

# **NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN**

## **PUBLICATION VERSION**

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# **1 BACKGROUND**

## **What is planning?**

- 1.1 The purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development. This means ensuring that providing for the needs of the current generation does not make life worse for future generations. It requires making decisions on proposals for development from house extensions to large scale housing and employment developments which provide the homes and jobs that people require.

## **What is the Local Plan?**

- 1.2 Most new development requires planning permission before it can be built. Planning policies are used to help decide whether planning permission should be granted or not. The role of the Local Plan is to set out such policies and to help secure sustainable development by identifying how much new development is required and where it should go.
- 1.3 This publication Local Plan represents the District Council's view on how sustainable development should be achieved in North West Leicestershire and covers the period to 2031. It identifies new sites for housing and employment and also includes a range of policies to ensure that new development, of whatever type, is of the highest quality possible so as to maintain North West Leicestershire as an attractive place to live, work and enjoy.

## **What is the process for preparing a Local Plan?**

- 1.4 In preparing the Local Plan a number of previous consultations have been undertaken under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This included consultation on the draft Local Plan between September and November 2015 where views were sought from anybody with an interest in the future planning of the district. Responses received were used to inform the preparation of the publication Local Plan.
- 1.5 This publication Local Plan has been prepared under the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and is the publication Local Plan version prepared under Regulation 19. After this stage the plan (together with any comments received) will be submitted to the Secretary of State (Regulation 22) who will appoint a Planning Inspector to assess the plan through a Public Examination to establish whether it is 'sound' or not. To be 'sound' a Local plan must be:
- Positively prepared;
  - Justified;
  - Effective; and

- Consistent with national policy
- 1.6 Only when the plan has been through these various stages and a Planning Inspector considers the plan to be ‘sound’ is the Council able to adopt the Local Plan. Upon its adoption it will replace the existing Local Plan which was adopted in 2002.
- 1.7 Once adopted this Local Plan together with the Minerals and Waste Local plan prepared by Leicestershire County Council will be the Development Plan for North West Leicestershire. The Development Plan provides the basis for determining planning applications.

### **What other matters must we have regard to in preparing the Local Plan?**

- 1.8 The Local Plan is not prepared in isolation. As noted above the Local Plan must be consistent with national policies. These are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was published by the Government in 2012. The NPPF is also supplemented by a range of Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on a variety of subjects. This provides guidance on the interpretation and implementation of requirements in the NPPF
- 1.9 Throughout this document there are various references to the NPPF and the PPG.
- 1.10 In addition to national policies we also have to comply with various European level regulations. In particular we have to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the plan to assess its environmental impacts. We also have to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to consider the impact of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan on sites of European significance designated for species and habitats (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)) or birds (Special Protected Areas (SPA)). That part of the river Mease and its tributaries which lie within North West Leicestershire are designated as a Special Area of Conservation.
- 1.11 The requirement for a SEA has been taken further by the Government which requires that a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) be carried out to assess not only the environmental effect of the plan, but also the economic and social effects.
- 1.12 This publication Local Plan is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

### **Duty to Cooperate**

- 1.13 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a requirement on local planning authorities to cooperate with neighbouring local authorities and other bodies with a regulatory or strategic interest in Local Plan issues. This is referred to as the “Duty to Cooperate” and includes the need to consider the impact of the strategy as a whole and its proposals for major development on other places close to North West Leicestershire.

- 1.14 North West Leicestershire lies within the county of Leicestershire which, together with Leicester City, has been identified as a Housing Market Area (HMA) and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership area (LLEP). We have a close working relationship with the authorities across the HMA/LLEP through a variety of different groups.
- 1.15 The LLEP is serviced by three different boards (Place, People and Business). The Place Board is itself then serviced by a Strategic Planning Group which consists of high level officers from the various authorities. It is through this group that cooperation at a strategic level is co-ordinated and also provides a direct link in to the work of the LLEP with whom we are required to cooperate. A Member Advisory Group which consists of the appropriate portfolio holders from each authority has also been established to provide a political buy-in to the work of the Strategic Planning Group.
- 1.16 In terms of this Local Plan we have co-operated with our partners across the HMA/LLEP on a variety of matters including:
- Establishing housing requirements – a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was commissioned by the District Council on behalf of all the partners in 2014. The SHMA set out a range of different scenarios for housing growth up to 2031 and 2036 in order that the Objectively Assessed Needs both for the HMA as a whole and for individual districts could be identified. Following completion of this work a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed and signed by all the HMA authorities which confirms that each authority can meet its housing needs to 2028 and that we will continue to work together post 2028. This work is ongoing and will result in the preparation of a Development Strategy beyond 2028.
  - Since the draft Local Plan a further piece of work was commissioned by the District Council to provide more evidence on the likely impact of the Roxhill Strategic Rail Freight Distribution Centre, on the district's housing figures, particularly as this development was approved in January 2016. This study has been the subject of ongoing discussion with our HMA partners.
  - Establishing employment needs - An assessment of the future economic needs across Leicester and Leicestershire up to 2026 was undertaken in 2008 by the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACCEC) on behalf of the then Leicester Shire Economic Partnership. This work was then updated in 2013 on behalf of the LLEP and covered the period 2010 to 2031.
  - In addition the HMA partners have commissioned a HMA wide Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). This will identify an updated housing and employment Objectively Assessed Needs for the HMA and the individual districts and is expected to be completed in September 2016. Once this work is completed it is the intention for a new Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed.

- Planning for Climate Change – a report commissioned by all the HMA authorities (except Charnwood Borough) which considered the potential of different sources of renewable energy across Leicestershire.
- Charnwood Forest - the District Council has worked with Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council and Hinckley and Bosworth borough Council to set up a Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group to oversee the creation of a Regional park and to agree its long term Vision. This Vision has informed the Charnwood Forest policies of this Local Plan.

1.17 We have worked with the highway authorities (Highways England and Leicestershire County Council) to establish the impact of proposed development on the highway network and to identify new infrastructure requirements resulting from this development.

1.18 The river Mease Special Area of Conservation also covers part of the districts of Lichfield and South Derbyshire. We have worked with the two authorities and Natural England, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent to develop a joint strategy to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on the water quality of the river Mease as a result of development.

1.19 We have worked with the Environment Agency and Leicestershire County Council to prepare an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and with the former in the preparation of a Water Cycle Study.

1.20 Outside of the HMA/LLEP we also adjoin a number of other local authorities (North Warwickshire, Lichfield, South Derbyshire, Erewash and Rushcliffe). In addition to the work on the river Mease outlined above we have agreed a Statement of Common Ground with South Derbyshire. We also have a regular dialogue with each of these authorities, none of whom have asked North West Leicestershire for help in meeting their development needs.

1.21 We will continue to cooperate with these various bodies throughout the development of this Local Plan.

### **Evidence base**

1.22 A wide ranging evidence base has been used to inform this Local Plan. This can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk)).

### **Structure of Document**

1.23 The publication Local Plan is divided into a number of themed chapters which then contain a number of policies and supporting text. The policies are shown in grey boxes.

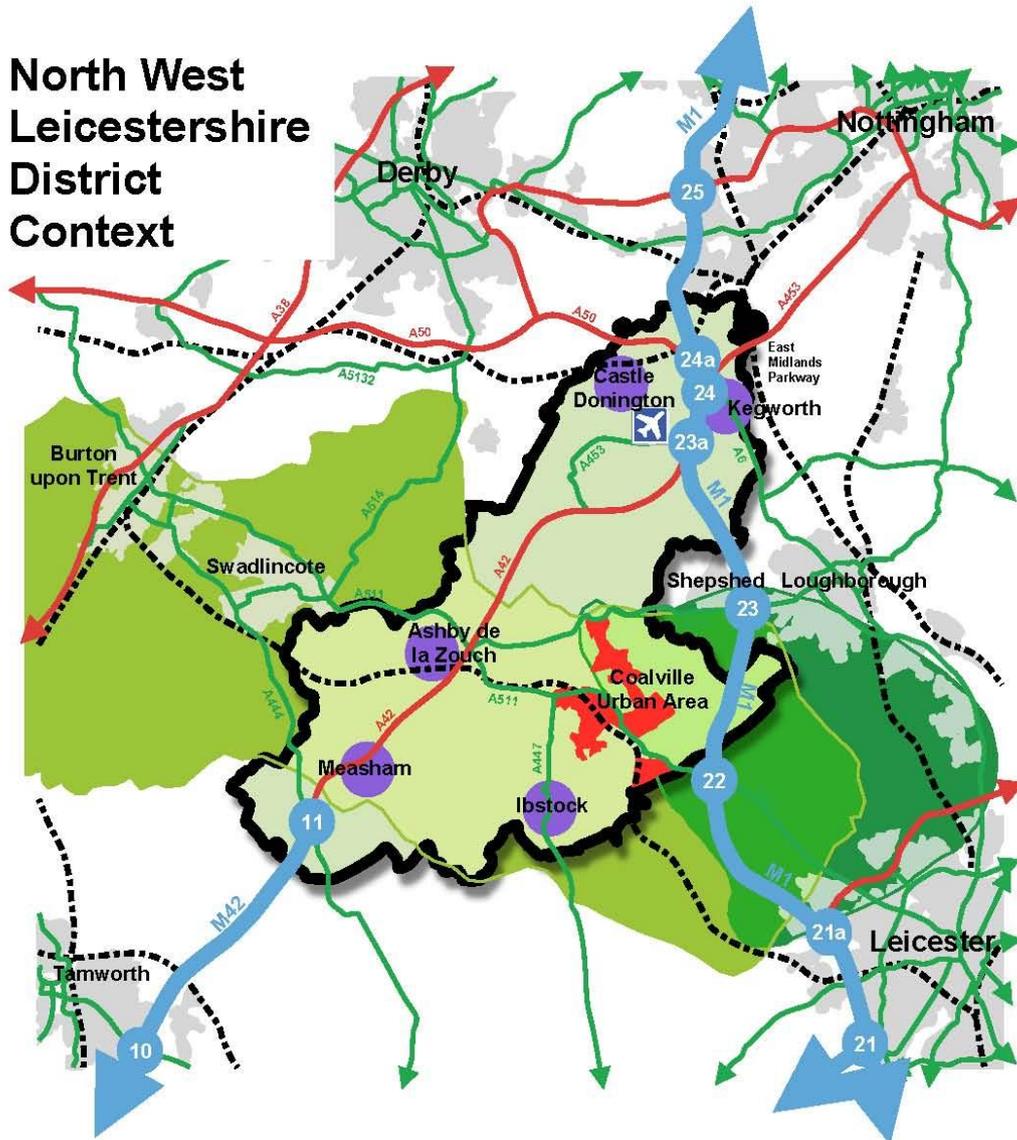
- 1.24 The Local Plan is also accompanied by a Policies Map which shows the location of proposed allocations of land and other land use related policy information, on an ordnance survey base map. This map replaces the Proposals Map which accompanies the adopted Local Plan in its entirety. There is one single map which covers the whole district. At a settlement level there are then a series of inset maps which show more details at a suitable scale.
- 1.25 Alongside the Policies Map are Wind Energy Maps. These identify the areas within the district potentially suitable for both medium-large scale and small scale wind energy development.
- 1.26 In addition to the publication Local Plan we have also published a number of themed background papers which explain in more detail some of the technical considerations which have informed the Local Plan. In making any comments on this plan please refer to these where appropriate.
- 1.27 We are aware that planning is full of a lot of technical words and jargon. To help you understand this better we have included a glossary of key terms at Appendix 1 of this document.
- 1.28 All of the supporting documents together with more information about how comments can be made can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.nwleics.gov.uk](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk). Please note that any comments submitted are made publically available.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHEN USING THE LOCAL PLAN TO FORM A VIEW ON A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ALL OF THE POLICIES CONTAINED IN THE PLAN MUST BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER WHEN FORMING A VIEW.**

## **2 NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE CONTEXT**

- 2.1 North West Leicestershire district, as the name suggests, comprises the north-west part of the county of Leicestershire and is a mainly rural district, covering 27,900 hectares (108 square miles). The district shares borders with the counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.
- 2.2 The district is close to, and has excellent road access with four major cities - Birmingham, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham- using the motorway network (M1 north/south and M42 south-west/north-east). However, there are no passenger rail services in the district. In the north of the district is the East Midlands Airport (EMA)
- 2.3 Most of the southern part of the district lies within the National Forest which spans three counties in the centre of England - Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire, whilst the upland area of the Charnwood Forest lies in the south-east corner.
- 2.4 The population of the district was about 93,500 as at the 2011 Census. The principal town is Coalville and the other main settlements are Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham.
- 2.5 The map on the next page shows the location of the district and its wider context.

# North West Leicestershire District Context



## Key

- |   |                                    |   |                                |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | North West Leicestershire district |  | Coalville Urban Area           |
|  | Motorway                           |  | Other main settlements         |
|  | Trunk Road                         |  | National Forest                |
|  | A Road                             |  | Charnwood Forest Regional Park |
|  | Railway                            |   |                                |
|  | East Midlands Airport              |   |                                |

### 3 NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE PROFILE

3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal scoping report sets out a detailed assessment of the district and its characteristics which provides a context for the Local Plan. The following provides a summary of the key characteristics and follows the order of the Scoping Report:

#### Population

- There were 93,468 people as at the 2011 Census, a growth of about 9,000 from the 2001 Census.
- The population is ageing with a rapid increase in the number of residents aged 40-49 and 60-69 in the last 10 years, whilst the number of 25-39 year olds has decreased.
- According to the 2011 Census the largest population was in Coalville (36,801 people) followed by Ashby-de-la-Zouch (12,385), Castle Donington (6,350), Ibstock (5,961), Measham (5,200) and Kegworth (3,541).
- There are high concentrations of working age people in Coalville and Castle Donington, whilst older people are concentrated in the Measham/Appleby Magna area and younger people in Ashby de la Zouch and Ellistown.
- The district is the 200<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority in England (out of 354) but it is the most deprived in Leicestershire (excluding Leicester City) with pockets of deprivation concentrated in Coalville, Greenhill, Ibstock, Measham, Moira, Ashby and Castle Donington.

#### Housing

- The proportion of 3 bed dwellings is higher than the average in Leicestershire and England, as is the proportion of detached dwellings and terraced properties.
- There has been an increase of 17% in overcrowding between the 2001 Census and the 2011 Census but this is less than that for the East Midlands (36%) and England & Wales (32%).

#### Employment and the economy

- In terms of competitiveness and growth opportunities, North West Leicestershire enjoys a highly accessible position in the middle of the country, with good road links and a growing international airport. Partly because of its accessibility, the area has proved attractive to inward investors, and has recently seen high levels of employment growth.
- There are significantly more people employed in the transport and logistics sector (19.8%), wholesale/retail (17.3%), construction (5.9%), professional and other private services (17.3%) than nationally.

- Economic forecasts based on the Experian 2013 data for the district indicate that from 2012 to 2031 the sectors predicted most likely to grow by over 1% are transport & storage; professional & other private services; accommodation, food services & recreation; and wholesale & retail . Only three sectors are predicted to decline (one very marginally), the two with the greatest predicted decline are agriculture, forestry & fishing and by a large proportion the greatest decline is predicted in manufacturing.
- The overall job density in NWL (i.e. the number of jobs per head of population aged 16 to 64 so 1 equals one job for one person) was 1.05 in 2012 which indicates in commuting in to the district and is an increase from 2011 when it was 0.92.
- There was a concentration of higher order occupations ‘Managers, Directors and Senior Officials’ according to the Census 2011 around Appleby (18.1%) and rural wards of central NWL (Breedon and Valley). In contrast there were concentrations of those with ‘Elementary Occupations’ in the wards of Coalville (17.4%) and Greenhill, both associated with the settlement of Coalville and also in Measham.
- The proportion of the workforce with NVQ4+ level skills, including university degree, at 25.4%, is lower than the proportion for Great Britain and East Midlands (35.2% and 30.1% respectively).

#### Transport and Access

- North West Leicestershire benefits from excellent road transport links. It is at the intersections of the M1 and A42 motorways whilst the A50 provides a link from the north of the district to Stoke on Trent and the North West of England and in the south-east to Leicester whilst the A453 provides a direct link to Nottingham.
- No passenger rail services in the district, whilst bus service provision is variable.
- Travel to work is dominated by the use of the car.
- There is a net in-flow of commuters based on the 2011 Census (7,453 persons).
- East Midlands Airport (EMA) is in the north of the district and is one of the UK’s major freight airports. It has seen significant growth in both passenger numbers and cargo freight since the mid-1990s, but the economic downturn has resulted in reduced levels of both. As would be expected of a large airport there are environmental issues relating to its operation. These include noise impacts on local residents associated with take-off and landing, and also issues relating to significant carbon emissions from aircraft.

#### Air quality and noise

- There are five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the district; M1 Mole Hill Kegworth; High Street Kegworth; Stephenson Way/Bardon Road Coalville; High Street/Bondgate Castle Donington and Copt Oak Road Copt Oak.

- There is noise issues associated with transport, particularly at East Midlands Airport, as well events at Donington Park.

### Climate Change

- A technical review of renewable energy potential for the district for 2020 to 2030 indicates that there is potential for over 255MW of electricity and 217MW of heat in 2020 from all sources, including small scale generation. The greatest potential is from wind energy (up to 80% of the total), with solar Photovoltaic the other main source. However the overall potential is less than some other districts in Leicestershire and Rutland, due to limited wind resource.
- Information from the Department of Energy and Climate Change shows at present there is very little opportunity for district heat in the district.
- The tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita in the district has steadily declined from 2005 to 2011 in the district (commercial and domestic), although this has been less marked for transport. However, per capita emissions are well above that for England; in 2011 this was approximately 8.8 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per capita compared to England at 5.6 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per capita. This is largely attributable to industrial and commercial sources and transport (1.6 tonnes and 1.5 tonnes more than England respectively) whilst domestic is only marginally higher than England (0.1 tonne difference).
- The district lies wholly within the catchment of the River Trent.
- Fluvial flooding represents the primary source of flood risk with the northern part of the district (Kegworth across to Castle Donington) at the highest risk of fluvial flooding from the rivers Trent and Soar. Other areas at risk of flooding are central Ashby-de-la-Zouch, parts of the wider Coalville Urban Area including Thringstone and Whitwick and the southern edge of Measham.
- Other potential sources of flooding include flooding from sewers and potential canal infrastructure failure, surface water flooding and groundwater rising from former coal mining areas, although the areas at risk are difficult to define.

### Biodiversity and geodiversity

- The river Mease (including its tributary the Gilwiskaw Brook) is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a European level designation, as well as a site of Special Scientific Interest. Water quality in the river has deteriorated mainly due to high phosphorus levels. A Restoration Plan and Water Quality Management Plan have been put in place. These are supported by a Developer Contributions Strategy which seeks to ensure that new development that affects water quality makes a financial contribution towards measures to improve water quality.

- There are 17 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the district, the majority of which are assessed as being in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.
- There is one national nature Reserve and 5 Local Nature Reserves.
- There are two Local Biodiversity Action Plans relevant to North West Leicestershire: Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, 2010) and The National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (National Forest, 2004). The former consists of 19 Habitat Action Plans and 16 Species Action Plans whilst the latter consists of 18 Habitat Action Plans and 9 Species Action Plans.

#### Landscape and Land

- There are no nationally designated landscapes within the district. However, the district is covered by 5 National Character Areas, as identified by Natural England. These are: Trent Valley Washlands, Melbourne Parklands, Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield, Mease/Sence Lowlands, and Charnwood.
- The Charnwood Forest represents the highest land in Leicestershire and has a distinctive landscape character with geology of international importance and a rich biodiversity. The area has been identified as a Regional Park to reflect its importance in landscape terms and as an area for recreation. The Regional Park is non-statutory designation, led by a steering group of local partners, with specific objectives for environmental, social and economic benefits.
- The National Forest was designated in the early 1990's to transform the landscape and link the ancient forests of Charnwood (to the east) and Needwood (to the west). The National Forest covers about 56% of the district including the larger settlements of Coalville, Ashby de la Zouch, Ibstock and Measham.

#### Cultural Heritage

- There are 22 Conservation Areas, 23 Scheduled Monuments, 640 Listed Buildings and 3 Registered Parks and Gardens.

#### Water

- The various rivers that run through the district have Water Abstraction Licensing Strategies in place which generally identify that water is available, although in some places there may be occasions where water is more limited when flows are at low levels.
- Severn Trent's Water Resource Management Plan identifies that water will be available for use sufficient to meet future demand of customers and it also targets spare headroom capacity.

- The North West Leicestershire Water Cycle Study 2012 highlights known capacity issues at the Snarrows Wastewater Treatment Works that serves the Coalville Urban Area.

#### Waste and minerals

- There exists supplies of minerals which need to be protected from development which would sterilise them.

## 4.0 WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

- 4.1 Based on the findings outlined above, the Scoping Report identifies a broad range of issues across the district.
- 4.2 The following list summarises the key issues, in no particular order, from the Scoping Report and concentrates upon those which are most likely to require addressing through the planning system.

**Table 1 – summary of key issues**

Housing	Ensure provision of housing to meet the needs all communities, including provision of housing for older people and families as well as affordable housing.
Services and facilities	Need to ensure that the services and facilities in the district are appropriate to meet the needs of a growing and changing population.
Accessibility	Need to ensure that communities have access to services and facilities, including by public transport, walking and cycling. However, current bus service provision is variable which impacts upon some sections of the community more than others, for example the elderly and infirm.
Housing and economic growth	Ensure that growth in housing and the economy complement each other in terms of scale.
Economy	Support for economic growth will require the provision of additional land and premises across the district, including rural areas, and support for tourism and leisure.
Retailing	Health checks of town centres show that performance is variable, with particular issues in Coalville which is the principal town centre in the district. Need to protect and enhance centres.
Pollution	To improve air quality in the 5 Air Quality Management Areas which are largely linked to transport related issues. In addition, need to ensure that new development is not itself detrimentally affected by noise and pollution and deals with any onsite land contamination issues.

Flooding	Some areas at risk of flooding, largely in the northern part of the district along the rivers Trent and Soar.
Nature conservation	River Mease Special Area of Conservation is affected by water quality issues, whilst the condition of some Sites of Special Scientific Interest is a concern.
Landscape	There is a varied landscape in terms of character and appearance. New development needs to reflect this in its design and layout, whilst the National forest and Charnwood Forest are major assets where enhancement will benefit the district.
Agricultural Land	There are limited areas of best and most versatile agricultural land so it is important to ensure that these areas are protected.
Heritage	The provision of new development needs to be achieved whilst also paying due regard to the protection and enhancement of assets of heritage value.

- 4.3 It should be appreciated that not all of the issues identified in the Scoping report are ones which can necessarily be addressed by the planning system, which is largely concerned with new development. For example, issues related to training and skills will largely be addressed through education and other training establishments and possibly involve various training programmes which may be supported by government or the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership. The role of planning is limited to ensuring that new development does not detrimentally affect the ability of education establishments to provide education because of a lack of physical space. Where development would have an adverse impact on capacity then it will be necessary to ensure that new development makes a suitable financial or other contribution towards the enhancement of facilities.

Therefore, the issues outlined above and the following objectives are those which can most directly be addressed using the planning system.

- 4.4 Implementation of the policies as well as the provision of infrastructure will require co-operation and input from a wide range of organisations, including neighbouring authorities, as well as public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

### **OUR VISION**

- 4.5 The Spatial Vision set out below describes the kind of place that we want North West Leicestershire to be by the end of the Plan period. It picks up on the key issues that are set out in the previous section.

*By 2031 North West Leicestershire will have continued its transformation, started in the 1980's, from a former coalfield area characterised by environmental degradation, a struggling economy and poor connections into a place fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will be reflected in the maturing of the National Forest as both an environmental and economic asset and in the attractiveness of the towns and villages in North West Leicestershire as places in which to live, work and relax.*

*Businesses will choose to locate and grow in this area, taking advantage of its excellent location in the centre of the country, close to major road and rail networks and a major international airport. The East Midlands Enterprise Gateway, focussed on East Midlands Airport, Donington Park and the East Midlands Gateway Rail Freight Interchange, will be recognised as a key destination in its own right. This strongly performing economy will be reflected in low unemployment and reduced instances of deprivation.*

*The district will continue to be a place of choice for people wishing to live here, with lots to see and do, such as the National Forest, Charnwood Forest, Ashby Canal and a plethora of heritage assets, as well as being strong communities built around vibrant, accessible places and award winning housing developments.*

*As the districts main town, Coalville will have grown significantly and the town will have benefited from major new investment in infrastructure and as a result, the town centre regeneration as a heritage town will be well underway. Elsewhere, the other key centres, including the historic market towns of Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington, will be vibrant centres which meet peoples day-to-day shopping needs as well as supporting a thriving night time economy*

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 4.6 Having regard to the issues outlined above, those in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework a range of objectives have been prepared to identify what we are seeking to achieve through the Local Plan and new development.

Objective 1 - Promote the health and wellbeing of the districts population.

Objective 2 - Support the delivery of new homes balanced with economic growth to provide a stock of housing that meets the needs of the community, including the need for affordable housing.

Objective 3 - Ensure new development is of a high quality of design and layout whilst having due regard to the need to accommodate national standards in a way that reflects local context and circumstances

Objective 4 –Ensure regard is had to reducing the need to travel and to maintaining access to services and facilities including jobs, shops, education, sport and recreation, green space, cultural facilities, communication networks, health and social care.

Objective 5 - Support economic growth throughout the district and the provision of a diverse range of employment opportunities including the development of tourism and leisure

Objective 6 - Enhance the vitality and viability of the districts town and local centres, with a particular focus on the regeneration of Coalville, in ways that help meet the consumer needs.

Objective 7 - Enhance community safety so far as practically possible and in a way which is proportionate to the scale of development proposed whenever allocating sites for development or granting planning permission.

Objective 8 - Prepare for, limit and adapt to climate change.

Objective 9 - New developments need to be designed to use water efficiently, to reduce flood risk and the demand for water within the District, whilst at the same time taking full account of flood risk and ensuring the effective use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs).

Objective 10 - Conserve and enhance the identity, character and diversity and local distinctiveness of the districts built, natural, cultural, industrial and rural heritage and heritage assets.

Objective 11 - Protect and enhance the natural environment including the districts biodiversity, geodiversity and water environment areas identified for their importance.

Objective 12 - Conserve and enhance the quality of the districts landscape character including the National Forest and Charnwood Forest and other valued landscapes.

Objective 13 - Takes account of the need to reduce the amount of waste produced.

Objective 14 - Seek to deliver the infrastructure needs of the area, including Green sustainable development.

Objective 15 - Takes full account of the need to safeguard mineral resources including sand and gravel, igneous rock and brickclay.

## 5 STRATEGY

### INTRODUCTION

5.1 This chapter sets out the main components of our strategy

### HOW MUCH NEW DEVELOPMENT IS REQUIRED?

5.2 People are living longer, birth rates are increasing and more people are moving into the district. As a result we have a growing and changing community who need homes, jobs, shops and services.

5.3 A key aspect of the Local Plan is to identify the amount of new jobs and homes needed in the district and then translating these in to the provision of sufficient land.

#### *Business Needs*

5.4 It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of land for future business needs in order to ensure that the local economy continues to grow. We have had regard to work undertaken on behalf of the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership in 2013 by the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC) on this matter. This identified that up to 2031 there would be 5,600 employment jobs created (that is those uses which fall within the B Use Class of the Use Classes Order 2015). This then translates in to a need for about 96 hectares of land for employment. This is the basis upon which the employment land needs of the plan are based.

#### *Housing Needs*

5.5 North West Leicestershire forms part of the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA). In accordance with the NPPF a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has been undertaken to identify future housing needs both across the HMA and for individual districts. For North West Leicestershire this identified an Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) of 285 to 350 dwellings each year for the period 2011-2031. This equates to a total of between 5,700 and 7,000 dwellings.

5.6 However, we also have to have regard to other evidence before we can confirm whether this is the appropriate level of development to plan for. The Planning Practice Guidance advises that in identifying housing need account should be taken of “*the likely change in job numbers....*”. A Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) near to East Midlands Airport/junction 24 (referred to as Roxhill), was approved by the Secretary of State in January 2016. It is estimated that it will create 7,400 jobs. In contrast the PACEC study referred to above forecast an increase in the number of jobs in the B8 Use Class (Storage or distribution) (which the vast majority of the new jobs at Roxhill would comprise of) of only 3,400. Therefore, the PACEC study does not make sufficient allowance for jobs in the B8 sector.

- 5.7 We commissioned a study (Review of Housing Requirements 2011-31 by JG Consulting) to look at what the potential impact of the SRFI with its projected additional 7,400 jobs would be in terms of housing needs. This work also updated the demographic data used to inform the SHMA. It found that the most significant impact of the SRFI would be on North West Leicestershire as just over 50% of all employees at the SRFI could be expected to be resident in the district. The study concluded by recommending that an Objectively Assessed Need for North West Leicestershire of 520 dwellings each year (or 10,400 dwellings over the plan period would be appropriate). This is slightly less than the figure we had proposed in our draft Local Plan in September 2015 (535 dwellings per annum).
- 5.8 Having regard to this evidence this Local Plan seeks to ensure that a minimum of 10,400 dwellings will be delivered over the plan period 2011-31.
- 5.9 As noted at paragraph 1.14 we have, together with the other HMA authorities, commissioned a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which will identify new housing and employment requirements. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in September 2016. Following this a new Memorandum of Understanding (or equivalent) will be agreed by the HMA authorities. It is possible that the HEDNA and subsequent agreement could result in a change to the housing requirements of this Local Plan. We have considered whether we should delay publication of the Local Plan until this work has been completed. However, having regard to the Government's stated intention for local authorities to get local plans in place by early 2017 and the advantages of having up-to-date policies in place we have concluded that such a delay would not be appropriate.
- 5.10 Policy S1 recognises that there may be a need to undertake an early review of the Local Plan in the event that the HEDNA and/or subsequent agreement require that additional provision be needed.

#### *Shopping Needs*

- 5.11 As the population grows it is necessary to ensure that as much of the shopping needs of local people can be met within the district.
- 5.12 A Retail Capacity Study was undertaken in late 2014 which assessed the need for additional shopping provision (both convenience (food) and comparison (non-food) goods). This study took into account projections of population growth, spending projections and non-traditional forms of shopping as well as sites with permission for a retail use or where new shops have been developed.
- 5.13 A number of scenarios were used to identify future floorspace requirements, using either a static or increased expenditure retention rate. Overall the study recommended that there is a need for 7,300 sqm of additional comparison retail

floorspace in the District for the period to 2031, with the need not arising until after 2016. No additional need for convenience retail floorspace was identified.

