

DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

**DANBURY
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT
INCLUDING AREA STATEMENT

MARCH 2024



DANBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Danbury Parish Council
Danbury Neighbourhood Plan
Equalities Impact Assessment
March 2024



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1. Introduction

This document

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to accompany the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out how the Basic Conditions prescribed by Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 are considered to have been met. The Basic Conditions are:
- Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area).
 - The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
 - Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan. The prescribed condition is that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or an offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.2 There are two further basic conditions but these only apply to the making of a Neighbourhood Development Order and are thus not considered relevant for this document.
- 1.3 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act was granted Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. This includes an amendment to the Basic Conditions in respect of general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. However, there is currently no commencement date associated with this Part of the Act and, until otherwise confirmed by the Secretary of State, the tests of the Basic Conditions for the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan remain as set out in paragraph 1.1 above.

Key statements, including Area Statement

- 1.4 The Danbury Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and submitted to Chelmsford City Council by Danbury Parish Council. The Parish Council is the qualifying body and is entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for the Plan area.
- 1.5 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies that relate to development and the use of land within the neighbourhood area, as shown in Figure 1. The Neighbourhood Area was designated in June 2016 (see Appendix A). The boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area is the same as the Parish Council boundary.
- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. There are no other adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans which cover the neighbourhood area.
- 1.7 The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period 2023 to 2036. This is aligned with the Chelmsford Local Plan adopted by Chelmsford City Council in May 2020. Since work commenced on the Neighbourhood Plan the City Council has begun work on the review of the Local Plan. Notwithstanding the period covered by the Neighbourhood Plan, it includes a commitment to monitoring and review, including a review which may be necessitated by adoption of a new Local Plan, and which may trigger changes to the policies and period of the Neighbourhood Plan as appropriate.
- 1.8 The Neighbourhood Plan does not contain any policies which relate to excluded development as defined by section 61k of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

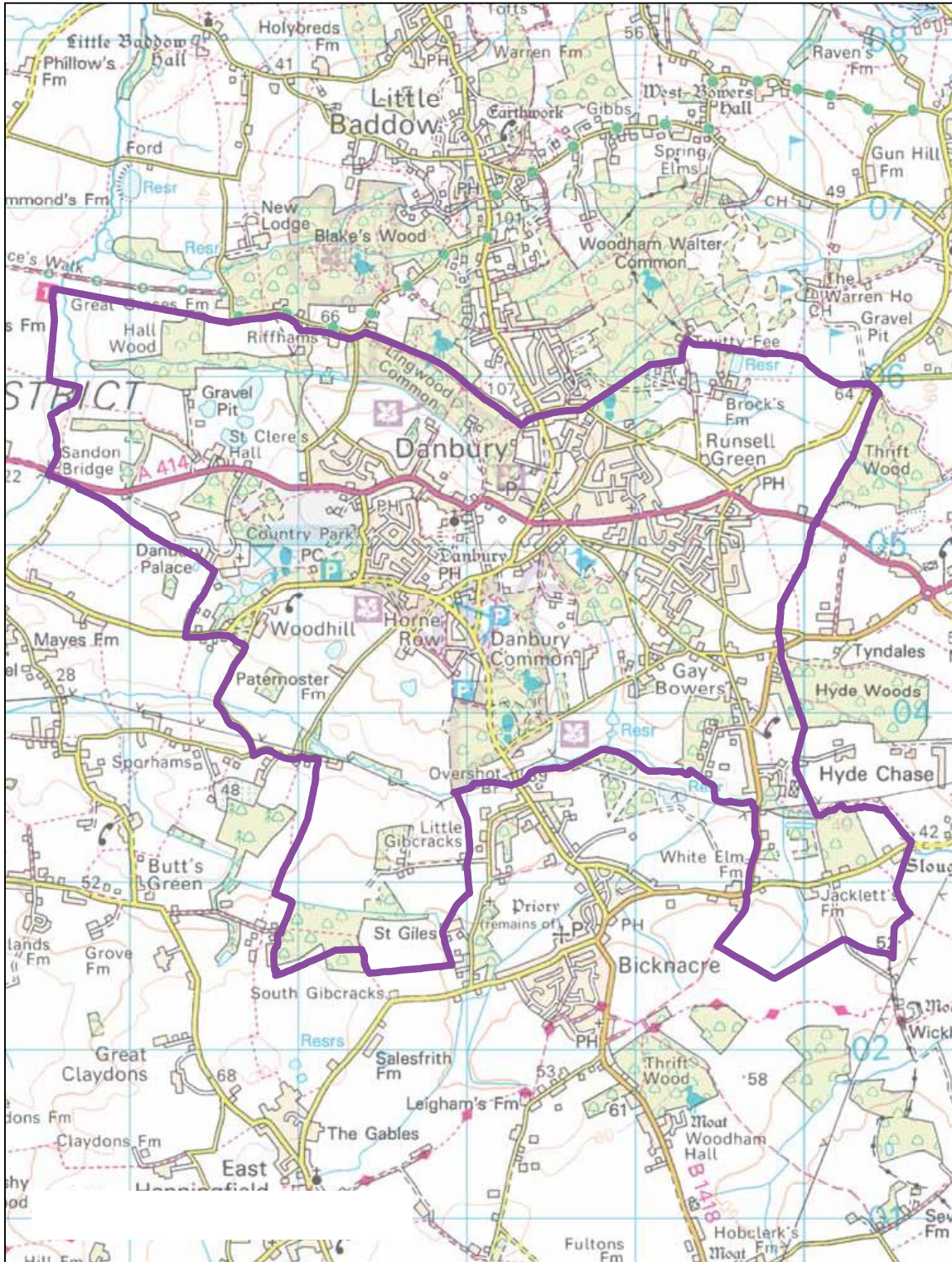


Figure 1. The designated Neighbourhood Plan Area

Vision and objectives

- 1.9 The Basic Conditions Statement refers, where appropriate, to the vision and objectives stated in the Neighbourhood Plan. These are reproduced below.

Vision

Danbury in 2036 will be a flourishing village, separate from Chelmsford, with a strong community spirit, where people of all ages will be able to enjoy Danbury's unique character and identity. Its countryside, woods, multifunctional green infrastructure and green spaces will be protected, as will its heritage and distinguishing features of local character.

