites are identified. No sites have been allocated in the Hook NDP. Further details with respect to this are set out in Section 7 of this document.

3. Legal Compliance Requirements

- 3.1 The NDP relates to the area that was designated by Hart District Council as a Neighbourhood Area on 2 October 2014. The NDP relates only to this Area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan has or is being made for the Area.
- 3.2 Hook Parish Council is the qualifying body.
- 3.3 The NDP is a plan which sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in the Neighbourhood Area and which has been prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions.
- 3.4 The NDP specifies the period for which it is to have effect, which is 2018-2032.
- 3.5 The NDP does not include provision about development that is excluded development, such as mineral and waste matters, nationally significant infrastructure projects or other prescribed development under section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.



4. Conformity with National Policies and Guidance

- 4.1 National planning policy is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The original NPPF was published in March 2012. It was replaced in July 2018 by a revised and updated version. Accordingly, this Basic Conditions Statement confirms that it is appropriate to make the NDP having regard to the policies of the 2018 Framework.
- 4.2 The NPPF sets out more specific guidance on neighbourhood plans (Non-strategic policies) at paragraphs 28 to 30 and it allows communities to set out detailed policies for specific areas. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies. Hook Parish Council has used its neighbourhood planning powers to develop a vision for the Neighbourhood Area and to set planning policies in the NDP. It also supports the policies within the Local Plan in accordance with paragraph 13 of the NPPF. The links between the Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan are explained at every relevant point in the Hook Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.4 Set out below are the policies contained within the Hook Submission NDP, cross referenced to national policies and guidance, to demonstrate how they have had regard to this. It should be noted that the table below is not exhaustive and there may be other cross-references that are not included in the table below:

Table 1: Conformity of Hook NDP with National Policies and Guidance

NDP Policy		Relevant National Policies and Guidance	
Policy No.	Policy Title	References	Comments on conformity
HK1	Spatial Policy	NPPF paras 11, 15, 16, 28 – 30,	The policy gives a broad indication of where development is and is not appropriate and what will be supported.
Policy HK2	Development in Hook Village Centre	NPPF paras 85, 91	This policy seeks to deliver a Masterplan for the Village Centre including the new Village Square; maintain or increase the commercial space and public/visitor car parking and improve the pedestrian areas which contributes towards supporting the role of the centre in the community. It supports the role of the 'town' centre in accordance with the NPPF and seeks the development of an attractive, safe focal point for the community in accordance with para 91.
Policy HK3	The Village Square Design Principles	NPPF paras 85, 91, 124, 125, 126	Development proposals will be supported where they accord with a range of design objectives aimed at providing a location capable of accommodating a range of activities throughout the year and as a catalyst for wider improvements to the public realm. The design must be coherent and high quality.
Policy HK4	Protecting and Enhancing the	NPPF paras 170, 171, 174	There are a number of priority habitats and the River Whitewater within the parish. This policy seeks to

	Biodiversity of Hook		conserve and enhance these key local features based on the evidence and strategic within the BAP. These policies should contribute to and enhance the local environment in accordance with NPPF para 170.
Policy HK5	Landscape	NPPF para 127, 170	The policy identifies valued landscape features of the parish in accordance with NPPF para 170 and supports development proposals that respect these.
Policy HK6	Hook to Newnham Gap	NPPF paras 124, 126, 130, 170	Seeks to protect settlement identity by safeguarding an area of land that separates two communities. Gaps can correspond with key landscape features and can act as green infrastructure providing a corridor between communities as well as opportunities for recreation.
Policy HK7	Views	NPPF paras 124, 125, 170	Protects the key views within the Parish in order to retain local character. Para 125 of the NPPF states that Neighbourhood plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development.
Policy HK8	Control of light and noise pollution	NPPF para 180	This policy provides a focus on some of the key areas of pollution felt by the community.
Policy HK9	Pedestrian and Cycle Paths	NPPF paras 91, 102	Major developments should provide footpaths and where practical cycle paths to ensure safe and convenient travel opportunities in accordance with NPPF para 102 and which encourages healthy communities and use of alternatives to the car.
Policy HK10	Parking	NPPF paras 105, 125	Seeks the provision of appropriate levels of parking to avoid a worsening of on-street parking. Ensures parking is well designed.
Policy HK11	Residential and mixed-use Windfall Development	NPPF paras 39, 61, 70, 91, 124, 125, 126, 128	Seeks to provide guidance and require early community involvement when large windfall sites within the village come forwards to help to achieve multiple benefits including a mix of housing, community uses, open space, biodiversity and environmental enhancements etc.
Policy HK12	Design	NPPF paras 125, 126	Provides locally specific design guidance, highlighting areas of high sensitivity to change. Para 125 of the NPPF states that Neighbourhood Plans can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of an area and how this should be reflected in development.
Policy HK13	Locally Significant Heritage Assets	NPPF paras 125, 126, 197	A number of buildings and features which are of local architectural and historic value to the community are identified by this policy. These contribute to local character and a sense of place. NPPF 197 states that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application.
Policy HK14	Education, Wellbeing,	NPPF Paras 91, 92	The renewal and enhancement of community and leisure facilities are supported and opens space / facilities should be