- 5.14 Following on from this a further retail study was undertaken in 2016, this time focusing on an assessment of the operator demand for retail property in the town centres of Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch. This has suggested that there is limited demand at this time.

**Policy S1 – Future housing and economic development needs**

**Over the plan period to 2031 provision is made for a minimum of 10,400 dwellings (520 dwellings each year), 96 hectares<sup>1</sup> of land for employment purposes and 7,300 sq meters for shopping purposes.**

**The Council will continue working collaboratively with other Authorities, including those in Leicester & Leicestershire to establish through a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment, objectively, the level of long term housing and economic growth required including testing options for, and agreeing, its scale and distribution amongst the authorities concerned.**

**In the event that this work indicates an additional need in North West Leicestershire, the Council commits to bringing forward an early review of this Plan (either partial or otherwise) unless there is sufficient flexibility within the Local Plan.**

**WHERE SHOULD DEVELOPMENT GO?**

- 5.15 A core principle of the NPPF is to “focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable”. To help do this we define a settlement hierarchy to distinguish between the roles and functions of different settlements and to guide the location of future development, although it should be appreciated that the scale and location of most new development that is needed is already committed.

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<sup>1</sup> This does not include land for the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange.

## **Policy S2 – Settlement Hierarchy**

The following Settlement Hierarchy will be used when assessing the suitability of a settlement for new development, with the general principle being that those settlements higher up the hierarchy will take more growth than those lower down and that the type of development proposed is appropriate to the scale and character of the settlement and its place in the hierarchy.

<b>Settlement Classification</b>	<b>Settlement(s)</b>
<b>Principal Town</b>  The primary settlement in the district which provides an extensive range of services and facilities including employment, leisure and shopping and which is accessible by public transport from surrounding areas and to other large settlements outside the district. The largest amount of new development will be directed here, including retail development, to support the regeneration of Coalville Town Centre.	Coalville Urban Area which comprises of Coalville, Donington-le-Heath, Greenhill, Hugglescote, Snibston, Thringstone and Whitwick as well as the Bardon employment area.
<b>Key Service Centre</b>  Smaller than the Principal Town in terms of population and also the range of services and facilities they provide, they play an important role providing services and facilities to the surrounding area and are accessible by some public transport. A significant amount of development will take place in these settlements but less than that in the Principal Town.	Ashby de la Zouch Castle Donington
<b>Local Service Centre</b>  Settlements which provide some services and facilities primarily of a local nature meeting day-to-day needs and where a reasonable amount of new development will take place.	Ibstock Kegworth Measham
<b>Sustainable Villages</b>  Settlements which have a limited range of services and facilities where a limited amount of growth will take place within the defined Limits to Development.	Albert Village, Appleby Magna, Belton, Blackfordby, Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton (the Lower Moor Road area only), Diseworth, Donisthorpe, Ellistown,

		<b>Heather, Long Whatton, Moira (including Norris Hill), Oakthorpe, Packington, Ravenstone, Swannington, Worthington.</b>
<b>Small Village</b>	<b>Settlements with very limited services and where development will be restricted to conversions of existing buildings or the redevelopment of previously developed land (as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework) or affordable housing in accordance with Policy H5 (Rural Exceptions Sites for Affordable Housing).</b>	<b><i>Battram, Coleorton (the part not considered to be a Sustainable Village), Griffydam, Hemington, Lockington, Lount, Newbold, Newton Burgoland, Osgathorpe, Peggs Green, Sinope, Snarestone, Sweptstone, Spring Cottage, Tonge, Wilson.</i></b>
<b>Hamlets</b>	<b>Small groups of dwellings with no services and facilities and where development will be considered in the context of the countryside policy (Policy S4).</b>	
<b>Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.</b>		

5.16 In considering the sustainability of different settlements this means looking at the range of services and facilities available including accessibility by public transport and non-car modes. Consideration also needs to be given to the role of specific settlements. For example, some settlements will have services and facilities which only serve the immediate population, whilst in other settlements there is a greater range of services and facilities which serve an area wider than the settlement itself.

5.17 Therefore in defining the settlement hierarchy we have assessed the different settlements within the district in terms of the range of services and facilities available. Services looked at include schools, post office, general store, doctors surgery, recreational and community facilities as well as accessibility by public transport and

non-car modes. The frequency of public transport services to and from settlements and also the range of destinations of services have also been taken into account. Consideration has also been given to the role of specific settlements. Those settlements with fewer facilities and services are less self sufficient in their ability to meet the daily requirements of residents.

5.18 In North West Leicestershire the following settlements (in alphabetical order) offer the most comprehensive range of services and facilities and they also, to some extent, serve other settlements as well:

- Ashby de la Zouch;
- Castle Donington;
- Coalville Urban Area;
- Ibstock;
- Kegworth and
- Measham

5.19 Therefore, these six settlements form the central part of our settlement hierarchy and will accommodate the vast majority of new development.

5.20 Outside of these settlements there are a number of settlements which have some services and facilities but on a much lesser scale. Some development in these settlements will be appropriate, although there is already a significant level of provision made through planning permissions. Any further development in such settlements will be restricted to either infilling or physical extensions. We term these as Sustainable Villages and they comprise:

*Albert Village, Appleby Magna, Belton, Blackfordby, Breedon on the Hill, Coleorton (the Lower Moor Road area only), Diseworth, Donisthorpe, Ellistown, Heather, Long Whatton, Moira (including Norris Hill), Oakthorpe, Packington, Ravenstone, Swannington, Worthington.*

5.21 Beyond these the remaining settlements have very few services and facilities. Development in these locations would inevitably require the use of private vehicles to access services and facilities. Such an approach is at odds with the aim of the NPPF and so is inappropriate.

*Battram, Coleorton (the part not considered to be a Sustainable Village), Griffydham, Hemington, Lockington, Lount, Newbold, Newton Burgoland, Normanton le Heath, Osgathorpe, Peggs Green, Sinope, Snarestone, Sweptstone, Spring Cottage, Tonge, Wilson.*

5.22 There are also small groups of buildings in the countryside that sometimes have a settlement name and may be best described as hamlets and that have no facilities.

Development proposals in these settlements will be considered against Policy S3 (Countryside).

## **COUNTRYSIDE**

- 5.23 The NPPF recognises the need to “take account of the different roles and character of different areas “and that planning should recognise “the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside ..”.

### **Policy S3: Countryside**

- (1) Land outside the Limits to Development is identified as countryside which will be protected for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all.**
- (2) In areas designated as Countryside on the Policies Map, development for the following uses will be supported:**
  - (a) Agriculture including agricultural workers dwellings ;**
  - (b) Forestry including forestry workers dwellings;**
  - (c) The preservation of Listed Buildings;**
  - (d) The re-use and adaptation of buildings for appropriate purposes including housing in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy (Policy S3);**
  - (e) The redevelopment of previously developed land for housing in a Small Village in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy (Policy S3)**
  - (f) Flood protection;**
  - (g) Affordable housing in accordance with Policy H5;**
  - (h) The extension and replacement of dwellings;**
  - (i) Expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well designed new buildings;**
  - (j) Sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in accordance with Policy H7;**
  - (k) Small-scale employment generating development or farm diversification;**
  - (l) Community services and facilities meeting a proven local need;**
  - (m) Development by statutory undertakers or public utility providers;**
  - (n) Recreation and tourism;**
  - (o) Renewable energy;**
  - (p) Development at East Midlands Airport in accordance with Policy Ec5;**
  - (q) Development at Donington Park Racetrack in accordance with Policy Ec8;**
  - (r) Transport infrastructure;**
- (3) Developments in accordance with (2) above will be supported where:**

- (a) the appearance and character of the landscape, including its historic character and features such as biodiversity, views, settlement pattern, rivers, watercourses, field patterns, industrial heritage and local distinctiveness is safeguarded and enhanced. Decisions in respect of impact on landscape character and appearance will be informed by the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Study, National Character Areas and any subsequent pieces of evidence ; and**
- (b) it does not undermine, either individually or cumulatively with existing or proposed development, the physical and perceived separation and open undeveloped character between nearby settlements either through contiguous extensions to existing settlements or through development on isolated sites on land divorced from settlement boundaries; and**
- (c) it does not create or exacerbate ribbon development; and**
- (d) built development is well integrated with existing development and existing buildings, including the re-use of existing buildings, where appropriate; and**
- (e) the development will not seriously undermine the vitality and viability of existing town and local centres.**

- 5.24 North West Leicestershire is a mainly rural district and the area that separates our towns and villages consists of largely undeveloped countryside. Although major infrastructure, urban and industrial influences are rarely far away, there remain substantial areas of open, mainly arable, farmland. We want to maintain, and where possible enhance, the environmental, economic and social value of the countryside.
- 5.25 We have defined Limits to Development around most of our settlements as a means of distinguishing between areas of potential for new development and areas which can be regarded as countryside where development will be considered having regard to the provisions of Policy S3.
- 5.26 The uses listed above are those which it is considered would be potentially appropriate in the countryside but it will be necessary to ensure that proposed development does not unduly impact upon the character and appearance of the countryside.
- 5.27 The landscape of the countryside varies in character and appearance across the district. It is important that account is taken of these differences in considering development proposals in the countryside.
- 5.28 Whilst policy seeks to facilitate the diversification of the rural economy, there are also benefits to the protection of the best and most versatile land. Where appropriate we

shall seek the use of areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of agricultural land of a higher quality.

5.29 Natural England has defined National Character Areas across the whole country. There are five National Character Areas, within North West Leicestershire these are:

- Trent Valley Washlands (Area 69)
- Melbourne Parklands (Area 70)
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield ( Area 71)
- Mease/Sence Lowlands (Area 72)
- Charnwood (Area 73)

5.30 Each of these areas has a profile associated with it which describes in detail the key landscape features and identifies any issues and opportunities. We will have regard to these, along with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Assessment, National Character Areas, and any subsequent pieces of evidence when considering proposals in a countryside location.

5.31 In respect of transport infrastructure it is recognised that sometimes these will either pass through the countryside (for example roads) or may be located within a countryside setting (for example, a road side service facility adjoining a main road and which cannot be accommodated in a built up area).

## 6 DESIGN

- 6.1 Good design is indivisible from good planning and is central to creating places for people. Well-designed places are those that relate well to their environment, are attractive, safe and offer a better quality of life for those that live and work there. The Council therefore requires all new development to offer, as a minimum, a good standard of design responding positively to the opportunities to make our towns and villages better places.
- 6.2 National planning policy places a strong emphasis on good design as an important means by which we can make places better for people. Good design is not restricted to how buildings look. It involves carefully considering how new development integrates with its surroundings; how it contributes towards creating cohesive places, rather than a patchwork of disconnected developments that fail to relate to one another and the streets and spaces around them.
- 6.3 As such, design considerations include but are not restricted to: views into, out of and through development sites, distinctive local characteristics, relationship to topography and other landscape features, habitat creation and the responsible management of surface water. It is therefore essential that a robust opportunities and constraints assessment forms the basis of any development proposal.
- 6.4 It is important that the Council is objective in assessing the quality of proposed new developments. In order to do this, the Council has considered the qualities and deficiencies of buildings, streets and spaces within the District.
- 6.5 The Council has identified a series of principles that when followed result in better designed buildings, streets and spaces. These are called our, 'Place making principles for North West Leicestershire'. These principles will be used to structure pre-application discussions for proposed new developments and be used to support decisions on planning applications.
- 6.6 These principles are aligned to: a) the National Planning Policy Framework, b) The National Forest Design Charter, and c) Building for Life and, d) OPUN's Place Making Checklist.

The principles are:

1. A National Forest or locally inspired identity
2. Street and spaces shaped by buildings
3. A greener footprint
4. Vibrant, mixed use communities
5. Responsive to their context
6. Connected communities
7. Easy to get around
8. Well designed and well managed public spaces
9. Architectural quality

## **RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING FOR LIFE 12**

- 6.7 For residential developments the Council will not use its Place Making principles to structure pre-application discussions and support decisions on planning applications. Instead, the Council will use Building for Life 12. By virtue of meeting Building for Life would satisfy the councils Place Making Principles.
- 6.8 Building for Life 12 is a design quality indicator for new residential developments that is actively supported by the Home Builders Federation and endorsed by government. Building for Life 12 is aligned to the National Policy Framework and its 12 questions are also aligned to our Place Making Principles.
- 6.9 Building for Life 12 is designed to be used at the start of the design process and as a way to structure pre-application discussions and as a community engagement tool. The 12 questions are divided over three chapters: 1. Integrating into the neighbourhood, 2. Creating a Place, 3. Street and Home.
- 6.10 The Council has been using Building for Life 12 and its predecessor since 2008. As such, most house builders that build in our District are already well accustomed to the Council using Building for Life 12 as a way of structuring pre-application discussions and as our preferred method of determining the design quality of residential planning applications.
- 6.11 Building for Life 12 is based on a traffic light system. One or more 'reds' indicates that the design of a scheme needs to be reconsidered. 'Ambers' indicate that one or more aspects of a scheme could be improved; however these may be justified in certain circumstances. 'Greens' indicate a good resolution to one or more of the twelve questions.
- 6.12 The Council expects all residential developments to perform well against Building for Life 12, i.e.
- as many 'greens' as possible are achieved.
  - Any 'ambers' are robustly justified and restricted to factors beyond an applicant's control (only applies to Building for Life questions 1 to 4 only. Viability considerations may justify 'amber' against question 5 in exceptional circumstances).
  - 'red' are avoided.

Planning applications with one or more 'reds' will not be supported by the Council.

Applicants are required to submit a Building for Life assessment as part of their planning application in accordance with the Local Scheme of Validation.

### **Policy D1: Design of New Development**

**The Council will support proposed developments that are well designed and as a minimum offer, a good standard of design:**

- (1) All developments must be based upon a robust opportunities and constraints assessment and be informed by a comprehensive site and contextual appraisal;**
- (2) New non residential developments must positively address our Place Making principles:**
  - a) A National Forest or locally inspired identity**
  - b) Streets and Spaces shaped by buildings**
  - c) A greener footprint**
  - d) Vibrant and Mixed communities**
  - e) Responsive to their context**
  - f) Connected places**
  - g) Easy to get around**
  - h) Well designed and well managed public spaces**
  - i) Architectural quality**
- (3) For residential developments Building for Life 12 will be used instead of the Place Making Principles. New residential development will need to perform positively against Building for Life 12;**
- (4) Existing neighbour amenity should be safeguarded in accordance with Local Plan Policy D2;**
- (5) New development should have regard to sustainable design and construction methods.**

**New development designed in accordance with the above principles should be able to demonstrate that they have been designed to reduce anti-social behaviour and the risk of crime.**

**The Council will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance on design**

6.13 The Supplementary Planning Document referred to above will include more detail on all aspects of design including each of the North West Leicestershire Place making principles summarised below:

6.14 National Forest- or locally-inspired identity: The National Forest offers a source of inspiration for the design and environmental performance of buildings, the design and

management of green spaces and the integration of green and blue infrastructure. References for new development can also be drawn from local architectural characteristics where there is a distinctive local architectural identity.

- 6.15 Streets and spaces shaped by buildings: The most successful streets and spaces are those where buildings help to enclose and define a network of streets and spaces; and relate well to them by providing active frontages at street level. As such, successful streets and spaces require more than physical (spatial) qualities. They require life (people) to make them attractive, enjoyable, sociable and safe places. The relationship between buildings and the public realm is therefore critically important.
- 6.16 A greener footprint: Creating buildings and spaces with a reduced environmental impact and that offer people opportunities to live lower carbon lifestyles (for instance, where people are encouraged to rely less on private cars, particularly for shorter journeys), are suitable for future adaptation, conversion or expansion, and as such designed to stand the test of time will be encouraged.
- 6.17 Vibrant and mixed-use communities: By mixing uses (for example, shops with homes) we can create places that are more socially and culturally stimulating and where more day to day facilities and services are a short walk or cycle from people's homes and workplaces.
- 6.18 Responsive to context: New development must respond positively their site and wider context, for example by respecting the nature of existing development and by using features, such as landscape and views into, through and out of a site.
- 6.19 Connected places: Creating connected street patterns helps to encourage higher levels of walking and cycling, particularly for shorter local journeys thereby helping to reduce car dependency and tackle issues related to the lack of physical activity.
- 6.20 Easy to get around: Routes must be safe, direct and attractive, recognising the impact that urban, landscape, highways and architectural design can have on the travel choices people make. Streets within settlements, town and village centres must be regarded principally as places for pedestrians and cyclists; rather than purely places for the movement and parking of vehicles. Streets within settlements, town and village centres should seek to limit vehicle speeds to 20 mph or less through design features and/or the use of legal designations: 20 mph zones, Home Zones and Quiet Lanes.
- 6.21 Well-designed and well-managed public spaces: Public spaces must be well designed, well managed with a clear public function. National Forest planting requirements must be used creatively to help create an interesting, attractive and ecologically diverse network of streets and spaces.
- 6.22 Architectural quality: New or converted buildings must be fit for purpose with careful attention afforded to the design and amount of internal space; and access to natural

lighting. Buildings should be designed to respond to their solar orientation and adjacent buildings, streets and spaces with which they will have a relationship.

### **Sustainable Design and Construction**

- 6.23 The sustainable design and construction of new building and extensions to existing buildings has an important role to play in reducing running costs and improving energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (notably CO<sub>2</sub>). Improving the energy efficiency of buildings is an essential part of achieving targets for a reduction in carbon emissions as almost half of the UK's current carbon emission come from domestic (27%) and non-domestic buildings (17%).
- 6.24 The creation of buildings and spaces with a reduced environmental impact and that offer people opportunities to live lower carbon lifestyles, are suitable for future adaptation, conversion or expansion, and as such designed to stand the test of time will be encouraged.
- 6.25 The Council encourages developers to consider the integration of environmental 'optional extras' for residential led developments, i.e. features that would enable a development to exceed the environmental performance of new homes required by Building Regulations.
- 6.26 The following measures are examples of what could be incorporated in to new developments to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change:
- Planting, shading and advanced glazing systems to reduce solar heat gain during the summer;
  - Using materials to prevent penetration of heat, including the use of cool building materials, green roofs and walls and using flood resilient materials ;
  - Increasing natural ventilation and the removal of heat by using fresh air
  - Orientating windows of habitable rooms within 30 degrees of south and utilising southern slopes;
  - Locating windows at heights that maximise heating from lower sun angles during the winter;
  - Incorporating flood resilient measures such as raising floor levels, electrical fittings and rain-proofing and overhangs to prevent infiltration of heavy rain around doors and windows;
  - Integrating water management into the design of new development through a network of attractive and functional features such as swales, rills, rainwater harvesting/storage (such as water butts and underground water storage) and rain gardens.
  - Incorporating waste reduction and recycling measures through design of the development to ensure there are appropriate storage and segregation facilities;

- Incorporating small scale renewables into the design of new developments where there would be no significant adverse impacts on landscape, ecology, heritage assets and amenity;
- Incorporating car charging points where viable and appropriate to do so;
- Providing sufficient, safe and sheltered cycle storage in locations where the use of bicycles is closer to the front door of buildings than car parking spaces, where it is practical to do so.
- Connect to an existing or approved district energy scheme where available. Major development proposals should utilise opportunities to incorporate a district energy network

## **AMENITY**

- 6.27 Impact on amenity is one of the most important determining considerations within the planning application process, as it can impact greatly on the quality of life for those affected. Noise, odour, light and overlooking are key factors affecting amenity, together with issues such as disturbance and pollution. In addition the scale and massing of development if too large can have an overbearing and dominating impact on surroundings, and in particular on neighbouring properties which adversely affects amenity.
- 6.28 Design can have a direct influence on the relationship between new and existing development, and the distribution of activities within a development. In some cases amenity reasons will rule out the provision of a development at a particular location either through the impact of the proposed development on existing residents or the impact on future occupants from existing lawful uses; in others, it may be possible for the impact on amenity to be made acceptable through appropriate design, layout and distribution of uses within the development or through suitable planning conditions.

### **Policy D2: Amenity**

**Proposals for development should be designed to minimise their impact on the amenity and quiet enjoyment of both existing and future residents within the development and close to it. As such, development proposals will be supported where:**

- 1) They do not have a significant adverse effect on the living conditions of existing and new residents through loss of privacy, excessive overshadowing and overbearing impact.**
- 2) They do not generate a level of activity, noise, vibration, pollution or unpleasant odour emission, which cannot be mitigated to an appropriate standard and so, would have an adverse impact on amenity and living conditions.**

**Development which is sensitive to noise or unpleasant odour emissions will not be permitted where it would adversely affect future occupants.**

**Proposals for external lighting scheme should be designed to minimise potential pollution from glare or spillage of light. The intensity of lighting should be necessary to achieve its purpose, and the benefits of the lighting scheme must be shown to outweigh any adverse effects.**

**The Council will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document which will include new Development Guidelines.**

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- 6.29 Mobile communications are an essential element in both the national and local economy. They are now considered an integral part of the success of most business operations and individual lifestyles. With the growth of services such as mobile internet access, demand for new telecommunications infrastructure is continuing to grow.
- 6.30 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at paragraph 42 confirms that “advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth and plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.” The Council supports the enhancement of telecommunications in the District whilst at the same time seeking to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised, including the impact on the environment and the amenities of those living or working in close proximity to telecommunication instalments.
- 6.31 It is the Council’s aim to reduce the proliferation of new masts by encouraging mast sharing where possible. Existing masts and other structures should be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified. Where new sites are being sought, applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have explored the possibility of erecting apparatus on existing buildings or structures.

### **Policy D3 – Telecommunications**

**Proposals for telecommunications will be supported where;**

- (1) If proposing a new mast it is demonstrated that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting apparatus on existing buildings, masts or other structures. Such evidence should accompany any application made;**
- (2) The siting and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures ensures that the impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding areas is minimised;**
- (3) If on a building, apparatus and associated structure are sited and designed so as to ensure that impact to the external appearance of the host building is**

minimised;

- (4) The proposed development does not have an unacceptable effect on area of ecological interest, areas of landscape importance, archaeological sites, conservation areas or buildings of architectural or historic interest.

## 7 HOUSING

### INTRODUCTION

- 7.1 As already noted the NPPF seeks to boost significantly the supply of housing to meet the needs of the country and to contribute to the economic recovery following the recession of recent years.
- 7.2 In accordance with policy S2 provision needs to be made for a minimum of 10,400 dwellings during the plan period. However, it should be appreciated that in preparing this Local Plan we are not starting from a blank sheet of paper. Some development has already occurred or provision is in place. The following section outlines the current position in respect of housing provision.

#### Housing provision – current position

- 7.3 As already noted some development has taken place since 2011 and there a number of sites where the Council has previously granted planning permission for housing development. In addition, there are also sites where the Council has previously agreed to grant planning permission subject to the completion of a legal agreement (usually referred to as a S106 Agreement) between the Council and the applicant, but the agreement has yet to be completed and so no permission has been issued. These are referred to as ‘resolutions’.
- 7.4 Table 2 below, summarises the position in terms of the various components of housing supply.

**Table 2– Housing provision as at 1 October 2015**

	<b>Number of dwellings</b>
Completions 1 April 2011- 31 September 2015 (A)	2,172
Under construction (B)	322
Planning permission (C)	5,207
Resolution to grant planning permission (D)	3,506
Total provision (A+B+C+D)	11,207

- 7.5 Table 2 shows that as a result of permissions and resolutions the requirements have already been met. However, we have to be sure that all of these new homes will actually be built. Therefore, we have undertaken an assessment of how many dwellings we think are likely to be built during the plan period on each of the sites which are committed.

- 7.6 A significant number of the committed dwellings (3,500) are on sites which are collectively referred to as south-east Coalville. Of these 3,500 dwellings there is permission for 800 dwellings on land north of Grange Road (site H1h) and there is a resolution to grant planning permission on one site, North and South of Grange Road Hugglescote (Site H2g) for 2,700 dwellings.
- 7.7 It is estimated that during the plan period that only 1,900 of these 3,500 dwellings are likely to be built.
- 7.8 As a result of these considerations we think it is likely that only about 9,600 dwellings in total will be built up to 2031 across the district (11,207 committed dwellings less 1,600 dwellings at south-east Coalville that are not expected to be built by 2031). Therefore, we need to make provision for an additional 800 dwellings to ensure that the required number of dwellings (10,400) will be achieved.
- 7.9 We have considered whether we should make an allowance for unidentified sites which may come forward over the plan period. These can either be small sites (usually those of less than 10 dwellings) or larger sites (for example perhaps a former factory site). Whilst historically such sites have provided an important part of the supply, the provision of such sites is, by its nature, very uncertain. Therefore, for the purposes of estimating housing supply we have not made any allowance for such sites coming forward. However, should such sites come forward and planning permission be granted then they would count towards the housing supply at that point in time just as those which currently have planning permission are included in the figures at Table 2.

### **PROVISION FOR HOUSING**

- 7.10 Policies H1, H2 and H3 set out how we will ensure that the overall housing requirement is met over the plan period. These policies address three types of housing provision - permission, a resolution or allocation.

### **HOUSING PROVISION: PLANNING PERMISSIONS**

- 7.11 In respect of sites with planning permission these are those sites where development has yet to start. The principle of development on these sites has already been established and it is not possible for the Council to reverse these decisions unless the permissions were to lapse. However, if this did happen the Council would have to have robust reasons for not renewing permission. Generally speaking the Council would wish to support renewals and Policy H1 allows for this. The sites listed in policy H1 had the benefit of planning permission as at 1 October 2015 but development had not started.

**Policy H1 – Housing provision : planning permissions**

The following sites have the benefit of planning permission for housing development. In the event that planning permission lapses on these sites it will be renewed subject to the policies of this Local Plan and any other material considerations including any evidence in respect of deliverability of any particular site.

Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.

	Site	Capacity
H1a	Off Measham Road, Appleby Magna	39 dwellings
H1b	Off Top Street, Appleby Magna	29 dwellings
H1c	3 Top Street, Appleby Magna	12 dwellings
H1d	Holywell Spring Farm, Burton Road Ashby de la Zouch	400 dwellings
H1e	Holywell Mill, Ashby de la Zouch	44 dwellings
H1f	Off Leicester Road, Ashby de la Zouch	101 dwellings
H1g	South of Burton road, Ashby de la Zouch	275 dwellings
H1h	Former depot Kilwardby Street, Ashby de la Zouch	32 dwellings
H1i	South of Park Lane, Castle Donington	895 dwellings
H1j	Rear of 138 Bardon Road, Coalville	132 dwellings
H1k	Rear of 164-222 Bardon Road, Coalville	77 dwellings
H1l	Former deport Highfield Street, Coalville	28 dwellings
H1m	Land off North Avenue, Coalville	17 dwellings
H1n	Standard Hill/West of Highfield Street, Coalville	400 dwellings
H1o	The Farm, Manor Road, Donington-le-Heath	14 dwellings
H1p	Acresford Road, Donisthorpe	36 dwellings
H1q	Land north of Grange Road , Hugglescote	800 dwellings
H1r	Castle Inn, Dennis Street, Hugglescote	10 dwellings
H1s	Rear of Frearson Road, Hugglescote	188 dwellings
H1t	South of Grange Road, Hugglescote	105 dwellings
H1u	Station Road, Ibstock	142 dwellings
H1v	Ashby Road, Kegworth	110 dwellings
H1w	New Street, Measham	20 dwellings
H1x	Atherstone Road, Measham	77 dwellings
H1y	Off Measham Road, Moira	80 dwellings
H1z	Cresswells Coaches, Shorth Heath Road, Moira	24 dwellings
H1aa	Home Farm, Main Street, Oakthorpe	29 dwellings
H1ab	166 Spring cottage Road, Overseal	11 dwellings
H1ac	Dawsons Road, Osgathorpe	16 dwellings
H1ad	South of Normanton Road, Packington	30 dwellings
H1ae	Heather Lane, Ravenstone	50 dwellings
H1af	Loughborough Road, Thringstone	85 dwellings
H1ag	61-65 Grace Dieu Road, Whitwick	12 dwellings

As noted in Table 2 as at 1 October 2015 some 5,207 dwellings had the benefit of planning permission for housing. Most of these dwellings are on sites of 10 or more, but there are also a significant number on smaller sites.

#### **HOUSING PROVISION: RESOLUTIONS**

- 7.12 The sites listed in Policy H2 are those where the Council has resolved to grant planning permission. Whilst the Council has agreed that the proposed development would be appropriate, changes in circumstances could mean that the Council has to re-consider the proposal. Such changed circumstances could occur where it takes a long time to reach agreement with the developer/applicant on a legal agreement. Therefore, it is in the interest of providing certainty for all that any legal agreements can be completed and permissions issued as quickly as possible. Policy H2 provides this commitment from the Council. Those sites listed in policy H2 were the subject of a resolution as at 1 October 2015.

#### **Policy H2 – Housing provision: resolutions**

**The Council has resolved to grant planning permission for housing development on the sites listed below. The Council will work with developers and applicants to ensure that the legal agreements associated with these developments are completed as efficiently as possible so that permission can be issued. Once planning permission is granted it will be subject to the provisions of Policy H1.**

**Where there has been a delay in the signing of a legal agreement and a planning permission not granted, it may be necessary for the application to be referred back to Planning Committee for account to be taken of any material change in circumstances since the initial resolution to grant permission.**

**Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.**

	Site	Capacity
H2a	Off Jackson Street, Coalville	129 dwellings
H2b	Off Kane Close, Coalville	21 dwellings
H2c	North and south of Grange Road, Hugglescote	2,700 dwellings
H2d	Slack & Parr, Long Lane, Kegworth	188 dwellings
H2e	West of High Street, Measham	450 dwellings
H2f	Land at Blackfordby Lane, Moira	18 dwellings

As noted in Table 2 as at 1 October 2015 some 3,506 dwellings had the benefit of planning permission for housing. The vast majority of these dwellings are on sites of 10 or more although there are also a number on smaller sites.

