



WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018-2033
Basic Conditions Statement

DECEMBER 2017

WALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN: BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT.

1. Legal Requirements

1.1 This Statement has been prepared by Walton Parish Council to accompany its submission to the Local Planning Authority, Leeds City Council, of the Walton Neighbourhood Development Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

1.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Walton Parish Council, a qualifying body, for the Neighbourhood Area, largely covering Walton parish, as designated by Leeds City Council on 17th September 2012. Following 2014 changes to the parish boundary shared between Walton and nearby Thorp Arch, it was mutually agreed between both Parish Councils that for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, the designated Neighbourhood Area for each respective Parish both preparing neighbourhood plans, would remain unchanged.

1.3 The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area only. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan extends until the end of 2033 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations.

1.4 This Statement addresses each of the four ‘basic conditions’ required by the Regulations and explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.

1.5 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:

- * 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.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Walton is located in the rural north east of the city of Leeds. Walton village is modest in size but the parish itself covers a significant area of farmed countryside stretching to the border with North Yorkshire (Harrogate District) and a significant local centre in the form of the town of Wetherby. In addition, the parish has a large and significant employment zone, the Thorp Arch Estate which employs around 2,000 people. According to the 2011 census, there are 225 people living in Walton.

2.2 The neighbourhood planning process, which commenced in 2012, has developed a coherent vision for the future of the parish:

“By 2033 Walton will have maintained its unique identity, its beauty and charm as well as enjoying an enhanced community spirit, resulting from investment in new and existing facilities.

New homes will have attracted new residents as well as enabling existing residents to remain in the community. Transformed transport and communications infrastructure will have made Walton an even better place to live and work in than today.”

2.3 In addition it has developed policies under the following key themes:

- Heritage and green spaces (HG)
- Community facilities (CF)
- Transport (T)
- Housing (H)
- Business and employment (BE)

2.4 After consultation with the community, a draft Neighbourhood Plan was produced and between 19th August and 6th October 2017 the Regulation 14 (pre-submission) consultation was undertaken. Responses from this consultation have been considered, and some minor changes made to the policies in the plan as a result. It is now ready to be submitted to Leeds City Council, the Local Planning Authority.

3. Conformity with National Planning Policy

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of April 2012. It is also mindful of the National Planning Guidance (NPPG) published by the Government in April 2014 in respect of formulating Neighbourhood Practice Plans.

3.2 Set out in Table 1 below, is a brief summary of how each policy has regard to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

