



# **Map and Basic Conditions Statement**

## **Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan**

### **For Oxford City Council**

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

LNP Document Control Sheet	
Document Title	Map and Basic Conditions Statement
Draft Number	v.2.2
Task Group and Authors	Project Manager
Date of Version	1. October 2024
Status	Final Draft
Date of Public Issue	
Visibility	For Oxford City Council official Consultation
File Type	Word
File Name	LNPBasicConditionsStatement

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Appendix A – Screening Statement on the determination of a need for an SEA

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan (LNP) has been prepared by the Littlemore Parish Council (LPC), with input from the local community. This statement demonstrates how the LNP meets the basic conditions required by paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

1.2 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that Neighbourhood Plans must meet the following basic conditions:

- a. Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- b. Have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses.
- c. Have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area.
- d. Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
- e. Is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
- f. Does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
- g. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Order (or Neighbourhood Plan).

## **2. Legal Requirements**

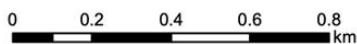
### 2.1 The LNP:

- Has been prepared and submitted by a qualifying body, Littlemore Parish Council.
- Covers the designated Neighbourhood Area, which aligns with the boundaries of Littlemore Parish.
- Relates to the period from 2025 to 2040.
- Does not contain policies that relate to excluded development.

2.2 The LNP is being submitted by Littlemore Parish Council for the Parish area of Littlemore. Map 1 below shows the extent of the NP boundary (the blue line).



Littlemore Civil Parish



Scale: 1:12,500 (A4)

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**Map 1: The Neighbourhood Plan Area**

2.3 In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended) 2012, an application for designation was submitted to Oxford City Council. The City Council publicised the application for designation from Littlemore Parish Council and advertised (by Oxford City Council) the designation for four weeks to allow any comments to be made on the application.

- 2.4 The Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan Area, which follows the Littlemore Parish boundary, was formally designated by the City Executive Board on 15 August 2017. The approved NP designated area is shown in Map 1 and information on the designation can be found in the Designation Statement on Oxford City Council’s webpage: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/littlemore-neighbourhood-plan>
- 2.5 The draft Littlemore NP was made available for consultation in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 until 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Some minor amendments have been made to the Neighbourhood Plan based on the comments received and these are in the attached documents as outlined in the Consultation Statement.
- 2.6 The Plan proposal relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (as amended) 2012.
- 2.7 The NP for Littlemore will cover the period 2025 until 2040. The NP proposal does not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

### **3. Basic Conditions - Have Appropriate Regard to National Policy**

- 3.1 Regard to national planning policy and guidance: The NPPF provides a framework within which local communities can produce neighbourhood development plans for their area and sets out how planning should help achieve sustainable development.
- 3.2 The NPPF was first published in March 2012, and revised in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, and proposed updates have been consulted on in 2024. The Framework under which this Basic Conditions Statement is provided is under the NPPF December 2023.
- 3.3 Paragraph 37 of the NPPF requires neighbourhood plans to meet ‘basic conditions’ and other legal requirements, as set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), before they come into force. The Localism Act explains that this is the ‘adopted Development Plan’.
- 3.4 The definition of sustainable development employed in this assessment has been derived from the NPPF’s definition (NPPF, paragraph 7).
- 3.5 This Basic Conditions Statement demonstrates that the Littlemore NP has regard to relevant policies within the NPPF in relation to:
- Achieving sustainable development.
  - Plan-making.
  - Delivering a sufficient supply of homes.
  - Building a strong, competitive economy.
  - Ensuring the vitality of town centres.
  - Promoting healthy and safe communities.
  - Promoting sustainable transport.
  - Achieving well-designed and beautiful places.
  - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change.
  - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
  - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 3.6 The LNP has been prepared with regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant national policies.
- 3.7 Table 1 demonstrates how the LNP conforms with the basic conditions.



Table 1. How LNP Policies Conform to Relevant Plans

LNP Policy Area	LNP Objectives Summary	LNP Policies Summary	Oxford Plan Policies Aligns With	NPPF Reference	Basic Conditions met
<b>Built Environment</b>	Emphasises maintaining the unique character and heritage of Littlemore, with specific guidelines for local architecture and design.	BES 1: Encouragement of public Infrastructure improvements and community safety.	Policy V7: Infrastructure and Cultural and Community Facilities: Policy aims to improve access to social and community infrastructure.	<p><b>Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities</b> Paragraph 96: Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places.</p> <p>Paragraph 97: To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should: a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.</p> <p><b>Achieving well-designed and beautiful places</b> Paragraph 131: The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.</p>	<p>a. Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>b. Have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses.</p> <p>c. Have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any conservation area.</p>
		BES 2: Support for expansion of and new sheltered housing where required.	Policy H2: Delivering Affordable Homes: support for sheltered housing, where sites have a capacity for 10 or	<p><b>Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</b> Paragraph 60: To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups</p>	<p>d. Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.</p>