## **HOUSING PROVISION: NEW ALLOCATIONS**

- 7.13 As outlined at paragraph 7.8 it is necessary to identify additional sites to ensure that the overall provision of housing will be sufficient to meet the housing requirement of 10,400 dwellings.
- 7.14 In our existing Local Plan there are outstanding housing allocations on land at Waterworks Road Coalville and Wentworth Road Coalville. The Wentworth Road site was originally identified in the Coalville District Plan in the late 1970's. There is no evidence to suggest that this site will come forward for development and therefore it is not proposed to retain this allocation. The land at Waterworks Road is owned by the District Council and it remains our intention for the site to be developed for housing. Therefore, we propose that this site be allocated for housing as part of this plan. This site is capable of accommodating about 95 dwellings and so there remains a need to identify additional sites.
- 7.15 We have considered a range of potential locations and sites to make this provision and have concluded that the most appropriate allocation would be north of Ashby de la Zouch (more details about this assessment can be found in the supporting Background Paper and the Sustainability Appraisal). This area comprises two sites which are identified in our Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Site A5 (Land north of Ashby, Money Hill) and Site A 22 (Former Arla dairy, Smisby Road). They adjoin each other and are proposed as a single allocation.
- 7.16 The overall scale of development that could be realised (1,750 dwellings) is more than that required to make up the identified shortfall (800). The site lies within the river Mease catchment and so development has to avoid having an adverse impact upon the integrity of the river Mease Special Area of Conservation (more on this can be found in the Environment chapter of this Local Plan). It has been agreed that pumping sewage effluent from Packington and Measham sewage works out of the Mease catchment is the most effective long term solution to deal with issues relating to phosphate levels in the catchment. It is considered that pumping out could be achieved by 2025. Therefore, the amount of development which will be allowed to be built on this site until such time as pumping out is taking place is restricted to 600 dwellings.
- 7.17 In respect of access to the site the primary point will be from the A511. There will also be a secondary point of access from Smisby Road. It is important that any link between these two points is designed so that it does not become used as a short cut between the A511 and Smisby Road. A third point of access from Nottingham Road will be allowed but this is primarily designed to enable sustainable transport access, such as buses, walking and cycling. This access will serve no more than 70 dwellings.
- 7.18 Land west of High Street Measham (H2e) is potentially affected by the currently preferred proposed route for HS2. If this route is confirmed as the final route some, if not all, of this development will not be provided. It would, therefore, be necessary to

make alternative provision to ensure that the overall requirement is still met. Our preference would be to make this provision elsewhere in Measham. We have assessed the various sites identified in the SHLAA. Whilst a number of the sites are quite small and or now have planning permission there are two large areas identified in the SHLAA; one off Atherstone Road (sites M6 and M7) and one off Ashby Road/ Leicester Road (sites M11 and M12). The site off Atherstone Road is largely in use as a brick and pipe manufacturing works. Our preference, therefore, is to identify land off Ashby Road/Leicester Road as a reserve site should the route of HS2 prohibit the development of land west of High Street.

- 7.19 Both sites H3a and H3c are within the Minerals Consultation Area (and proposed Minerals Safeguarding Areas) as they contain potential near surface coal resources. Development should respond to the minerals safeguarding policies in the relevant Minerals Plan.
- 7.20 Policy H3 identifies any specific requirements which will be expected to be met as part of the development of these allocations.

**Policy H3 – Housing provision: new allocations**

**The following sites are allocated for housing development, subject to meeting the specified requirements set out below. These sites will be subject to a Section 106 Agreement to secure the provision of any specific requirements including on and off-site infrastructure.**

**H3a - Land north of Ashby de la Zouch (1,750 dwellings in total)**

**Development will be subject to the following requirements:**

- (i) provision for suitable and safe access from the A511 (the principal vehicular access route), Smisby Road (the secondary vehicular access point) and Nottingham Road (primarily as a sustainable transport access, with some potential for very limited vehicular access) and;**
- (ii) any highway link between the A511 access and Smisby Road access should be designed in such a way that it would not provide an attractive through route from the A511 to Smisby Road and;**
- (iii) provision of suitable and safe walking and cycling connections from the site to Ashby town centre and adjoining employment areas (existing and proposed) and;**
- (iv) provision of a range of infrastructure including a new primary school, extensions to secondary schools, affordable housing, open spaces, green infrastructure and community facilities and enhanced public transport provision and;**
- (v) design and layout of the proposed development should minimise the**

impact upon the setting of Ashby de la Zouch Conservation Area and the Ashby Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument;

(vi) provision for the discharge of wastewater into the Mease catchment in accordance with the provisions of policy En2. Development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted. In addition, development will not be permitted until a second 'development window' for the Developer Contributions Scheme has been agreed and no more than 600 dwellings will be allowed to be built until provision is made for pumping wastewater from the sewage treatment works at Packington out of the river Mease catchment and;

(vii) provision of a mineral assessment identifying the potential effect of the proposed development on the mineral resources beneath and adjacent to the site.

#### **H3b – Land off Waterworks Road Coalville (about 95 dwellings)**

(i) provision of a range of infrastructure including contributions towards education provision, affordable housing, green infrastructure and community facilities and enhanced public transport provision.

#### **H3c - Land of Ashby road/Leicester Road, Measham (about 420 dwellings)**

Development of this site will be supported in the event that the proposed route of HS2, when confirmed, prohibits the development of land west of High Street Measham (Policy H2e).

Development will be subject to the following:

- (i) provision of vehicular access from Ashby Road and Leicester Road and ;
- (ii) provision of walking and cycling connections from the site to Measham town centre and existing bus routes and ;
- (iii) provision of a range of infrastructure including contributions towards education provision, affordable housing, open spaces, green infrastructure and community facilities and enhanced public transport provision and ;
- (iv) design and layout of the proposed development should minimise the impact upon the setting of Measham Conservation Area and;
- (v) protection and enhancement of heritage assets, including their setting and;
- (vi) provision for the discharge of wastewater into the Mease catchment in accordance with the provisions of policy En2. Development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted. In addition, development will not be permitted until a second 'development window' for the Developer

**Contributions Scheme has been agreed and;**

**(vii) provision of a mineral assessment identifying the potential effect of the proposed development on the mineral resources beneath and adjacent to the site.**

## **HOW MANY DWELLINGS WILL BE BUILT AND WHEN?**

- 7.21 Having regard to the provisions in Policies H1, H2 and H3 and other commitments, we have assessed how we expect these various sites to be developed throughout the plan period as out in the housing trajectory in Appendix 2
- 7.22 The NPPF requires that the Council maintain a 5 year supply of housing sites. As at 1 October 2015 for the 5 year period to October 2020 and based on the projected completions in the trajectory there is a supply of 5.4 years. More details about this are set out in the Housing Background Paper published alongside this Local Plan.
- 7.23 The trajectory identifies that 8,597 dwellings will be developed by 2031, in addition to the 2,172 which were built from April 2011 to 1 October 2015. Therefore, it is projected that 10,769 dwellings will be developed over the plan period. This is more than the identified requirement of 10,400 dwellings.

## **PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- 7.24 We are required to identify whether there is a need for affordable housing in the area and then plan to meet this need. The NPPF defines affordable housing as: social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.
- 7.25 There are three main classifications of affordable housing:
- Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in Section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime.
  - Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing (as defined in Section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008) to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).
  - Intermediate housing is housing for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the affordable

housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low-cost housing for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

7.26 Housing that does not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as ‘low cost market housing’, is not defined as affordable housing for the purpose of this policy.

**Policy H4: Affordable Housing**

(1) To support the provision of mixed, sustainable communities the Council will seek the provision of affordable housing on new housing developments subject to the following thresholds above which provision will be sought and the level of contributions:

Settlement	Minimum Affordable Housing Contribution	Threshold
Ashby de la Zouch	30%	15 or more dwellings
Castle Donington	30%	15 or more dwellings
Coalville Urban Area	20%	15 or more dwellings
Ibstock	20%	11 or more dwellings OR 1,000sqm (gross) floor space
Kegworth	30%	11 or more dwellings OR 1,000sqm (gross) floor space
Measham	30%	11 or more dwellings OR 1,000sqm (gross) floor space
All other settlements	30%	11 or more dwellings OR 1,000sqm (gross) floor space

(2) In agreeing the provision of affordable housing account will be taken of:

- site size and site constraints; and
- financial viability, having regard to the individual circumstances of the site.

Where it can be demonstrated that the full affordable housing requirement would adversely affect the viability of a proposed development then the Council will agree to look at other measures to increase viability in accordance with policy IM1 (Implementation and Monitoring of the Local Plan) before agreeing to a lesser amount of affordable housing subject to the provision of part (4) below.

- (3) The Council's preference is for on-site affordable housing provision which should:**
- include a mix of types and tenure that reflects the type and nature of any need at the time that the application is determined and
  - be integrated within the design and layout of a development such that they externally indistinguishable from market housing on the same site.
- (4) Planning permission will be subject to a legal agreement to secure the provision of the agreed amount of affordable housing. Where a site is likely to be developed in phases over the longer term the agreement will include a suitable mechanism to review the amount of affordable housing provided over time as viability improves.**
- (5) The Council will encourage the provision of affordable homes to meet the need of elderly people. Where bungalow provision is made the Council will consider reducing the overall level of affordable housing contribution, having regard to the type and size of other affordable housing provided across the site.**

- 7.27 The need for affordable housing was one of the issues considered in the SHMA. This identified that in North West Leicestershire the estimated level of annual need for affordable housing over the period 2011-2031 was 212 dwellings. This equates to about 60% of the highest Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) identified in the SHMA for the same period (350 dwellings each year) and about 40% of the revised OAN which we have concluded we need to make more provision for (535 dwellings each year).
- 7.28 It is important to note that the affordable housing need figure identified in the SHMA is not in any way related to or influenced by the overall housing need figure, but is simply an estimate of the need for affordable housing having regard to a range of factors including the number of emerging households, housing waiting list demand, house prices and income levels.
- 7.29 A significant amount of affordable housing has already been built since 2011 or is already committed. In the period April 2011 to April 2014 some 258 affordable dwellings were built out of an overall total of 1,028 which equates to 25% of all new builds.
- 7.30 The percentage of affordable housing achieved since 2011 is less than either of the percentages above, primarily due to the impact of the recession and the reduced availability of finance, both public and private. It is important to note that the number of affordable homes that can be provided is constrained by both available public sector funding and the amount of cross subsidy that can realistically be achieved from increased land values associated with planning permissions for general market

housing. In the recent and current housing market conditions, the number of affordable homes which can be delivered is linked with the development of market homes and if planning policies push for too high a quota of affordable homes it may both reduce the overall number of dwellings built, and the proportion of those that are affordable. It is also important that the delivery of all types of housing is not undermined by development sites becoming unviable, which can happen during times of recession when residential values and access to borrowing is reduced. During periods of a strong and viable housing market the provision of affordable housing should be less of an issue.

- 7.31 Going forward, whilst most new housing is already committed it is important that we set out both a target and a threshold above which we will seek affordable housing. This policy will be used to inform negotiations in respect of additional sites which come forward during the remainder of the plan period. However, in doing so we must, as outlined above, have regard to issues in respect of viability. We have undertaken a separate viability study which looked at the potential impact of all of the policies in this Local Plan upon the viability of new development. In respect of affordable housing this considered a number of options (see box below) and concluded that Option 1 was the best fit with the results of the modelling undertaken. More details about this can be found in the Viability Study report.
- 7.32 A number of large schemes which already have planning permission for housing development include an element of affordable housing and the Section 106 Agreement allows for a renegotiation of the amount of provision as market conditions improve. We will apply this approach to future Section 106 Agreements as well so that it is likely that we will achieve more affordable housing than currently anticipated.
- 7.33 In accordance with the NPPF our preference is for any provision to be made on-site. However, in exceptional circumstances, for example because of site specific constraints or demonstrable viability issues, then we may accept a sum of money (usually referred to as a commuted sum) instead and use this money to make provision for affordable housing on another site(s).
- 7.34 All of the available evidence identifies that the population of the district, in common with the rest of the country, is ageing. It is important to ensure that the needs of the elderly population are taken in to account when providing affordable housing. Such provision will often be best made in the form of bungalows. However, the cost of such provision, based on floor area, is generally more than that for 2 or more storey dwellings. Therefore, the provision of bungalows can affect site viability. In recognition of this where the provision of bungalows to meet the needs of elderly people is agreed as part of a development we will consider reducing the overall amount of affordable housing that we seek having regard to the types and size of other affordable housing to be provided.

7.35 Whilst most affordable housing will be provided as part of general market housing developments some will also be provided on 100% affordable housing developments. Over the last thirty years such provision has been made by housing associations (sometimes referred to as Registered Social Landlords). However, recent changes introduced by the Government have allowed the District Council to begin investigating the possibility of providing some housing as well. This work is ongoing and we do not know at this time how many homes it may be possible to provide.

### **RURAL 'EXCEPTION' SITES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

7.36 We need to secure the provision of more affordable housing in rural areas to meet the needs of local communities, as identified in the SHMA. One way to help do this is to have an exceptions site policy. This approach enables the delivery of affordable housing to meet local need on land which is identified as countryside that would not normally be released for housing. 'Exception' sites are usually managed by a housing association and can provide homes for existing residents or those with a family or employment connection to the local community.

7.37 A genuine need to live in the village must be established before sites are considered and a planning application submitted; these should be done in consultation with the local community and can be done using a variety of means such as surveys, consultation events and reviewing housing waiting list data. Such a need could be someone who lives or is employed in the village or needs to give or receive support from a close family member who lives in the village.

7.38 Due to the ongoing need for affordable housing in our rural areas and the limited grant funding available, we may allow for a small number of market homes to cross-subsidise the provision of affordable homes in suitable locations.

#### **Policy H5: Rural Exceptions Sites for Affordable housing**

**1. The provision of affordable housing outside of the Limits to Development will be allowed as an exception where:**

**(a) the housing is demonstrated to meet an identified local need for affordable housing, and**

**(b) the development is well-related to and respects the character and scale of the settlement and its landscape setting and**

**(c) the development allows accessibility to community services and facilities within it, where appropriate**

**2. Planning permission for 'Exception' Sites will be subject to conditions, or a planning obligation will be sought, to ensure that all initial and subsequent occupiers of the affordable dwellings will:**

- (a) be local people in housing need, and
- (b) benefit from the status of the dwellings as affordable housing in perpetuity
3. On sites that are outside of, but well related to, a sustainable village or a small village the inclusion of market housing on 'Exception' Sites will be supported where:
- (a) it is demonstrated that there is insufficient subsidy for the scheme to go ahead without the inclusion of market housing; and
- (b) it can be demonstrated through detailed financial appraisal that the scale of the market housing component is the minimum necessary for the successful delivery of the development; and
- (c) the majority of the homes provided are affordable
- 4 Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.
- A Supplementary Planning Document will be produced to aid those submitting applications for rural exception sites for affordable housing.**

7.39 The District Council will work with the Leicestershire Rural Housing Partnership Group to facilitate the provision of affordable homes in our rural areas. We have a rolling programme of rural housing need surveys in the district. We will continue to identify the need for affordable housing in our Sustainable and Small Villages as part of the Partnership but by also in consultation with local communities, parish councils or other appropriate partners.

#### **HOUSE TYPES AND MIX**

7.40 The NPPF requires Local Planning Authorities to plan for a mix of housing to meet the different needs of the community including families with children, older people and people with disabilities. In order to ensure that the housing provision meets local housing needs of our current and future residents, it is important that a range of house types and sizes are provided as part of new developments within the district. We will therefore plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period. The policy below relates to open market housing schemes. Affordable housing schemes are covered by Policies H4 and H5.

**Policy H6: House types and mix**

- (1) We will seek a mix of housing types, size and tenures in new housing developments of 10 or more dwellings, in order to meet the identified needs of the whole community.**
- (2) In considering proposals for developments of 10 or more dwellings we will have regard to the following:**
  - (a) evidence of housing needs including the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Older People’s Housings Needs Study, local housing needs surveys, parish plans and other evidence of market demand;**
  - (b) the mix of house types and sizes already built and/or approved when compared to the available evidence;**
  - (c) the size of the proposed development in terms of numbers of dwellings proposed;**
  - (d) nature of the local housing sub-market;**
  - (e) needs and demands of all sectors of the community**
  - (f) character and context of the individual site; and**
  - (g) development viability and deliverability.**
- (3) Developments of 50 or more dwellings will provide:**
  - (a) A proportion of dwellings that are suitable for occupation by the elderly, including bungalows, having regard to factors (c) and (g) above; and**
  - (b) A proportion of dwellings which are suitable for occupation or easily adaptable for people with disabilities in accordance with Part M4 (2) of the Building Regulations.**

7.41 The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) indicates a need for various types and sizes of housing, but particularly smaller housing e.g. 1 and 2 bedroom properties as well as 3 bedroom properties. As such the SHMA recommends that in terms of housing size, the following mix should be supported within the district.

**Table 3 – dwelling mix suggested by SHMA**

Type of Housing	Dwelling size			
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
<b>Market</b>	5-10%	35-40%	45-50%	10-15%
<b>Affordable</b>	33.3%	35.2%	28.9%	2.5%

7.42 It is recognised that there may be a need for local variations and therefore the above percentages are not intended to be prescriptively applied to every site. Other relevant factors include population profiles, location, balancing recent local delivery, rebalancing the current mix and the turnover of properties at the local level as well as the nature of the development site and the character of the area.

7.43 In respect of local delivery Table 4 below identifies the dwelling sizes permitted (where known, as many dwellings are only approved in outline) since 1 April 2011 within the district, whether in the form of houses, flats or bungalows. This shows that in respect of market housing there are significantly more 4 bed houses with planning permission than the SHMA suggests is required, less 3 bed and significantly less 2 bed properties. In respect of affordable housing there are more 2 bed and less 1 bed properties than suggested by the SHMA, although this partly reflects the fact that 1 bed properties are generally not regarded as providing sufficient flexibility for changing household composition and are therefore not considered sustainable in the long term.

**Table 4 – dwelling mix based on current planning permissions**

Type of Housing	Dwelling size				Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4+ bed	
<b>Market</b>	182(5.2%)	588(16.9%)	1167(33.5%)	1546(44.4%)	3483
<b>Affordable</b>	90(14.3%)	339(53.7%)	195(31%)	7(1 %)	631

7.44 As a result when compared to the SHMA there is a need now to ensure that future developments, including those sites where only outline planning permission has been granted (on which there are 7,210 dwellings), need to focus on delivering 2 and 3 bedroom properties in order to provide a better balance in the housing market.

**PROVISION FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE.**

7.45 In helping to provide decent housing for all, we must also meet the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople. The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) (March 2012), which relates to Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, sets out the Government’s planning policy and should be read in conjunction with the NPPF.

**Policy H7: Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople**

**(1) Provision will be made to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople between 2012- 2031 for a minimum of:**

- 2012 – 2017: 27 pitches plus 20 transit pitches
  - 2017 – 2022: 11 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
  - 2022- 2027: 14 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
  - 2027- 2031: 16 pitches plus 3 plots for showpeople
- (2) The required provision will be identified through the production of a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document, taking into account the most-up-to-date Gypsy and Traveller Accommodations Needs Assessment.
- (3) A five year supply of deliverable sites will be identified as well as a supply of developable sites or broad locations for the following years. The following criteria will be used to guide the site allocation process, and for the purposes of considering planning applications for such sites.
- (4) Proposals for new sites or extensions to existing sites should meet the following requirements:
- (a) Be located with reasonable access to a range of services, such as shops, schools, welfare facilities or public transport
  - (b) Be proportionate to the scale of the nearest settlement, its local services and infrastructure
  - (c) Have suitable highway access, and is not detrimental to public highway safety
  - (d) Provides for adequate on-site parking and turning of vehicles as well as appropriate facilities for servicing and storage
  - (e) Be capable of being provided with adequate services including water supply, power, drainage, sewage disposal, and waste disposal facilities
  - (f) Be compatible with landscape, environment, heritage and biodiversity as well as the physical and visual character of the area,
  - (g) Be compatible with the amenities of neighbouring properties and land uses.
- (5) Authorised, existing and new, sites will be safeguarded for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople groups unless they are no longer required to meet an identified need.
- (6) Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.

- 7.46 The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Gypsy and Traveller's Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) (2007) identified the existing level of provision and provided a reliable estimate of future needs for the period 2006-2016. However the PPTS requires the use of a robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs. Local authorities should also provide a five year supply of deliverable sites against these locally set targets, as well as a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6 to 10 and where possible years 11 to 15.
- 7.47 In light of this, and to ensure that evidence is up to date, a 2013 refresh of the original 2007 GTAA Study has been undertaken. This has assessed the need for pitches and plots for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople respectively, up to 2031, taking into account any unmet need identified in the initial GTAA. These GTAA requirements for the period 2012-2031 are set out in the policy above. This study also identified that a significant proportion of new accommodation provided should be for social rented pitches.
- 7.48 In light of the time that has passed since the 2013 refresh was prepared and published it is considered beneficial for this work to be updated in order to ensure a robust evidence base is maintained. Therefore we, along with Leicester City Council and the majority of the other Leicestershire authorities, are seeking to commission consultants to complete a new GTAA, for which the policy accommodates.
- 7.49 The amount of accommodation needed for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople may be small in comparison to wider housing needs but the Council has a responsibility to address the need. Permitting new pitches to meet need will help avoid unauthorised encampments and developments.
- 7.50 In order to provide for a range of sites to meet identified need the local authority is committed to producing a Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan. When developing this planning document and its policies the authority, under its duty to co-operate obligations, may need to discuss the distribution of pitch provision with neighbouring local authorities if it is found that the district's need cannot be fully met within its boundaries.

## **8 ECONOMIC**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that “significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system”. It goes on to note that “to help achieve economic growth, local planning authorities should plan proactively to meet the development needs of businesses and support an economy fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century”.
- 8.2 The district benefits from its central location at the heart of England with good motorway connections and has the added benefit of East Midlands Airport which provides international links for both people and freight. There are a number of town and local centres which provide for a range of shopping and other needs, although the proximity of major centres such as Derby, Leicester and Nottingham provides significant competition which affects their performance.
- 8.3 The district lies at the heart of the National Forest with about 55% of the district being within the Forest area. This provides a range of economic opportunities including tourism and leisure, as well as emerging economic opportunities such as the woodland economy.
- 8.4 The District Council is committed to supporting the creation of a sustainable local economy which provides a variety of job opportunities and meets the needs of our communities.
- 8.5 The Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan identifies five growth areas across Leicester and Leicestershire, two of which are located in the district; the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway and the Coalville Growth Corridor (see Appendix 3).
- 8.6 The East Midlands Enterprise Gateway is focussed upon a number of existing major economic activities in the north of the district (principally East Midlands Airport, East Midlands Distribution Centre and Donington Park) and potential major employment opportunities associated with the development of a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) west of Junction 24 of the M1 and north of East Midlands Airport (referred to as Roxhill).
- 8.7 The job opportunities associated with these existing and potential developments not only benefit the immediate locality, but also the district and further afield such that the area is of considerable importance to the wider regional economy. We need to ensure that in addition to a significant amount of new housing development already planned for Castle Donington and Kegworth (over 1,500 dwellings) that the area is as accessible as possible by public transport to potential employees from elsewhere, including the Coalville Urban Area and other centres in the district.

- 8.8 The planning system has an important role to play in delivering some aspects of the Enterprise Gateway, for example future growth at East Midlands Airport and Donington Park which are covered by policies Ec4 and Ec7 respectively and a range of infrastructure. However, others measures will be delivered outside of the planning system as they are not directly related to development. This includes matters such as training, access to job opportunities at existing places of work and the delivery of Broadband to existing businesses. We are currently working with a range of partners, including the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and East Midlands Airport, to address these issues.
- 8.9 The Coalville Growth Corridor is focussed on the A511 from Junction 22 of the M1 to Junction 13 of the A42. The Growth Corridor recognises the potential for housing and economic opportunities, especially in the Coalville area, many of which already benefit from planning permission. Such development will assist in meeting the Council's aim to revitalise Coalville Town Centre.
- 8.10 However, road improvements along the A511 corridor are required to support this development. The District Council is working with the highway authorities (Highways England and Leicestershire County Council) together with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council to prepare a strategy to bring forward these improvements.
- 8.11 We have also developed our own Local Growth Plan to complement the Strategic Economic Plan. This identifies a range of actions to address the Council's growth and investment priorities to 2018. Many of these actions are associated with issues such as training and skills and about how the Council interacts with businesses. In terms of headline outcomes these include:
- the potential to create over 15,000 new jobs within the District,
  - halve youth unemployment by 2019; and
  - Increase female participation and wage rates to the regional average.
- 8.12 The figure of 15,000 jobs is higher than that suggested by the PACEC study referred to in chapter 5 because it post-dates the effect of the recent recession and takes account of the potential job creation associated with the East Midlands Gateway.
- 8.13 Other features of our strategy for the economy include seeking to protect key employment areas from non-employment uses, promoting and protecting our town and local centres for shopping and other related uses and supporting the development of other complementary sectors such as the National Forest.

#### **Employment Land provision - current position**

- 8.15 In considering employment land needs we mean those uses falling within Use Classes B1, B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order 2015.
- 8.16 The PACEC study, which has been used to inform our future employment needs, identified that in 2010 just under half of all jobs were provided by the employment

sector. It is by far the most significant sector for job opportunities and the creation of prosperity. It is important therefore, that the local plan ensures the provision of sufficient land for such uses. This requires not only the provision of new land but also the protection of key employment areas against non-employment uses.

- 8.17 As noted in policy S2, provision needs to be made for a minimum of 96 Hectares of land for employment purposes during the plan period. As with housing, we are not starting with a blank sheet of paper; a number of developments have taken place since 2011 and there are also a number of sites where planning permission has previously been granted for some form of employment development.
- 8.18 In addition to the existing provision, we need to consider whether some land currently in use for employment purposes could be lost to other uses. For example, older stock which may become not-fit-for purpose during the plan period. Over the period 1991-2011 a total of 23.54 hectares of employment land was lost to housing. This equates to 1.18 hectares each year. If this rate were to be repeated over the period of this plan then there would be a loss of about 24 hectares (i.e. 20 X 1.18). More recently for 2011-14 some 8.53 hectares of employment land has been lost to housing (an annual average of 2.84 hectares). If this rate were to be repeated during the remainder of the plan period (17 years) then about 48 hectares of employment land would be lost.
- 8.19 It is not possible to predict with any great certainty as to how much existing employment land might be lost in the future. The fact that the average figure for 2011-14 is higher than the previous 20 years possibly reflects the state of the economy (i.e. limited demand for employment space) and the governments stated aim of boosting housing supply (i.e. competing alternative uses which are more commercially viable). The average figure for 2011-14 may, therefore, be considered too high. However, we have only considered employment land lost to housing. It is likely that employment land will be lost other uses as well. Whilst these uses may generate jobs in their own right, they would be non-employment uses.
- 8.20 Having considered these factors it would be prudent to be cautious and so a figure of 45 hectares of employment land lost to other uses is assumed for the purpose of calculating the need for additional employment land.
- 8.21 Table 5 below identifies what the residual requirement is when taking account of completions since 2011, existing commitments and the loss allowance outlined above.

**Table 5 – Employment land provision as at 1 October 2015**

Requirement 2011-31	96 Ha	A
Starts 2011-15	7.75Ha	B
Commitments	127.04	C
Residual requirement (A-B-C)	-38.79	D
Allowance for potential loss of employment land	45	E
Residual requirement (D-E)	-6.21	

- 8.22 It can be seen that the effect of this allowance is that there is a small shortfall of about 6 hectares. This shortfall is addressed at Policy Ec2.
- 8.23 It should be noted that the employment land requirement and provision figures are net of land occupied by major peripheral structural landscaping and main distributor roads. Other on-site infrastructure, such as access roads, ancillary landscaping, car parking and buildings are all included in the net figure

#### **EMPLOYMENT PROVISION, PERMISSIONS**

- 8.24 As with housing there are a number of sites where the Council has granted planning permission for some form of employment use but where development has yet to commence. It is possible that some of these permissions could lapse. It is appropriate to indicate the likely response in such circumstances.
- 8.25 In addition to those sites listed below, it should be noted that there are a number of other sites with outstanding planning permission but where development has already commenced and are protected under policy Ec3 (e.g. East Midlands Distribution Centre).

### **Policy Ec1 - Employment provision: permissions**

The following sites have the benefit of planning permission for employment development and where development has yet to commence. In the event that planning permission lapses on these sites it will be renewed subject to the policies of this Local Plan and any other material considerations including any evidence in respect of deliverability of any particular site.

Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted.

	Site	Site Area (Hectares)	Use Class
EC1a	Former Lounge disposal point, Ashby de la Zouch	25.5	B8
EC1b	Rear of Charnwood Arms, Bardon	1.2	B1
EC1c	Off Beveridge Lane/South Lane, Bardon	3.9	B1, 2.8
EC1d	Off Beveridge Lane, Ellistown	25.0	B2,8
EC1e	Land at Sawley crossroads, Sawley	24.88	B1, B8

Planning permission has also been granted for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange on land north of East Midlands Airport/west of Junction 24 of the M1 (site EC1f on the policies map). In the event that the permission lapses the Council will support its renewal through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project process (or any equivalent replacement process) subject to the policies of this Local Plan and any other material considerations including any evidence in respect of deliverability.

### **EMPLOYMENT PROVISION, ALLOCATIONS**

- 8.26 As noted at Table 5 there is a shortfall in employment provision of about 6 hectares. In deciding which site (or sites) should be allocated to address this shortfall we have had regard to a range of sites which have previously been notified to as part of an Employment Land Availability Assessment (ELAA) we undertook in 2013/14.
- 8.27 Having regard to the settlement hierarchy this identifies Coalville Urban Area as the Main Town and so was the first place to be looked at. However, no suitable sites were considered to be available in Coalville. In addition, as noted in Policy Ec1 there is a supply of land of employment land in Coalville.
- 8.28 In accordance with the settlement hierarchy the next places to consider were Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington. Whilst the ELAA identifies a number of potential sites in the vicinity of Castle Donington it is considered that in view of the fact that there is already a significant amount of employment in this area, along with the

Strategic Rail Freight Interchange that additional employment would represent an imbalance with housing provision in the locality.

- 8.29 In terms of Ashby de la Zouch two potential sites are included in the ELAA – south of Ashby and north of Ashby. It is considered that land at north of Ashby (Money Hill) would be the more appropriate of the two sites.
- 8.30 An issue in recent years in Ashby de la Zouch has been the loss of employment land to other uses, principally housing. Therefore, it is considered that making further provision in Ashby de la Zouch would help to offset some of these losses. On the basis of this assessment we concluded that it would be appropriate to allocate land north of Ashby de la Zouch as part of a comprehensive, mixed use development involving housing.