Any development will be sympathetic to, and not detract from, the character of the village, will be sustainable and appropriate to its scale and nature and be integrated with the landscape and existing housing.

Opportunities will be taken to improve leisure, recreation, and retail facilities for residents. Danbury's geographical position within the area's road network is likely to continue to be a challenge and ways to improve this will be actively sought with other agencies over the plan period."

Objectives

- 3.1 The vision for Danbury has been developed into a set of objectives which are intended to help inform preferred directions of future growth and other interventions. They are:
1. **Housing and Development:** To ensure there is a mix of house types, size and high-quality housing provision for all ages, which meets the development needs of Danbury. It will also be appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish, with the distinct and separate identity of Danbury retained. Green energy in new developments will be encouraged.
 2. **Environment:** To seek protection, conservation, and enhancement of this significant element of Danbury's character, open spaces, multifunctional green infrastructure and local lanes.
 3. **Transport and Movement:** To promote clean, attractive, safe streets and spaces, seeking creative solutions to the traffic issues that currently affect Danbury, encouraging active and sustainable transport modes, addressing parking issues and improvements to footways where possible.
 4. **Recreation and Leisure:** To improve Danbury's recreation and leisure facilities and increase provision where a shortfall exists.

5. **Business and Economy:** To maintain existing businesses and encourage new economic growth and local employment opportunities, including working from home, to meet and support village needs.
6. **Heritage:** Conserve and enhance Danbury's historic environment which contribute to the village. Development should respond positively to and contribute to the special character and qualities that help define Danbury.
7. **Amenities:** To ensure that important amenities are retained and sufficient for the future needs of residents.

Neighbourhood Plan policies

1.10 The policies within the submission version Neighbourhood Plan are:

Reference	Policy Title
DNP1	Housing Site Allocations
Site Specific Policy (SSP) A	Land at Sandpit Field, East of Littlefields
SSPB	Land at Tyndales Farm West
SSPC	Ex-Play Area, south of Jubilee Rise
SSPD	Danecroft, Woodhill Road
SSPE	Land at Mayes Lane / Copt Hill
DNP2	Housing type, mix and tenure
DNP3	Sustainable Housing Design
DNP4	Built Form
DNP5	Street Scene
DNP6	Environment and Biodiversity
DNP7	Wildlife Corridors
DNP8	Open Spaces
DNP9	Recreational Pressure on Sites of Special Scientific Interest
DNP10	Light Pollution and Night Skies
DNP11	Trees and Hedges
DNP12	Danbury Key Views Identified
DNP13	Connection to Sustainable Transport and Village Amenities
DNP14	Provision of Recreational Facilities

DNP15	Proposals for new or improved amenities
DNP16	New Employment Development
DNP17	Protected Lanes

Neighbourhood Plan 'aspirations'

- 1.11 In addition to the policies listed above the Neighbourhood Plan also includes a set of wider projects and community aspirations. These do not comprise land use and development policies and are not subject to the same tests of the Basic Conditions, but are listed below for comprehensiveness and referred to as appropriate in the Basic Conditions Statement.

Reference	Project Title
Table 1	Aspirations for the Environment
Table 2	Aspirations for Connectivity
Table 3	Aspirations for Recreation and Leisure
Table 4	Aspirations for Amenities
Table 5	Aspirations for Business and Economy
Table 6	Aspirations for Heritage Assets

2. National Planning Policy

Introduction

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan must show that it has regard to national policies contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This is principally provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) published by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- 2.2 Work on drafting the Neighbourhood Plan was initially undertaken in line with the 2019 and then the 2021 versions of the NPPF. However, the NPPF was revised and updated again in December 2023. Appendix 1 of the NPPF sets out transition arrangements for those Development Plans currently in production and which version of the NPPF should be applied when examining these. Paragraph 230 refers to dates by which Plans must have reached consultation by in order to qualify for examination under previous versions of the NPPF. However, this paragraph only refers to Local Plan pre-submission Regulation 19 stage and equivalent stages for work on Spatial Development Strategies. The NPPF is silent on the arrangements for Neighbourhood Plans. As such, and for the purpose of longevity, this Basic Conditions Statement considers the Neighbourhood Plan against the most recent version of the NPPF (i.e.: that published in December 2023).
- 2.3 The NPPF states at paragraph 18 that neighbourhood plans should contain non-strategic policies. At paragraph 21 it states that strategic policies (in the Development Plan) provide a clear starting point for non-strategic policies and that strategic policies *'should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies'*.
- 2.4 The power of a neighbourhood plan is clearly set out in paragraph 30 of the NPPF, which states that *'once a neighbourhood plan has been brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in a local plan covering the neighbourhood area'*.
- 2.5 This section demonstrates that the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan has regard to relevant goals within the NPPF in relation to:
- 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
 - Supporting high quality communications
 - Making effective use of land

- Achieving well-designed and beautiful places
- Protecting Green Belt land
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

2.6 The Neighbourhood Plan has seven primary objectives. We summarise them in Table 1 below and identify which NPPF goals each objective addresses. The sections following this provide a summary of how policies in the Neighbourhood Plan conform to the NPPF goals.