	Sport and Leisure		provided as part of larger schemes. This supports the health and wellbeing of communities.
Policy HK15	Employment sites within Hook Village	NPPF para 80,	The policy sets a range of criteria against which an application for the loss of employment sites must be tested before permission could be granted. Premises suitable for micro businesses are supported.

5. Contribution to Sustainable Development

- 5.1. Sustainable development is defined as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need’. It is about ensuring better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. In doing so, social, environmental and economic issues and challenges should be considered in an integrated and balanced way.
- 5.2. The NPPF states the Government’s intentions with regards to sustainable development, in particular the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

ECONOMIC ROLE – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land and the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.

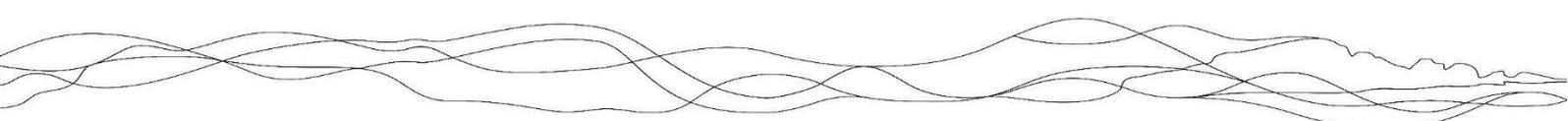
SOCIAL ROLE – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of the present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.

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.

- 5.3 The Vision, objectives and policies of the NDP have these three roles at their heart:

Economic

- 5.4 The parish contains a variety of industrial, storage and business uses as well as village centre uses and shop. These uses are an important part of the local economy and provide the opportunity for people to live and work in the local area. The policies of the Hart Local Plan identify and protect the strategic employment sites in the parish as well as a further range relating to the use or re-use of employment land and premises. These are not repeated in the Hook NDP, however the plan focuses on the smaller groupings and individual premises. It also supports development suitable for micro businesses.
- 5.5 The Hook NDP has two objectives directly linked to the economic element of sustainable development to:



- Maintain Hook's role as an employment centre, a driver for local economic development and incubator for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and new enterprises.
- Manage any changes in use of employment land so as to deliver the best overall result for the community taking into account amenity value of site, adequacy of the infrastructure and the built form that is proposed.

5.6 Alongside the policies and objectives directly related to the economy, there are also a range of policies and objectives looking to safeguard and provide new routes for pedestrians and cyclists which encourages people not to drive where this is feasible as well as policies looking to ensure the environment remains attractive and one in which people and businesses might wish to remain or locate.

Social

5.8 Hook has a strong community spirit and the aim is to ensure that there are opportunities for residents of all ages to lead a happy and fulfilling life.

5.9 The policies of the Hart Local Plan address the supply of housing required to meet the needs of the present and future generations and therefore the focus of the Hook NDP in relation to the theme of social sustainability is particularly around creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being. Specific objectives include:

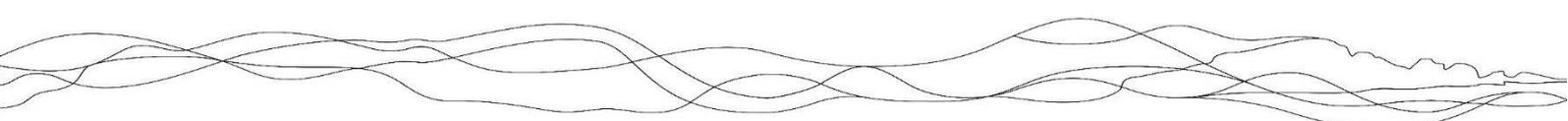
- Provide an attractive and enjoyable environment which is safe and accessible for all.
- Protect the good quality and distinctive features of Hook's built environment and especially those buildings that have architectural or heritage value.
- Ensure new developments provide or contribute financially to local sports, leisure, cultural and community facilities.
- Retain or increase levels of sports, recreation and community facilities.