**Policy Ec2 – Employment allocations: new allocations**

**Land north of Ashby de la Zouch (Money Hill) is allocated for employment development up to 16 Ha subject to the following:**

- (a) The provision of vehicular access to the A511 in conjunction with the adjoining housing development proposed under policy H3a and ;**
- (b) The provision of employment units of varying sizes to meet the needs of a wide range of employers and;**
- (c) The provision of appropriate landscaping, planting and other features so as to minimise the impact upon the adjoining housing development proposed under Policy H3a as well as the impacts on the wider landscape and biodiversity and ;**
- (d) design and layout of the proposed development should minimise the impact upon the setting of Ashby de la Zouch Conservation Area and the Ashby Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument;**
- (e) The provision of cycle and walking links to the adjoining housing development proposed under Policy H3a and;**
- (f) The provision of green infrastructure links, providing both a ecological connectivity and footpath and cycle links, within the development and to the wider area and;**
- (g) provision for the discharge of wastewater into the Mease catchment in accordance with the provisions of policy En2. Development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted. In addition, development will not be permitted until a second ‘development window’ for the Developer Contributions Scheme has been agreed.’**

## EXISTING EMPLOYMENT AREAS

- 8.31 Objective 5 of the Local Plan seeks to support the continued economic growth of the district. Whilst this can be partly achieved through the provision of new sites, there are already a large number of sites and buildings across the district in use for employment purposes.
- 8.32 It is important to seek to maintain the existing stock of land and buildings in order to provide a basis for the continuing economic prosperity of the area.
- 8.33 Whilst it is important to seek to maintain the existing stock of employment land and buildings, in order to provide a basis for continuing economic prosperity of the area, the NPPF advises against the “long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose”.
- 8.34 A qualitative assessment of employment sites was undertaken in 2010 by Roger Tym and Partners working with Lambert Smith Hampton. This looked at sites in terms of a number of factors to assess whether the sites continued to meet market requirements:
- accessibility by road,
  - accessibility by public transport,
  - external environment and
  - internal environment
- 8.35 The assessment concluded that whilst most sites were still relevant from an employment point of view and should therefore be retained in employment use, there were some sites where this was not the case and so release to another use would be appropriate. Those sites identified in the study as being worthy of retention for employment use are accordingly identified as Primary Employment Areas in policy Ec3.
- 8.36 It should be noted that some of these Primary Employment Areas have yet to be completed. The remaining parts of these sites which have yet to be built are included in the commitments figure set out in table 5.
- 8.37 In respect of other sites not identified as Primary Employment Areas it is recognised that notwithstanding role they play in the local economy it may sometimes be appropriate to allow their redevelopment for non-employment uses. Often such sites were built some time ago and can no longer meet the needs of modern businesses, or it may be that the site was built for a specific employment use which is no longer appropriate. In other cases it may be that the surrounding area has changed in terms of the predominant use and continuation for employment would be likely to be detrimental to the local amenity. In such cases the Council will want to ensure that the potential for reuse for employment purposes has been fully explored before agreeing to release the site for non-employment use.

8.38 Land at Ashby Business Park was originally allocated for the development of a High Quality Business Park in the adopted North West Leicestershire Local Plan. The initial permission included a condition which sought to restrict the use of the site to B1 and B2 uses only, in order to maintain a Business Park environment. Development commenced in the 1990's but in recent years there has been limited progress in developing the remainder of the site. There have been previous planning applications for other uses including retail, hotel and public houses. These have been resisted for various reasons, including non-compatibility with the original aims of the adopted Local Plan. A study undertaken in 2010 of existing and proposed employment areas concluded that whilst the site should continue to be protected for employment use that it would be appropriate to consider allowing some B8 development to the rear of the site so as to add value to the site.

**Policy Ec3: Existing employment areas**

**(1) The Primary Employment Areas defined on the Policies map will be retained for employment generating uses within the Use Classes B1, B2 and B8.**

**Planning permission will be given for Class B1 (light industrial and office), B2 (General industrial) and B8 (Storage and distribution) uses subject to the proposed development not resulting in:**

- (a) significant harm to the amenity of any nearby residents, and**
- (b) significant harm to the general environment.**

**Regard will also be had to its impact on infrastructure requirements and the merits of the proposal in terms of other Local Plan policies.**

**(2) Other uses will only be permitted within the Primary Employment Areas where they:**

- (a) are small scale or ancillary to the above uses, or**
- (b) maximise job outputs and are compatible with the character and function of the area and with other nearby uses and policies in this Local Plan.**

**(3) In other employment areas proposals for non-employment development will be supported subject to it being demonstrated that one of the following criteria is satisfied:**

- (a) The property has been vacant for at least 6 months and has been the subject of genuine marketing for commercial (B class) uses for at least that period of time, at reasonable market values, and which has proved unsuccessful, or, where the use is no longer economically viable;**
- (b) The site is no longer capable of meeting the needs of modern businesses;**
- (c) Continuation in employment use would be inappropriate in terms of adjoining uses or the amenity of the wider area**

- (4) The Council will, notwithstanding previous permissions for B1 and B2 uses commensurate with a high quality Business Park environment, allow some B8 development on land at Ashby Business Park as identified on the Policies map (Policy Ec3(4)), on those parts of the site not adjoining the A42 or A511**
- (5) Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted. In addition, new development provided for within this policy (i.e. that which does not already have planning permission) will not be permitted until a second 'development window' for the Developer Contributions Scheme has been agreed.'**

### **EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT**

- 8.39 The NPPF recognises that airports have a role to play in creating a successful economy. It notes that “plans should take account of their [ports, airports and airfields] growth and role in serving business, leisure, training and emergency service needs”.
- 8.40 East Midlands Airport, which forms part of the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway, is a nationally important asset providing domestic and international flight connections, a hub for air freight and a vital contribution to the growth of the regional economy. East Midlands Airport is:
- The 11th busiest passenger airport in the UK handling 4,332,000 passengers in 2013
  - The UK’s largest pure cargo airport handling 300,000 tonnes in 2013 and the 15th largest cargo airport in Europe
  - The UK’s major air mail hub
  - The UK’s leading airport for express freight, with three of the major global integrated freight airlines based at the airport
- 8.41 In January 2013 the Government published revised aviation forecasts to inform long-term strategic aviation policy, including the development of its Aviation Policy Framework and the work of the Airports Commission. The central forecasts of passenger numbers in 2030 have been reduced by around 7% from levels forecast in August 2011 reflecting revised forecasts for the UK economy and changed projections of oil prices. Demand for air travel is forecast to be between 1% and 3% over the next 15 years, which is lower than the previous annual growth of 5%.
- 8.42 The Aviation Policy Framework has provided a framework for the East Midlands Airport Sustainable Development Plan prepared by the airport company and which was finalised in 2015. The Sustainable Development Plan sets out objectives for the

growth and development of East Midlands Airport and is supported by four detailed plans that cover:

- Community
- Economy and Surface Access
- Environment
- Land Use

- 8.43 The Land Use Plan identifies the development that is needed to support the growth of the airport so that it is capable of handling 10 million of passengers annually and 1.2 million tonnes of cargo. There are no plans for the development of a second runway but the airport does want to extend the life of the planning permission that was granted in 2011 for the construction of a 190 metre runway extension. The airport also want to bring forward commercial development proposals associated with the airport, including offices, logistics, general warehousing and hotels at Pegasus Business Park. Pegasus Business Park covers some 26 hectares in the south-west corner of the airport site and there is around 10 hectares still available for development.
- 8.44 The Council wants to support these growth plans but needs to balance the economic benefits they will bring against their local impacts, particularly with regards to noise and transport.
- 8.45 Aircraft and airport operations at East Midlands Airport result in high levels of noise disturbance, particularly at night when background noise is generally lower. There are no restrictions on night flights even though we have asked the Government to introduce restrictions. We consider the current noise climate at night to be unacceptable and better noise protection to local residents is required, particularly for those living in areas above noise thresholds who would suffer sleep disruption at night. As part of the approval of the planning application to extend the airport's runway, the airport entered into an agreement that details the provisions of a Sound Insulation Grant Scheme for local communities. In addition the planning consent for the runway development includes a condition that an Environmental Management Plan be agreed that sets out the airport's environmental controls, mitigation measures and the extent of the airport's night noise contour.
- 8.46 The airport is very well connected by road, with direct access to the M1 and A42 and very close to the A453, A50 and A52. There is a 24-hour a day, 7 days a week bus network connecting the airport to Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and other centres. There is no direct rail link although East Midlands Parkway rail station is approximately 6 miles away.
- 8.47 Whilst improving public transport remains a key priority, the need for access to the strategic highway network is important, particularly for cargo and freight distribution. East Midlands Airport is the main UK base for DHL and UPS, along with significant operations by TNT. It is also the major mail airport in the UK. The express freight

operators provide an international next-day delivery service that relies on excellent road connectivity along with the ability to operate aircraft at night. There are in the region of 500 HGV movements to and from East Midlands Airport on a typical weekday, but with freight aircraft flying overnight, the vast majority of these vehicle movements take place very late at night and very early in the morning and as such have no impact on peak motorway traffic levels.

- 8.48 The private car will continue to be the primary mode of airport access, but we want to encourage wider public transport use by developing the network of bus routes and services. We will work with the Airport and its partners to do this.

**Policy Ec4: East Midlands Airport**

- (1) The growth of East Midlands Airport will be supported provided development that gives rise to a material increase in airport capacity:**
- (a) is limited to that necessary to support an airport capable of handling up to 10 million passenger and 1.2 million tonnes of cargo per year;**
  - (b) incorporates measures that will reduce the number of local residents affected by noise as a result of the airport's operation, as well as the impact of noise on the wider landscape;**
  - (c) incorporates measures to ensure that local air quality satisfies relevant standards; and**
  - (d) is accompanied by improvements in public transport access to the airport and other measures that will reduce the level of airport-generated road traffic (per passenger); and**
  - (e) will protect and enhance heritage assets within the vicinity of the airport.**
- (2) Within the boundaries of the airport, as defined on the Policies Map, development will be limited to:**
- (a) Operational facilities and infrastructure;**
  - (b) Passenger and terminal facilities;**
  - (c) Cargo facilities;**
  - (d) Airport ancillary infrastructure where the proposed development requires and benefits from an airport location and is of a scale that is appropriate to that relationship;**
  - (e) Landscape works; and**

- (f) Internal highways and infrastructure; and**
- (g) Improvements to public transport and airport customer car parking.**

#### **East Midlands Airport - Safeguarding**

- 8.49 Major airports, because of their importance to the UK air traffic system are also protected through a process known as aerodrome safeguarding. An officially safeguarded area has been established for East Midlands Airport and we are required to consult the airport operator on those developments that could potentially affect the safety of aircraft and air traffic control operations. These developments can include the construction of tall structures, developments that have the potential to attract birds and wind turbines because they can interfere with radar and navigation systems.
- 8.50 Guidance on aerodrome safeguarding is set out in Circular 1/2003 that details the process and the consultation requirements.

#### **Policy Ec5: East Midlands Airport: Safeguarding**

- (1) Development which would adversely affect the operation, safety or planned growth of East Midlands Airport will not be permitted.**
- (2) The outer boundary of the Safeguarded Area is shown on the Policies Map and within this area consultation with East Midlands Airport is required on the following proposals:**
  - (a) all buildings, structures, erections and works that exceed the height specified on the safeguarding map;**
  - (b) any proposed development in the vicinity of East Midlands Airport which may have the potential to interfere with the operation of its navigational aids, radio aids and telecommunication systems;**
  - (c) the lighting elements of a development which may have the potential to distract or confuse pilots, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the aerodrome and of the aircraft approach paths;**
  - (d) any proposal for an aviation use within a 13km circle centred on East Midlands Airport;**
  - (e) any proposal within a 13km circle centred on East Midlands Airport which has the potential to attract large numbers of birds. Such proposals include:**

- (i) significant landscaping or tree planting;
  - (ii) minerals extraction or quarrying;
  - (iii) waste disposal or management;
  - (iv) reservoirs or other significant water bodies;
  - (v) land restoration schemes;
  - (vi) sewage works;
  - (vii) nature reserves; and
  - (viii) bird sanctuaries; and
- (f) any proposal for a wind turbine development within a 30km circle centred on East Midlands Airport.

#### **East Midlands Airport - Public Safety Zones**

- 8.51 Public Safety Zones are areas of land at the end of runways at the busiest airports in the UK, within which certain planning restrictions apply. These aim to control the number of people on the ground at risk in the unlikely event of an aircraft accident on take-off or landing.
- 8.52 East Midlands Airport's Public Safety Zones extend over part of Donington Park to the west and a small area on the southern edge of Kegworth. The extent of the Public Safety Zones may be reviewed to reflect changes in aircraft technology and changes in the numbers of aircraft movements.

#### **Policy Ec6: East Midlands Airport Public Safety Zones**

- (1) **There will be a general presumption against new or replacement development or changes of use of existing buildings within the designated East Midlands Airport Public Safety Zones identified on the Policies Map. Within those areas of the Public Safety Zones lying outside the identified 1 in 10,000 risk contours, the following developments may be permitted:**
- (a) an extension or alteration to a dwelling house which is for the purpose of enlarging or improving the living accommodation for the benefit of the people living in it, such people forming a single household, or which is for the purpose of a 'granny annex';
  - (b) an extension or alteration to a property (not being a single dwelling house or other residential building) which could not reasonably be expected to increase the number of people working

or congregating in or at the property beyond the current level, or, if greater, the number authorised by an extant planning permission;

- (c) a change of use of a building or of land which could not reasonably be expected to increase the number of people living, working or congregating in or at the property or land beyond the current level or, if greater, the number authorised by any extant planning permission;
  - (d) other forms of new or replacement development which would involve a low density of people living, working or congregating within the site, such as:
  - (e) long stay and employee car parking (where the minimum stay is expected to be in excess of six hours);
  - (f) open storage and other forms of storage and distribution use (excluding those, such as distribution centres, sorting depots and retail warehouses) which would result in very few, if any, people being present on a site at any given time, and subject to conditions to prevent the future intensification of the use of the site and limit the number of employees present;
  - (g) development likely to introduce very few or no people on to a site on a regular basis, such as unmanned structures, engineering operations, buildings housing plant or machinery, agricultural buildings and operations, buildings and structures in domestic curtilage incidental to dwelling house use, and buildings for storage purposes ancillary to existing industrial development;
  - (h) public open space, where there is a reasonable expectation of low intensity use, but excluding such uses as children's playgrounds, playing fields or sports grounds which would be likely to attract significant numbers of people on a regular basis;
  - (i) golf courses, but not clubhouses; and
  - (j) allotments.
- (2) Within the identified 1:10,000 risk contours only development which would involve a very low density of people coming and going may be permitted as exceptions to the above general presumption, such as:
- (a) long stay and employee car parking (where the minimum stay is expected to be in excess of six hours);
  - (b) built development for the purpose of housing plant or machinery,

**and which would entail no people on site on a regular basis, such as boiler houses, electricity switching stations or installations associated with the supply or treatment of waste; and**

**(c) golf courses, but not clubhouses.**

## **DONINGTON PARK**

- 8.53 Donington Park racetrack dates back to 1931 and was originally part of the Donington Hall estate. It now hosts a wide range of national and international motorsport events and is used extensively for vehicle testing and by track day operators. The track, associated buildings and infrastructure are contained within a “10 foot wall”. There is also an exhibition centre which is used for a wide range of events.
- 8.54 Complementing the race circuit, Donington Park is used by many different businesses for vehicle related activities. This includes:
- vehicle launches by car manufacturers,
  - driver training for commercial vehicles, cars and motorbikes;
  - various types of off-road and 4x4 use, including a purpose built 4x4 track;
  - Operational centre for track day operators and
  - Use of the Western Paddock as the International Head Quarters for a new electrically powered global race championship- FIA Formula E.
- 8.55 Other activities within the estate include a large long-term car park for East Midlands Airport, a plant & machinery auction site and the Museum housing the Grand Prix as well as, now, the Wheatcroft Military Collections. In June of each year Donington hosts the Download music festival. There has been a weekly Sunday Market in operation on the tarmac areas to the west of the race track for a number of years.
- 8.56 The ongoing investment required to manage and operate a race circuit to an international standard is significant and without income generation from other uses on site the circuit alone would not be viable. As a consequence, Donington Park Racing’s growth plans include a 10ha western extension to the racetrack area to provide for motorsport development and related activities such as research.
- 8.57 As noted already Donington Park lies within the area of the East Midlands Enterprise Gateway and the Council wants to support these growth plans but needs to balance the economic benefits they will bring against their local impacts, particularly with regard to noise, transport and impact on heritage assets.
- 8.58 Motorsport is a noisy activity and this is part of the enjoyment of the sport for many enthusiasts. However, noise from the racetrack has been the source of complaint, particularly from the communities of Weston on Trent and Aston on Trent in South

Derbyshire. Noise from racetrack activity is controlled by the conditions contained in the current planning permissions for the racetrack, and a Noise Abatement Notice issued in 2010. These conditions allow Donington Park Racing to maximise the business opportunities available to the racetrack whilst limiting the number of events per year which are likely to give rise to local annoyance as well as limiting the duration of noisy events and limiting the noise produced by each individual vehicle during an event.

- 8.59 The circuit is located about 4km from Junction 23A of the M1 and is connected to the M1 and the A42 via the A453. At weekends the traffic flows in its vicinity are particularly high due to the combination of visitors attracted to the circuit and East Midlands Airport. From time to time there has been various traffic problems associated with the events at the racetrack. In particular, problems of excessive traffic have affected Castle Donington and, on occasions with very high attendance, there has been severe congestion on the wider network including A453 and junctions 24 and 23A on the M1. The nearest train station to Donington Park is East Midlands Parkway, through which East Midlands Trains operate regular trains, but there is no regular bus service linking it to Donington Park.

**Policy Ec7: Donington Park**

- (1) The development of Donington Park as a national and international racing circuit will be supported provided development that gives rise to a material increase in the use of the racetrack or number of visitors:**
- (a) incorporates measures to reduce the impact of noise as a result of the racetrack's operation on local residents and the wider area;**
  - (b) ensures that existing mature trees and woodland are retained and incorporated into a landscaping scheme that mitigates the effects of the development on the local landscape;**
  - (c) is accompanied by improvements in public transport access to the racetrack and other measures that will reduce the impact of event traffic on the local and strategic road network; and**
  - (d) conserves or enhances the site's racing and parkland heritage.**
- (2) Within the boundaries of the Donington Park Racetrack, as defined on the Policies Map, development will be limited to:**
- (a) facilities and infrastructure meeting the operational needs of the racetrack including motorsport and spectator facilities;**
  - (b) facilities and infrastructure for driver training and driving experiences;**
  - (c) motorsport and automotive ancillary infrastructure where the**

**proposed development has a clear functional relationship with the racetrack and is of a scale that is appropriate to that relationship. This shall include developments associated with the design, racing, testing and maintenance of motorsport vehicles;**

**(d) landscape works; and**

**(e) Internal highways and infrastructure**

**Subject to:**

**(f) The provision of improvements in public transport accessibility and other measures that will reduce the impact of event traffic on the local and strategic road network;**

**(g) Any buildings being located, oriented and designed to reduce the impact of noise, especially for residents living in settlements to the west of Donington Park;**

**(h) The incorporation of appropriate landscaping to mitigate the effects of the development on the local landscape; and**

**(i) The incorporation of appropriate measures to mitigate the effects on heritage assets.**

## **TOWN AND LOCAL CENTRES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

8.60 The NPPF identifies that “town centres should be seen as the heart of communities” and where policies should “support their viability and vitality”. It suggests that a network and hierarchy of centres should be defined along with the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas and that policies should set out what uses will be permitted in these locations. It also requires that in considering proposals for development of what are termed main town centre uses (i.e. retail uses, leisure and entertainment facilities) that a sequential test be applied whereby the preference is for developments to be located within town centres, then in edge of centre locations and only if suitable sites are not available in either of these locations should out-of-centre locations be considered.

8.61 The retail offer in North West Leicestershire is mainly located in the town and village centres of Coalville, Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham. These centres not only provide important shopping facilities and services, but also provide a focal point for communities and meet the day to day needs of local residents.

8.62 Our town centres face competition from other centres as well as other forms of shopping. In particular, shopping from home has grown rapidly and with the continued expansion of superfast broadband to more rural and remote areas, it is suggested that this form of retail offer could continue to grow.

8.63 A Retail Capacity Study was undertaken in 2012 which assessed the health and role of the above centres and the contribution they make towards meeting future retail needs, apart from Kegworth due to the size of its centre and the smaller range of shops. In addition, a household survey of shopping habits was undertaken to inform a forecast of future shopping needs. A summary of the main findings in respect of the health of the centres is set out below:

**Table 6 – Summary of main findings of the health of town centres**

Town Centre	Summary of comments
Coalville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the district’s principal shopping area and should support the convenience and comparison shopping needs of a wider area;</li> <li>• struggling with vitality and viability and there is a clear need for improvement particularly if it is to fulfil its role as the district’s principal shopping centre and meet the needs of existing residents and an increased population in future years.</li> </ul>
Ashby de la Zouch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An historic market town which although smaller in scale than Coalville offers a good variety of retailers, restaurants and service providers and has a good level of diversity of uses and provides for day to day shopping needs.</li> </ul>
Castle Donington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A healthy district centre that meets local resident’s day-to-day needs well with low vacancy rates and a range of local retail and service uses, including a number of convenience stores, and a good offer of independent retailers, financial services, hairdressers and restaurants.</li> </ul>
Ibstock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local centre that provides day to day goods and services, primarily to meet the local needs of its residents.</li> <li>• Retailing is low key due a high proportion of its units are occupied by non-shop uses, in particular take away premises, as well as residential properties.</li> </ul>
Measham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local centre that provides day to day goods and services, primarily to meet the local needs of its residents;</li> <li>• Retailing is low key due to a strong residential element and is considered relatively poorly served by food store provision.</li> </ul>

- 8.64 As noted a healthcheck of Kegworth was not included in the 2012 study. It is the smallest of the centres and its role is of one that serves a more limited range of day to day needs. This local centre provides a limited mix of retail uses and only a small number of financial and professional services. Over half of the uses perform a non-retail function with strongest representation from residential properties, contributing to the low key retail character of the centre.
- 8.65 This study was updated in 2014 in terms of assessing future retail requirements. The outcome of this is considered at paragraph 5.12 in respect of Policy S2 (Future housing and economic development needs) which identifies a need for an additional 7,300 sq metres of comparison retail floorspace.
- 8.66 The 2016 assessment of retail operator demand identifies Coalville to be the main focus of interest from national and regional retail operators. New development would assist in the centre's regeneration and help reduce 'leakage' of comparison retail expenditure. However intervention will be needed to improve operator demand and retail representation in the town centre. The Council has initiated the Coalville Project, as set out in paragraph 8.73 to address this need for intervention.
- 8.67 The 2016 assessment also identifies that Ashby receives good levels of interest from local retail operators, as and when units become available. However opportunities for modern retail floorspace development will be limited in this centre.

### **RETAIL HIERARCHY**

- 8.68 Having regard to the advice in the NPPF we have identified a hierarchy of retail centres. For the purposes of town centre policies this identifies both Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch as town centres in view both of their scale and function serving a more than local area. The smaller centres of Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham are identified as Local Centres.

#### **Policy Ec8– Town and Local Centres: Hierarchy and Management of Development**

**(1) The Council will support retail and main town centre development in accordance with the following hierarchy of centres:**

- **Town Centres: Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch**
- **Local Centres: Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham**

**Proposals for retail and other main town centre uses will be expected to be located within the town and local centres, as defined on the Policies map. Development outside of the defined town and local centres will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that a sequential approach has been**

**followed which favours sites in a defined centre, then edge of centre and then out-of-centre.**

**(2) Coalville is the district's principal shopping area and is the Council's preferred location for additional retail development to ensure that it continues to fulfil this role and to assist in the regeneration of the Town Centre. The Council will work with landowners, developers and businesses to bring forward proposals for up to 7,300 square metres of comparison (non-food) retail floorspace in accordance with the hierarchy set out in this policy. In addition, improvements to the public realm will be sought, either in association with new development or as standalone schemes**

**(3) New retail and town centre uses development should:**

- be of a scale appropriate to the role, function and character of the settlement and not undermine the balance of the hierarchy;**
- conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of each centre in terms of design, and protect and enhance the built and historical assets of the centre, and their wider setting.**

8.69 The main Town and Local Centres uses as referred to in the NPPF are those uses listed below (as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended)):

- A1 Shops,
- A2 Financial and Professional,
- A3 Restaurants and Cafes,
- A4 Drinking Establishments,
- A5 Hot Food Takeaways,
- B1 Offices,
- D2 Assembly and Leisure Uses recreation uses (including nightclubs and casinos) and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).

8.70 Notwithstanding the fact that Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch are both identified as Town Centres, our priority for further retail development, as advised in the Retail Capacity Study, is in Coalville Town Centre.

8.71 Coalville is the largest town in the district which is reflected in the number of retail outlets and town centre uses that are located there. However, as noted in the 2012 retail study (paragraph 4.4) *“Whilst the town centre continues to meet day-to-day convenience and comparison goods shopping functions, plus the service needs of local residents, adequately, the overall picture is one of a centre ‘getting by’, and struggling for vitality and viability in a number of areas”.*

- 8.72 The Council has initiated the Coalville Project as a means to address some of these issues. The Coalville Project is being led by the District Council but will involve a wide range of partners to deliver improvements. Some steps have already been undertaken including the redevelopment of the former Pick and Shovel at the corner of the High Street and Belvoir Road and the designation of a conservation area.
- 8.73 A key focus of the Coalville Project is something referred to as the “Four squares proposal”; an aim to link Stenson Square (where the Council Offices are located) with Marlborough Square, Memorial Square and the Belvoir Shopping centre area via vibrant streets, including the regeneration of rundown buildings and areas and new development.
- 8.74 In order to deliver on these aspirations the Council will work with landowners and developers to realise potential opportunities, including new retail floorspace. It is too early in the lifetime of the Coalville Project for any firm proposals for new development to have been progressed and so no specific proposals are included in the Local Plan, but Policy Ec8 (2) sets out the Council’s aim to see additional floorspace provision made in Coalville to meet the need identified in Policy S2.
- 8.75 The 2016 retail assessment suggests that the delivery of the identified comparison floorspace requirement could be challenging. It recommends supporting the implementation of existing retail commitments in Coalville, as well as other interventions to promote investment in the centre, such as addressing funding gaps, improvement to accessibility and creating a stronger sense of place.

#### **IMPACT ASSESSMENT THRESHOLD**

- 8.76 Proposals for main town centre uses that are not in a centre should be assessed having regard to their impact on centres. The NPPF requires such an assessment particularly for developments over 2,500 square metres gross but does allow for us to set a local threshold for the scale of development which should be subject to an impact assessment. The 2012 Retail Study advised that the thresholds set out below in Policy Ec10 should, be used to require proposals outside of the defined centres.

**Policy Ec9 – Town and Local Centres: Thresholds for Impact Assessments**

For retail, leisure and office development proposed outside of the town and local centres as defined on the Policies map, an impact assessment will be required based on the following thresholds.

<b><u>Centre where development proposed</u></b>	<b><u>Development Threshold</u></b>
<b>Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch</b>	<b>1,000 sqm gross</b>
<b>Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham</b>	<b>500 sqm gross</b>

**PRIMARY SHOPPING AREAS**

- 8.77 The NPPF suggest that in addition to defining its town centres, local planning authorities should identify primary shopping areas. These are an area where shopping development is principally concentrated. This area can also include those adjoining and closely related areas where a more diverse range of other main town centre uses, such as restaurants, public houses and businesses, can be found.
- 8.78 We have researched the type and spread of uses within and around the various town and local centres. Having regard to this and the NPPF definitions, a Primary Shopping Area is proposed within the centres of Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch and the totality of our Local Centres. These Primary Shopping Areas are defined on the Policies map.

**Policy Ec10 – Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Non-Shopping Uses**

**(1) Shops (Use Class A1) will be the predominant ground floor use within the defined Primary Shopping Areas of our Town and Local Centres, as identified on the Policies map. Development for other main town centre uses within the Primary Shopping Area will be acceptable where all the following criteria are met at the time that an application is determined;**

- they make a positive contribution to the diversity of uses on offer;
- the proposal, along with any committed planning permission, does not undermine the shopping element within the immediate area of the site;
- it would not result in a cluster or over-concentration of non-shop uses; and
- it would not lead to a negative impact on the retail character and vitality and viability of the Primary Shopping Area.

**(2)The residential use of the uppers floors of properties within these defined**

**Primary Shopping Area will be supported subject to parking and amenity considerations.**

- 8.79 Whilst the predominant use within the primary shopping area will be shopping it is recognised that residential development within our centres can provide a range of economic, environmental, social and financial benefits. It can assist with a centre's regeneration and add to its vitality, especially at night. However residential development within the Primary Shopping Area should be restricted to the upper floors of premises, so as not to undermine the shopping function.
- 8.80 In considering applications for a change of use from shopping to non-shopping regard will be had to various factors including:
- The need to maintain an appropriate balance between shopping and non-shopping uses;
  - The type and characteristics of other uses within proximity of the application site;
  - Where the property is vacant the length of time that the premises have been vacant and marketed for retail purposes.

#### **HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY USES**

- 8.81 Take away uses can serve the needs of local communities and contribute to the diversity of uses that a centre can offer, as well as provide an active frontage during the evening. However harmful impacts, particularly if a number of these uses are sited within close proximity to one another, can include noise and disturbance, negative impact on amenity, anti-social behaviour and undermining the shopping function of a centre.
- 8.82 Specific issues exist in Ashby de La Zouch with reference to the clustering of hot food take away uses within parts of its Primary Shopping Area whilst in Ibstock there is a high number of hot food takeaways located within the local centre.

#### **Policy Ec11 – Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Hot Food Takeaway Balance**

**(1) In considering applications for a proposed hot food takeaway use, within the defined Primary Shopping Areas of our Town and Local Centres, as identified on the Policies map, regard will be had to the following factors at the time that an application is determined:**

- **The number of existing take away establishments in the immediate area as related to the application site and their proximity to each other, in order to avoid clusters of takeaway uses;**

- **Impact on the amenity of the immediate area (including smells, fumes and noise) , traffic or safety issues arising from the proposal itself or cumulatively with the existing uses in the area;**
  - **The potential impact upon the health of local residents where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will raise health issues.**
- (2) Proposals for a hot food takeaway use should also include the provision of a litterbin on land within the premises, of which the property will be responsible for its maintenance, emptying on a regular basis and for the area adjacent to the premise to be kept clear. Where a litterbin cannot be provided within the curtilage of the premises, a commuted sum will be sought towards the provision of a litterbin within the locality.**
- (3) Within the Market Street frontage of Ashby de la Zouch, Nos 67 to 89 and Nos 76 to 108, the Council will resist applications for new hot food takeaway uses over and above those in existence, or permitted, at the time of the adoption of this Local Plan.**
- (4) The concentration of hot food takeaway uses within the defined local centre of Ibstock, as identified on the policies map, will not be permitted to increase above the existing number of those in existence, or permitted, at the time of the adoption of this Local Plan.**

## **LOCAL CENTRES**

8.83 Castle Donington, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham are local centres providing a valuable service in providing for day to day needs. These local centres, as defined on the Policies map, also comprise their defined Primary Shopping Area and this policy should be read in conjunction with Policies Ec9 and Ec10. It is important that the shopping and services function that these local centres provide is protected. It is also recognised these local centres have a comparatively stronger residential character.