Table 1: Walton NDP conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
Heritage and Green spaces (HG)			
HG1: Local Green Spaces	<p><i>“In accordance with national policy on Green Belts, the following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces where new development will only be allowed in very special circumstances:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LGS1 Churchyard</i> • <i>LGS2 West of Village Hall</i> • <i>LGS3 Ridge and Furrow field”</i> 	<p>Chapter 8 “Promoting healthy communities” Paras 69, 70, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78.</p>	<p>The NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating healthy, inclusive communities. In particular, this chapter of the NPPF highlights the opportunity for positive planning for provision and protection against the loss of shared spaces and community facilities. The opportunity is afforded to local communities writing a neighbourhood plan to designate special green areas as ‘Local Green Space’. The Walton NDP has considered candidates for such a designation and policy HG1 reflects the conclusions of this process. Additional sites were considered and discounted through non compliance with NPPF 78 or as a result of considered and positive consultation with landowners (i.e. cricket club and associated areas).</p> <p>The policy conforms with the NPPF having carefully analysed potential sites for designation and recorded these in the evidence base accompanying the Plan.</p>
HG2: New Green Spaces	<p><i>“New housing developments will look to incorporate additional green space opportunities through their layout, design and configuration. Developments will look to mitigate the identified green space deficiency in Walton and this falls in line with the Leeds City Council strategy.</i></p> <p><i>a) New green space provision should seek to address the deficit within provision in the parish as identified in Table 1 as well as</i></p>	<p>Chapter 8 “Promoting healthy communities” Paras 69, 70, 73.</p>	<p>As above, the NPPF in Chapter 8 emphasises the opportunity to develop places and spaces for community engagement and activity which are safe and accessible, including high quality open spaces and the need to address deficits where identified.</p> <p>The policy identifies and records deficits in green space provision in the parish. It is associated with the proposed housing allocations and policies in the Housing section and the potential for new provision</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>matching the needs of the community as identified through consultation.</i></p> <p><i>b) New green spaces should be well-connected with other residential area and other community facilities.”</i></p>		<p>where new homes are planned.</p>
<p>HG3: Local non-designated heritage assets</p>	<p><i>“The following assets have been identified for conservation. Any development proposal should have regard to how it might impact the sustainability of the heritage assets.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>West Riding road sign post</i> • <i>Ammuition magazines</i> • <i>Legacy World War 2 pill Box</i> • <i>Opening to a blast screen</i> • <i>Rudgate – Roman road.”</i> 	<p>Chapter 12 “Conserving and enhancing the historic environment”</p> <p>Paras 126, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 140.</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the need to set out a positive strategy for conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. In particular, the need for development proposals to assess the impact of any proposals upon heritage assets affected, including ‘non designated heritage assets’.</p> <p>The Plan has assessed potential non designated assets across the neighbourhood area and has taken advice from Historic England in relation to assets identified on the Thorp Arch Estate. It has assessed and recorded the significance of the identified non-designated assets in seeking their conservation. Some contenders were discounted following careful consideration against the NPPF or following discussion with Historic England.</p>
<p>HG4: Design in the village centre</p>	<p><i>“Development proposals should be in keeping with the parish’s existing built environment design and character. The following key features should be conserved:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Historic boundary walls</i> • <i>The remaining and existing medieval pattern of crofts and tofts that run at right angles to Main Street.</i> <p><i>In addition, development proposals should:</i></p>	<p>Chapter 7 “Requiring good design”</p> <p>Paras 56, 57, 58, 59, 61.</p> <p>Chapter 12 “Conserving and</p>	<p>The NPPF emphasizes the importance of good design as a key aspect of sustainable development in making places ‘better for people’.</p> <p>The Plan has assessed important design features for conservation as well as recognizing the significance of the Walton Conservation Area and seeks to conserve it and reflect design in new development in order to seek consistency of good design across the neighbourhood area.</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use materials and building methods in keeping with those used in existing buildings in the immediate locality.</i> • <i>Reflect, respect and be consistent with styles and designs which predominate within the Conservation Area.</i> • <i>Consider the impact of the proposal on neighbouring properties.</i> • <i>Be inspired by and respect the landscape setting, including topography and features such as mature trees, becks and hedgerows, as described in the Character and Heritage appraisal at Appendix 1."</i> 	<p>enhancing the historic environment"</p> <p>Paras 126, 137, 138.</p>	