5.10 There are also objectives and policies looking to create a Village Square that becomes a destination and focal point for the community and enhance the retail and services offer in the village centre. This ties in strongly with the economic theme of sustainable development.

5.11 The plan also through some of its environmental objectives seeks to protect the distinctive character of the parish aiding a sense of place and fostering community identity.

Environmental

5.12 The preservation of the character of Hook which is predominantly residential but one where residents have a good level of access to the countryside surrounding the village features highly in the plan. The need to consider its landscape setting, particularly around River Whitewater and to the west where there is a wish to retain the open countryside that separates Hook from Newnham, is a key issue for the community. In addition access to open space for all residents through the protection of important local green space was also highlighted. This is supplemented by a number of other environmental objectives including:



- Seek new areas of multi-functional green space as part of future developments particularly where they will provide new, or consolidate, connections between existing areas.
- Create, protect and restore flora, wildlife habitats and biodiversity across all parts of the Parish, from back gardens to the woodland, meadows, grass and heathlands.
- Protect natural water sources, including the River Whitewater, from pollution.

5.13 Key to planning within much of Hart District is the need to protect the Thames Basin Heath SPA and therefore no further sites for residential development above that identified in the Hart Local Plan are allocated. In addition there is an objective to maintain, enhance and expand the areas of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs), including Bassetts Mead Country Park.

5.14 The impact of the plan on the environment has been assessed in considerable detail through **Strategic Environmental Assessment**. The outcome of this is incorporated into the light touch assessment below.

Contribution of the NDP to Sustainable Development

5.11 There is no specific legal requirement for Neighbourhood Development Plans to undertake their own Sustainability Appraisal (SA) however there is a need to demonstrate how the plan contributes towards sustainable development. This can be done in whatever manner is felt most appropriate and therefore in this case each policy has been broadly assessed for the contribution it makes to the three arms of sustainable development as described above. This assessment is closely tied to the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the plan which has been undertaken separately and focuses on the likely significant environmental effects of the plan.

5.18 The matrix below identifies which roles of sustainable development each policy contributes towards to or detracts from.

Strong positive contribution	++
Positive contribution	+
Neutral contribution	/
Negative contribution	-
Strong negative contribution	--
Uncertainty over impact	?

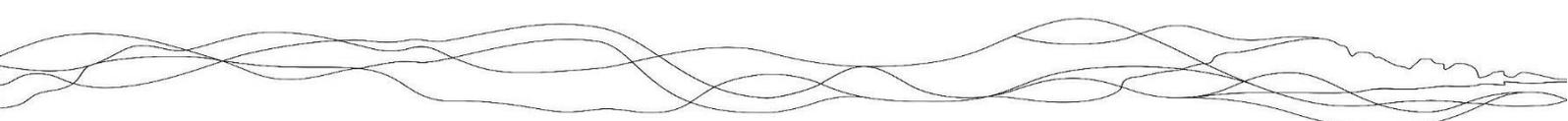
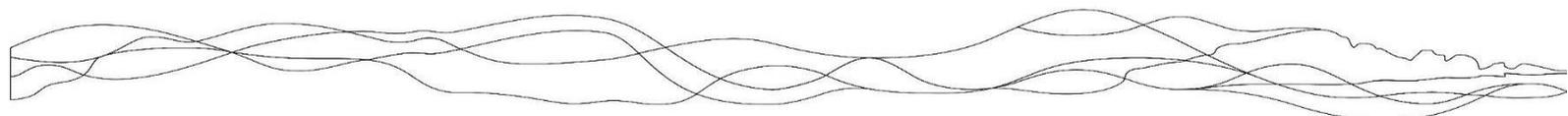
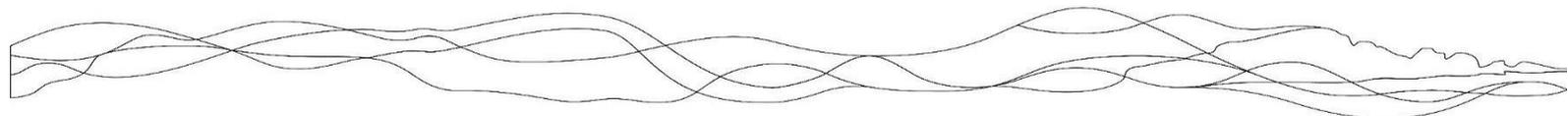