### **Policy Ec12 – Local Centres**

**Planning permission will only be granted for the loss of shopping and other main town centres uses, within the defined local centre if the premises have been vacant for at least 6 months with evidence of marketing. The following factors will also be taken into account:**

- **The need to maintain an appropriate balance between main town centre and non-main town centre uses;**
- **The contribution the unit makes to the function of the centre in terms of**

**its size and location within the centre;**

- **The nature and characteristics of the proposed use and the type and characteristics of other uses within proximity of the application site and**
- **The impact of the proposal on the shopping and service character and function of the local centre for example, would it create an active frontage, would the use bring visitors to the centre?**

**The residential use of the uppers floors of properties within these defined Local Centres will be supported subject to parking and amenity considerations.**

## **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

- 8.84 As a district which benefits from a number of established tourist attractions, the tourism industry forms an important part of the local economy and can support the provision of local services and facilities.
- 8.85 The district has a range of attractions aimed at those attending specific events or day visits. These include Ashby de la Zouch Castle, the Ashby Canal, Donington Park and Grand Prix Collection as well as a number of destinations located within the National Forest including Moira Furnace, Sence Valley Country Park and the award winning Conkers Visitors Centre. The National Forest is overseen by the National Forest Company, and is a growing tourist destination. The National Forest Strategy 2014 – 2024 seeks to improve the visitor experience and future plans are being developed for further development in the District through the National Forest Company's Destination Development Plan. This seeks to advance the profile of the National Forest as a tourist destination, encourage the development of overnight visitor accommodation and attract high profile events to the National Forest.
- 8.86 Business travel also makes a contribution to the local visitor economy with hotels in the north of the district catering for business travellers, supported by the presence of conference and exhibition space, as well as those visiting the district for leisure purposes.
- 8.87 The Council will continue to work with other organisations to best provide the tourism that is on offer in the district. We will continue to be actively engaged with bodies representing the National Forest as well as retain a working relationship with the Leicestershire Promotions Ltd and its Tourism Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire 2011-2016.
- 8.88 The emerging North West Leicestershire: Local Growth Plan 2014-2018, supports the development and enhancement of the local tourism offer in the district, and seeks to increase the number of visitors as well as the number of overnight stays, alongside increased private investment and employment opportunities in visitor related facilities.

**Policy Ec13: Tourism development**

- (1) We will maximise the potential of tourism in the District and increase tourist opportunities for visitors by supporting the:**
  - (a) Retention of existing tourist attractions and accommodation which contribute to the local economy;**
  - (b) Enhancement of existing tourist attractions and accommodation, including their expansion, where it accords with the principles of sustainable development and is not detrimental to the surrounding area;**
  - (c) Development of new tourist attractions, including the provision of new accommodation to facilitate the opportunity for overnight stays;**
  - (d) Development of attractions and accommodation that are well connected to other tourist destinations and amenities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling;**
  - (e) Enhancement of the environment and local distinctiveness, including heritage and landscapes, which will increase the attractiveness of the district to visitors.**
- (2) New tourist attractions and accommodation will be directed to the Limits to Development where it can make use of existing infrastructure. It is recognised however there may be instances where an initiative requires a countryside location or setting or is directly related to a specific tourist destination. Outside of the Limits to Development preference would be for tourism and tourism related development to make the re-use of land and buildings.**
- (3) Tourism in rural areas, which benefits business, communities and visitors, and respects the character of the countryside, will be supported. Its scale should be appropriate to the local landscape and its surrounding environment and not adversely affect local transport infrastructure.**
- (4) When assessing new provision for rural tourism or the expansion of facilities, consideration will be given to whether needs can be met by existing facilities.**
- (5) The Council will work with the National Forest Company and other tourist organisations to maximise the opportunities for tourism and cultural development within the district.**

## 9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

### INTRODUCTION

- 9.1 When development takes place it makes additional demands on infrastructure, including water and energy supply, wastewater disposal, transport, education and health care as well as open space, and green infrastructure. Therefore it is important to ensure that appropriate levels of infrastructure are provided to support the growth required in this Local Plan.
- 9.2 This chapter sets out our general approach to securing the provision of infrastructure and more specific requirements for different types of infrastructure.

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.3 Infrastructure is critical to support the provision of all development. Whether transport infrastructure, Information Communication Technology (particularly superfast Broadband), utilities such as water supply or sewerage (wastewater) systems, or energy generation, such supporting infrastructure must be in place for new development. This is not only to ensure that the new development is properly served in respect of essential day-to-day infrastructure required by the occupants of any new development (for example superfast Broadband which many businesses rely on) but also to minimise the impact upon existing infrastructure.
- 9.4 In accordance with the NPPF the need for infrastructure as part of new development needs to have regard to the viability of development
- 9.5 Policy IF1 sets out how we will ensure that new development includes the provision of new infrastructure.

#### **Policy IF1: Development and Infrastructure**

**Development will be supported by, and make contributions to as appropriate, the provision of new physical, social and green infrastructure in order to mitigate its impact upon the environment and communities. Contributions may be secured by means of planning obligations and/or a Community Infrastructure Levy charge, in the event that the Council brings a Charging schedule in to effect.**

**The type of infrastructure required to support new development includes, but is not limited to:**

- **Affordable housing;**
- **Community Infrastructure including education, health, cultural facilities and other public services;**
- **Transport including highways, footpaths and cycleways, public transport**

**and associated facilities;**

- **Green infrastructure including open space, sport and recreation, National Forest planting (either new provision or enhancement of existing sites) and provision of or improvements to sites of nature conservation value;**
- **The provision of superfast broadband communications;**
- **Utilities and waste and;**
- **Flood prevention and sustainable drainage**

**The infrastructure secured (on or off-site) will be provided either as part of the development or through a financial contribution to the appropriate service provider and may include the long-term management and maintenance of the infrastructure.**

**In negotiating the provision of infrastructure the Council will have due regard to viability issues and where appropriate will require that the applicant provide viability information to the Council which will then be subject to independent verification.**

**The District Council will work closely with infrastructure providers to ensure inclusion of infrastructure schemes within their programmes, plans and strategies, and delivery of specific infrastructure requirements in conjunction with individual development schemes and the expected timing of development coming forward. The Council will also work with partners and other stakeholders to secure public funding towards infrastructure, where possible.**

- 9.6 As noted elsewhere the majority of new development that the district requires is already committed as a result of planning permissions. These permissions include for the provision of infrastructure to mitigate the impact of development and support future residents and users of the proposed developments, where appropriate and necessary. However, any further development which comes forward will still need to ensure that the impact on existing infrastructure is acceptable and where it is not additional infrastructure will need to be provided.
- 9.7 The planning system and in particular the policies set by this Local Plan, will play a key role in helping to ensure that key strategic, local and site-specific infrastructure is provided at the right time and in the right place to absorb the impact of and provide for new development. The provision of such infrastructure will require the involvement of a wide range of other organisations and mechanisms. The Council will co-ordinate this activity.
- 9.8 An Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been prepared which highlights the key infrastructure which is proposed or required. This will be kept up to date and added to as new requirements or needs are identified and will be used to inform negotiations on proposed developments as well as discussions with other organisations in respect of funding and delivery of infrastructure. It is also recognised that the consideration of

infrastructure contributions early on in the planning application process can be beneficial for all parties involved.

- 9.9 The provision of new infrastructure is currently secured using a legal agreement (referred to as planning obligations or Section 106 Agreement). This agreement will be signed by the Council and the applicant, together with any other parties who may be involved in the delivery of specific infrastructure. Contributions agreed as part of the S106 Agreement can only be spent on these services and facilities specified in the S106 Agreement. Monies cannot be diverted to other facilities or areas. For the foreseeable future this how we will continue to secure infrastructure provision. However, another option is for the Council to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL), whereby the Council would specify the amount of money which would be charged for different types and sizes of development. This money would then be used to pay for identified new infrastructure. A CIL would have to go through a separate, detailed process including a public examination. We will consider whether to adopt a CIL approach once this Local Plan is adopted.

## **COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES**

- 9.10 Local shops, community facilities, pubs, cultural buildings, places of worship and other services provide the infrastructure required to meet the everyday needs of communities, which reduces the need to travel and provides opportunities for social interaction helping to maintain active and socially inclusive communities. Generally a community facility is a building or space where community led facilities for community benefit is the primary use. They can include cultural facilities such as public libraries and museums. It is also viewed that community safety is a form of community infrastructure.
- 9.11 Access to community facilities is important for both urban and rural communities. Community facility provision needs to reflect the needs of the population both existing and new and also reflect how the population will change over time, this particularly important giving the ageing population of the district.

### **Policy IF2: Community and Cultural Facilities**

**The loss of key services and facilities will be resisted unless an appropriate alternative is provided, or there is demonstrable evidence that the facility is no longer required and/or viable and that suitable alternative community uses have been considered.**

**Community and cultural services and facilities should be retained and wherever possible improvements facilitated to the quality, accessibility and levels of provision by:**

- a) Supporting the development of new community and cultural services and facilities where deficiencies in provision would be addressed, provided that**

**adverse impacts on the environment and the settlement concerned can be avoided or mitigated;**

- b) Allowing the expansion/ or enhancement of existing community and cultural facilities to assist continuing viability, particularly in areas where new development will increase the demand for facilities**
- c) Guarding against the loss of land or buildings belonging to existing facilities wherever possible to ensure sites are retained for other form of community or cultural use. Should the loss of a facility result in an equally beneficial replacement or enhanced existing facility for the local community consideration will be given to this matter.**

**New development will be required to provide or contribute to community facilities and other local services to enhance communities and the residential environment, as part of the development, or if appropriate off-site, where no facilities exist or where existing facilities are deficient.**

9.12 The loss of local services or facilities can have a serious impact upon people's quality of life and the overall vitality and sustainability of communities. With an ageing population access to locally based services will become increasingly important. The council will require that proposals demonstrate that a particular facility or service is no longer viable and explain the options that have been investigated to maintain the facility or service. In relation to commercial services, such as public houses and shops. marketing of the property for a minimum of 6 months with an appropriate price will be required. For other types of facilities, appropriate forms of evidence maybe the internal processes that have been undertaken by the disposal bodies when identifying the future role of the facility.

9.13 The Localism Act 2011 introduced the Community Right to Bid; this allows communities and parish councils to nominate a facility or land for listing as an asset of community value. An asset can be listed if its principal use furthers their communities' social well-being or social interests and is likely to do so in the future. If a listed asset comes to be sold, a moratorium on the sale of up to six months maybe invoked providing the local community with a better chance to raise finance, develop a business and to make a bid to buy the asset on the open market, in order to save the asset that they value. However it should be noted that the seller doesn't have to sell to the local community. The register of community assets can be viewed on the council's website.

## **OPEN SPACES AND SPORT AND RECREATION**

9.14 It is important that local communities have access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation as this makes an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Open spaces can provide benefits for

recreation and biodiversity and contribute to the wider network of Green Infrastructure. Open space can provide for a range of users and uses, and can comprise for example, parks and gardens, informal recreation areas, outdoor sports facilities, and equipped play areas and allotments. It is therefore important to both protect our existing open spaces and sport and recreational facilities but to also improve provision, either through new or enhanced facilities.

- 9.15 There are various national standards of provision which relate to the different types of open space. For example, the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSLAG) has produced a national allotment standard for a minimum provision of 20 standard plots of 250 square meters per 1,000 households or 0.5 ha per 1,000 household.
- 9.16 The Fields in Trust (FIT) recommend benchmark standards for playing fields as part of the 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play', which concludes that the total recommended standard for outdoor sport is 1.6ha per 1,000 population. In addition to the quality standards the document also recommends standards for children's playing space, for 0.8ha of children's play space is recommended per 1,000 population. This is then split into 0.25 ha of designated equipped play space and a further 0.55 ha of informal playing space.
- 9.17 In addition work undertaken on a Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Modelling will be used to inform and understand the need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities for our local communities.

**Policy IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities**

- (1) In order to meet the needs of the community, provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities will be sought as part of new housing development of 50 or more dwellings having regard to:**
- (a) The scale of the proposed development and the mix and type of dwellings to be provided;**
  - (b) The nature and scale of existing open space, sport and recreation provision within the locality of the proposed site;**
  - (c) The likely population characteristics resulting from the proposed development as well as that of the existing population in the locality;**
  - (d) Local evidence of need , including (but not limited to) a Playing Pitch Strategy, open space assessment of need or equivalent sources**
- (2) Any open space, sport and recreation provision should be designed as an integral part of the proposed development in accordance with Policy S5 in respect of Design**
- (3) Provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities should be located**

on-site unless off-site or partial off-site contribution would result in an equally beneficial enhancement to an existing open space, sports and /or recreation facility which is of benefit to the local community.

#### **Loss of Open Space**

**(4) In assessing the appropriateness of development which would result in the loss of a site which at the time the development proposes is considered, is an open space, sports or recreation facility within the Limits to Development, the following principle will be taken into consideration:**

**(a)The developer/ applicant will need to provide clear evidence that the open space, sports or recreation facility is surplus to the applicable quantitative standard;**

**(b)The loss of the open space , sports or recreation facility results in an equally beneficial replacement or enhanced existing facility for the local community;**

**(c)The loss of the open space, sports and recreation facility is for the purpose of providing an ancillary development which improves the functioning, usability or viability of the open space, sport and recreation uses e.g. changing rooms, toilets, assembly and function uses.**

**(d)The loss of the open space, sports or recreation facility will not result in the fragmentation or isolation of a site which is part of a green infrastructure corridor.**

**(5) Proposals involving the potential loss of an open space, sports or recreation facility outside of the limits to development will be considered under the provisions of the Countryside policy (Policy S4).**

**(6) Any proposals resulting in a loss of an open space, sports or recreation facility should be able to clearly demonstrate that the facility is not only currently surplus to requirements, but taking into account the population needs of the community over the plan period.**

**Further guidance will be set out within a Supplementary Planning Document to be prepared by the Council.**

9.18 We will have regard to the national standards referred to above when assessing the need for new or enhanced provision as part of new housing proposals. However, we also need to have regard to a range of other factors as it is not a case of 'one size fits all'. For example, the size and type of properties being provided will influence the type and amount of open space which may be needed; family homes are more likely to require more open space than one where the development is aimed at more elderly

people. Similarly there may already sufficient provision in the locality such that further provision is not required or is limited.

## **TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 9.19 Economic growth relies on an effective and efficient transport system to move goods and people from one place to another. Land use and transport must be planned together to give people genuine choice of travel and so reduce the number of journeys using private cars. New and improved transport infrastructure, and making the best use of existing infrastructure, is vital to achieving the objective of sustainable development.

### **Policy IF4: Transport Infrastructure and new development**

- (1) The Council, working with the highway authorities, will ensure that development takes account of the impact upon the highway network and the environment and incorporates safe and accessible connections to the transport network to enable travel choice for residents and commuters. In assessing proposals regard will be had to any Transport Assessment/Statement and Travel Plan prepared to support the application.**
- (2) New development will be expected to contribute towards improvement of the following where there is a demonstrable impact as a result of the proposed development:**
  - (a) The provision of cycle links within and beyond sites so as to create a network of cycleways across the district, including linkages to key Green Infrastructure**
  - (b) The provision of public footpath links within and beyond sites so as to enhance the network of footpaths across the district, including linkages to key Green Infrastructure**
  - (c) The provision of new public transport services, or the enhancement of existing services, to serve new developments so that accessibility by non-car modes is maximised**
  - (d) Strategic road improvements**
    - J22 of M1
    - J13 of A42
  - (e) Local road improvements**
    - the A511 corridor between J22 of the M1 and J13 of the A42

- 9.20 The NPPF places considerable emphasis upon ensuring that new development is “located where the need to travel is minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised”. Our settlement hierarchy (Policy S3) seeks to reduce the need to travel by locating development in the most sustainable locations. The policy above seeks to ensure that new development considers and makes provision for access to new development by all modes of transport.
- 9.21 The provision of cycling and walking links within and beyond a development should be an important element in the design of the development and so should be an integral part of the design process.
- 9.22 It is recognised that access to new development by private car will remain essential. Whilst the district council is not the highway authority, the impact of development upon the highway network is an important consideration in determining proposals for new development. For motorways and trunk roads the highway authority is the Highways Agency, whilst for all other roads Leicestershire County Council is the highway authority. As part of the preparation of this Local plan and in determining planning applications we consult and work with the two authorities.
- 9.23 Leicestershire County Council’s third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) provides the transport policy framework for North West Leicestershire. This sets out how they will seek to ensure that transport continues to play its important role in helping Leicestershire to continue to be a prosperous, safe and attractive County and covers the period 2011-2026.
- 9.24 The LTP3 is made up of a long-term transport strategy supported by a rolling three year Implementation Plan, the second of which runs from 2014-2017. This identifies a range of actions that impact upon North West Leicestershire, including:
- Various low cost schemes to deal with congestion and parking issues around Coalville Town Centre;
  - Implementation of schemes around Coalville as part of the Government’s Local Sustainable Transport Fund; and
  - Various schemes to resolve safety issues or as routine maintenance

Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements also form part of the decision-making process.

- 9.25 A number of key highway improvement schemes have been identified (through the LTP3 and work in preparing this local plan) which both impact on and are impacted by new development, particularly in the Coalville urban Area and Ashby de la Zouch. These include Junction 22 of the M1 and junction 13 of the A42 as well junctions along the A511 corridor between these two junctions. In addition, it is recognised that the Hugglescote crossroads requires improvements. A further significant piece of transport infrastructure in the district is the construction of the Kegworth Bypass that will accompany the East Midlands Gateway – Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI).

## RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

- 9.26 There are no passenger rail services in North West Leicestershire although a freight-only rail line connects Leicester with Burton-on-Trent via Coalville and another within the district that runs from Long Eaton to Willington.
- 9.27 The Government believes that a national high speed rail network offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the way we travel in Britain. On 28 January 2013, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the preferred route and stations for extending High Speed Rail line (HS2) routes beyond Birmingham to Manchester and to Leeds (known as phase 2). The initial proposed route for the Birmingham to Leeds leg of HS2 passes through North West Leicestershire. It mainly follows the A42 corridor and then through a tunnel under the East Midlands Airport and across the M1 and River Trent Valley to a new station at Toton near Long Eaton.
- 9.28 A decision on HS2 is expected later in 2016. At the present time it does not have any formal planning status.

### **Policy IF5: Leicester to Burton rail line**

**The Council will support the provision of public transport services on the Leicester to Burton rail line.**

**New development will not be permitted which would prejudice the route of the Leicester to Burton rail line.**

**The provision of stations, together with ancillary car parking and facilities such as platforms and shelters, at appropriate locations, including Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch, will be supported.**

**Any development provided for within this policy which discharges wastewater into the Mease catchment will be subject to the provisions of policy En2. Any such development which does not meet these provisions will not be permitted. In addition, development will not be permitted until a second 'development window' for the Developer Contributions Scheme has been agreed.'**

- 9.29 The Leicester to Burton rail line closed to passenger traffic in the 1960's. In the early 1990's it was proposed to re-open the line to passenger services (initially promoted as the Ivanhoe Line) linking Loughborough to Derby via Leicester and Burton on Trent. The project was split into two stages and Ivanhoe Stage I was implemented in May 1994 running between Loughborough and Leicester. The Stage II section between Leicester and Burton on Trent was not progressed partially due to rail privatisation in the mid 1990's, and structural alterations in the make-up of the UK rail industry. Following a scheme re-appraisal in October 1996, which concluded there would be an annual operating deficit of £0.8million, the project was not progressed any further.

- 9.30 In response to planned housing growth west of Leicester and the potential to increase passenger traffic on the line, Leicestershire County Council commissioned a study in 2009 to give an indication of the impact of growth on the viability of a reopened line (now referred to as the National Forest Line). The re-appraisal concluded that the scheme would not be good value for money and that the project would be unlikely to cover its operating costs without some form of ongoing subsidy.
- 9.31 In view of the time that had elapsed since this study the District Council together with the County Council commissioned further work in 2015 to look at the potential for the re-introduction of a passenger rail service along the former route. The study once again concluded that such a service would not be viable without a significant public subsidy. Nevertheless, the re-instatement of passenger services on the National Forest Line has been a long-term ambition of North West Leicestershire District Council and remains as such, although it is recognised that this may need to take the form of some other form of public transport rather than traditional rail.
- 9.32 As part of the Council's response to the proposals for HS2 the Council has requested that consideration be given to the potential for re-opening the Leicester to Burton line. A decision on HS2 is expected later in 2015. Even if the current route is confirmed and it is agreed to re-open the Leicester-Burton railway to passenger traffic it is likely that it would be some time before it came operational.

#### **ASHBY CANAL**

- 9.33 The Ashby Canal is a 31-mile (50 km) long canal which connected the mining district around Moira with the Coventry Canal at Bedworth in Warwickshire. It was opened in 1804 to convey coal and limestone from the extensive deposits in the Ashby Wolds. The canal suffered from mining subsidence during the first half of the 20th century, and was progressively closed to the current terminus at Snarestone in 1966.
- 9.34 Leicestershire County Council is now leading the restoration of the Ashby Canal from its current terminus at Snarestone to the Heart of the National Forest at Moira.

#### **Policy IF6: Ashby Canal**

**Development which would prejudice the restoration of the Ashby Canal and its historic route, as identified on the policies map, or the provision of canal side facilities will not be permitted.**

**The reconstruction of the Ashby Canal from Snarestone to Measham, to include the construction of a new canal wharf at Measham, is supported.**

**The principle of the provision of an alternative route for the Ashby Canal will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the existing historic route is no longer appropriate.**

- 9.35 To date the northern section of the canal has been restored from Moira to Donisthorpe and links Conkers, Moira Furnace and Donisthorpe Country Park in an area that is developing as a tourist destination.
- 9.36 Restoration is now focused on extending the current terminus of the canal from Snarestone northwards for a distance of 4.5km to a new canal wharf at Measham. The power to acquire the necessary land and to construct and maintain the canal was provided in October 2005 when the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the Leicestershire County Council (Ashby de la Zouch Canal Extension) Order made under the powers of the Transport and Works Act 1992. In making the Order the Secretary of State noted that “the scheme is consistent with national, regional and local policies, would contribute significantly to regeneration objectives and would produce considerable economic, environmental and social benefits”.
- 9.37 The main objectives of the next phase of restoration are to:
- Advance and accelerate continuing economic regeneration of the area and contribute to rural diversification and social inclusion through opportunities for employment, leisure, recreation, learning and skills.
  - Provide a green gateway to the National Forest and develop and link the recreational tourism facilities.
  - Improve the environmental quality of the area.
  - Provide a recreational, cultural and social resource for the local community.
  - Connect Measham, and ultimately Moira, to the national waterways network.
- 9.38 Since the Transport and Works Order was made in 2005 a great deal has been achieved; the necessary site investigations and studies have been carried out, planning requirements have been met, land acquisition has been secured and development proposals have been prepared. The first phase of construction, the Snarestone connection and the first of three nature reserves was completed in August 2009. The restored section has since been extended to 600 metres with a new bridge and temporary terminus completed in 2015. The canal is proposed to be constructed in further phases northwards to Ilott Wharf and then to Measham. Ultimately it is proposed to extend the canal further north from Measham to connect to the restored canal at Donisthorpe.
- 9.39 The Ashby Canal Trust has since proposed an alternative route option for the Ashby Canal. Advantages of this alternative route include a shorter route, a lot of which is on Leicestershire County Council land, as well avoiding most of the areas where there is uncertainty over mining subsidence. Detailed work, such as consultation and feasibility, has not been carried out on this option, and has not been identified as the chosen route. However the above policy has been worded to allow for the support of an alternative route to the existing historic and identified route, should this be an option that is ultimately pursued further by the Ashby Canal Trust.

## **PARKING AND NEW DEVELOPMENT**

- 9.40 The availability of car parking can have a significant effect on people's choice of transport. It is important to ensure that parking provision in new developments is designed to meet expected demand whilst making the most efficient use of land and maintaining the principles of sustainable development.
- 9.41 Given the rural nature of the District and the limited availability of public transport in parts of the District, it is considered inappropriate to under-provide for parking. Insufficient parking associated with new development can lead to inappropriate parking on streets and verges creating highway safety problems and unsightly environments.
- 9.42 The promotion of cycling as a travel opportunity is part of the drive to promote alternatives to the private car and encourage more sustainable means of travel. Therefore improvements to the provision, safety, convenience and general environment for cycling by ensuring that the needs of cyclists are fully taken into account in the development process. To help promote cycle use the amount of good quality cycle parking needs to be increased. It is important therefore that secure cycle parking is provided as an integral part of new development.

### **Policy IF7: Parking provision and new development**

- (1) Development should incorporate adequate parking provision for vehicles and cycles in order to avoid highway safety problems and to minimise the impact upon the local environment and should be designed so that it is an integral part of the development and does not dominate the public realm;**
- (2) In considering the provision of parking , both vehicles and cycling, as part of new development the Council will:**
  - (a) Have regard to local highway and parking conditions;**
  - (b) Have regard to the most up-to-date 6C's Design Guidance or equivalent issued by the County Highway Authority in respect of parking standards;**
  - (c) Have regard to any transport assessment/statement and travel plan associated with a proposed development and, in appropriate circumstances, agree to reduce the required car parking provision where the proposed development has, or is, proposed to have good access to other modes of transport;**
  - (d) In terms of cycle parking seek the minimum requirements specified in the 6C's Design Guidance (or equivalent issued by the County Highway Authority). Where it is not possible to provide cycle parking on-site a financial requirement will normally be sought towards providing public facilities where such provision is possible.**

- 9.43 The 6C's Design Guide provides the starting point for proposals which affect transport in the District and includes car parking standards to be applied in new developments, as well as advice on cycle parking provision.
- 9.44 In respect of housing developments developers are required to assess the likely demand for parking using a research method published by the Department for Local Communities and Government ([Residential Car Parking Research](#)). In assessing demand regard is to be had to various factors including car ownership levels and the size and type of housing to be provided.
- 9.45 Given the car ownership levels in the district as well as the low level of public transport and instances in the past where new developments have been dominated by cars parked on roads, due to the lack of off-street parking, the Council wish to ensure that new development creates attractive places to live and work and is not dominated by parked cars. Therefore, to ensure that car parking provision is adequate the provision of 2 car parking spaces per dwelling, increasing to 3 spaces per dwelling for four or more bed properties will be appropriate in many instances.
- 9.46 In respect of non-housing development the 6C's Guidance sets out the normal parking requirements for those developments over identified thresholds. This is set out at Appendix 4 of the Local Plan for information purposes. For developments below the threshold, the standards contained in the document Highway Requirements for Development (HRfD) will continue to be applied as the normal maximum standards.
- 9.47 We will seek to improve the quality of car parking in the district's town centres to ensure it is convenient, safe and secure. To enable us to do this there is currently a review underway of town centre car parking provision. We will use the results of the review to identify where and what improvements are required.
- 9.48 In any new development it is important that car parking is sensitively designed in order to not be obtrusive or damaging to the character of an area or the development and should be an integral part of the design process.

## **10 ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 10.1 The NPPF recognises the need to ensure that planning contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, including valued landscapes and areas of biodiversity and geological importance.

### **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 10.2 Different types of high quality green spaces and connections between them are known as 'Green Infrastructure'. Green Infrastructure is used for recreation and leisure, provides routes for walking and cycling, supports wildlife and helps us to manage flooding.
- 10.3 Green Infrastructure is important because it can provide many social, economic and environmental benefits close to where people live and work including:
- Places for outdoor relaxation and play
  - Space and habitat for wildlife with access to nature for people
  - Climate change adaptation – for example flood alleviation – they also counter the 'heat island' effect in urban areas by cooling the heat retained in buildings and streets
  - Improving air quality
  - Environmental education
  - Local food production – in allotments, gardens and agriculture
  - Improved health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise
  - Attract economic investment
- 10.4 It is therefore important that Green Infrastructure is upgraded and expanded in line with any growth, in the same way that grey infrastructure ( e.g. roads and sewers) is required to be developed or enhanced in line with the community's needs. This is allowed for in policies IF1 and IF3. Policies En1 to En6 set out our approach in respect of specific aspects of the Green Infrastructure network.
- 10.5 The Government has declared its intention to give local communities the power to designate green spaces valued by local people; local green spaces are a way to provide special protection against development.
- 10.6 Local Green Spaces can be designated through either local or neighbourhood plans, providing that they meet the criteria set out within paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework. We do not propose to designate any Local Green Spaces as part of this Local Plan but instead leave such designations to be considered as part of Neighbourhood Plans.

## **NATURE CONSERVATION**

- 10.7 The 2011 White Paper 'The Natural Choice' highlighted the important role a healthy, properly functioning natural environment has in sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal wellbeing. This is recognised in the NPPF, which seeks to minimise the potential impacts of development on areas of biodiversity importance and, where possible, achieve net gains in biodiversity.

### **Policy En1: Nature Conservation**

- (1) Proposals for development will be supported which conserve, restore or enhance the biodiversity in the district.**
- (2) Where a proposal for development would result in significant harm to one of the following and which cannot be avoided, or mitigated or compensated for, then planning permission will be refused:**
  - **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);**
  - **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)**
  - **Local and Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) and candidate Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (cRIGS)**
  - **Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and candidate Local Wildlife Sites (cLWSs) which meet the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LWS criteria;**
  - **Local and National Biodiversity Action Plan-related (BAP) priority habitats;**
  - **River corridors;**
  - **Irreplaceable habitats (defined as Ancient woodlands; Mature plantation or secondary woodland; Species –rich ancient hedgerows; Aged or veteran trees; Species –rich neutral grassland; Acid grassland and heath grassland; Dry and wet heathland; Bogs and Sphagnum pools and Rock outcrops)**
- (3) New development will be expected to maintain existing ecological networks, hotspots and landscape features (such as water courses and waterways, disused railway lines, trees and hedgerows) for biodiversity, as well as for other green infrastructure and recreational uses.**
- (4) Where a proposed development would attract additional visitors to an area or facility it should be demonstrated how any potential impact upon an area or feature of biodiversity interest will be managed as part of the new development.**
- (5) The use of Sustainable Urban drainage Systems (SUDs) to create wetland and**

**marshland habitats will be encouraged subject to the provisions of Policy Cc4**

**(6) We will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document to provide more guidance on this issue.**

- 10.8 Biodiversity information about the District is available from the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC). LRERC can also provide information about the status of protected species in the District.
- 10.9 There are 17 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the district, of which 2 have further designations; Charnwood Lodge, which is also a National Nature Reserve, and the river Mease, which is also a Special Area of Conservation.
- 10.10 New sites are still being identified and this will continue; especially post –industrial and former mineral land, which can naturally regenerate very quickly after activity ceases.
- 10.11 An Ecological Network report for North West Leicestershire has also been prepared. This was a comprehensive survey of the area, attempting to categorise all land parcels. This also revealed clusters and groups of designated sites in areas of high biodiversity value and low intensity management. These clusters form the ‘hotspots’ and ‘stepping stones’, which are the main areas for priority nature conservation and are linked to a variety of wildlife corridors such as hedges, watercourses, canals, railways and roads.
- 10.12 It is important to look beyond the boundaries of the development site to identify corridors that link habitats in the site, to those outside. The priority for retention of hedges and other habitats within the site should be:
- Those that have connectivity beyond, the site;
  - Those that link to important habitats within for foraging bats and birds
  - Those that are species rich and or meet the local wildlife criteria
- 10.13 The geological interest in the District ranges includes unique pre- Cambrian volcanic rocks, Carboniferous limestones, coal-bearing rocks, fossils and rare minerals. The Charnwood Lodge is designated as a National Nature Reserve due to its geodiversity. In addition, the District has eleven Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) and candidate RIGS (cRIGS). RIGS and cRIGS do not have statutory protection but are encouraged to be protected in the planning process.