HG5: Key views	<p><i>"Development proposals should respect and maintain key views as identified on maps 3 and 4, in order to maintain the character and appearance of the village. Particular attention should be paid to the views of St.Peter's Church, which is prominent from all directions due to its elevated position."</i></p>	<p>Chapter 12 "Conserving and enhancing the historic environment"</p> <p>Paras 126, 137, 138.</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the need for positive planning in relation to the historic environment. In doing so, importance is placed upon the need to ensure that development proposals preserve the setting of key elements of the historic environment.</p> <p>The Plan recognises the visual and historic significance of the parish church in the heritage of the village and in the landscape. A comprehensive assessment, based upon work previously undertaken for the Conservation Area Appraisal, has been undertaken and key views recorded.</p>
HG6: Former Thorp Arch Royal Ordnance Filling Factory	<p><i>"Thorp Arch Estate is the most complete remaining example in England of a Second World War Royal Ordnance Filling Factory (ROFF), in extent, surviving layout and range of structures.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 7 "Requiring good design"</p>	<p>The NPPF advises on the need to plan positively for good design as well as the significant benefits of conserving the historic environment. This extends beyond established Conservation Areas (or World Heritage Sites)</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>In order to recognise this national significance, a design code and design parameters should be developed in partnership with Leeds City Council, Walton Parish Council, the owners of the Estate and Historic England, in order to provide a robust framework for bringing forward the detailed aspects of any future development.”</i></p>	<p>Paras 56, 57, 58, 59, 61.</p> <p>Chapter 12 “Conserving and enhancing the historic environment”</p> <p>Paras 126, 137, 138, 139.</p>	<p>and includes non-designated assets of archaeological interest.</p> <p>Advised by Historic England, the Plan recognises the significance of the former ROFF and policy HG6 seeks to promote sustainable growth which recognises its heritage assets, in partnership with all stakeholders.</p>
Community facilities (CF)			
CF1: Protecting existing community assets	<p><i>“The parish Council will nominate the following assets of community value and subject to satisfying the criteria of the Localism Act and acceptance by Leeds City Council, they will be adopted and protected as such. The change of use of these assets will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that reasonable efforts have been made to secure their continued use for the current purposes and/or alternative provision is made:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St.Peter’s Church</i> • <i>The Village Hall</i> • <i>The Fox and Hounds Public House”</i> 	<p>Chapter 8 “Promoting healthy communities”</p> <p>Paras 69, 70, 73, 74.</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the role the planning system can play in promoting social interaction, including delivering and guarding against the loss of social, recreational and cultural facilities needed by the community.</p> <p>Based upon assessment of facilities available to the community, the Plan identifies and seeks to maintain important local assets that contribute to community vitality.</p>
CF2: New and improved community facilities	<p><i>“Developments that provide improved or new community recreational facilities will be supported where such developments:</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>a) Do not undermine existing local services or other policies set out in this Plan.</i></p>	<p>Chapter 8 “Promoting healthy communities”</p> <p>Paras 69, 70, 73, 74.</p>	<p>As stated above, the NPPF recognises the importance community recreational facilities play in sustainable communities and seeks to protect and enhance community assets where these are shown not to be surplus to requirements or where alternative provision can be made.</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p>b) Are of an appropriate scale so as not to overwhelm their surroundings.</p> <p>c) Incorporates appropriate access and highway safety.”</p>		<p>Associated with new development, the Plan seeks to ensure the community is provided with sufficient facilities designed to maintain and enhance community vitality and sustainability.</p>
Transport (T)			
T1: Traffic management	<p><i>“Development proposal which will directly access onto Wetherby Road, Wighill Lane, School Lane, Main Street, Smiddy Hill or Springs Lane in the village of Walton will be required to make provision for and contribute to traffic calming and control measures in the near vicinity of the development.</i></p> <p><i>These should be appropriate to the size of the development and anticipated traffic volumes resulting from the development.”</i></p>	<p>Chapter 4 “Promoting sustainable transport”</p> <p>Paras 32, 35.</p>	<p>The NPPF promotes sustainable transport and highlights the need to ensure development does not result in unsustainable traffic movements and to promote sustainable modes of transport where practicable.</p> <p>Associated with policy for new housing development, the Plan identifies the desirability of controlling new traffic volume and flow to protect residents and enabling access.</p>
T2: Public Rights of Way	<p><i>“Where feasible, all new housing developments should provide safe pedestrian access to link up with existing or proposed footpaths, ensuring that residents can walk safely to bus stops and other village facilities.</i></p> <p><i>Any new development should demonstrate how it contributes to improved off-road and non motorised accessible routes that:</i></p> <p><i>a) Serve to link the village together.</i></p> <p><i>b) Provide for improved access to the surrounding countryside</i></p>	<p>Chapter 4 “Promoting sustainable transport”</p> <p>Paras 32, 35.</p> <p>Chapter 8 “Promoting healthy communities”</p> <p>Para 75.</p>	<p>As above, the NPPF identifies the need to utilise opportunities for sustainable transport modes in relation to the design and delivery of new developments.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to create new non-motorised links across the village and beyond to provide for sustainable movement of people resident in the parish.</p>