Table 1 - Contribution of the Hook NDP policies to Sustainable Development (incorporating the results of the SEA)

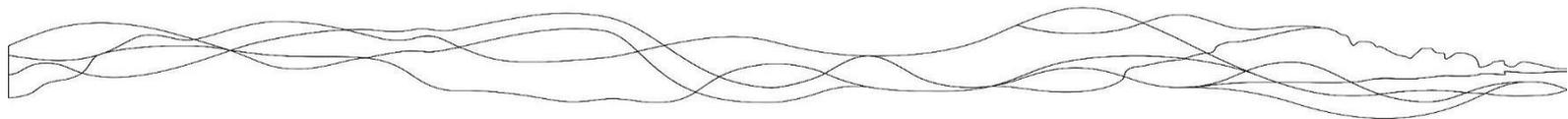
Policy Ref	Title	Economic	Social	Environmental	Commentary (where necessary)
HK1	Spatial Policy	+	+	+	The policy gives support to development that is supported by infrastructure, services and facilities. It supports small scale development in the countryside if they are for local business or community uses.
Policy HK2	Development in Hook Village Centre	+	+	+	The policy supports a masterplan that would deliver considerable improvements if and when sites become available during the plan period. However, due to the private ownership of the land, it is not guaranteed that it will happen, but the presence of the policy gives a strong steer and safeguards the Village Square
Policy HK3	The Village Square Design Principles	+	+	+	The policy sets out design objectives to be applied to development in the village square.
Policy HK4	Protecting and Enhancing the Biodiversity of Hook	?+	?+	++	Identifies key biodiversity features to be protected and enhanced. It is also recognised that protecting and enhancing biodiversity can lead to economic and social benefits.
Policy HK5	Landscape	+?	+?	+	Seeks to ensure landscape character is considered when applications are made. It is also recognised that protecting and enhancing landscape can lead to economic and social benefits.
Policy HK6	Hook to Newnham Gap	+?	+	+	It is recognised that protecting the character and sense of identity of communities can lead to economic and social benefits. Some of the land that is identified as a gap is of environmental value, it is used for recreation purposes and its retention will help to ensure a green corridor remains between the communities which is beneficial for biodiversity.
Policy	Views	+?	+?	+	It is recognised that protecting and enhancing landscape can lead to



HK7					economic and social benefits. Some of the land that is identified in the views policy is of environmental value, particularly that towards the river Whitewater albeit is also protected through other policies and legislation.
Policy HK8	Control of light and noise pollution	/	+	+	Looks to minimise light and noise pollution
Policy HK9	Pedestrian and Cycle Paths	/	+	+	Seeks to provide new pedestrian and cycle path links
Policy HK10	Parking	+	+	/	Seeks to provide well designed, sufficient public and private parking
Policy HK11	Residential and mixed-use Windfall Development.	+	++	+	Ensures that multiple benefits are achieved from large windfall sites. This includes involving the community at the earliest stage.
Policy HK12	Design	+	+	+	Good design has social, environmental and economic benefits for the community as a whole.
HK13	Locally Significant Heritage Assets	?- or ?+	+	/	The identification of a building or feature as having architectural or historic significance may have cost implications for the owner if any changes are proposed. However retaining key buildings and features supports community identity which has social benefits and an attractive environment can have economic benefits.
HK14	Education, Wellbeing, Sport and Leisure	/	+	/	Supports renewal and enhancement of community and leisure facilities.
HK15	Employment sites within	+	?+	/	Supports the retention of employment sites in the Parish and the delivery of new sites for micro businesses.



	Hook Village				
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6.0 General Conformity with the Strategic Policies in the Development Plan

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. As the Parish is located within Hart District the development plan consists of:

Hart District Local Plan and First Alterations (1996 - 2006): Saved Policies – The current adopted plan for the District. It is likely to be superseded in part by the new Local Plan during 2019. The policies that remain would not be considered strategic.

Hart Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016 – 2032. The Local Plan was submitted for examination by the District Council in June 2018 and includes strategic policies and a number of allocations as well as development management policies. The National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force, if it is to meet basic conditions. Therefore, as it is likely that the new Local Plan will be in place shortly, this NHP has been significantly influenced by the policies and evidence supporting it. The HNP has been tested for its conformity with this emerging plan rather than the current Local Plan which is over 10 years out of date and pre-dates the NPPF.