Table 1. Alignment of NDP Objectives with NPPF

Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Objective	Relevant NPPF goals
<p>1. Housing and Development: To ensure there is a mix of house types, size and high-quality housing provision for all ages, which meets the development needs of Danbury. It will also be appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish, with the distinct and separate identity of Danbury retained. Green energy in new developments will be encouraged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering a sufficient supply of homes • Making effective use of land • Achieving well-designed and beautiful places • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
<p>2. Environment: To seek protection, conservation, and enhancement of this significant element of Danbury's character, open spaces, multifunctional green infrastructure and local lanes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving well-designed and beautiful places • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
<p>3. Transport and Movement: To promote clean, attractive, safe streets and spaces, seeking creative solutions to the traffic issues that currently affect Danbury, encouraging active and sustainable transport modes, addressing parking issues and improvements to footways where possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting sustainable transport

<p>4. Recreation and Leisure: To improve Danbury's recreation and leisure facilities and increase provision where a shortfall exists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting healthy and safe communities
<p>5. Business and Economy: To maintain existing businesses and encourage new economic growth and local employment opportunities, including working from home, to meet and support village needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a strong, competitive economy
<p>6. Heritage: Conserve and enhance Danbury's historic environment which contribute to the village. Development should respond positively to and contribute to the special character and qualities that help define Danbury.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving well-designed and beautiful places • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
<p>7. Amenities: To ensure that important amenities are retained and sufficient for the future needs of residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Promoting healthy and safe communities

Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

NPPF Section 5, paras 60 - 84

- 2.7 The Danbury Local Plan allocates land for around 100 new homes to meet the housing need for the Parish identified in the Chelmsford Local Plan. This has been informed by a thorough site assessment and consultation process, including input from statutory consultees and production of a SEA. As such, **Policy DNP1** and **Site Specific Policies SSPA – SSPE** support the NPPFs intention of delivering a sufficient supply of homes.
- 2.8 The site allocation policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are supported by **Policy DNP2** and which is aligned with requirement in the NPPF to deliver a balanced mix of new homes. **Policy DNP2** states that, in particular, the tenure and size mix of new homes should help meet the needs of younger families and older people Furthermore, it supports delivery of First Homes.

Building a strong, competitive economy

NPPF Section 6, paras 85 - 89

- 2.9 The Danbury Neighbourhood Plan reflects this section of the NPPF through **Policy DNP16** which supports proposals for a mix of employment types, including intensification of existing employment sites, thus strengthening their role and function.
- 2.10 The Plan also recognises the importance of good broadband and mobile services, particularly for home working and the changes in working patterns experienced since the onset of the Covid pandemic. **Policy DNP16** states that new developments should be capable of receiving good connections, and that the roll-out of super-fast services to existing properties is also supported.

Ensuring the vitality of town centres

NPPF Section 7, paras 90 - 95

- 2.11 Danbury is identified in the Chelmsford Local Plan as being a 'key service settlement' and notes that these are locations where growth should take place to increase their self-containment and enhance their service role. This is reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan through the allocation of sites at **Policy DNP1** for new homes.
- 2.12 The Neighbourhood Plan notes that there are a range of retail and other business areas distributed throughout the village. **Policy DNP16** supports proposals for new small-scale businesses, particularly where they are well integrated with existing businesses and reflect the local character. Alongside this, the Plan includes an aspiration in respect of designated important local uses as Assets of Community Value, including the Post Office and local pubs, all of which are important to the role and function of the village 'centre'.

Promoting healthy and safe communities

NPPF Section 8, paras 96 - 107

- 2.13 The NPPF states that planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. Relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are:
- **Policy DNP14** which supports proposals for new and improved community facilities in the Plan area and establishes criteria for these such that they are accessible to and can be made use of by all members of the community.
 - **Policy DNP4**, which establishes principles in respect of high quality design and which is supported by **Policy DNP8** which states that where new green

infrastructure is provided, this should be multi-functional and designed for use by all members of the community.

- **Policy DNP13**, which supports delivery of infrastructure that facilitates active travel.

Promoting sustainable transport

NPPF Section 9, paras 108 - 117

- 2.14 **Policy DNP13** of the Neighbourhood Plan promotes sustainable transport through active travel routes well incorporated into new development and linking with green infrastructure, social and community infrastructure. The policy requires infrastructure to be well integrated in development such that it is safe, attractive and convenient to use. It is supported by project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements as well as road safety improvements that help make walking and cycling a more attractive proposition.
- 2.15 The assessment process undertaken to inform the preferred sites for allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan also included consideration of proximity to services and facilities, and which might therefore support movement by sustainable modes of travel.

Supporting high quality communications

NPPF Section 10, paras 118 - 122

- 2.16 The Neighbourhood Plan, at **Policy DNP3, Policy DNP15 and Policy DNP16 (in respect of housing, community facilities and employment)**, states that proposals for development should improve mobile and broadband connectivity in the Plan area. This with the NPPF which recognises that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being.

Making effective use of land

NPPF Section 11, paras 123 - 130

- 2.17 The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should promote effective use of land. This is reflected through the approach to site assessment and allocation, which sought to direct development to infill opportunities or sites immediately adjacent to the existing built form, and with site specific policies (**Policy SSPA – SSPE**) then establishing principles for development such that they respond well to surrounding context.

- 2.18 Furthermore, **Policy DNP4** requires development to reflect the character, scale and massing of the existing built form, drawing on the recommendations in the Danbury Design Guide, and **Policy DNP16** supports proposals for new employment activity in existing employment areas.

Achieving well-designed and beautiful places

NPPF Section 12, paras 131 - 141

- 2.19 This section of the NPPF stresses the importance of high quality design in buildings and places.
- 2.20 The Neighbourhood Plan draws upon the Danbury Design Guide which identifies qualities that should be reflected in new development. This is referenced in **Policy DNP4** which sets out principles in respect of development responding positively to the character of the built and natural environment of the Plan area.
- 2.21 This is expanded upon in **Policy DNP5** which is specifically concerned with the quality of the street environment, treatment of development frontages and impact of street furniture and utilities on the quality of the street scene.
- 2.22 The requirement for good design is also embedded in other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, including **Policy DNP8**, which requires any new green space provided to be well-integrated in development and designed to support safe use for all. **Policy DNP12** seeks to ensure that development does not impact on key views that help define the character, setting and identity of Danbury, and **Policy DNP13** supports proviso of new walking and cycling routes in new development where they are direct and well-overlooked, benefitting from natural surveillance and thus become safe and attractive routes for all to use. **Policy DNP14** requires new community facilities to be designed with flexibility in mind so that they can be adapted for use by different groups, as well as ensuring that they are designed and located so as to minimise impacts on amenity. Equally, **Policy DNP16** supports proposals for new employment development where it is well integrated with the existing built form, particularly in terms of size and character.

Protecting Green Belt land

NPPF Section 13, paras 142 - 156

- 2.23 The Neighbourhood Plan area is located outside the Metropolitan Green Belt. The approach to Green Belt land set out in the NPPF does not therefore apply to the Plan area.

Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

NPPF Section 14, paras 157 – 179

- 2.24 This section of the NPPF supports the transition to a low carbon future. Relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are:
- **Policy DNP3**, which supports proposals that incorporate sustainable building design and construction measures, and which minimise waste through re-use and recycling.
 - **Policy DNP8**, which helps in moderating the impacts of development on climate change through the preservation and provision of new green infrastructure, including incorporation of measures that minimise surface water run-off. This aligns with the NPPF which encourages development to be planned in a way that reduces climate vulnerability through the provision of green infrastructure.
 - **Policy DNP13**, which supports active and healthy modes of transport, including walking and cycling, and which conforms to the NPPF's aims of supporting the transition to a low carbon future and contributing to reductions in greenhouse gases by reducing overdependence on cars. It is supported by projects / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements, and which are intended to make walking and cycling more attractive propositions.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

NPPF Section 15, paras 180 - 194

- 2.25 This chapter of the NPPF promotes the positive impact that planning policies and decisions can have on natural environment, specifically through protection and enhancement of landscapes, biodiversity, character and soil quality. Relevant policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are:
- **Policy DNP6**, which requires appropriate mitigations for any development that would impact upon European designated sites and thus embeds guidance developed by Essex County Council into the Neighbourhood Plan in respect of the coastal environment. This policy also seeks biodiversity net gains in line with the provisions of the Environment Act.
 - **Policy DNP7**, which seeks to conserve and enhance important wildlife corridors across the Parish.

- **Policy DNP9**, which put in place the approach to minimise recreational pressures on SSSIs.
- **Policy DNP11**, which seeks to retain existing trees and hedges as well as supporting the provision of new planting and landscape well integrated with new development.

2.26 Furthermore, the approach taken to site assessment and allocation considered the sensitivity of the environment.

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

NPPF Section 16, paras 195 - 214

2.27 This section of the NPPF promotes the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets to ensure their enjoyment into the future.

2.28 **Policy DNP4** of the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to this in that it establishes design principles which include the requirement for development proposals to respect the distinctive characteristics and qualities of the Plan area as set out in the Danbury Design Guide. It does not though contain wider policies in respect of conservation areas, listed buildings or other heritage assets as these are well covered in national and Local Plan policy and do not need duplicating in the Danbury NDP. However, it does note that there are a number of protected rural lanes in the Parish and that development should avoid detrimental impacts on these.

Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

NPPF Section 17, paras 215 - 223

2.29 The Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies which relate to this NPPF aim, therefore decisions on this matter will need to refer to the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan and the Essex Minerals Local Plan.

3. Sustainable Development

Achieving sustainable development

- 3.1 The NPPF, at paragraph 7, states that the *'purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'*. Sustainable development is defined as *'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'*.
- 3.2 The NPPF views sustainability as made up of three objectives: economic, social and environmental. These objectives are interdependent and should be pursued in mutually supportive ways. The objectives are:
- *Economic*: 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.
 - *Social*: to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.
 - *Environmental*: to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 3.3 The following sections summarise how the objectives and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan contribute toward sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF. This demonstrates that the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic and environmental goals.

Economic objectives

NPPF definition:

3.4 *'Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

3.5 **Objective 5, Business and Economy:** To maintain existing businesses and encourage new economic growth and local employment opportunities, including working from home, to meet and support village needs.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies and aspirations:

- Policy DNP15: New Employment Development
- Table 4: Aspirations for Business and Economy

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Economic objectives:

- 3.6 The Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of local employment opportunities to the economy of the area and supports existing and new business activities where it is appropriate to the scale and character of the area, and is well integrated with and accessible to the existing community. Policies also extend to supporting opportunities for home working.
- 3.7 Furthermore, the Neighbourhood Plan includes policies in respect of the provision of digital infrastructure. Improvements to the quality of broadband speeds and mobile reception will support the activities of local businesses, including home working, as well as the ability of local residents to access services and support they need.

Social objectives

NPPF definition:

3.8 *'Support strong, vibrant and healthy communities'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

- 3.9 **Objective 1, Housing and Development:** To ensure there is a mix of house types, size and high-quality housing provision for all ages, which meets the development needs of Danbury. It will also be appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish, with the distinct and separate identity of Danbury retained. Green energy in new developments will be encouraged.
- 3.10 **Objective 3, Transport and Movement:** To promote clean, attractive, safe streets and spaces, seeking creative solutions to the traffic issues that currently affect

Danbury, encouraging active and sustainable transport modes, addressing parking issues and improvements to footways where possible.

- 3.11 **Objective 4, Recreation and Leisure:** To improve Danbury's recreation and leisure facilities and increase provision where a shortfall exists.
- 3.12 **Objective 7, Amenities:** To ensure that important amenities are retained and sufficient for the future needs of residents.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies and aspirations:

- Policy DNP1: Housing Site Allocations (and associated Site Specific Policies A – E)
- Policy DNP2: Housing type, mix and design
- Policy DNP8: Open Spaces
- Policy DNP13: Connection to Sustainable Transport and Village Amenities
- Policy DNP14: Provision of Recreational Facilities
- Policy DNP17: Proposals for new or improved amenities
- Table 2: Aspirations for Connectivity
- Table 3: Aspirations for Recreation and Leisure
- Table 6: Aspirations for Amenities

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Social objectives:

- 3.13 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of policies that support social inclusion, health and wellbeing. In particular, it allocates land for new housing to meet the identified need for the Parish as set out in the Chelmsford Local Plan. It also includes policies that support delivery of a balanced mix of homes that respond to local housing needs in terms of housing size and tenure, with a focus on homes for younger families and older people.
- 3.14 The Plan also seeks to protect and enhance community facilities, being places which support community interaction. The Plan acknowledges that these facilities and delivery of active travel routes connected with them can contribute towards good placemaking and a healthier society.