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	c) <i>Link the village to nearby communities and facilities.”</i>		
Housing (H)			
H1: Sites for new homes	<p><i>“The following sites identified on the Policies Map are allocated for providing approximately 20 new homes within the plan period:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Land west of Springs Lane/Walton cricket pitch.</i> • <i>Land south of Main Street (Coal Yard)</i> • <i>Land North of Hall Park Road</i> <p><i>Proposals for development on all allocated sites should adhere to the design principles set out in Appendix 4 'Design Principles and Site Concepts':</i></p> <p>a) <i>Development proposals must be underpinned by a robust analysis of both the village of Walton and of the immediate site context, to inform the scale, massing, form, materials and details of any proposal;</i></p> <p>b) <i>Developments should seek to ensure where possible they offer views of St. Peter's church, or do not obscure existing views of it;</i></p> <p>c) <i>Small grass verges and landscaping are found to the edges of highway throughout Walton and these features should be incorporated into any proposal of a scale which allows them;</i></p> <p>d) <i>Where buildings front main highways</i></p>	<p>Chapter 6 “Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes”</p> <p>Paras 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55.</p> <p>Chapter 7 “Requiring good design”</p> <p>Paras 56, 57, 58, 64.</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the framework for delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. It identifies the need to respond to local circumstances and identified need, and the opportunity new homes provide for sustaining the vitality of communities.</p> <p>From a design perspective, the NPPF stresses the importance of good design as a key component of sustainable development.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to allocate sites to accommodate new homes that will contribute to the sustainability of the community. The numbers of potential new homes - up to 20 – have been identified through extensive community consultation and assessment by the Parish Council. The 3 sites identified as most appropriate to fulfill the needs of the community are matched with policy requirements for design and integration. The sites were identified through extensive engagement with stakeholders, including landowners and the City Council.</p> <p>Planning Practice Guidance states that Neighbourhood Plans can allocate additional sites to those allocated through a Local Plan if a sufficient level of additional need is identified. The need</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>and where developments propose new highway, orientation of dwellings should continue this feature;</i></p> <p><i>e) Variation of the building line to the street will assist in mirroring the character of Walton where existing dwellings have a range of set-backs, from buildings which meet 'back of footpath' through to dwellings with generous front gardens with mature landscaping;</i></p> <p><i>f) Vertical articulation of dwellings and their facades should be dealt with sensitively. Many dwellings in the village benefit from chimneys which add definition to roof lines and also pitched canopies to entrance ways offer articulation to the front facade, joining the ground and first stories;</i></p> <p><i>g) Landscape treatments within front gardens are a strong visual feature of streets within Walton, and a landscape plan for a development of any size should be considered from the outset, with plants, shrubs and trees provided with space to mature within the built form layout."</i></p>		<p>identified through the emerging Local Plan does not address the sustainability of Walton and the Parish Council considers that in order to make Walton a sustainable community, housing provision should increase in Walton.</p> <p>Identified sites are proposed to improve the sustainability of the community and integration of community facilities such as the Cricket ground.</p> <p>Design principles allow for integration with the historic core of the village whilst enabling for new green space.</p>
H2: Land west of Springs Lane / Walton cricket pitch	<p><i>"Proposals for developing this site should accord with the recommendations and conditions stipulated in H1 and the Concept Statement at Appendix 4, including:</i></p> <p><i>a) The assimilation of the site into the</i></p>	Chapter 6 "Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes"	<p>As above. In addition, the NPPF identifies the need to boost the supply of specific, deliverable sites.</p> <p>Emerging from extensive consultation, the proposed</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>landscape should be included in the scheme at an early stage and where existing landscape features do not exist, proposals on this site are required to provide a positive landscape transition between the development and open land.</i></p> <p><i>b) Incorporate measures to ensure connectivity to/ from the main portion of the current settlement.</i></p> <p><i>c) Incorporate all necessary improvements to the highway, including a designated pedestrian footway back into the village.</i></p> <p><i>d) The site must incorporate a publicly accessible open “village green” space that covers at least 40% of the site and designed to prevent parking on it.</i></p> <p><i>e) Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SUDS) as required.</i></p> <p><i>f) Boundary treatments between units should be consistent and reflect those found in the village centre.</i></p> <p><i>g) Utilise materials in construction that are in keeping with the historic core of the village, such as magnesian limestone stonework and pantile roofing.”</i></p>	<p>Paras 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55.</p>	<p>allocation of the site seeks to integrate the Cricket Ground and associated recreational facilities with the village. Creating significant new green space and providing integration into the landscape ensures sustainability and integration with the village.</p>