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013. This Plan contains planning policy for minerals and waste development in Hampshire and therefore is not of direct relevance to the Hook NDP.

6.2 When considering whether a policy is in general conformity a qualifying body, independent examiner, or local planning authority, should consider the following:

- whether the neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal supports and upholds the general principle that the strategic policy is concerned with;
- the degree, if any, of conflict between the draft neighbourhood plan policy and the strategic policy;
- whether the draft neighbourhood plan policy or development proposal provides an additional level of detail and/or a distinct local approach to that set out in the strategic policy without undermining that policy;
- the rationale for the approach taken in the draft neighbourhood plan and the evidence to justify that approach.

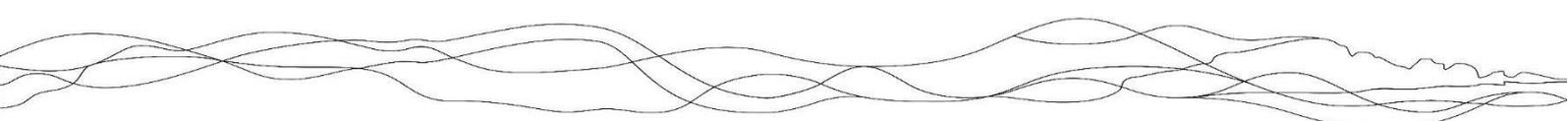
6.3 The table below explains how the Hook NDP is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Hart Local Plan 2016-2032 due to be adopted in early 2019.

Table 3 - General Conformity with Strategic Development Plan Policies

Hook Neighbourhood Plan		Hart Local Plan (Submission) 2016 - 2032	
Policy No.	Policy Title	References	Comments on conformity
HK1	Spatial Policy	SSI Spatial Strategy and Distribution of Growth.	This HNP policy directs future growth in the Parish to the village of Hook. The village boundary defines where housing and economic development should take place and where it should be constrained. The principle of development inside

			the settlement boundaries is accepted, provided proposals can demonstrate that they accord with all other relevant planning policies. This conforms with the policies of the Hart Local Plan. The Hook policy also allows for limited employment of community based development outside of the boundary on an exceptional basis where it meets community needs.
HK2	Development in Hook Village Centre	ED4 Town, District and Local Centres ED6 District and Local Centres	The Local Plan classifies Hook as a District Centre. These are centres that provide a focal point for services and facilities that serve the immediate communities and surrounding populations. The boundary has been indicated in the Local Plan but has been refined through this Neighbourhood Plan as a result of the Masterplan. The NDP supports the role of Hook in the retail hierarchy and also seeks to retain and improve its commercial space and environments in order to secure the viability and vitality of Hook village Centre.
HK3	The Village Design Square Design Objectives	ED4 Town, District and Local Centres ED6 District and Local Centres	This policy is in conformity with policy ED4 and ED6 by seeking to enhance the village centres activity and vitality through commercial space provision, access and environmental improvements.
HK4	Biodiversity	NBE5 Biodiversity	HK4 supports and adds detail to NBE5 in relation to local habitats that should be protected or enhanced within the parish.
HK5	Landscape	NBE3 Landscape	This policy conforms with Policy NBE3 and adds detail which sets out specific landscape characteristics which are to be protected within Hook Parish.
HK6	Hook to Newham Gap	NBE3 Landscape	This policy seeks to preserve the locally distinctive settlement pattern of the parish which is a key feature of the landscape and its separate identity. At the time of writing it was considered likely that the proposed Local Plan policy NBE2 Gaps between Settlements was likely to be deleted as a result of the examination of that plan.
HK7	Views	NBE3 Landscape NBE10 Design	This policy adds local detail by identifying views in the Parish which are important to preserve the local landscape character.
HK8	Control Of Light And Noise Pollution	NBE12 Pollution	This policy adds detail to NBE12 by setting out the key pollution sources within the parish and ways of mitigating their impact.