Environmental objectives

NPPF definition:

3.15 *'Contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment'*

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

- 3.16 **Objective 1, Housing and Development:** To ensure there is a mix of house types, size and high-quality housing provision for all ages, which meets the development needs of Danbury. It will also be appropriate to the scale and nature of the Parish, with the distinct and separate identity of Danbury retained. Green energy in new developments will be encouraged.
- 3.17 **Objective 2, Environment:** To seek protection, conservation, and enhancement of this significant element of Danbury's character, open spaces, multifunctional green infrastructure and local lanes.
- 3.18 **Objective 3: Transport and Movement:** To promote clean, attractive, safe streets and spaces, seeking creative solutions to the traffic issues that currently affect Danbury, encouraging active and sustainable transport modes, addressing parking issues and improvements to footways where possible.
- 3.19 **Objective 6, Heritage:** Conserve and enhance Danbury's historic environment which contribute to the village. Development should respond positively to and contribute to the special character and qualities that help define Danbury.

Relevant Neighbourhood Plan Policies and aspirations:

- Policy DNP3: Sustainable Housing Design
- Policy DNP4: Built Form
- Policy DNP5: Street Scene
- Policy DNP6: Environment and Biodiversity
- Policy DNP7: Wildlife Corridors
- Policy DNP9: Recreational Pressure on Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Policy DNP10: Light Pollution and Night Skies
- Policy DNP11: Trees and Hedges
- Policy DNP12: Danbury Key Views Identified
- Policy DNP13: Connection to Sustainable Transport and Village Amenities
- Policy DNP16: Protected Lanes
- Table 1: Aspirations for the Environment
- Table 5: Aspirations for Heritage Assets

Commentary on how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the NPPF Environmental objectives:

- 3.20 The Neighbourhood Plan has a strong focus on the environmental qualities of the Plan area. It seeks to protect natural features, mitigate the impacts of climate change through provision of sustainable building design, deliver new green infrastructure and points developers towards use of the Natural England biodiversity metric in order to deliver biodiversity net-gains.
- 3.21 The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan seek to influence the design and location of new development, such that it is appropriately sited in response to constraints and access to services and facilities, that it reflects the defining qualities and characteristics of the area, and helps create socially inclusive spaces that encourage use of active and healthy modes of travel, and where green infrastructure is incorporated into the public realm. Alongside these, it also seeks to minimise recreational pressures on SSSIs and light pollution on night skies.
- 3.22 Furthermore, the suite of access policies seek to support a move away from use of the private car and thus helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change through motorised travel.

4. The Development Plan

Introduction

- 4.1 For Neighbourhood Plans to meet the Basic Conditions set out in the Neighbourhood Planning regulations they need to demonstrate general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan.
- 4.2 The NPPF establishes what should be covered by a strategic policy in a Local Plan. It states that such policies should provide a clear starting point for any non-strategic policies that are needed and should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies. It states (at paragraph 20) that such policies should help to deliver:
- Housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure, and other commercial development;
 - Infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - Community facilities (such as health and cultural infrastructure); and
 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Adopted Local Plan

- 4.3 The Chelmsford Local Plan was adopted in May 2020, covering the period 2013 to 2036. The Danbury Neighbourhood Plan aims to build on the policies contained within the Local Plan by providing neighbourhood level planning policy where it has been found appropriate.

Strategic policies

- 4.4 The Local Plan includes thirteen strategic policies which are clearly identified in the index to the Local Plan. Insofar as they are relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan, commentary is set out below on how the Neighbourhod Plan policies are in conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.
- 4.5 The Local Plan also includes a series of Strategic Policies in respect of Growth Sites and Allocations, of which one is relevant to Danbury. This is also commented upon in the table below.

Local Plan Policy (Strategic policies)	Danbury Neighbourhood Plan policy conformity
<p>S1: Spatial Principles</p>	<p>This Local Plan policy seeks to direct development to the most sustainable locations, respect the character of the landscape and environment and ensure development is deliverable.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan allocates land for development. All sites were subject to a site assessment. Criteria for assessment included sites making best use of land and being within or adjacent to the existing built form and thus close to services and facilities, minimising loss of land. This is reflected in the allocations listed in Policy DNP1 of the Neighbourhood Plan and the criteria associated with individual sites in Site Specific Policies A – E. Through the assessment process, sites were considered in terms of their suitability, availability and achievability. All sites allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan are deliverable. Furthermore, Policy DNP4 requires development to reflect local character, drawing on the recommendations set out in the Danbury Design Guide.</p>
<p>S2: Addressing Climate Change and Flood Risk</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is aligned with various elements of this Local Plan policy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DNP3 supports use of sustainable building design and construction, which links to Local Plan principles in respect of design and construction techniques that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. • Policy DNP13 supports walking and cycling as an alternative to use of the car. This aligns with Local Plan principles in respect of providing for sustainable travel modes. This is developed further in the NDP through projects and aspirations in respect of new walking and cycling routes, and road safety improvements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies DNP6, DNP7 and DNP9 which seeks to preserve and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity, and provide new green infrastructure and wildlife spaces. This is aligned with Local Plan principles in respect of new habitat creation. <p>The NDP does not include policies in relation to flood risk given these matters are well covered at national level and in Local Plan policies. It is also noted that Defra has announced that the use of Sustainable drainage systems will become mandatory later this year through amendment to the Water Management Act. The NDP does not seek to duplicate this suite of policies.</p>
<p>S3: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment</p>	<p>The NDP does not seek to duplicate existing national guidance and Local Plan policy in respect of heritage assets. However, Policy DNP4 does respond to this Strategic Policy through the establishment of design principles that requires new development to respond to the character of the area as identified in the Danbury Design Guide and thus expresses support for those development proposals which respect the historic context of the Parish and require new development to respond positively to the character of the surrounding area. Furthermore, Policy DNP17 seeks to conserve the character and setting of rural lanes which are important to the historic character of the Parish.</p>
<p>S4: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p>	<p>Policy DNP6 of the NDP is well aligned with this Local Plan policy, requiring developments to deliver a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain, and to provide appropriate mitigations in line with the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy. Furthermore, Policy DNP7 seeks to conserve and enhance wildlife corridors and the network of connected green spaces in the Parish, Policy DNP9 establishes an approach to mitigating the potential impacts of development on SSSI in Danbury, and Policy</p>