<p>H3: Land south of Main Street (Coal Yard)</p>	<p><i>“Proposals for developing this site should accord with the recommendations and conditions stipulated in H1 and the Concept Statement at Appendix 4, including:</i></p> <p><i>a) Mature landscape features to the site edge</i></p>	<p>Chapter 6 “Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes”</p>	<p>As above. In addition, the NPPF identifies the need to boost the supply of specific, deliverable sites.</p> <p>The site provides for the re-use of previously</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>are retained and enhanced where possible to assist in screening any development within the site from its surroundings and provide an attractive setting.</i></p> <p><i>b) Current use of the site is likely to leave contamination and therefore this will require remediation.</i></p> <p><i>c) Maintaining suitable aspects to the adjacent land and properties so as not to overwhelm neighbouring properties.</i></p> <p><i>d) Undertake arboricultural surveys to minimise impact upon mature trees bounding the site. Any loss of mature trees should be mitigated by replacement on a one-for- one basis in the vicinity.</i></p> <p><i>e) Utilise materials in construction that are in keeping with the Conservation Area, such as magnesian limestone stonework and pantile roofing.”</i></p>	<p>Paras 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55.</p>	<p>developed land where the former business use was seen to be increasingly inappropriate in a residential area. The modest development provides for integration with the Conservation Area and will improve traffic flow in the village centre.</p>
<p>H4: Land north of Hall Park Road</p>	<p><i>“Proposals for developing this site should accord with the recommendations and conditions stipulated in H1 and the Concept Statement at Appendix 4, including:</i></p> <p><i>a) Amenity of existing dwellings should be considered and protected.</i></p> <p><i>b) Mature trees and other landscape features located within the site should be retained where possible. Any loss of trees will be mitigated through replacement in the vicinity on a one for one basis.</i></p> <p><i>c) The assimilation of the site into the</i></p>	<p>Chapter 6 “Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes”</p> <p>Paras 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 55.</p>	<p>As above. In addition, the NPPF identifies the need to boost the supply of specific, deliverable sites.</p> <p>A small infill development making use of extensive gardens without losing the open aspect of the parish. The policy recognises issues relating to sewerage, thereby avoiding further pressure on existing infrastructure.</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p>landscape to the north should be included in the scheme at an early stage and where existing landscape features do not exist, proposals on this site are required to provide a positive landscape transition between the development and open land.</p> <p>d) Sewerage to be provided 'off-grid' through private drainage systems.</p> <p>e) The development of this site for single-story bungalows that are accessible and adaptable will be supported."</p>		
H5: Residential car parking	<p>"Development proposals should not result in any development having spaces below the standards set by Leeds City Council for new developments. Parking site should be accommodated within the curtilage of the development site."</p>	<p>Chapter 4 "Promoting sustainable transport"</p> <p>Para 39.</p>	<p>The NPPF provides for flexibility in setting local parking standards according to local circumstances, with variables including accessibility and the availability and opportunity for public transport.</p> <p>The policy encourages the provision of sufficient car-parking associated with new development, thereby avoiding cluttering of the existing or new street scene and causing unnecessary problems for local residential amenity.</p>
Business and Employment (BE)			
BE1: Information and Communications Technology	<p>"The provision of technology infrastructure that serves to improve communications networks across the parish, including mobile phone technology, will be supported where such infrastructure is designed to be unobtrusive as is practicable."</p>	<p>Chapter 1 "Building a strong, competitive economy"</p> <p>Paras 19, 21</p> <p>Chapter 3</p>	<p>The NPPF sets out the Government's commitment to securing economic growth to create jobs and prosperity, including, at Chapter 3, the importance of supporting a prosperous and diverse rural economy. Critical to this is supporting a high quality communications infrastructure, including broadband and other telecommunications.</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
		<p>“Supporting a prosperous rural economy”</p> <p>Para 28</p> <p>Chapter 5 “Supporting high quality communications infrastructure”</p> <p>Paras 42, 43, 45.</p>	<p>Policy BE1 provides for filling the gaps in IT infrastructure for the parish for business and for residents alike.</p>
<p>BE2: Supporting employment and enterprise</p>	<p><i>“Proposals that support the development of small scale enterprises, including the diversification of land based businesses, that meet the needs of and are compatible with the rural character of the parish, such as the creation of live-work units, will be supported provided that they:</i></p> <p><i>a) Contribute to the semi-rural character of the local area.</i></p> <p><i>b) Protect residential amenity.</i></p> <p><i>c) Do not adversely impact upon road safety.”</i></p>	<p>Chapter 1 “Building a strong, competitive economy”</p> <p>Paras 19, 21</p> <p>Chapter 3 “Supporting a prosperous rural economy”</p> <p>Para 28.</p>	<p>As above, the NPPF supports a strong and prosperous rural economy as a key driver of sustainable development, including identifying opportunities for diversification of the traditional rural economy.</p> <p>The parish is already home to numerous enterprises. The policy supports unobtrusive development of micro enterprise and SMEs that do not disrupt the essentially rural character of Walton.</p>
<p>BE3: Thorp Arch Estate</p>	<p><i>“The continued growth of small and medium sized enterprises on the Thorp Arch Estate within the curtilage of the estate is supported provided that:</i></p> <p><i>a) The estate is not intensively developed and</i></p>	<p>Chapter 1 “Building a strong, competitive economy”</p>	<p>As above, the NPPF supports a strong rural economy including all types of business and enterprise and the sustainable growth of such.</p>