#### **RIVER MEASE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION**

- 10.14 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are areas which have been given special protection under the European Union’s Habitats Directive. They provide protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world’s biodiversity.

- 10.15 The river Mease SAC includes the river Mease and its tributaries, parts of which are in North West Leicestershire although it also encompasses parts of Staffordshire and Derbyshire as well. The North West Leicestershire Parishes wholly located within the River Mease Catchment include Ashby Woulds, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe, Chilcote, Stretton en le Field. Appleby, Measham, Packington and Snarestone. The following Parishes are partly located within the catchment – Ashby Town, Coleorton, Heather, Normanton le Heath, Ravenstone and Swepstone.
- 10.16 The SAC is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 10.17 Survey work carried out by the Environment Agency revealed that the quality of the water in the river was poor, mainly due to high phosphorous levels. Agriculture contributes to the phosphate issues from organic (farm yard manure) and inorganic (manmade fertilisers). These can directly end up in watercourses via different pathways or when soil with phosphate and other nutrients bound to it are washed into a watercourse.
- 10.18 We have worked with a range of partner organisations (The Environment Agency; Natural England; Severn Trent; South Derbyshire District Council; and Lichfield District Council) to address this problem, including plans and strategies which will allow development to take place within the river Mease catchment area whilst ensuring that the integrity of the river Mease is protected. The policy below reflects the approach we have agreed together.

**Policy En2: River Mease Special Area of Conservation**

- (1) The Council will work with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, other local authorities and the development industry to improve the water quality of the river Mease Special Area of Conservation.**
- (2) In order to achieve this, new development within the River Mease catchment will be allowed where:**
- (a) There is sufficient headroom capacity available at the Wastewater Treatment Works to which it is proposed that flows from the development will go; and**
- (b) The proposed development is in accordance with the provisions of the Water Quality Management Plan including, where appropriate, the provision of infrastructure or water quality improvements proposed in the Developer Contributions Scheme.**
- (3) In the event that there is no headroom capacity available at the appropriate wastewater treatment works, or exceptionally where as part of the development it is proposed to use a non-mains drainage solution for the disposal of foul water and this is supported by the Environment Agency, development will only be allowed where it can be demonstrated that the**

**proposed development, on its own and cumulatively with other development, will not have an adverse impact, directly or indirectly, upon the integrity of the river Mease Special Area of Conservation.**

- 10.19 Under the Habitats Directive we are responsible for ensuring that proposals for new development will have no significant adverse impact upon the SAC. This is done through a Habitats Regulations Assessment (referred to as an Appropriate Assessment). To help with this process, people applying for permission for new development need to include detailed information about drainage (both surface and foul water).
- 10.20 Unless an applicant can demonstrate no adverse impact on the River Mease SAC, a planning application must be refused.
- 10.21 A Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) identifies a range of measures designed to ensure that the status of the River Mease SAC achieves the Conservation Objectives for the SAC and is brought back into favourable condition.
- 10.22 In addition, a Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS1) was adopted by the District Council on 22 November 2012. This sets out the level of financial contribution expected from new developments within the river Mease catchment. These contributions are to be used to implement measures in the WQMP designed to reduce phosphorous levels thereby ensuring that new development does not lead to deterioration in water quality, or cause a net increase in phosphorous levels.
- 10.23 The DCS estimates the amount of phosphorous likely to be generated by new development. This is used to create a 'Development Window' – the total amount of phosphorous which will need to be removed from the river Mease via a range of measures to ensure that new development will not adversely impact upon the SAC. These measures are to be funded by contributions from new development. The contribution will depend on the number of properties built, their size and the water efficiency of each new home. Commercial developments will also be expected to pay a contribution dependent on the size and scale of the development proposed.
- 10.24 The first Development Window was set at 700 grams of phosphorous per day which equates to 2,400 3 bed dwellings. As the amount of phosphorous from new development is now approaching the capacity of the Development Window, a second Development Window has been identified. A DCS2 has been prepared and is currently going through the process of consultation before being adopted by the relevant local authorities. Once adopted DCS2 will ensure that there is sufficient capacity available to accommodate the development proposed in this Local Plan without affecting the integrity of the river Mease SAC.

- 10.25 As noted in DCS2 there is now agreement by Severn Trent, the Environment Agency and Natural England that in order to meet the conservation objectives the most effective long term solution involves pumping all sewage effluent out of the catchment. This will not be funded by new development and will need to be included in Severn Trent's period review in 2019. This will need to be approved by OFWAT. When pumping out has been achieved this will mean that future development will not need to be restricted in terms of numbers as has been the case over the last few years.
- 10.26 The implementation of the DCS and the WQMP are overseen by a Programme Board comprising of representatives from the partner organisations who will also be responsible for subsequent reviews and amendments as deemed necessary.

### **THE NATIONAL FOREST**

- 10.27 The National Forest covers 52,000 hectares of the Midlands and includes parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. It was established in the 1990's to transform the landscape and link two ancient woodlands - Charnwood Forest on its eastern fringe and Needwood Forest to its west. At December 2014 there was some 20% woodland cover, but the aim is to increase cover to about a third of all the land within the National Forest boundary.
- 10.28 The creation of the National Forest is overseen by The National Forest Company which is responsible for the production, implementation and monitoring of the National Forest Strategy.
- 10.29 About 56% of North West Leicestershire lies within The National Forest; this includes the Coalville Urban Area, and the Rural Centres of Ashby de la Zouch, Ibstock and Measham.
- 10.30 In addition to enhancing the physical appearance of the landscape, The National Forest also provides a range of other benefits including enhanced biodiversity; recreation, leisure, tourism and economic opportunities. It also provides a "carbon sink" which helps store CO<sub>2</sub>; forest carbon sinks are considered the best natural mitigation measure against global warming. There is also evidence that woodland creation and woodland management can help in reducing flood flows, particularly in smaller catchments
- 10.31 One of the main ways of increasing woodland cover across the National Forest has been to include tree planting as part of new developments, both on- and off-site in accordance with National Forest Planting Guidelines. This helps to create an attractive forest setting for the development as well as green space for the local community. We will continue with this approach and applicants are advised to discuss their proposals with the National Forest Company as part of their pre-application preparations. Furthermore the National Forest is not just about planting woodlands but increasing tree cover within urban areas; large trees with space to grow are required for community wellbeing and health as well as for their intrinsic beauty and cultural

heritage. We will also work with The National Forest Company and others to exploit other ways of providing additional planting and to help deliver The National Forest Strategy 2014-24.

- 10.32 The National Forest Charitable Trust is a charity which aims to create a vibrant heart in the midst of The National Forest. This will include a 400 hectare woodland park, in which Conkers has already been created, with opportunities for walking, cycling and discovery in the emerging woodland environment.

**Policy En3: The National Forest**

**(1) Within the area of the National Forest, as defined on the Policies map, North West Leicestershire District Council will work with The National Forest Company, other local authorities and partners to:**

- (a) Provide opportunities for diversification of the economy, especially in relation to the woodland economy and tourism, including overnight accommodation;**
- (b) Create an attractive, sustainable environment;**
- (c) Enhance its role as a natural carbon sink;**
- (d) Provide a range of leisure opportunities for local communities and visitors; and**
- (e) Achieve the National Forest Company's woodland cover target**

**(2) New developments within the National Forest will contribute towards the creation of the forest by including provision of tree planting and other landscape areas within them and/or elsewhere within the National Forest in accordance with National Forest Planting Guidelines in place at the time an applications is determined. Landscaping will generally involve resilient woodland planting, but can also include the creation and management of other appropriate habitats, open space provision associated with woodland and the provision of new recreational facilities. Landscaping does not just include woodland planting and the appropriate mix of landscaping features will depend upon the setting and the opportunities that the site presents.**

**(3) In exceptional circumstances, a commuted sum may be agreed where planting and landscaping cannot be accommodated within or close to the development site. This will be used to purchase land for planting, create new woodland, provide public access to it and maintain the site for at least 5 years.**

**(4) Within the National Forest new development should ensure that:**

- (a) the siting and scale of the proposed development is appropriately**

**related to its setting within the Forest, and**

**(b) the proposed development respects and does not adversely affect the character and appearance of the wider countryside.**

**(5) The area between Ashby de la Zouch, Measham and Swadlincote will be recognised as ‘The Heart of the National Forest’ where there will be a concentration of tourism and leisure activities associated with the National Forest, and economic opportunities based on the woodland and environmental economy. Linkages to nearby urban areas will be strengthened and new development will be exemplars of sustainable design and construction, with an emphasis upon the use of Forest-themed construction materials where appropriate.**

### **CHARNWOOD FOREST**

- 10.33 Charnwood Forest is a distinctive area of rugged upland landscape towards the north-west of Leicester. It is valued for its geological importance, rich biodiversity, landscape beauty, historical importance, and recreational role. It is also a traditional working landscape with a high proportion of land in agricultural use and, in some parts of the area, mineral working.
- 10.34 About 8% of it lies in North West Leicestershire. The area is surrounded by growing urban centres such as Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville, as well as by other smaller settlements. It is therefore exposed to the pressures which this growth brings. However, development could also provide opportunities to improve parts of the area and develop stronger green links to the surrounding towns, villages and landscapes, and linkages beyond this to other green areas such as the National Forest.
- 10.35 Previous strategic plans and the existing local plan all have recognised the importance of the area due its unique character and appearance. The former East Midlands Regional Plan recognised the importance of the Charnwood Forest as key Green Infrastructure asset and proposed the creation of a Charnwood Forest Regional Park.
- 10.36 A Charnwood Forest Regional Park Steering Group has been established comprising of the North West Leicestershire District Council, Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and other key stakeholders such as the National Forest Company, Natural England and the Leicestershire Local Access Forum. This has agreed a vision for the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The agreed vision is that “The unique natural and cultural heritage features of the Charnwood Forest will be managed and promoted through the Charnwood Forest Regional Park. The Regional Park will be recognised as an essential part of the growing communities in the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham area, now and in the future”.

- 10.37 To achieve the Vision, the overall aim is the retention, enhancement and, where necessary, protection, of the resource and its important landscape, ecological, geological and historical features, to maintain the integrity of the Charnwood Forest.
- 10.38 A detailed landscape appraisal has been undertaken to define the extent of the Regional Park in landscape terms. The boundary results in some parts of the Coalville Urban Area being within the Regional Park.
- 10.39 The Charnwood area is recognised as one of a number of National Character Areas which cover North West Leicestershire. The National Character Area profile for the Charnwood Forest recognises that “There is great scope to build on and support the partnership work of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park to protect and enhance this area, and the work of The National Forest in promoting sustainable woodland management and extending woodland (where appropriate)”.
- 10.40 It is not the intention that the Charnwood Forest Regional Park should be a barrier to new development in its own right. Therefore, the provisions of the policy below have to be read in conjunction with the countryside policy (Policy S4). Instead we want to maintain the traditional working landscape of Charnwood Forest while supporting rural diversification that encourages sustainable tourism. In some areas mineral workings are a part of this landscape (for example at Bardon Quarry) and can provide biodiversity, geodiversity and access opportunities.
- 10.41 It is important that the design and construction of any new development which is considered to be appropriate should pay particular attention to the need to maintain and enhance the character and appearance of the area.
- 10.42 That part of the Charnwood Forest which is in North West Leicestershire is also within the National Forest. The aim of increasing woodland coverage across The National Forest may not always be appropriate within the Charnwood Forest having regard to landscape character and biodiversity. In these instances, the provision of alternative habitats or the protection/enhancement of existing habitats will be expected in lieu of the woodland creation expected by Policy En3.

**Policy En4: Charnwood Forest Regional Park**

- (1) Within the Charnwood Forest, the Council will work in partnership with Leicestershire County Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and other partners to protect and enhance the landscape, biodiversity, natural history and cultural heritage of the Charnwood Forest Regional Park (CFRP).**
- (2) Priority will be given to those proposals that:**
- (a) Maintain the traditional working landscape of the forest, particularly those which involve farming or rural diversification or tourism, including green tourism initiatives;**

- (b) Enhance the biodiversity of the CFRP, consistent with the aims of the Charnwood National Character Area profile (SEO3);
  - (c) Provide new recreation facilities appropriate to the character of the area; and
  - (d) Provide access to and from the rural areas into and within the Regional Park by non-vehicular means.
- (3) Any new development within the CFRP will be expected to respect the character and appearance of area in terms of design and materials used.

## AREAS OF SEPARATION

10.43 It is important to ensure that individual settlements retain their own character and identity. This is recognised in the Countryside policy (policy S4) where the potential impact upon the separation between settlements is an important consideration in determining proposals for development. However, in the Coalville Urban Area there are two large, open, undeveloped areas of land which are within the Limits to Development and not subject to the countryside policies, as they are surrounded by built development, but which perform a very important role in maintaining the physical separation between Coalville and Whitwick. Development in this area, if permitted, would result in the physical coalescence of Coalville and Whitwick and the loss of the separate identity of the two settlements. Therefore, these open areas are identified as Areas of Separation and subject to the policy below.

### Policy En5: Areas of Separation

- (1) Land between Coalville and Whitwick, as identified on the Policies Map, is designated as an Area of Separation where only agricultural, forestry, nature conservation, leisure and sport and recreation uses will be allowed. Any other proposed uses will need to demonstrate why they cannot be accommodated elsewhere within the District.
- (2) Development will not be permitted which, either individually or cumulatively, would demonstrably adversely affect or diminish the present open and undeveloped character of the area.

## LAND AND AIR QUALITY

10.44 The NPPF advises that in meeting development needs planning should “prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability”.

10.45 Policy En 6 sets out our approach to ensure that the aim of the NPPF is achieved.

**Policy En6: Land and air quality**

**Proposals for development on land that is (or suspected of being) subject to land instability issues or contamination, or is located within the defined Development High Risk Area or within or close to an Air Quality Management Area or close to a known source of noise will be supported where:**

- (a) A planning application is accompanied by a detailed investigation and assessment of the issues; and**
- (b) Appropriate mitigation measures are identified which avoid any adverse impacts upon the site or adjacent areas, including groundwater quality.**

**Development should avoid any adverse impact upon soils of high environmental value (for example wetland and other specific soils) and ensure that soil resources are conserved and managed in a sustainable way.**

- 10.46 North West Leicestershire has a long history of coal mining and heavy industry. This has left a legacy of potential land instability and contamination issues. The Coal Authority has defined a 'Development High Risk Area' that covers most of the district. In this area the potential land instability and other safety risks associated with former coal mining activities are likely to be greatest. They include, for example, areas of known or suspected shallow coal mining, recorded mine entries and areas of former surface mining. Other than householder developments and those exceptions as identified on the Coal Authority's exemptions list, all new development proposals within the defined Development High Risk Area must be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment, or equivalent, in order to identify any potential risks to the new development and any required remediation measures required. These assessments must be carried out by a suitably qualified person to the current British Standards and approved guidance.
- 10.47 The responsibility for determining the extent and effects of such constraints lies with the developer.
- 10.48 Groundwater provides a third of our drinking water in England and Wales, and it also maintains the flow in many of our rivers. It is crucial that we look after these sources and ensure that water is completely safe to drink.
- 10.49 Sometimes a proposed development may be located near to a known source of noise. Such noise could potentially impact upon the users of a proposed development, particularly residential development. It is important therefore to ensure that the likely impact is fully understood and, where necessary, mitigated to protect the future occupiers. Furthermore, implementing appropriate mitigation should ensure that an existing use is not subject to complaints in the future which could require the implementation of measures by the existing user at their expense.

10.50 The Council has a duty to assess the present and future air quality of the area in relation to the requirements of the National Air Quality Strategy and to identify the main sources of the pollutants affecting air quality. Within the district there are five Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs):

- M1 Mole Hill Kegworth;
- High Street Kegworth;
- Stephenson Way/Bardon Road Coalville;
- High Street/Bondgate Castle Donington and
- Copt Oak Road Copt Oak.

10.51 An annual assessment and review of the AQMAs is undertaken and published. The planning system has an important role to play by ensuring that new development does not contribute or exacerbate existing air quality issues.

## **11 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- 11.1 The Council is committed to conserving the significance of designated and non – designated heritage assets, and the important contribution that they make to the quality of the environment so that they can be enjoyed by future generations. Once a heritage asset is lost it cannot be replaced.
- 11.2 Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment which have been identified as having a degree of ‘significance’ i.e. archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. They can include for example buildings, monuments, sites, places, area or landscapes. Designated Heritage assets include listed buildings, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments. The term heritage assets also cover those assets that have not been designated and afforded protection by separate legislation. The significance of these ‘non-designated heritage assets’ is a material consideration in determining planning applications as identified in the NPPF.
- 11.3 The NPPF defines significance as ‘the value’ of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. Significance derives not only from a heritage assets physical presence, but also from its setting.

### **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE**

- 11.4 The heritage of North West Leicestershire is characterised by pre-industrial settlements that range in size from hamlets to market towns; about twenty of these settlements have been designated as conservation areas. The Conservation Areas are mainly representative of rural, agricultural areas with traditional houses, cottages and farm buildings. Also represented are areas characterised by the industrial revolution (Measham Canal) Georgian Architecture (Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington) and country homes (Staunton Harold and Coleorton Hall). For example the District still shows signs of its industrial heritage including the Midland Railway signal box, former collieries, bridges and cottages.

There is also evidence of earlier settlement in the area, including an Iron Age hill fort at Breedon-on-the-Hill (‘The Bulwarks’) and a Roman villa near Lockington.

- 11.5 The landscapes at Coleorton Hall, Staunton Harold Hall and Whatton House are included on the national register of parks and gardens. The remains of farming practices on the landscape with evidence of ridge and furrow within Appleby Magna also make the local landscape an important heritage asset.
- 11.6 Ashby de la Zouch is the primary historic settlement in the district. The settlement core is a designated conservation area; it covers about 35ha and contains to date about 140 listed buildings, including six grade II\* listed buildings. Castle Donington is

the secondary historic settlement in the district. The settlement core is a designated conservation area; it covers about 35ha and contains to date about 50 listed buildings.

- 11.7 North West Leicestershire is recognised for the survival of castles and moated sites, including the castles at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Castle Donington and Whitwick and the moated manor houses at Appleby Magna and Hemington. It is also significant for the survival of religious houses including Grace Dieu Priory, Langley Priory and the Priory Church of St Mary and St Hardulph at Breedon-on-the-Hill.
- 11.8 Coal was mined in North West Leicestershire from the medieval period; early coal mining remains at Coleorton and Lount have been designated as scheduled monuments. North West Leicestershire is recognised for the survival of industrial structures including the Ashby Canal, Moira Blast Furnace and Snibston Colliery. The conservation of assets which reflect the districts industrial and coalmining heritage will be a particular priority for the Council.
- 11.9 There are also other key heritage assets that have not been designated that have not been designated that are still of significance to the architectural, social and cultural history of the district. A number of these important assets are listed on the Leicestershire Historic Environment (HER). The identification of these buildings or features of local importance is often supported by parish councils, civic societies and historic interest groups as part of the preparation of a local list. They are also set out within Conservation Area Appraisals.
- 11.10 There will be a particular focus on Coalville town centre as Historic England described Coalville in response to the consultation on the designation of the Coalville conservation area 'as a good example of the type of commercial and industrial settlement that grew up rapidly in the nineteenth century following the discovery of coal, but which in Leicestershire is somewhat unusual. Its value is also an ensemble it is more than the sum of its parts due to the extent of survival. This significance has in certain areas been masked by later alterations to buildings, but this provides a rich seam of enhancement opportunities would help to facilitate'.
- 11.11 When looking to protect and enhance the historic environment and heritage assets there is the opportunity to help deliver on other objectives, such as economic development and tourism. Conservation and sustainable economic growth are complementary objectives and should not generally be in conflict with one another. Conservation can play a key part in promoting economic prosperity by ensuring that an area offers attractive living and working conditions that will encourage inward investment.
- 11.12 The Council has a key role to play in the protection, conservation and enhancement of the heritage assets that exist throughout the district by:

- Supporting proposals for planning permission and listed building consent where the historic environment and heritage assets are conserved and enhanced in line with their significance;
- The use of planning obligations to secure the enhancement of the significance of any heritage asset, where development might impact on that significance
- Adopting a Local List
- Undertaking and Implementing Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans and using up to date evidence when determining planning applications. The most up to date evidence can be viewed at [http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/conservation\\_information](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/conservation_information)
- Making use of Article 4 Directions and Local Development Orders where appropriate.
- The use of grant schemes, as resources permit, to safeguard heritage assets at risk and encourage sympathetic maintenance and restoration of listed buildings and historic shop fronts
- Strengthening the distinctive character of the District including:
  - a) Conserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the historic market towns of Ashby de la Zouch and Castle Donington as well as its rural settlements such as Snarestone.
  - b) Recognising and protecting the District's industrial, transport and recreational heritage such as coalmining heritage, canals and spa heritage.
  - c) Protecting the rural character and landscape including historic landscape features such as ancient or mature woodland, and ridge and furrow field patterns.

**Policy He1: Conservation and enhancement of North West Leicestershire's historic environment**

**(1) To ensure the conservation and enhancement of North West Leicestershire's historic environment, proposals for development, including those designed to improve the environmental performance of a heritage asset, should :**

- a) Conserve or enhance the significance of heritage assets within the district, their setting , for instance significant views within and in and out of Conservation Areas;**
- b) Retain buildings, settlement pattern, features and spaces, which form part of the significance of the heritage asset and its setting;**
- c) Contribute to the local distinctiveness, built form and scale of heritage assets through the use of appropriate design, materials and workmanship;**
- d) Demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the heritage asset and of the wider context in which the heritage asset sits, and that it**

would not result in harm to the heritage asset or its setting;

Where harm results a clear convincing justification for any works is required.

(2) There will be a presumption against development that will lead to substantial harm to, or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset. Proposals will be refused consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss or all of the following apply:

- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

(3) Where permission is granted, where relevant the Council will secure appropriate conditions and/or seek to negotiate a Section 106 Obligation to ensure that all heritage assets are appropriately managed and conserved.

(4) The district council will support development that conserves the significance of non-designated heritage assets including archaeological remains.

11.13 The Council will continue to produce and revise Conservation Area Appraisals for all designated conservation areas within the district. Conservation Area Appraisals offer an opportunity to identify ways in which their significance can be reinforced and strengthened. Such appraisal can help resist the removal of elements within the built environment which have a negative impact on surrounding heritage assets.

11.14 In certain areas including Staunton Harold conservation area and Lockington conservation area Article 4 directions to remove permitted development rights are adopted. A Local Development Order is in place for Coalville Town Centre to help facilitate the Coalville shop front improvement scheme, by streamlining the planning process.

- 11.15 At October 2015 there were 6 heritage assets listed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. We will continue to monitor these and work with Historic England and other stakeholders to address the future of these buildings. The Risk Register includes grade I, grade II\* and grade II places of worship, therefore a comprehensive survey of grade II listed buildings will be required at a district level.
- 11.16 The reuse of historic buildings for a use other than their original use represents a sustainable use of resources. However, it will be necessary to ensure that any physical changes to the fabric of the building do not detract from the heritage asset. Similarly, physical changes to a building designed to improve the buildings energy efficiency will also require careful attention in order to not detract from the quality of the heritage asset. There are opportunities in most historic buildings to improve energy conservation without causing harm through measures such as secondary glazing, improved loft insulation using natural materials, low energy lighting and the use of fuel efficient boilers.
- 11.17 Where conflict is unavoidable the benefits of energy conservation measures should be weighed against the extent of harm to the significance.

### **SHOP FRONTS**

- 11.18 The towns and villages of North West Leicestershire also have some very good examples of old shop fronts, a shop front serves a number of purposes to provide an attractive frame for goods displayed, to advertise the presence of the shop, and to project an image for the business inside.
- 11.19 The shop fronts within Ashby de la Zouch town centre are predominately of late nineteenth century, often inserted into former dwellings of an earlier date. They typically have a stall riser below their display window along with architrave and cornice above. Many premises also have pilasters which frame the overall shop frontage and a number retain elaborate consoles.
- 11.20 With regard to advertisement signage to traditional shop frontages, the introduction of signs which project beyond fascias, the installation of internally illuminated box and fascia signs and the use and means of illumination such as cowl lamps or projecting strip lighting are all considered to have been detrimental to the streetscape.
- 11.21 Due to the overall character and historic interest of the core shopping area within Ashby de la Zouch it is important to conserve, protect and enhance where appropriate the historic shop fronts.

**Policy He2: Shopfront Design**

**Shop front design, signage and proposal to improve shop front security should:**

- a) Retain existing historic shop fronts and features of architectural and historic interest;**
- b) Respect the scale, proportions, character and materials of the whole building and where appropriate, adjoining buildings and the wider street scene;**
- c) Incorporate materials appropriate to the age and character of the building;  
and**
- d) Have regard to the guidance on shop fronts and signage.**

## 12 CLIMATE CHANGE

### INTRODUCTION

12.1 The NPPF notes that planning has a key role to play in helping to minimise vulnerability and providing resilience to the impacts of climate change. It also calls for planning to support a low carbon future. Low carbon living means reducing the carbon emitted as a result of our lifestyles and to achieve this requires wide ranging changes to people's behaviour and the economy. The NPPF provides clear national guidance on how planning policy should be implemented and decisions taken to ensure a sustainable, low carbon future.

### BACKGROUND

12.2 The overwhelming scientific consensus is that the planet is warming, and that this warming is largely a result of increasing concentrations of "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere which trap solar radiation in the atmosphere. These "greenhouse gases" are largely attributed to human activities linked to the use of fossil fuels.

12.3 To help reduce the impacts of climate change we must:

- Mitigate : reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Adapt: helping the built and natural environment to be resilient to future climatic conditions, including extreme weather events and periods of water shortage

12.4 This Local Plan includes a number of policies which are designed to help tackle climate change including:

- Ensuring a sustainable pattern of development, including improvement to the self-containment levels of the principal town, key service centres and local service centres and a reduction in the need to travel (see Policy S3);
- Supporting the supply of energy and heat from renewable and low carbon sources (Policy Cc1);
- Ensuring that new development incorporates sustainable building practices and where possible will contribute to improving the existing building stock (Policy Cc2);
- Ensuring that new development incorporates water efficiency measures (Policy Cc2);
- Ensuring the incorporation of high energy efficiency into new development;
- Ensuring that new developments incorporate appropriate adaptation and mitigation for climate change, particularly risk from flooding and rising sea levels (Policy Cc3).

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 12.5 The NPPF notes that all communities have a responsibility to “contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources”. A Ministerial Statement of 9 April 2014 states that the need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities and this will also be a consideration in determining any proposals. A further Ministerial State of the 28 June 2015 states that proposals for wind energy development should only be granted planning permission if the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and following consultation; it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing.
- 12.6 Proposals for wind energy development will be supported in principle, cumulative impacts of existing operational, consented and proposed developments must be assessed, and suitable mitigation measures proposed, to minimise the impacts on biodiversity and landscape character. Developers must demonstrate that cumulative impacts do not become significant or defining characteristics of the wider landscape, including across administrative boundaries and different landscape character types.
- 12.7 Pre- application consultation must be undertaken in accordance with national legislation. Detailed technical assessments will be expected to demonstrate that the proposed siting is appropriate and does not result in any unacceptable impacts in terms of noise, highway safety, bats shadow flicker when assessed against relevant standing advice

### **Policy Cc1: Renewable Energy**

- (1) Planning applications for renewable energy including any new grid connection lines and any ancillary infrastructure and buildings associated with the development will be supported where:**
- (a) There is no unacceptable impact on residential amenity in terms of noise, shadow flicker, vibration and visual dominance ;and**
  - (b) There is no adverse impact on the landscape character taking account of the special qualities set out within the individual National Character Areas; and**
  - (c) All impacts on, biodiversity have been adequately mitigated or enhanced ; and**
  - (d) The special qualities of all heritage designations including their settings are conserved or enhanced; and**
  - (e) Proposals take account of the cumulative effect that would result from**

**the proposal in conjunction with permitted and existing renewable energy schemes; and**

- (f) Proposals are accompanied by details to demonstrate how the site will be decommissioned to ensure the restoration of the site following cessation; and**
- (g) Proposals for large scale renewable energy should demonstrate that the economic, social and environmental benefits are for those communities closest to the proposed facility.**

**We will consider the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document to provide further guidance on this issue.**

- (2) In addition to the above considerations, proposals for one or more wind turbines will be supported where:**
  - (a) The site lies within the ' Area Identified as potentially suitable for large or small scale turbines' as defined on the policies map.**
  - (b) It can be demonstrated there is support from the local community or is set out within an area defined as being suitable for wind energy development within an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and;**
  - (c) All impacts on air traffic safety as referred to in local plan policy Ec6 and radar and communications have been assessed and consulted upon.**

12.8 Government guidance sets out that:

- The need for renewable energy does not automatically override environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities
- Decisions should take into account the cumulative impact of wind turbines and properly reflect the increasing impact on (a) the landscape and (b) local amenity as the number of turbines in an area increases
- Local topography should be a factor in assessing whether wind turbines have a damaging impact on the landscape (i.e. recognise that the impact on predominately flat landscapes can be as great or greater than as on hilly or mountain ones)
- Great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of their proposal on views important to their setting.

12.9 A Planning for Climate Change report which considered sources of potential renewable energy across Leicestershire (except Charnwood Borough) was published in 2008. The

report considered three specific sources of renewable energy –wind, water and biomass and made an assessment as to the potential for these to be harnessed.