	DNP11 seeks to retain existing trees and hedges, integrating these in new development.
S5: Protecting and Enhancing Community Assets	The NDP is well aligned with this strategy policy through Policy DNP14 which seeks to protect existing community facilities but also provide support for new and improved facilities.
S6: Housing and Employment Requirements	The NDP is in conformity with this strategic policy through Policy DNP1 and Site Specific Policies A – E which allocate land for the delivery of new homes, meeting the identified need for Danbury set out in the Local Plan. Furthermore, Policy DNP2 supports delivery of a balanced mix of housing types and tenures to meet local needs, and Policy DNP16 which welcomes proposals for small-scale employment opportunities as well as proposals for employment activity within existing defined business areas.
S7: The Spatial Strategy	In this strategic policy, Danbury is identified as a ‘key service settlement outside of the Green Belt’ and where it is expected that around 100 new homes should be accommodated over the Plan period. This is reflected in Policy DNP1 and Site Specific Policies A – E of the Neighbourhood Plan, which allocate sites for new housing. It is also noted that windfall sites might come forward. This is reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan through Policy DNP2 which establishes criteria in terms of housing type and tenure. The Strategic Policy also notes that development should respect the distinctive character of settlements and avoid coalescence. This is reflected in Policy DNP4 which establishes principles in respect of the design and character of development
S8: Delivering Economic Growth	Policy DNP16 is aligned with this strategic policy in that it supports development for new business, the expansion or diversification of existing

	<p>businesses. This policy also supports economic growth by requiring new development to be capable of being connected to high speed mobile and broadband connections, supporting business and home working.</p>
<p>S9: Infrastructure Requirements</p>	<p>The strategic policy lists provides a long list of infrastructure to be provided by new development. This includes the need for new development to be supported by sustainable means of transport. This is reflected in Policy DNP13 which supports measures that encourage walking and cycling, as well as project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements and road safety improvements.</p> <p>The strategic policy also refers to community facilities, green infrastructure and communications. This is reflected in the NDP through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DNP14, which seeks to protect existing community facilities but also provide support for new and improved facilities. • Policy DNP8, which supports provision of new green infrastructure, particularly where it is multi-functional, providing for play and wildlife benefits. • Policies DNP3, DNP15 and DNP16, which all require development to be capable of received high speed mobile and broadband connections.
<p>S10: Securing Infrastructure and Impact Mitigation</p>	<p>The Local Plan sets out the process for securing infrastructure improvements and mitigations, through the use of financial contributions, on or off-site provision, and or the provision of land.</p> <p>The NDP does not include a policy in this respect and thus defers to Local Plan policy. The NDP does though include a set of community ambitions towards which the neighbourhood portion of CIL might be directed.</p>

<p>S11: The Role of the Countryside</p>	<p>The Local Plan notes that outside of urban areas / defined settlements and the Green Belt, the character and beauty of rural areas should not be adversely impacted. This is reflected in the NDP in Policy DNP12 which identified important views into and out of the village and where visual impacts caused by development should be minimised. It also seeks to minimise the impact of light pollution on night skies, through Policy DNP10, and at Policy DNP7, identified important wildlife corridors which should be conserved and enhance. These corridors provide important routes through the countryside. Furthermore, Policy DNP4 and Policy DNP5 require the design of development to have regard to the character of Danbury, including its rural setting.</p>
<p>S12: Role of City, Town and Neighbourhood Centres</p>	<p>This policy establishes a retail hierarchy and seeks to strengthen the role and function of various centres. The Local Plan policies map indicates those parts of Danbury designated as having a retail frontage forming part of a neighbourhood centre and which are considered to have an important retail, business and community role. Policy DNP16 of the NDP supports proposal for small-scale businesses and is supplemented by Policy DNP14 and Policy DNP15 which support proposals for amenities that serve the needs of residents. Policy DNP13 is also linked with this as it seeks improved connections from new developments to local facilities and amenities, supporting their use for day-to-day needs.</p>
<p>S13: Monitoring and Review</p>	<p>This policy states that the implementation of policies in the Local Plan will be monitored, and commits to a review of the Plan. Although not forming a policy in the NDP, the NDP reflects this commitment to review by stating that it will be reviewed and updated as appropriate, including upon adoption of the new Local Plan or when</p>

	<p>other matters may trigger a review, such as changes to national policy.</p>
<p>Strategic Growth Site Policy 13: Danbury</p>	<p>This policy notes that land for around 100 homes will be accommodated in Danbury through allocations to be identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. This Neighbourhood Plan fulfils this requirement through Policy DNP1 and Site Specific Policies A – E.</p> <p>The Strategic Policy also establishes important considerations for masterplanning in terms of avoiding impacts on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and to secure contributions towards mitigation measures identified in the Essex Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a specific policy in respect of RAMS as this is set out in the Local Plan and associated SPD, although the NDP does refer to the need for contributions towards mitigation measures in Policy DNP6. The NDP also includes, at Policy DNP9, criteria in respect of SSSIs and how recreational pressures on these should be addressed through development proposals. Site Specific Policies A – E also include a set of principles and masterplan considerations that should be followed to inform an appropriate design response to the site which responds to site specific matters, including environmental constraints.</p>

Emerging Local Plan

- 4.6 The review of the Local Plan commenced in 2022 with consultation on an Issues and Options version of the Plan undertaken between August and October 2022. This will extend the Plan period to 2041. The Chelmsford Local Development Scheme (November 2023) envisages consultation on the Regulation 18 version of the Local Plan taking place in the first half of 2024, with Examination in late 2025 and adoption by early 2026. At the time of writing the Regulation 18 version has not yet commenced. The Issues and Options Consultation sets out a series of spatial

options for future growth and which may impact on the approach to be taken forward in Danbury. The options need to be fully assessed and tested by Chelmsford City Council before consideration can be given as to the implications for the Neighbourhood Plan. Once the new Local Plan has examined and adopted, a review of the Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken as required.