HK9	Pedestrian and Cycle Paths	I3 Transport	This policy is in conformity with Policy I3 which seeks to provide safe integrated access for all users.
HK10	Parking	I3 Transport	This policy is in general conformity with HLP Policy I3 and adds local detail with regards the specific parking issues within Hook Village, such as lack of off road parking.
HK11	Residential and mixed-use Windfall Development	HLP SSI Spatial Strategy and Distribution of Growth	The policy supports Policy SSI to help promote growth within the settlement boundary of Hook.
HK12	Design	NBE10 Design NBE11 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	This policy adds local detail on relevant considerations such as materials, boundary treatments and building styles to support local character. This Policy also conforms to Policy NBE11, to support sustainable environmental and social benefits to schemes.
HK13	Locally Significant Heritage Assets	NBE9 Historic Environment	This policy is in conformity with Policy NBE9 and identifies specific buildings and features of significance.
HK14	Education, Wellbeing, Sport and Leisure	I5 Community Facilities	This policy complies with Policy I5 by setting out specific community facilities which are to be protected and enhanced. It also supports the development of sustainable community facilities in compliance with the HLP policy.
HK15	Employment sites within Hook Village	ED1 New Employment ED2 Safeguarding Employment Land and Premises – B Use Classes	This policy does not conflict with the Hart Local Plan policies as it does not apply to the strategic and locally important sites identified in policy ED1 and ED2. It is seeking to retain the supply of generally small businesses premises within the village.



7.0 Compatibility with European Union Regulations

Strategic Environmental Directive (SEA) and Habitats Directives (HRA)

7.1 In December 2016 Hook Parish Council made a request to Hart District Council (as the responsible authority) to determine whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) were required for the NDP. A Briefing note was provided to the District Council in support of this request. Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted in accordance with the regulations. The District Council concluded that:

SEA - On the basis of the Screening process it was determined that the Hook Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA under the SEA Directive and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). This is because:

- The Hook Neighbourhood Plan could set the framework for future consents under the EIA Directive;
- There are pathways or mechanisms for significant environmental effects to arise as the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to develop sites which are currently unspecified to meet the Hart Draft Local Plan 2011-2032 target of 87 dwellings.

7.2 Due to permissions recently granted the Hook NDP is no longer required to allocate sites, however it does identify a small number of brownfield sites within the village that would have support if applications were to come forward during the plan period.

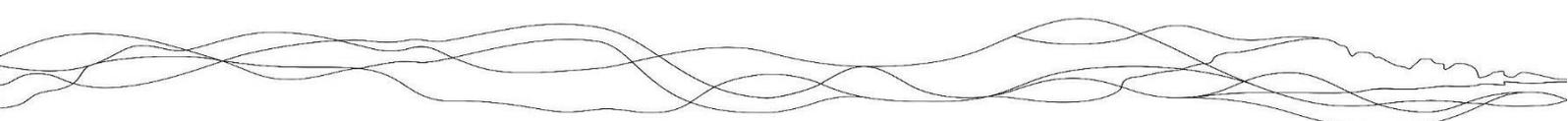
7.3 A statement has been prepared by the District Council setting out its reasons for the determination, in accordance with the regulations. The full Statement may be seen at https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/3_Visiting_Hart/Towns_and_parishes/Hook%20NP%20SEA%20HRA%20Screening%20July%202017.pdf. An SEA has been prepared and accompanies the Submission Hook NDP.

Appropriate Assessment - It was the conclusion of HRA screening assessment undertaken in July 2017, in light of the information available at the time that the Hook Neighbourhood Plan **will not** give rise to significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA or Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Common SAC either alone or in-combination with other plans and/or projects provided it contains policy(s) consistent with Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and the Hart Interim Avoidance Strategy. Given the findings of the screening assessment it is considered that a full appropriate assessment is not required. However, in line with advice from Natural England, a further screening assessment should be undertaken once any specific site allocations are identified. No sites were allocated and therefore no further screening has been undertaken.

7.4 The requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directives are therefore considered to have been met.

Water Framework Directive

7.5 The Hart Local Plan policy NBE7 requires that development protects the quality of the District's water environment and where possible contributes towards improvements that are necessary to meet statutory requirements for water quality. No further detail is added



to this in the Neighbourhood Plan. The NDP as it works alongside the Local Plan is therefore considered to be compatible with the Water Framework Directive.

Human Rights

- 7.6 The NDP is fully compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights, transposed into UK law by the Human Rights Act 1998. It has been prepared within the existing framework of statute, national planning policy and guidance, and District-level strategic planning policies. In accordance with established process, its preparation has included consultation with the local community and it is subject to independent examination. The policies within the Plan are considered to comply with the requirements of EU obligations in relation to Human Rights and an Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared to accompany the plan.