12.10 The areas around the six main settlements in North West Leicestershire (Ashby de la Zouch, Castle Donington, Coalville, Ibstock, Kegworth and Measham) all performed well in terms of availability of wind resource and accessibility to woodland, and therefore the report considered that the opportunity for harnessing these resources is high. In addition, it identified the potential for hydro-power generation from two sites near Kegworth.

12.11 In order to determine potentially suitable areas for wind energy development, a further study has been prepared based upon the Department for Energy and Climate Change’s guidance “Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Capacity Methodology for the English Regions”. This identifies three key planning constraints:

- Wind Speed
- Environmental and Landscape Designations; and
- Proximity to Residential Properties.

The areas identified as potentially suitable would require a detailed assessment during the planning process and will be assessed on a site by site basis.

12.12 The study referred to above addresses the issues of wind speed and proximity to residential properties and the areas identified as potentially suitable on the policies map reflect the study’s conclusions. In respect of the issue of landscape designations this will require a detailed assessment during the planning process and will be assessed on a site by site basis having regard to the National Character Area profiles. More information about these can be found at paragraph 5.29 of this Local Plan.

12.13 Large scale renewable energy technologies can be contentious as they are often land – hungry and visually imposing. Early consultation with the local community, and pre – application discussions will be necessary to help ensure large-scale renewable energy installations are appropriately designed and located.

12.14 Micro renewable energy installations (such as solar panels) typically at the level of households are often permitted development and do not require a specific policy.

## **WATER – FLOOD RISK**

12.15 Increased rainfall, which is one of the predicted consequences of climate change, will result in increasing the risk of flooding from rivers. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken which identifies those parts of the district most at risk from flooding. In accordance with the NPPF we will apply a sequential, risk based approach to the location of development to avoid flood risk to people and property

where possible, and manage residual risk, taking into account the impacts of climate change.

12.16 Our approach is to use a Sequential Test so as to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding.

12.17 Where development needs to be in locations where there is a risk of flooding and alternative sites are not available, we will need to ensure that development is appropriately flood resilient and resistant ,safe for all of its users for the developments lifetime, and will not increase flood risk overall.

**Policy Cc2: Flood Risk**

**(1) The risk and impact of flooding will be minimised through:**

- **Directing new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding**
- **Ensuring that all new development addresses the effective management of all sources of flood risk**
- **Ensuring that development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, and**
- **Ensuring wider environmental benefits of development in relation to flood risk**

**(2) A proposal will be supported where:**

- **It is located in an area that is not at risk of flooding with reference to the Environment Agency flood risk maps and the Councils Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), unless a Sequential Test, and if necessary an Exception Test, as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance on flood risk, proves the development is acceptable;**
- **Site –specific Flood Risk Assessments should consider the issues of flooding from sewers, canal infrastructure failure and groundwater rising from former coal mining areas.**
- **Suitable flood protection/mitigation measures can be agreed as appropriate to the level and nature of flood risk and satisfactorily implemented and maintained; and**
- **There will be no increase in the risk of flooding for properties elsewhere. For previously undeveloped sites the rate of runoff from the development sites should be no greater than the existing (greenfield) rate of runoff from the site. For developments on previously developed (brownfield) sites the rate of runoff should not exceed the runoff of the site in its previously developed condition.**

## **WATER - SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

- 12.18 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) aim to mimic the natural drainage process whilst also removing pollutants from urban runoff at the source before entering a watercourse. There are a wide range of SuDS techniques available, including green roofs, permeable paving swales, detention basins, ponds and wetlands. In addition to controlling run-off they also offer opportunities to enhance the biodiversity in an area, reduce flood risk and improve water quality.
- 12.19 Different solutions will call for different types of SuDS, according to their effectiveness and efficiency depending upon the local geology – a solution in one place may not be suitable somewhere else. Due to the variation of permeability across the district we propose to prepare an SPD to give greater detail on the delivery of SUDS within different areas within the district.
- 12.20 Leicestershire County Council is now the Lead Local Flood Authority and is the lead organisation for providing advice and guidance on surface water runoff and run off rates.
- 12.21 It is the intention to prepare an SPD to support the policy on the delivery of SuDS and other mitigation mechanisms.

### **Policy Cc3: Sustainable Drainage Systems**

- (1) When assessing development proposals where it is necessary to manage surface water drainage, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be incorporated into developments in accordance with national and local standards unless it can be clearly demonstrated;**
- a) That SuDS are not technically, operationally or financially deliverable or viable and that surface water drainage issues from the development can be alternatively mitigated; or**
- b) That the SuDS schemes will itself adversely affect the environment of safety.**
- (2) Where appropriate, every effort should be made to link SuDS into wider initiative to enhance green infrastructure, improve water quality and benefit wildlife or contribute to the provision of the ecosystem service.**
- (3) Arrangements in accordance with national policy will need to be put in place for the management and maintenance of the SuDS over the whole period during which they are needed.**

### **13 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

- 13.1 The primary responsibility for implementing the policies in this Local Plan largely rest with the District Council as the Local Planning Authority. The Council will use the policies in the Local Plan, alongside any national policies and guidance to determine any planning application submitted. In addition, it is proposed to review and update the existing suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) as well as producing new ones where appropriate.
- 13.2 There will be other people and organisations that will have a key part to play in the implementation of the Local Plan, including developers, landowners, public utilities (e.g. water, gas, electricity, and broadband) and other public sector agencies such the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England and the respective highway authorities. The private sector will be mainly responsible for the delivery of individual developments, whether for housing, employment, retail or other forms of development. The Council is committed to working in partnership with these various organisations to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Local Plan are delivered.
- 13.3 A key aspect to ensure the implementation of the Local Plan is through regular and robust monitoring. The Council will regularly assess the performance of individual policies and overall progress in delivering the strategic objectives of the Local Plan. This will be done through the production of an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). Results of monitoring will be used to inform any change to policies or additional actions considered to be required.
- 13.4 A Monitoring Framework has been prepared to outline how policies in the Local Plan will be monitored (see Appendix 5). The monitoring framework will provide the basis for the annual monitoring report. The majority of indicators will be monitored annually however where the District Council will need to rely on data from other organisations this will be monitored once the relevant data is made available. It is the intention to monitor the districts town and local centres on a bi –annual basis.

#### **Policy IM1: Implementation and monitoring of the Local Plan**

- (1) The Council will implement the policies and proposals of the Local Plan by:**
- **working with a range of organisations and individuals through various working arrangements;**
  - **the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents as required to provide additional guidance in respect of specific policies in the Local Plan;**
  - **utilising development management powers, including pre-application discussions and involving other organisations where appropriate;**
  - **considering how the council can use its resources , including funding, to help implement and support the provisions of the Local Plan and**

**seeking other monies for projects which support the Local Plan.**

- (2) The Council will monitor the policies of this Local Plan annually (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March of each year). An Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be published by 31 December of each year.**
- (3) Where it is apparent that delivery rates are falling short of what was anticipated then the Council will take the necessary action to address any shortfall. Such actions may include (but are not limited to):**
- working with developers and site promoters to review the requirements and phasing of infrastructure provision, where such re-phasing would assist with viability; or**
  - working with developers, site promoters and other interested parties to help unlock potential sources of funding for identified infrastructure ; or**
  - considering the use of Compulsory Purchase Powers to help address known land acquisition issues; or**
  - bringing forward additional sites where it can be demonstrated that such sites will assist with delivery to address short term needs; or**
  - engaging with statutory consultees.**
- (4) Where additional housing sites need to be brought forward initial priority will be given to those sites identified within the most recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and having regard to the settlement hierarchy set out in Policy S3. Sites not included in the SHLAA will only be supported where there are no sites within the SHLAA which are capable of contributing to supply in the next 5 year period and which accord with the settlement hierarchy.**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

- 13.5 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Through producing a Neighbourhood Plan communities can take the lead on developing planning policies. However, any plans and policies must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the adopted Local Plan in place at the time a Neighbourhood Plan is prepared.
- 13.8 Neighbourhood Plans attain the same legal status as the Local Plan once it has been agreed at a referendum and is made by North West Leicestershire District Council. Applications for planning permission must then be determined in accordance with the neighbourhood plan, unless, material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 13.9 There are currently two designated neighbourhood areas within the district:

- Ashby de la Zouch
- Ellistown

13.10 North West Leicestershire District Council will work with these communities and other communities wishing to prepare Neighbourhood Plans to ensure timetables, aspirations and evidence are aligned.

## GLOSSARY

<b>Affordable Housing</b>	<p>Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provision to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.</p> <p>Social rented housing is owned by local authorities and private registered providers (as defined in section 80 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008), for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also be owned by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above. As agreed with the local authority or with the Homes and Communities Agency.</p> <p>Affordable rented housing is let by local authorities or private registered providers of social housing to households who are eligible for social rented housing. Affordable Rent is subject to rent controls that require a rent income of no more than 80% of the local market rent (including service charges, where applicable).</p> <p>Intermediate housing is homes for sale and rent provided at a cost above social rent, but below market levels subject to the criteria in the Affordable Housing definition above. These can include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans), other low cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but no affordable housing.</p> <p>Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as “low cost market” housing, may not be considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.</p>
<b>Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)</b>	Areas designated by local authorities because they are not likely to achieve national air quality objectives by the relevant deadlines.
<b>Ancient Woodland</b>	An area of woodland that has been wooded consistently since at least 1600 AD.
<b>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR):</b>	A report that reviews the progress on plan preparation compared to the targets and milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme. The AMR also reviews the impact of policies contained in the Local Plan.
<b>Appropriate Assessment (AA)</b>	Habitat Regulations Assessment is commonly referred to as

<p><b>Area of Separation</b></p> <p><b>Article 4 Direction</b></p> <p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment (AA)</p> <p>An area of land that is not covered by the countryside policy, whose main purpose is preserving the separation between two or more settlements so as to preserve a settlements identity.</p> <p>A direction which withdraws automatic planning permission granted by the General Permitted Development Order.</p> <p>‘Biodiversity’ is a term commonly used to describe the variety of life on earth which encompasses the whole of the natural world and all living things with which share the planet. It includes plants, animal’s even invisible micro organisms and bacteria which, together interact in complex ways with the inanimate environment to create ecosystems.</p>
<p><b>Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):</b></p> <p><b>Building for Life</b></p>	<p>A Biodiversity Action Plan addresses threatened species and habitats and is designed to protect and restore biological systems.</p> <p>Building for Life is the industry standard, endorsed by Government, for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods so that new development can be attractive, functional and be a sustainable place.</p>
<p><b>Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)</b></p>	<p>BREEAM sets out the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation and has become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building’s environmental performance.</p>
<p><b>Brownfield (Previously Developed Land)</b></p>	<p>See Previously Developed Land (PDL)</p>
<p><b>Coalville Urban Area</b></p>	<p>Coalville Urban Area comprises of Coalville, Donington-le-Heath, Greenhill, Hugglescote, Snibston, Thringstone and Whitwick as well as the Bardon employment area.</p>
<p><b>Conservation Areas</b></p>	<p>Areas of special architectural or historic interest. Conservation Areas designations do not prevent change but it does help preserve and enhance the character and appearance of an area.</p>
<p><b>Climate Change</b></p>	<p>The changes in the Earth's global or regional climate over time.</p>
<p><b>Coal Mining Development</b></p>	<p>An area which contains a range of specific mining legacy risks to the surface and a Coal Mining Risk Assessment is</p>

<b>Referral Area</b>	required for non-householder planning applications. The Coal Authority will be consulted on all planning applications in these areas.
<b>Community and Cultural Facilities.</b>	A building or space where community led facilities for community benefit is the primary use. They can provide for the health and well being, social education, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community. For example, public libraries, museums, place of worship.
<b>Community Infrastructure Levy</b>	A levy allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.
<b>Countryside</b>	Countryside is the largely undeveloped area beyond the defined limits of our towns and villages. It is home to farms, isolated and small groups of homes, including our smallest villages, and other rural enterprises.
<b>Development Management</b>	The management or control of development proposals through the planning system.
<b>Development Plan</b>	Comprises of Development Plan Documents (DPD) which form the legal basis for all future planning decisions in the district.
<b>Development Plan Document (DPD)</b>	Documents prepared by the local planning authority (including the Local Plan) setting out the main spatial planning strategy, policies and proposals for the area. These documents will be statutory documents and subject to an independent examination by an inspector. DPDs must be consistent with and have regard to national planning policy.
<b>Duty to Cooperate</b>	Introduced by the Localism Act 2011. It places a legal duty on all local planning authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with certain specified bodies to maximize the effectiveness of Local Plan preparation relating to strategic cross boundary issues.
<b>Edge of Centre</b>	For retail purposes, a location that is well connected and up to 300 metres of the primary shopping area. For all other main town and local centers uses, a location within 300m of a town centre boundary. For office development, this includes locations outside the town centre but within 500 metres of a public transport interchange. In determining whether a site falls within the definition of edge of centre, account should be taken of local circumstances.
<b>Employment Land Availability Assessment (ELAA)</b>	An assessment of employment land potential within North West Leicestershire.

<b>Examination</b>	An independent assessment of a Local Plan held by a Planning Inspector. The purpose of the Examination is to consider if the development plan is sound and is an opportunity for interested parties to put forward their views. The majority of representations made at Examination will usually be 'written representations'. However, in some instances a Planning Inspector may allow representations to be examined by way of oral hearings, for example round table discussions, informal hearing sessions and formal hearing sessions.
<b>Floodplain</b>	Generally low-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, tidal lengths of a river, where water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.
<b>Flood Zones</b>	All land is split into different flood zones to indicate as to the likelihood of flooding occurring. There is a low probability of flooding in Flood Zone 1 and a medium probability of flooding in Flood Zone 2. There is a high probability that flooding will occur in land designated as part of Flood Zone 3a and Flood Zone 3b is the Functional Floodplain.
<b>Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA)</b>	The geography of commercial property markets should be thought of in terms of the requirements of the market in terms of the location of premises, and the spatial factors used in analyzing demand and supply- often referred to as the functional economic market area.
<b>Geodiversity</b>	The range of rocks, minerals fossils, soils and landforms
<b>Greenfield Land</b>	Greenfield land is land that has never been built on or landforms where the remains of any structure have blended into the landscape overtime, Greenfield land also include gardens. Greenfield land shouldn't be confused with Green Belt which is a term used for specifically designated land.
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	The physical environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. It is a network of multi-functional green spaces, including formal parks, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside. This green space can be either urban or rural, and is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.
<b>Gypsy and Traveller</b>	An assessment of gypsy and traveller accommodation

<b>Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA)</b>	needs and wider demand of the Gypsy and Traveller communities.
<b>Hamlets</b>	Small groups of dwellings with no services or facilities.
<b>Heat Island</b>	The heating effect of urban areas upon air and surface temperatures. During periods of hot weather, heat islands increase the effects of heat stress and damage to infrastructure.
<b>Housing Market Area (HMA)</b>	<p>A housing market area is a geographical area defined by household demand and preferences for all types of housing, reflecting the key functional linkages between places where people live and work. It might be the case that housing markets overlap.</p> <p>The extent of the housing market areas identified will vary, and many as in the case for Leicestershire cut across various local planning authority boundaries.</p>
<b>Intermediate Housing</b>	Housing that is neither Market Housing nor Social Rented, but is available at a rent/cost falling between the two. Intermediate housing could comprise shared ownership accommodation for example.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	The basic requirements for the satisfactory development of an area and include roads, footpaths, sewers, schools, open space and other community facilities.
<b>Infrastructure Delivery Plan</b>	The purpose of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan is to set out the infrastructure requirements to support planned new development in the district.
<b>Key Service Centre</b>	Smaller than the principal town in terms of population and with a lesser range of services and facilities however they play an important role providing services and facilities to the surrounding area and are accessible by some public transport.
<b>Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)</b>	The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) was formed in 2011 by public, private and third sector partners to lead sustainable economic growth.
<b>Limits to Development</b>	<p>Limits to Development provide clear, defensible boundaries around settlements within which development will normally be confined.</p> <p>Limits to Development distinguish between areas of development and development potential and areas of restraint, such as countryside.</p>
<b>Listed Building</b>	Statutory Listed Buildings are protected for their architectural and historic value as part of the nation's heritage.

<b>Local Centre</b>	Local centres include a range of small shops of a local nature, serving a small catchment. Typically, local centres might include, amongst other shops, a small supermarket, a newsagent, a sub-post office and a pharmacy. Other facilities include hot food takeaway and eating establishments.
<b>Local Development Document (LDD)</b>	The collective term covering Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
<b>Local Development Scheme (LDS)</b>	The Local Development Scheme is a document which sets out the local planning authority's programme for the production of Local Development Documents.
<b>Local Nature Reserve (LNR)</b>	Local Nature Reserves are places with wildlife or geological features of special interest locally. They are designated by local authorities.
<b>Local Plan</b>	The Local Plan sets out the future development of the area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
<b>Local Planning Authority (LPA)</b>	The Local Planning Authority, in this case North West Leicestershire District Council, undertakes the town planning function at the local level (except minerals and waste planning which is undertaken at a County Council level).
<b>Local Service Centre</b>	Settlements which provide some services and facilities primarily of a local nature meeting day-to-day needs and where a reasonable amount of new development will take place.
<b>Local Transport Plan (LTP)</b>	Local transport plans, divided into full local transport plans (LTP) and local implementation plans for transport (LIP) are an important part of transport planning in England. They are prepared by strategic transport authorities – in our case Leicestershire County Council.
<b>Local Wildlife Sites</b>	Local Wildlife Sites are defined areas identified and selected locally for their nature conservation value.
<b>Low-Carbon energy/technologies</b>	Energy which derives from sources that produce fewer greenhouse gases than do traditional means of power generation. Includes zero carbon power generation sources as well as sources with lower-level emissions such as natural gas, and technologies that prevent carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere, such as carbon capture and storage.

<b>Masterplan</b>	A strategic plan setting out the overall framework and key principles for the development of a site.
<b>National Character Areas</b>	National Character Areas are defined by Natural England and they are a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. They follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries.
<b>National Nature Reserve</b>	Many of the finest sites in England for wildlife and geology are National Nature Reserves. Almost all are accessible and provide opportunities for people to experience nature.
<b>National planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</b>	Sets out the government's national planning requirements, policies and objectives. It is a material consideration in the preparation of Local Plan documents and when considering planning applications.
<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	A plan for the neighbourhood area which is prepared by an authorised community group. The plan must be in general agreement with the overall plan for the local authority area and can include general planning policies and allocations for new development.
<b>Older people</b>	People over retirement age, including the active, newly retired through to very frail elderly, whose housing needs can encompass accessible, adaptable general needs housing for those looking to downsize from family housing and the full range of retirement and specialized housing for those with support or care needs.
<b>Open Space</b>	Open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity and is not just limited to land
<b>Out of Centre</b>	A location which is not in or on the edge of a town or local centre but not necessarily outside the urban area.
<b>Planning Condition</b>	A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission, for example, restricting what you can do on the premises, or requiring you to get specific approval for aspects of the development, such as the materials to be used, before you can proceed.
<b>Planning Practice Guidance</b>	An online resource and tool that sets out the government's planning guidance on a range of issues.
<b>Photovoltaic/photovoltaic cells</b>	Conversion of solar radiation (the sun's rays) to electricity by the effect of photons (tiny packets of light) on the electrons in a solar cell.
<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b>	The Planning Inspectorate is an executive agency for the Department of Communities and Local Government. It

	deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure planning applications and examination of local plans.
<b>Policies Map</b>	This will illustrate, on an Ordnance Survey Base Map, designations and proposals contained in the Development Plan Documents and Saved Policies. The Proposal Map is referred to as a policies map.
<b>Previously Developed Land</b>	Also known as Brownfield Land. Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for mineral extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.
<b>Primary Employment Land</b>	Sites identified, within the 'Qualitative Assessment of Employment Sites' undertaken by consultants in 2012, as being worthy of retention for employment use.
<b>Primary Frontage</b>	Primary frontages are located within town and local centres are likely to include a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods.
<b>Primary Shopping Area</b>	Defined area where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontage which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).
<b>Principal Town</b>	The principle settlement in the district which provides an extensive range of services and facilities, and which is accessible by public transport from surrounding areas and to other large settlements in the district.
<b>Public Safety Zones</b>	Areas of land at the end of runways at the busiest airports in the UK, within which certain planning restrictions apply.
<b>Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites</b>	Sites selected for their geological or geomorphologic value and their interpretive use for earth science as well as cultural, educational, historical and aesthetic reasons.
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	Renewable energy is energy flows that occur naturally and

	repeatedly in the environment, for example from the wind, water flow, tides or the sun.
<b>Rural 'Exception' Sites</b>	Land which is identified as countryside that would not normally be released for housing but where an exception is made for affordable housing. These sites are usually managed by a housing association and can provide homes for existing residents or those with a family or employment connection to the local community.
<b>Secondary Frontage</b>	Secondary frontages are located within town and local centres and provide greater opportunities than primary shopping frontages for a diversity of uses such as restaurants and businesses.
<b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</b>	Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of the most spectacular and beautiful habitats: wetlands teeming with wading birds, winding chalk rivers, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote upland peat bogs.
<b>Small Village</b>	Settlements with very limited services and where development will be restricted to the conversions of existing buildings or the redevelopment of previously developed land.
<b>Special Area of Conservation (SACs)</b>	Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.
<b>Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)</b>	Outlines the approach of the authority to involving the community in preparing the Local Plan and planning applications.
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	A process for assessing environmental implications of the plans and policies in the Local Plan to ensure that all decisions are made with the objective of securing sustainable development.
<b>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)</b>	A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides information on the probability of flooding, such as that from rivers, groundwater sources and sewers. It also takes into account the impacts of climate change.
<b>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)</b>	An assessment of housing supply potential within North West Leicestershire required by government policy. The SHLAA is updated on an annual basis.

<b>Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)</b>	An assessment of housing need and demand based on a Housing Market Area. The SHMA often defines the type of housing (including size, tenure and affordability) that is required to meet local needs.
<b>Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges (SRFI)</b>	A Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) is a large multi-purpose rail freight interchange and distribution centre linked into both the rail and trunk road system. It has rail-connected warehousing and container handling facilities and may also include manufacturing and processing activities.
<b>Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</b>	Documents which add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further detail to the policies within the Local Plan. They can provide further guidance for development, or on particular issues such as design. Supplementary Planning Documents are capable of being material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal (SA)</b>	Sustainability Appraisal involves an assessment of the social, economic and environmental implications of the plans and policies in the Local Plan to ensure that all decisions are made with the objective of sustainable development in mind. The SA incorporates the requirements of the SEA.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report</b>	This is the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment. It sets out the context and objectives, establishes the baseline data, key sustainability issues and sets the framework by which Development Plan Documents will be appraised.
<b>Sustainable Villages</b>	Settlements which have a limited range of services and facilities and so are suitable for a limited amount of growth.
<b>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</b>	Surface water drainage methods that take account of water quantity, water quality and amenity issues are collectively referred to as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
<b>Town Centre Boundary</b>	Town Centre boundaries are away in which we seek to control the types of uses that would be permitted in these specific areas.
<b>Town and Local Centre Uses</b>	The main Town and Local Centre Uses are A1 Shops, A2 Financial and Professional Services, A3 Restaurants and Cafes, A4 Drinking Establishments, A5 Hot Food Takeaways, D2 Assembly and Leisure uses (as defined by the Town and Country planning (Use Classes) order 1987

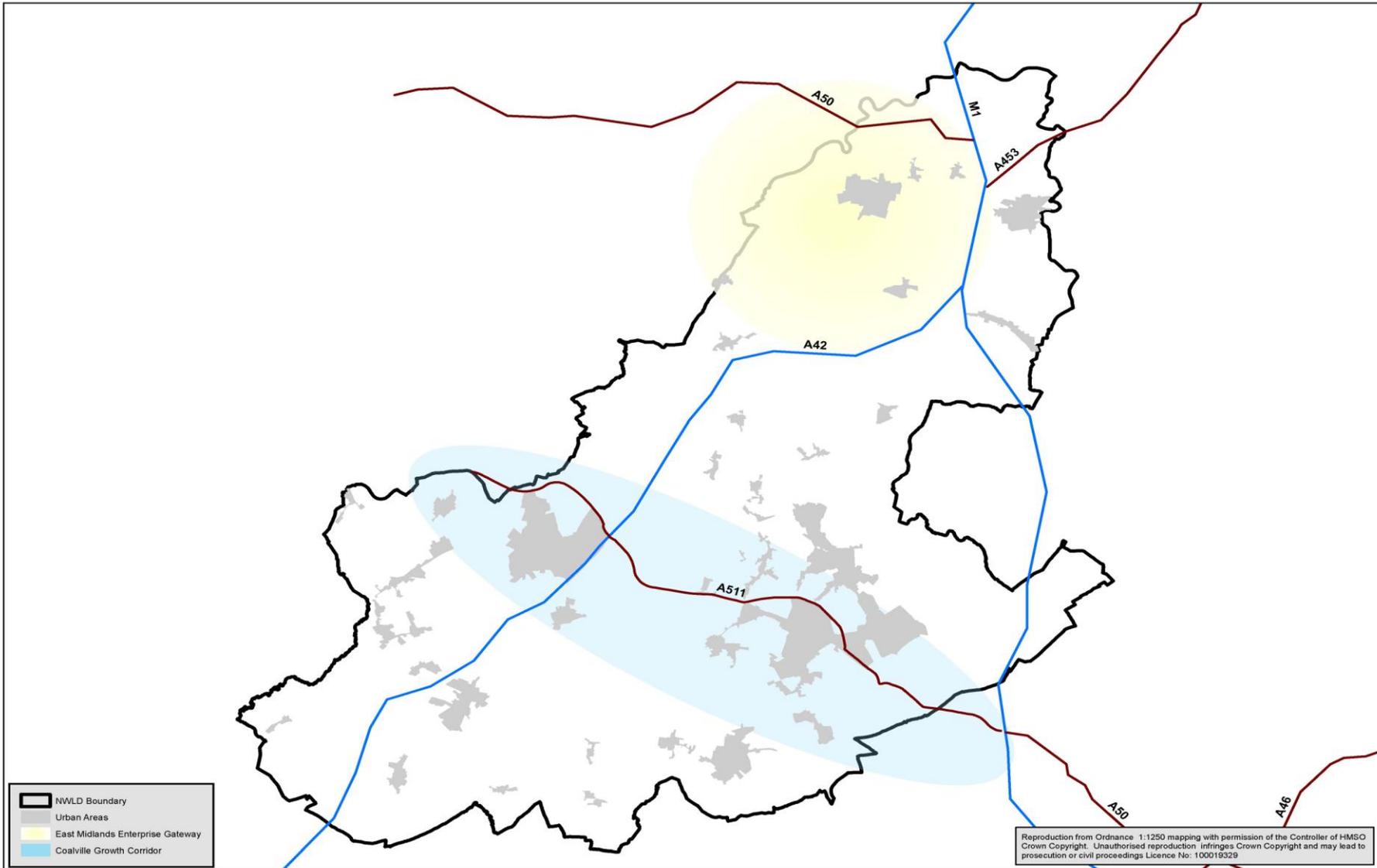
	(as amended), arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities).
<b>Town Centre</b>	Defined area, including the primary shopping area and areas of predominantly leisure, business and other main town centers uses within or adjacent to the primary shopping area.
<b>Travel Plans</b>	A travel plan aims to promote sustainable travel choices (for example, cycling) as an alternative to single occupancy car journeys that may impact negatively on the environment, congestion and road safety. Travel plans can be required when granting planning permission for new developments.
<b>Use Classes Order</b>	The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) puts uses of land and buildings into various categories known as 'Use Classes'.
<b>Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP)</b>	The primary purpose of the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is to reduce the levels of phosphate within the River Mease SAC, to enable the Conservation Objectives for the SAC to be met, and an adverse effect upon the SAC avoided.
<b>Windfall sites</b>	Sites which have not be specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.
<b>Zero Carbon Development</b>	A building or set of buildings with a net energy consumption of zero over a typical year.

**APPENDIX 2**

**HOUSING TRAJECTORY AS AT 1 OCTOBER 2015**

	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	1 April 2015 to 31 September 2015	1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	2020/ 21	2021/ 22	2022/ 23	2023/ 24	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27	2027/ 28	2028/ 29	2029/ 30	2030/ 31	TOTAL	Post 2031
<b>Past Completions (all sites)</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>466</b>																		
All Projected completions Ashby						33	77	155	189	161	150	200	175	170	190	150	150	150	150	150	150	2400	250
Projected affordable housing completions Ashby						0	0	39	51	54	55	65	49	51	57	45	45	45	45	45	45	691	
All Projected completions Castle Donington						15	30	23	30	40	50	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	45	953	
Projected affordable housing completions Castle Donington						4	4	2	4	5	6	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	1	116	
All Projected completions Coalville Urban Area						44	172	345	355	358	307	237	205	225	225	225	180	150	150	150	150	3478	1565
Projected affordable housing completions Coalville Urban Area						19	56	71	30	33	30	22	25	30	30	30	15	11	11	11	11	435	
All Projected completions Ibstock						40	72	65	80	44	30	30	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	
Projected affordable housing completions Ibstock						5	9	9	20	14	12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	
All Projected completions Kegworth						6	5	30	50	60	61	30	30	30	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	320	
Projected affordable housing completions Kegworth						0	0	10	10	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	
All Projected completions Measham						0	10	25	35	97	100	100	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	477	
Projected affordable housing completions Measham						0	0	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	
All Projected completions Rest of the district						30	171	181	167	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	601	
Projected affordable housing completions rest of the district						0	7	42	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	
All projected completions for district						168	537	824	906	812	698	677	607	505	513	455	410	380	380	345	345	8,597	
projected affordable housing completions for district						28	76	181	177	116	115	106	84	91	97	85	70	66	66	66	57	1,481	
<b>Projected completions (annual)</b>						168	537	824	906	812	698	677	607	505	513	455	410	380	380	380	345	8,597	
Projected Completions (cumulative) (A)	234	599	1,028	1,706	2,172	2,340	2,877	3,701	4,607	5,419	6,117	6,794	7,401	7,906	8,425	8,874	9,284	9,664	10,044	10,424	10,769		
Annual requirement	520	520	520	520	260	260	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520		
Cumulative requirement (B)	520	1,040	1,560	2,080	2,340	2,600	3,120	3,640	4,160	4,680	5,200	5,720	6,240	6,760	7,280	7,800	8,320	8,840	9,360	9,880	10,400		
Monitor - number of dwellings above or below cumulative requirement (B - C)	-286	-441	-320	-374	-168	-260	-243	61	447	739	917	1,074	1,161	1,146	1,145	1,074	964	824	684	544	369		
Monitor - annual requirement taking account of past/projected completions	520	535	545	551	527	531	537	537	515	483	453	428	401	375	356	330	305	279	245	118	-24		

**MAP OF COALVILLE GROWTH CORRIDOR AND EAST MIDLANDS ENTERPRISE GATEWAY**



**Off Street Parking Standards (excluding residential)**

6C's Design Guide Table DG11: Normal Maximum Parking Standards

For developments below the threshold, the standards contained in the document Highway Requirements for Development (HRfD) will continue to be applied as the normal maximum standards.