5. Sustainability Assessment and Appraisal

SEA / HRA

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan was subject to SEA Screening and consultation with the Statutory Consultees in 2018. It was undertaken by Chelmsford City Council on behalf of the Parish, with the final Screening Report published in February 2019.
- 5.2 The Screening Report concluded that a full Strategic Environmental Assessment was necessary to determine the likely scale and significance of environmental impacts associated with the site allocation process being undertaken through the Plan. This was supported by the Statutory Consultees. In summary, the views of the Statutory Consultees were:
- Environment Agency: There are a number of significant environmental constraints within the Danbury Parish boundary that will need to be assessed.
 - Historic England: There are a range of designated heritage assets in the Plan Area, including a number of very high significance, with the potential for significant effects (both positive and negative).
 - Natural England: There are SSSIs within Danbury Parish, and the Plan should also take account of the emerging (now adopted) Essex Coast Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).
- 5.3 Reports prepared as part of the SEA process are presented as free-standing appendices to this Basic Conditions Statement. These detail the assessment undertaken and conclusions reached, which are reflected in the Neighbourhood Plan through the policies and sites taken forward for allocation.
- 5.4 In terms of HRA, Chelmsford City Council confirmed that this was not needed for the Neighbourhood Plan, stating that the 'appropriate assessment' undertaken for the Local Plan was sufficient for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan. This advice is presented in the appendix to the Basic Conditions Statement.

'Light touch' Sustainability Appraisal

- 5.5 Even though the need for SEA has been triggered by the Neighbourhood Plan, a 'light touch' Sustainability Appraisal (SA), proportionate with the Neighbourhood Plan, has also been prepared. This reflects best practice and is based upon the sustainability objectives prepared by Chelmsford City Council for the purposes of the adopted Local Plan.
- 5.6 The objectives are listed in the table below, alongside which commentary is provided indicating how the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan responds to these objectives. This demonstrates that the Neighbourhood Plan responds positively to the objectives and will thus help contribute to the delivery of sustainable development in Danbury through its blend of policies that will deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

Chelmsford SA Objective	Danbury Neighbourhood Plan Response
<p>Biodiversity and Geodiversity: To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and promote improvements to the green infrastructure network.</p>	<p>Policy DNP6 of the Neighbourhood Plan requires contributions from all qualifying developments towards mitigation measures set out in the Essex RAMS. The policy also seeks diversity net gains and supports provision of these on-site or, where not practicable, within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Policy DNP7 expands this by identifying important wildlife corridors where development should conserve and enhance the network of habitats. In addition, Policy DNP9 sets out an approach to minimising the impact of development on SSSIs in Danbury and, at Policy DNP11, the importance of retaining and avoiding loss of trees and hedges is recognised.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Housing: To meet the housing needs of the Chelmsford City Area and deliver decent homes.</p>	<p>Policy DNP1 and associated Policies SSPA – SSPE allocate land to meet the housing need for Danbury as set out in the Chelmsford Local Plan. Policy DNP2 also states the proposals for new homes should include a balanced mix of housing types and tenures that meet local needs, specifically for younger families and older persons.</p>

	<p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Economy, Skills and Employment: To achieve a strong and stable economy which offers rewarding and well located employment opportunities to everyone.</p>	<p>Policy DNP16 of the Neighbourhood Plan supports proposals for new employment development where it is well integrated with the built form and which is particularly supportive of proposals for new small-scale businesses and opportunities that support home-working. This includes the provision of high speed mobile and broadband connections to support employment activities.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Sustainable Living and Revitalisation: To promote urban renaissance and support the vitality of rural centres, tackle deprivation and promote sustainable living.</p>	<p>The sites allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan at Policy DNP1 have been subject to assessment which included preference for the reuse of previously developed land and infill opportunities, sites within or immediately adjacent to the settlement boundary, where impacts on the local highway are minimised, and where they are well-connected to village amenities. Policy DNP13 supports delivery of active and sustainable travel measures which improve connections to village amenities by modes other than by private car, and Policies DNP14 and DNP15 seek to protect existing social and community facilities as well as welcome opportunities for new facilities that support day-to-day needs.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing: To improve the health and wellbeing of those living and working in the Chelmsford City Area.</p>	<p>Policy DNP13 supports provision of walking and cycling routes and thus active and healthy travel. This is further supported by project / aspirations in respect of walking and cycling improvements and road safety improvements, and which will make active travel a more attractive proposition.</p> <p>Policies DNP14 and DNP15 seek to protect and improve community facilities, including those used for recreation, and support provision of new facilities, particularly where they are accessible to all and provide</p>

	<p>for a range of uses. This is further supported by project / aspirations for a new recreational cycling facilities in the area.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Transport: To reduce the need to travel, promote more sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.</p>	<p>Policy DNP13 supports development that makes provision for walking and cycling. It is supported by project / aspirations in respect of improved walking and cycling routes as well as improvements to road safety, and which will thus make active travel a more attractive proposition.</p> <p>This is also reflected in the approach taken to assessing and allocating sites for development in the Neighbourhood Plan, with those in close proximity and well-connected to existing services and facilities being preferred.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Land Use and Soils: To encourage the efficient use of land and conserve and enhance soils</p>	<p>The site assessment process undertaken to inform the allocation of sites considered the impact on most sensitive conditions and avoiding harm to the landscape, with the development of all sites required, at Policy DNP6, to contribute towards mitigation measures identified in the Essex RAMS.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective</i></p>
<p>Water: To conserve and enhance water quality and resources.</p>	<p>At Policy DNP3 the Neighbourhood Plan expresses support for development that meets high energy and efficiency standards. Wider policies with regard to the conservation and enhancement of water quality and resources are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Danbury.</p>

	<p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective</i></p>
<p>Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion: To reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to people and property, taking into account the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Policies in respect of flood risk and coastal erosion are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Danbury. However, the site assessment process sought to rule out those sites in areas at high risk from flooding. Furthermore, Policy DNP4 states that development should incorporate green infrastructure, including green roofs and walls, which can provide water storage capacity and flood alleviation measures. Equally, Policy DNP8 notes that where the need for new green space is triggered by the scale of development, then this should ideally include measures that help minimise surface water run-off.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Air: To improve air quality.</p>	<p>The NDP is set in the context of the 'Climate and Climate Emergency' declared by Chelmsford City Council in July 2019. In recognition of the above, a range of NDP policies seek to address and mitigate climate change effects, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DNP13, which supports active and healthy modes of transport, reducing reliance on the private car and, in return reducing impacts of car use on air quality. • Policy DNP3, which supports development that incorporates sustainable building design and materials, minimising waste and carbon emissions. • Policies DNP6, DNP9 and DNP11 which seek to protect and enhance the natural environment, minimise the impacts on these from development, and thus retain and provide new trees and other natural features that help contribute to positive air quality.