			more homes (gross) or exceed 0.5 ha.	with specific housing requirements are addressed and that land with permission is developed without unnecessary delay. The overall aim should be to meet as much of an area's identified housing need as possible, including with an appropriate mix of housing types for the local community.	e. Is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
		BES 3: Requirement to demonstrate no significant additional on street parking.	Policy M3: Motor Vehicle Parking: Seeks to keep parking to a minimum that is necessary in accordance with parking standards.	<b>Promoting sustainable transport</b> Paragraph 112: Maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development should only be set where there is a clear and compelling justification that they are necessary for managing the local road network, or for optimising the density of development in city and town centres and other locations that are well served by public transport (in accordance with chapter 11 of this Framework).	f. Does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
		BES 4: Support of HMOs only where not result in unacceptable increase in on-street parking. Resistance of net loss of residential floor space or unit of any family housing.	Policy H8 sets out that excessive density of HMOs should be resisted due to the adverse impact on parking pressure.		g. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Order (or plan) and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the order (or neighbourhood plan).
		BES 5: Support for proposals that preserve or enhance heritage assets and their settings.	Policy DH3: Designated Heritage Assets: seeks to conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance DH1: High quality design and placemaking: permission only provided for development of high-quality design that creates and enhances local distinctiveness	<b>Conserving and Enhancing the historic environment</b> Paragraph 195: Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.	

		BES 6: general support for existing buildings to be retrofitted to reduce energy usage. However, any significant adverse impacts on the historic environment from such development proposals would need to be mitigated, or the proposal would not be supported.	Policy DH3: Designated Heritage Assets: seeks to conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance. Policy S1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.	Paragraph 196: Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.	
<b>Community Assets and Infrastructure</b>	Strong emphasis on protecting and enhancing local community facilities and ensuring new developments contribute to local infrastructure.	CIS1: Where the loss of a community facility is unavoidable because of development, support given to a replacement community facility. Facility that results in an overall improvement. CIS2: seeks to safeguard and improve existing sports, leisure and recreational facilities in locations in NDP area.	Policy V7: Infrastructure and Cultural and Community Facilities: seeks to protect and retain existing community facilities. Planning permission not granted for development that results in the loss of such facilities unless new or improved facilities can be provided at appropriate location.	<b>Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities</b> Paragraph 97: To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should: (c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.  Paragraph 103: Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. This includes transport hubs, night-time economy venues, cinemas and theatres, sports stadia and	

				arenas, shopping centres, health and education establishments, places of worship, hotels and restaurants, visitor attractions and commercial centres; or c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.	
		CIS3: seeks engagement with County Council and other relevant groups where new proposals for improvements to or additional infrastructure are put forward. In addition, where such infrastructure is proposed, need to ensure timing of implementation of infrastructure and development aligned.	Policy V7: The City Council will work with service providers to improve access to social and community infrastructure and in particular from new development.	<p><b>The presumption in favour of sustainable development</b> Paragraph 11: Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For plan-making this means that: a) all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.</p> <p><b>Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities</b> Paragraph 100: To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as further education colleges, hospitals and criminal justice accommodation, local planning authorities should also work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.</p>	
<b>Natural Environment</b>	Prioritises the protection and enhancement of local green spaces and biodiversity	NES1: seeks to protect and create access to green and blue infrastructure. Notes importance of	Policy G1: Protection of Green and Blue Infrastructure Network: Protects green and open spaces and waterways	<p><b>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</b> Paragraph 180: Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p>	

	specific to Littlemore.	<p>protection against adverse impact of development on the Littlemore Conservation Area which should be protected and enhanced.</p>	<p>of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network. Policy G8: New and enhanced Green and Blue Infrastructure Network Features: Support for enhancement of green and blue infrastructure Policy DH3: Designated heritage assets: protection of enhancement of heritage assets and conservation areas.</p>	<p>a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils. Paragraph 181: ....take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.</p> <p><b>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</b> Paragraph 196: Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment Paragraph 212: Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance.</p>	
		<p>NES 2: seeks to protect and enhance identified wildlife habitats in the NDP area. Seeks 15% biodiversity net gain.</p>	<p>Policy G2: seeks to protect sites and species of ecological value that are important for biodiversity and geodiversity. On sites of local importance for wildlife – development will only be supported in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p><b>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</b> Paragraph 185: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation<sup>66</sup>; and b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological</p>	

				networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.	
		NES3: seeks to maintain and where possible increase existing tree cover.	Policy G7: Protection of existing Green Infrastructure features: seeks to protect against the loss of GI such as trees, where this would have significant adverse impact upon public amenity or ecological interest.	<b>Achieving well designed and beautiful places</b> Paragraph 136: Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.	
		NES4: seeks to protect against the loss or overshadowing of existing allotments in the neighbourhood plan area; and supports new proposed allotments.	Policy G4: Allotments and Community Food Growing: seeks to provide for new allotment space and protect against the loss of protected allotment sites or plots.	<b>Promoting healthy and safe communities</b> Paragraph 96: Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and beautiful buildings which: (c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.	
<b>Transport and Connectivity</b>	Specific measures to improve pedestrian, cycling and public transport infrastructure within Littlemore, reducing	TCS1: provides that development proposals will need to minimise additional motorised traffic and consider measures to reduce additional car	Policy M1: Prioritising walking, cycling, and public transport: support for proposals that minimise the need to travel and prioritises active travel.	<b>Promoting sustainable transport</b> Paragraphs 108: Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that: (a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;	

	car dependency locally.	<p>journeys, and parking caused by new development.</p> <p>TCS2: support for development proposals that improve connectivity for active travel and community transport.</p>	<p>Policy M3: Motor Vehicle parking: provides parking standards that seek to minimise use of the private car in sustainable locations.</p>	<p>(b) opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated;</p> <p>(c) opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued</p> <p>(d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and</p> <p>(e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.</p>	
<b>Health and Well-being</b>	Encourages developments that promote health and well-being, with a focus on local access to green spaces and recreational facilities.	HWS1: support for dedicated community health services with dedicated parking and active travel routes.	<p>Policy V7: Infrastructure and Cultural and Community Facilities: provides policy framework for alteration, expansion and new healthcare facilities.</p>	<p><b>Plan making</b></p> <p>Paragraph 20: Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places and make sufficient provision for:</p> <p>(c) community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure).</p> <p><b>Promoting healthy and safe communities</b></p> <p>Paragraph 97: To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:</p> <p>(e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.</p>	

#### 4. Contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development

4.1 The NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Paragraph 8 of the NPPF sets out what this means:

Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;

b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and

c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.2 Table 1 demonstrates how the Littlemore NP supports the NPPF and contributes to encouraging sustainable growth in the neighbourhood plan area. The LNP supports the presumption in favour of sustainable development in seeking to ensure that the Neighbourhood develops in ways that improve the quality of life of future generations. In summary, the LNP contributes to sustainable development through policies which:

- Support the delivery of a sufficient supply of homes;
- Promote the protection and enhancement of local green spaces;
- Support local businesses and the local economy;
- Ensure new developments are designed to high environmental standards;
- Enhance biodiversity; and
- Encourage sustainable transport options.

4.3 The Plan has been prepared with a central understanding that the key areas it addresses namely, the environment, economy and health and wellbeing in the community, are all closely linked. The policies therefore aim to facilitate change within the community whilst protecting what is highly valued.



## **5. General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area**

- 5.1 The LNP has been prepared in dialogue with planning officers from the Oxford City Council. This has ensured that the process of developing the policies for the Plan has been scrutinised in terms of conformity.
- 5.2 The submitted LNP has been prepared within the context provided by the adopted Local Plan 2036.
- 5.3 The LNP is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Oxford Local Plan 2036 and the emerging 2040 plan. It aligns with the Local Plan's vision for sustainable growth, housing, and infrastructure development. The LNP's policies on transport and connectivity, health and well-being, and community infrastructure are aligned with the broader objectives of the Oxford Local Plan, ensuring that local development supports the city's vision for a healthy and inclusive community.

## **6. Compatibility with EU obligations**

- 6.1 The LNP has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.
- 6.2 The LNP has been screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (see Appendix A). It has been determined that the Plan does not require a full SEA or HRA as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 The Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan complies with all relevant legal and procedural requirements, including those set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The LNP has been prepared following the legal requirements for neighbourhood planning, including extensive public consultation and engagement with local stakeholders. This ensures that the Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the Littlemore community.
  
- 7.2 The Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan meets all the basic conditions set out in the legislation. It provides a framework for sustainable development in Littlemore, reflecting the aspirations of the local community while aligning with national and local policies.
  
- 7.3 The policies within the Littlemore Neighbourhood Plan are designed to meet the Basic Conditions Statement by aligning with national and local policies, promoting sustainable development, complying with EU obligations, and adhering to legal requirements. This comprehensive approach ensures that the plan will effectively guide development in Littlemore over the next 15 years.

## Supporting Documents

Appendix A – Screening Statement on the determination of a need for an SEA

This is available at [Littlemore-NP-Initial-SEA-Screening-Statement\\_May-2024.pdf](https://www.littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk/Littlemore-NP-Initial-SEA-Screening-Statement_May-2024.pdf)  
([littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.littlemoreparishcouncil.gov.uk))