Use <sup>(c)</sup>	Normal maximum parking standard based on one space for every square Metre (m <sup>2</sup> ) of gross floorspace unless otherwise stated	Threshold for applying the standard (gross floorspace) <sup>(d)</sup>
Food retail	One space for every 14m <sup>2</sup>	1000m <sup>2</sup>
Non food retail	One space for every 20m <sup>2</sup>	1000m <sup>2</sup>
B1 offices	<p>(see note e)</p> <p>Urban town centre or edge of centre; One space for every 60m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rural town centre or edge of centre; One space for every 40m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rest of rural town; One space for every 30m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Out of any town; One space for every 30m<sup>2</sup></p>	2500m <sup>2</sup>
B1 Non-office and B2 General industry <sup>(f)</sup>	<p>(see note e)</p> <p>Urban town centre or edge of centre; One space for every 130m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rest of urban town; One space for every 80m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rural town centre or edge of centre; One space for every 90m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rest of rural town; One space for every 65m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Out of any town; One space for every 55m<sup>2</sup></p>	2500m <sup>2</sup>
B8 Warehousing	<p>(see note e)</p> <p>Urban town centre or edge of centre; One</p>	2500m <sup>2</sup>

	<p>space for every 300m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rest of urban town; One space for every 180m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rural town centre/edge of centre; One space for every 200m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Rest of rural town; One space for every 150m<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Out of any town; One space for every 120m<sup>2</sup></p>	
Cinemas and conference facilities	One space for every five seats	1000m <sup>2</sup>
D2 (other than cinemas, conference facilities and stadia)	One space for every 22m <sup>2</sup>	1000m <sup>2</sup>
<a href="#">Higher and further education</a>	One space for every two staff plus one space for every 15 students <sup>(g)</sup>	2500m <sup>2</sup>
Stadia	One space for every 15 seats <sup>(h)</sup>	1500 seats

**APPENDIX 5**  
**MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

Policy	Objectives	Indicator	Target
<b>S1: Future Housing and Economic Development Needs</b>	2,5	<p>Number of years housing supply.</p> <p>Number of net dwellings completed over plan period.</p> <p>Number of net dwellings completed in current monitoring year.</p> <p>Sustained high level of applications approved contrary to policy.</p> <p>Type and amount of net employment floor space delivered from planning permissions in the current year and plan period.</p> <p>Amount of new retail floor space developed for the current monitoring year.</p> <p>Amount of new retail floor space developed for the plan period.</p> <p>Number of dwellings under construction.</p>	<p>A minimum of 10,400 dwellings to be built by 2031 (equates to 520 dwellings per year).</p> <p>A five year supply of deliverable housing land can be demonstrated.</p> <p>96 hectares of employment land to be developed by 2031.</p> <p>7,300sqm of comparison retail floor space to be developed by 2031.</p>

<b>S2: Settlement Hierarchy</b>	4	<p>Number and percentage of net dwelling completions and permissions in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal Town ( Coalville Urban Area);</li> <li>• Key Service Centres;</li> <li>• Local Service Centres;</li> <li>• Sustainable Villages;</li> <li>• Small Villages.</li> </ul> <p>For the monitoring year and plan period.</p> <p>Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land.</p>	To direct the majority of new development to the most sustainable settlements within the district (Principal Town, Key Service Centre and Local Service Centre), in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy.
<b>S3: Countryside</b>	12	<p>Number of applications approved contrary to policy within the monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Number of applications supported at appeal when citing this policy within a reason for refusal.</p>	100% of relevant planning applications determined in accordance with this policy.
<b>D1: Design of new Development</b>	3,7,9	<p>Number of new residential developments scoring a 'green or amber rating using the 'Building for Life Assessment'.</p> <p>Number of non- residential schemes that meet the district councils place making principles.</p> <p>Adoption of a Design Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	<p>All new residential developments scoring green or amber using the Building for Life Assessment or its successor.</p> <p>All new non-residential developments scoring positively against the district councils place making principles.</p> <p>To adopt a Design Supplementary Planning Document.</p>
<b>D2: Amenity</b>	1, 3	Adoption of development guidelines.	To adopt development guidelines as part of the Design Supplementary Planning Document.

		Number of applications supported at appeal when citing this policy within a reason for refusal.	100% of relevant planning applications determined in accordance with this policy.
<b>D3: Telecommunications</b>	3, 10,11, 12	Number/proportion of applications granted that would not involve mast sharing or utilise existing telecommunications structures.	Majority of new development to be in the form of mast sharing or other existing structures.
<b>H1: Housing provisions : Planning Permissions</b>	2	Number of dwellings with planning permission  Number of Dwellings Under Construction.	Meet the projected completions (for each approved development) as set out in the housing trajectory as set out in policy S2.  A five year supply of deliverable housing land can be demonstrated.
<b>Policy H2 – Housing provision: resolutions</b>	2	Number of dwellings the subject of an outstanding planning resolution in the current monitoring period.	Meet the projected completions (for each approved development) as set out in the housing trajectory. As set out in within policy S2.  A five year supply of deliverable housing land can be demonstrated.
<b>Policy H3 – Housing provision: new allocations</b>	2	Number of net dwellings remaining on allocated sites for the monitoring period and plan period.  Progress on delivery of infrastructure identified in policy H3.	Meet the projected completions as set out in the housing trajectory. As set out within policy S2.  A five year supply of deliverable housing land can be demonstrated.  Delivery of supporting infrastructure as set out with policy H3.
<b>H4: Affordable Housing requirements</b>	1,2,3	The number of net affordable homes completed in the monitoring year.  The number of net affordable homes completed within the plan period.	Deliver affordable housing dwellings in the district, in accordance with the specified minimum affordable housing contribution for each of its settlements, as detailed below:

		<p>The number of additional affordable homes provided, including bringing empty homes back into use, conversions and new builds.</p> <p>Number of people on the housing waiting list, in the monitoring period.</p> <p>Number of affordable homes granted planning permissions through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites of 15 or more, in Ashby de la Zouch or Castle Donington, with 30% or more affordable housing;</li> <li>• Sites of 15 or more, in Coalville Urban Area, with 20% or more affordable housing;</li> <li>• Sites of 11 or more (or 1000sqm (gross) floor space), in Ibstock, Kegworth or Measham, with 30% or more affordable housing;</li> <li>• Sites or 11 or more (or 1000sqm (gross) floor space), in all other settlements, with 30% or more affordable housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% of housing on sites of 15 or more, in Ashby de la Zouch or Castle Donington, as affordable housing;</li> <li>• 20% of housing on sites of 15 or more in the Coalville Urban Area, as affordable housing;</li> <li>• 30% of housing on sites of 11 or more (or 1000sqm (gross) floor space), in Ibstock, Kegworth or Measham, as affordable housing;</li> <li>• 30% of housing on sites of 11 or more (or 1000sqm (gross) floor space), in all other settlements, as affordable housing.</li> </ul>
<b>H5: Rural Exceptions Sites for Affordable Housing</b>	2,3	<p>Number of Rural Exception sites completions within the current monitoring year and plan period.</p> <p>Number of schemes permitted that support Policy H5 over the plan and monitoring periods.</p> <p>Amount of market housing provided on Rural Exception Sites.</p>	<p>Deliver rural exception sites in appropriate locations in accordance with policy H5.</p> <p>Rural Exception Sites to comprise 100% affordable housing unless there is a satisfactory financial justification to provide an element of market housing.</p> <p>The number of people on the councils housing register reduces.</p>

		The number of people on the housing register, by settlement.																
<b>H6: House types and mix</b>	2,3	<p>Completions by house type, size and tenure within the current monitoring period and plan period.</p> <p>Number of dwellings with planning permission by house type, size and tenure.</p> <p>Number of bungalows, or other accommodation suitable for occupation by the elderly, delivered on sites of 50 dwellings or more.</p> <p>Number of dwellings, suitable for occupation or easily adaptable for people with disabilities, delivered on sites of 50 dwellings or more.</p> <p>Number of specific care facilities and special care units delivered over the monitoring and plan period.</p>	<p>The majority of all new housing developments to provide a mix of different types and tenures delivered consistent with the findings from the SHMA.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1464 619 1942 917"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Housing</th> <th>1 bed</th> <th>2 bed</th> <th>3 bed</th> <th>4 bed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Market</td> <td>5-10%</td> <td>35-40%</td> <td>45-50%</td> <td>10-15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Affordable</td> <td>33.3%</td> <td>35.2%</td> <td>28.9%</td> <td>2.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Housing	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Market	5-10%	35-40%	45-50%	10-15%	Affordable	33.3%	35.2%	28.9%	2.5%
Type of Housing	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed														
Market	5-10%	35-40%	45-50%	10-15%														
Affordable	33.3%	35.2%	28.9%	2.5%														
<b>H7:Provision for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople</b>	2	<p>Number of Gypsy and Traveller pitches provided over the monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Number of Show People plots provided over the monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Number of unauthorised developments in the monitoring year and plan period.</p>	<p>Delivery of the following provision:-</p> <p>Gypsy and Traveller pitches – 27 pitches by 2012-2017, 11 pitches by 2017-2022, 14 pitches by 2022-2027 and 16 pitches by 2027-2031.</p> <p>Travelling Showpeople plots – 3 plots by 2017-2022, 3 plots by 2022-2027 and 3 plots by 2027-2031.</p> <p>Transit Plots – 20 plots by 2021-2017.</p>															

		<p>Number of Gypsy and Traveller and Show People Transit sites delivered.</p> <p>A five year supply of deliverable sites.</p> <p>Adoption of a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document.</p>	<p>Net increase in number of pitches and plots.</p> <p>A five year supply of Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites based on an assessed need.</p> <p>To adopt a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document.</p>
<b>Ec1: Employment provisions : permissions</b>	5	<p>Number of expired planning permissions in the current monitoring year.</p> <p>Outstanding supply of permitted employment sites.</p> <p>Type and amount of employment land with planning permission (Ha) (net).</p> <p>Amount and type of floorspace under construction for the monitoring period.</p> <p>Floorspace developed for employment use by use class and size.</p>	<p>Delivery of each of the Employment allocations that have permission in accordance with local plan policy S2.</p> <p>Maintain a supply of employment land.</p>
<b>Ec2:Employment allocations: new allocations</b>	5	<p>Amount of employment floor space remaining on allocated sites for the monitoring period and plan period.</p> <p>Amount of floor space provided on non allocated sites over the monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Amount of employment land developed on unallocated sites (Ha).</p>	<p>Provision of 16Hectares of employment by 2031.</p>

<p><b>Ec3:Existing employment areas</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Amount of primary employment land lost to other uses (Ha).</p> <p>Amount of primary employment floorspace lost to other uses (Ha).</p> <p>Amount of primary employment land with planning permission for alternative use (Ha).</p> <p>Amount of primary employment floorspace with planning permission for alternative use.</p> <p>Amount of employment land delivered on non allocated sites, within the monitoring period and plan period.</p> <p>Number of Vacant Units.</p>	<p>Prevent loss of existing Primary Employment Areas.</p>
<p><b>Ec4:East Midlands Airport</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>The number and type of permission granted contrary to policy.</p> <p>The number of people using public transport to access the airport.</p> <p>Number of jobs provided at the airport.</p> <p>Amount of cargo using the airport.</p> <p>Number of passengers using East Midlands Airport increases from 2011.</p> <p>Number of noise complaints made in relation to the airport.</p>	<p>Improvements made to public transport.</p> <p>Air quality associated with East Midlands Airport improves using the base date of 2011.</p> <p>The number of noise complaints does not increase, using the base date of 2011.</p> <p>Growth of passenger and freight services at East Midlands Airport from 2011.</p> <p>The East Midlands Airport Masterplan states the airport could achieve a passenger throughput of 10 million passengers per year between 2030 and 2040.</p> <p>The East Midlands Airport Master plan states that the forecast for future cargo tonnage is for some 618,000</p>

			tonnes in 2035 and some 700,000 tonnes in 2040.
<b>Ec5:East Midlands Airport: Safeguarding</b>	7	Number of applications within the safeguarding area approved contrary to advice.	No inappropriate form of development permitted contrary to airport operator's advice.
<b>Ec6: East Midlands Airport: Public Safety Zones</b>	7	Number of applications within Public Safety Zone. Number of applications approved contrary to policy.	No applications approved contrary to policy Ec6.
<b>Ec7:Donington Park</b>	5	Public transport links to Donington Park. Number of motor racing events held each year. Number of noise complaints made in relation to Donington Park. Amount of ancillary employment floor space developed.	Improved public transport to Donington Park. Motor sports events continue at Donington Park racetrack. The number of noise complaints from does not increase, using the base date 2011.
<b>Ec8-Town and Local Centres: Hierarchy and Management of Development</b>	6	Amount of comparison floor space delivered in Town and Local Centres, on the edge of a defined town and local centre and out of town and local centres. Amount of convenience floor space delivered in Town and Local Centres. Amount of comparison or convenience floor space with permission.	7,300 sqm of net retail floor space for comparison goods is delivered. Town Centre uses remain the focus for town centres. Most new retail floor space for Town Centre Uses takes place in Coalville. The hierarchy of centres is maintained.

		<p>Vacancy rates by town and local centres.</p> <p>Mix of uses at ground floor level by town and local centres.</p> <p>Number of shop front improvement schemes within the monitoring year.</p> <p>Number of public realm improvements.</p> <p>Number of car park tickets issued within Ashby de la Zouch and Coalville Town Centre.</p>	<p>The performance of our Town and Local Centres improve against a range of indicators including vacancy rates.</p> <p>New retail floor space created.</p>
<b>Ec9-Town and Local Centres: Thresholds for Impact Assessments</b>	6	<p>Number of applications above the threshold.</p> <p>Number of applications which include an impact assessment.</p>	<p>All applications above the threshold include an impact assessment.</p>
<b>Ec10-Town and Local Centre: Primary Shopping Areas-Non Shopping Uses</b>	6	<p>Permissions approved within town centre boundaries in monitoring and plan period by use class.</p> <p>Permissions implemented within town centre boundaries by use class in monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Number of vacant units.</p>	<p>Shops are the predominant ground floor use within the defined Primary Shopping Areas of our Town and Local Centres.</p> <p>A reduction in vacant units in town centres based on the annual retail survey.</p>

<b>Ec11:Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas- Hot Food Takeaway Balance</b>	6	<p>Number of takeaway uses permitted within Primary Shopping Areas.</p> <p>Number of Takeaways in Ibstock local centre.</p> <p>Number of takeaways in Ashby at 67-89 and 76-108 Market Street.</p>	<p>No additional clustering of take away use.</p> <p>No percentage increase in take away uses with the defined Frontage of Numbers 67 -89 and Numbers 76-108 Market Street, Ashby de la Zouch.</p> <p>No percentage increase of take away uses within the defined local centre of Ibstock.</p>
<b>Ec12-Local Centres</b>	6	<p>Loss of retail units in the Local Centres.</p> <p>Number of vacant Units in the Local Centres.</p>	<p>Maintain an appropriate balance of shop and other main town centres uses within our local centres.</p> <p>A reduction in vacant units in Local Centres based on the annual retail surveys.</p>
<b>Ec13:Tourism development</b>	4,5	<p>Amount of Floor Space gained.</p> <p>Loss of Tourism Floor Space.</p> <p>Location of new tourism facilities.</p> <p>New Tourism accommodation i.e. hotels and other overnight accommodation.</p>	<p>Increased amount of tourism floorspace and facilities.</p> <p>No loss of tourism floorspace or facilities.</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance existing facilities.</p> <p>Increase the amount of accommodation.</p>
<b>IF1: Development and Infrastructure</b>	14	<p>Amount and type of infrastructure delivered over the monitoring and plan period.</p>	<p>New infrastructure is provided as part of new development.</p>

<b>IF2: Community and Cultural Facilities</b>	14	<p>New development resulting in the loss of community facilities.</p> <p>New development resulting in the loss of cultural facilities.</p> <p>Net gain of cultural facilities or floor space.</p> <p>Net gain of community facilities or floor space.</p>	<p>No net reduction of cultural facilities or community facilities.</p> <p>Provision of new community or cultural facilities increases.</p> <p>Expansion and enhancement of community and cultural facilities.</p>
<b>IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities</b>	14	<p>New development resulting in the loss of existing areas of sport and recreation space.</p> <p>Provision of new sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Local standards adopted.</p>	<p>New housing development incorporates provision of formal and / or informal open space.</p> <p>No loss of open space, sports or recreation facilities contrary to policy.</p> <p>To adopt local standards.</p>
<b>IF4:Transport Infrastructure and new development</b>	4,14	<p>Identified Infrastructure Improvements delivered.</p> <p>The number of new services and facilities delivered by new development that is accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The number and length walkways delivered as part of new development.</p> <p>Number and length of cycle routes delivered in monitoring and plan period.</p>	<p>Delivery of new infrastructure as set out within policy IF4 as part of new development.</p>
<b>IF5: Leicester to Burton rail line</b>	14	<p>The reinstatement of the Leicester to Burton Line for public transport.</p>	<p>The Leicester to Burton Rail line is protected from development.</p>

<b>IF6: Ashby Canal</b>	14	The reinstatement of the Ashby Canal.	The Ashby Canal route is protected.
<b>IF7: Parking provision and new development</b>	3	<p>Number of spaces per type of dwelling and by type of dwelling .e.g. 4 bedroom dwelling should provide 3 parking spaces.</p> <p>Number of permissions which include parking provisions in accordance with policy IF7.</p> <p>Number of planning permissions approved to the 6C's standard.</p> <p>Number of car parking spaces provided on non-residential schemes compared to the maximum standards set out within the 6Cs design guidance or equivalent.</p>	Ensure that development incorporates adequate parking provision.
<b>En1: Nature Conservation</b>	11	<p>Creation of new wildlife sites.</p> <p>Number of Local wildlife sites.</p> <p>Number of candidate wildlife sites.</p> <p>Number of SSSIs.</p> <p>Number of Local Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Condition of SSSIs.</p> <p>Adoption of supporting Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	<p>Condition of SSSIs improves.</p> <p>To adopt the supporting supplementary planning document.</p> <p>No net reduction in local wildlife sites from the beginning of the plan period.</p>

<b>En2: River Mease Special Area of Conservation</b>	11	<p>Amount of Employment Land approved within the River Mease SAC catchment.</p> <p>Number of dwellings approved within the River Mease SAC catchment.</p> <p>Condition of the SAC</p> <p>Water quality status</p> <p>Amount of money secured through S106 agreements for DCS.</p>	<p>Water quality and volume targets are met.</p> <p>Condition of SAC improves.</p> <p>Developer Contribution Schemes Implemented.</p>
<b>En3: The National Forest</b>	11,12,14	<p>Amount of funding received for National Forest Planting.</p> <p>Amount of land within the National Forest Planted within the monitoring period and plan period.</p>	<p>Increase amount of National Forest planting across the district.</p>
<b>En4: Charnwood Forest</b>	11,12,14	<p>Number of approved applications for diversification.</p> <p>Creation of new biodiversity sites.</p>	<p>Charnwood Forest is recognised as a tourism and leisure destination.</p> <p>No net loss of biodiversity within the CFRP</p>
<b>En5: Areas of Separation Policy</b>	11	<p>The number and type of applications submitted within AOS.</p> <p>The type and number of developments permitted or refused within the Area of Separation.</p>	<p>No permissions granted in the Area of Separation which undermine the function of the Area of Separation.</p>

<p><b>En6: Land and air quality</b></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>Number of permissions granted in coal mining areas.</p> <p>Number of Permissions granted within Air Quality Management Areas.</p> <p>Number of properties within AQMA.</p> <p>Number permissions impacting on Air Quality Management Areas.</p> <p>Number of Permissions in Noise Zones.</p> <p>Number of Air Quality Management Areas.</p>	<p>New developments permitted are subject to appropriate conditions where required.</p> <p>No new development impacts on the quality of existing Air Quality Management Areas or results in the creation of new ones.</p>
<p><b>He1:Conservation and enhancement of North West Leicestershire's historic environment</b></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Number of applications approved that are contrary to policy.</p> <p>Number of applications approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage.</p> <p>Number of Buildings on the Historic England at Risk Register.</p> <p>Number of Listed Buildings.</p> <p>Number of Conservation Areas and Conservation Area Appraisals.</p> <p>Number of Historic Parks and Gardens.</p>	<p>No loss of heritage assets.</p> <p>No net increase in the number of Heritage Assets at Risk.</p> <p>Restoration of all heritage assets and monuments identified as at risk.</p> <p>No net increase in the number heritage assets on the local heritage at risk register.</p> <p>Increase and adoption of Conservation Area Appraisals, Conservation Areas and Management Plans.</p> <p>To adopt a local list.</p>

		<p>Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.</p> <p>Adoption of a local list.</p>	
<b>He2: Shopfront Design</b>	3, 10	<p>Number of applications that are approved contrary to policy He2.</p> <p>Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document for Shop Fronts.</p> <p>Number of Shop Front Improvement Schemes that have been taken up on a heritage asset or within a Conservation Area.</p>	<p>Restoration of shop fronts.</p> <p>To adopt a Supplementary Planning Document for Shop Fronts.</p>
<b>Cc1: Renewable Energy</b>	8	<p>Number and type of permissions granted for renewable energy in monitoring period.</p> <p>Type and amount (MWe) of renewable energy that is delivered within the monitoring and plan period.</p> <p>Amount of MWe energy which has permission for the monitoring period.</p>	<p>The districts CO2 emissions reduce over the plan period.</p> <p>The amount of energy generated from renewable energy sources increases.</p>

<b>Cc2: Flood Risk</b>	9	Number of planning permission granted contrary to Environment Agency objections on water quality and flood risk grounds.	No permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency and Local Flood Authority advice.  No development permitted for vulnerable uses in areas that are likely to flood (zones 3a and 3b) or that would result in flooding downstream of vulnerable developments.
<b>Cc3:Flood Risk-Sustainable Drainage Systems</b>	9	Number of sites incorporating SUDS.  Type of SUDs delivered.  Adoption of Sustainable Drainage System Supplementary Planning Document.	All major residential and commercial developments need to incorporate SUDs schemes.  To adopt a Sustainable Drainage System Supplementary Planning Document.

## SCHEDULE OF SAVED LOCAL PLAN POLICIES REPLACED BY POLICIES IN THIS LOCAL PLAN

Saved Local Plan Policy	Title	Replacement Local Plan Policy
<b>Strategy</b>		
S2	Limits To Development	Policy S3: Countryside
S3	Countryside	Policy S3: Countryside Policy EN3: The National Forest
<b>Environment</b>		
E1	Sensitive Areas	No equivalent replacement policy
E2	Landscaped amenity open space	Policy D1: Design of New Development
E3	Residential Amenities	Policy D2: Amenity
E4	Design	Policy D1: Design of New Development
E6	Comprehensive Development	Policy D1: Design of New Development
E7	Landscaping	Policy D1: Design of New Development
E8	Crime Prevention	Policy D1: Design of New Development
E9	Mobility	No equivalent replacement policy
E17	Historic Byways	No equivalent replacement policy
E20	Green Wedge	Policy S3: Countryside – applies to the western part of what was defined as Green Wedge  Policy En5: Areas of Separation – applies to the remainder of land that was defined as Green Wedge
E21	Separation of Settlements	Policy S3: Countryside
E22 (a)	Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside	Policy En4: Charnwood Forest
E22(b) & (c)	Areas of Particularly Attractive Countryside	No equivalent replacement policy.
E24	Re-Use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings	Policy S3: Countryside
E26	Sites of County or District Ecological or Geological Interest	Policy En1: Nature Conservation
E30	Floodplains	Policy Cc2: Water: Flood Risk
E36	Derelict Land	No equivalent replacement policy.
E37	Derelict Sites	No equivalent replacement policy.
<b>National Forest</b>		
F1	General Policy	Policy D1: Design of New Development  Policy Ec13: Tourism Development

		Policy IF1: Development and Infrastructure Policy EN3: The National Forest
F2	Tree planting	Policy EN3: The National Forest
F3	Landscaping and Planting	Policy EN3: The National Forest
F5	Forest Related Development	Policy EN3: The National Forest
<b>Transport</b>		
T2	Road improvements	Policy IF4: Transport Infrastructure and New Development
T3	Highway Standards	Policy IF4: Transport Infrastructure and New Development
T4	Road Related Services	No equivalent replacement policy.
T5	Road Related Services at A50. /B6540 Junction	No equivalent replacement policy.
T8	Parking	Policy IF7: Parking Provision and New Development
T10	Public Transport	Policy IF1: Development and Infrastructure Policy IF4: Transport Infrastructure and New Development
T13	Cycle Parking	Policy IF7: Parking Provision and New Development
T14	Former Transport Routes	No equivalent replacement policy
T15	Moira-Measham Trail	No equivalent replacement policy
T16	Ashby Canal	Policy Ec13: Tourism Development Policy IF6: Ashby Canal
T17	Ashby Canal	Policy IF6: Ashby Canal
T18	East Midlands Airport	Policy Ec4: East Midlands Airport
T19	East Midlands Airport – Public Safety Zones	Policy Ec6: East Midlands Airport Public Safety Zones
T20	East Midlands – Airport Safeguarding	Policy Ec5: East Midlands Airport: Safeguarding
<b>Housing</b>		
H4	Housing Allocations	
H4(a)	Leicester Road, Ashby de la Zouch	In part replaced by Policy H1: Housing provision: planning permissions
H4(b)	East of Leicester Road, Ashby de la Zouch	In part replaced by Policy H1: Housing provision: planning permissions
H4(c)	Nottingham Road, Ashby de la Zouch	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (d)	Broom Leys Road, Coalville	Policy H3: Housing provisions: new allocations

H4(e)	Wentworth Road, Coalville	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4(f)	East of Whitehill Road, Ellistown	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (g)	Grange Road, Huggelscote	Policy H1: Housing provision: planning permissions  Policy H2:Housing provision: resolutions
H4(h)	Brooks Lane, Whitwick	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4(i)	North of Park Lane, Castle Donington	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (j)	Station Road, Castle Donington	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (k)	High Street, Ibstock	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (l)	South of High Street, Ibstock	Site has not been developed. However there are outstanding issues regarding its deliverability. No equivalent replacement policy
H4 (m)	Leicester Road, Ibstock	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (n)	The Vicarage, Newbold	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4 (o)	Main Street, Oakthorpe	Policy H2: Housing Provision: resolutions
H4 (p)	East of Heather Road, Ravenstone	Site has been developed and there is no equivalent replacement policy
H4/1	Housing Land Release	Policy S3: Settlement Hierarchy
H6	Housing Density	No equivalent replacement policy
H7	Housing Design	Policy D1: Design of New Development
H8	Affordable housing	Policy H4: Affordable Housing
H10	Agricultural and Forestry Workers' accommodation	Policy S3: Countryside
H11	Replacement Dwellings	Policy S3: Countryside
H12	Exceptional Affordable Housing Sites	Policy H5: Rural exception sites for affordable housing
H13	Mobile Homes	No equivalent replacement policy
<b>Employment</b>		
J3	Employment Allocations	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3(a)	Land adjacent to Swainspark Industrial Estate, Ashby Woulds	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3(b)	Smisby Road, Ashby de la Zouch	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3 (c)	Extension to Hilltop Industrial estate, Bardon	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3 (d)	South of Coalville Brickworks	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas

J3 (e)	Former Ellistown Colliery	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3 (f)	South of Trent Lane, Castle Donington	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3 (g)	Extension to Warminster Estate, Burton road, Measham	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J3 (h)	Former Walton Way Drift Mine, Burton Road, Oakthorpe	Policy S3: Countryside
J4	High quality employment site at Finger Farm	Policy Ec3 – Existing employment Area  Policy Ec4: East Midlands Airport
J5	High Quality Employment Site at Flagstaff	Policy Ec3: Existing Employment Areas
J8	ADT Car Auctions Site	No equivalent replacement policy
J14	Expansion and Existing Firms	No equivalent replacement policy
<b>Central Areas and Retailing</b>		
R1	Central Areas Shopping	Policy Ec8: Town and Local Centres: Hierarchy and Management of Development
R2	Belvoir Shopping Centre	No equivalent replacement policy
R4	Acceptable Uses in Town Centre Core Areas	Policy Ec10: Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Non-Shopping Uses  Policy Ec11: Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Hot Food takeaway Balance
R5	Financial and Professional Services in Core Areas	Policy Ec10: Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Non-Shopping Uses
R6	Windows Display Frontages in North Street and South Street, Ashby de la Zouch	No equivalent replacement policy
R7	Other retail uses	No equivalent replacement policy
R8	Potential Redevelopment Areas	Policy Ec10: Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Non-Shopping Uses
R9	Pedestrian Facilities	No equivalent replacement policy
R10	Bridge Road Link	No equivalent replacement policy
R11	Outer Area of Coalville Town Centre	No equivalent replacement policy

R12	Town Centre Services	No equivalent replacement policy
R13	Town Centre Services	No equivalent replacement policy
R14	Town Centre Services	No equivalent replacement policy
R15	Town Centre Services	No equivalent replacement policy
R16	Use of Upper Floors	Policy Ec10: Town and Local Centres: Primary Shopping Areas – Non-Shopping Uses  Policy Ec12: Local Centres
R19	Acceptable Uses in Local Centres	Policy Ec12: Local Centres
R20	Individual Shops	No equivalent replacement policy
R21	Village Shops	No equivalent replacement policy
<b>Leisure and Tourism</b>		
L2	Informal Recreation Facilities	No equivalent replacement policy
L3	Built Development of Recreational Sites Outside Limits to Development	Policy IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities
L5	Tourist Accommodation	Policy Ec13- Tourism Development
L6	New Rural Recreation Facilities to Relieve Charnwood Forest	No equivalent replacement policy
L7	Land adjoining Hermitage Leisure Centres	Policy En5: Areas of Separation
L8	Snibston Colliery	No equivalent replacement policy
L9	Land north of Snibston Heritage Museum	No equivalent replacement policy
L10	Former Measham Railway Station	No equivalent replacement policy
L11	Moira Furnace	No equivalent replacement policy
L12	Sawley Marina	No equivalent replacement policy
L13	Swannington Incline	No equivalent replacement policy
L20	Donington Park Race Circuit	Policy Ec7: Donington Park
L21	Children's Play Area	Policy IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
L22	Formal Recreation Provision	Policy IF3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
<b>Minerals</b>		
M2	Redevelopment Potential	No equivalent replacement policy