	<p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Climate Change: To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Policy DNP3 supports proposals for development that make use of sustainable design and construction methods, minimising carbon emissions and the effects of heating and cooling on buildings.</p> <p>Policy DNP13 supports active and healthy forms of travel, as an alternative to the use of the private car. Equally, Policy DNP16 supports proposal for employment development where car travel and the impact of HGV movements are minimised, and where existing buildings might be retrofitted to include renewable energy technology.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy DNP6 requires a minimum biodiversity net gain to be provided by qualifying developments, preferably on site or, if not practicable, within the Plan area.</p> <p><i>The Neighbourhood Plan is considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Waste and Natural Resources: To promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) and ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>	<p>Policies with regard to waste, refuse, recycling and natural resources are established in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Danbury. However, Policy DNP3 does support the use of sustainable building design and construction methods in new developments, including the re-use and recycling of materials to minimise waste.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a neutral effect on the achievement of this objective.</i></p>
<p>Cultural Heritage: To conserve and enhance the historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting.</p>	<p>Policy DNP4 requires development to respond to the character and identity of Danbury and surrounding landscape, reflecting the colour and materials palette common to the area and respecting the scale of existing buildings. Policy DNP17 is specifically focused on protected rural lanes in the Parish and where the impacts of development should be minimised. It is</p>

	<p>supported by a set of aspirations, including additional lanes that should be protected as well as a list of non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>Wider policies in the Local Plan set out the approach to conservation, listed buildings and heritage assets. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to repeat or add to those policies as they are considered to appropriately cover the challenges for Danbury.</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>
<p>Landscape and Townscape: To conserve and enhance landscape character and townscapes.</p>	<p>Policy DNP4 requires development to respond to the character and identity of Danbury and surrounding landscape, reflecting the colour and materials palette common to the area and respecting the scale of the existing built form. This is expanded upon in Policy DNP5 which seeks to ensure that change within the street scene, including the frontages of properties, is sensitive to the context. Policy DNP10 seeks to minimise the impact on the character of Danbury by limiting light pollution and Policy DNP12 identified a series of key views around Danbury which form part of the character and identity of the Parish, and where the visual impact of development should be minimised</p> <p><i>The policies and projects in the Neighbourhood Plan are considered to result in a Minor Positive Effect.</i></p>

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 6.2 It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Neighbourhood Plan complies with the Basic Conditions, and, subject to any modifications recommended by the Examiner, should proceed to referendum.

Appendix A:

Neighbourhood Plan Designation

The Neighbourhood Area was designated on 9 June 2016 at the meeting of the Chelmsford City Council Development Policy Committee.

The Committee considered applications for the designation of Broomfield and Danbury Parishes at the same meeting. The minutes of agenda item 9 state:

Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation for Broomfield and Danbury

The Committee considered a report outlining the response to public consultation on Neighbourhood Plan Area Designations for Broomfield and Danbury and whether to agree to formally designate the areas.

The Committee was advised that this was the first stage in the process and was the technical stage. It was noted that both applications met the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act and both had been publicised and promoted. Whilst the response had been low this was normal.

The Committee generally welcomed these applications. It was established that Broomfield Parish Council would, in principle, consult Local Ward members for St Andrews and Patching Hall Wards when considering ongoing proposals for housing etc as this would affect those wards.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The response to the public consultation on Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation for Broomfield and Danbury is noted;*
- 2. The application by Broomfield Parish Council to designate the proposed areas as the boundary for the Neighbourhood Plan is approved; and*
- 3. The application by Danbury Parish Council to designate the proposed areas as the boundary for the Neighbourhood Plan is approved.*

Appendix B: SEA

Reports associated with the SEA process are presented as free-standing appendices to the Basic Conditions Statement.

Appendix C: HRA

Redacted correspondence from Chelmsford City Council is presented overleaf, confirming that a separate HRA is not necessary for the Danbury Neighbourhood Plan.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 April 2022 12:01
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Habitats Regulations Assessment for Danbury Neighbourhood Plan

Hello [REDACTED],

Thanks for your call last week. You won't need to carry out a separate HRA for your allocation sites.

Each site allocation policy will need to contain the following criterion:

- Where appropriate, contributions from development will be secured towards mitigation measures identified in the Essex Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). Contributions will be sought by Chelmsford City Council, where appropriate, from proposed residential development to deliver all measures identified (including strategic measures) through project level HRAs, or otherwise, to mitigate any recreational disturbance impacts in compliance with the Habitats Regulations and Habitats Directive.

Background:

The purpose of a Habitats Regulations Assessment is to ensure that a plan does not result in any adverse effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The European sites for this area are as follows:

Crouch and Roach Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) / Ramsar

Blackwater Estuary SPA / Ramsar

Foulness SPA / Ramsar;

Dengie SPA / Ramsar; and the associated areas of the Essex Estuaries Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA / Ramsar

Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA / Ramsar

An 'appropriate assessment' was carried out for the Local Plan, and the Council concluded that the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This conclusion has been accepted by Natural England following formal consultation and Examination in Public and the Council has adopted the Local Plan on this basis.

So, any site allocations made in the DNP would not impact on any of these European sites as they are a considerable distance away with no reasonable pathways for effects to occur. However, some recreational pressure cannot be excluded (people accessing the coast for recreation), so the Council committed to a county-wide approach to prepare and adopt the Essex Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). This was adopted in May 2020: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/essex-coast-rams/>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer (Planning and Housing Policy)

Directorate For Sustainable Communities

Chelmsford City Council

[REDACTED]
www.chelmsford.gov.uk

Danbury Parish Council

Danbury Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement, March 2024

Danbury Parish Council

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Chelmsford

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