NDP Policy	Policy wording	NPPF paragraphs(s)	Commentary on conformity with NPPF
	<p><i>maintains its 'parkland' style.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Development does not adversely impact upon the residential areas of the parish in relation to traffic movements, heavy good vehicle presence, excessive noise, light and other forms of pollution.</i></p> <p>c) <i>All future development within the boundaries of the former ROFF should take place within the context and parameters of an agreed design code for the Estate."</i></p>	<p>Paras 19, 21</p> <p>Chapter 3 "Supporting a prosperous rural economy"</p> <p>Para 28</p>	<p>The estate is an important local employer and recognised as such in supporting sustainable growth whilst maintaining the unique characteristics of the estate.</p>

2 General conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan

4.1 The development plan for Walton is the Leeds City Council Core Strategy, adopted in November 2014. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure its general conformity with this and Table 2 below sets out how each policy is in general conformity with the adopted strategic policies.

Table 2: Conformity of Neighbourhood Plan policies with Leeds City Council's Core Strategy

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
Heritage and Green spaces (HG)			
HG1: Local Green Spaces	SP¹³: Strategic Green Infrastructure	SP13 (iii) The Limestone Ridge, identifies the importance of the	The Heritage and Green space theme is aimed at

¹ SP – Spatial Policy

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
	<p>Policy P12: Landscape</p> <p>Policy G6: Protection and redevelopment of existing green space</p>	<p>strategic green infrastructure corridor running north-south along the eastern edge of the District, encompassing the neighbourhood area of Walton.</p> <p>P12 Identifies the importance of townscapes and landscape for both historical and cultural significance and that the character, quality...of landscapes...will be conserved and enhanced to protect their distinctiveness.</p> <p>G6 Protects green spaces from development, including where there is an identified deficit in provision.</p> <p>W NDP policy HG1 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in identifying and designating important local green spaces for their importance to cultural, recreational and heritage aspects of the neighbourhood area.</p>	<p>maintaining and increasing accessible green space provision, allied to general and specific provision to maintain and enhance the history and heritage of the parish.</p> <p>This extend through to design of the built environment both in the Conservation Area of the village but critically beyond that to include the heritage assets located on the Thorp Arch Estate.</p> <p>A key feature of the village is the prominence of the Grade II* Listed Parish Church in the landscape and this is important in shaping the location of new development.</p> <p>Policies conform with Local Strategic Policy across a range of themes including Design, Conservation,</p>
<p>HG2: New Green Spaces</p>	<p>SP13: Strategic Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy P9: Community facilities and other services</p> <p>Policy G3: Standards for open space, sport and recreation</p>	<p>SP13 (iii) The Limestone Ridge, identifies the importance of the strategic green infrastructure corridor running north-south along the eastern edge of the District, encompassing the neighbourhood area of Walton.</p> <p>P9 Stresses the importance of access of local community facilities for health and wellbeing of a neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Policies conform with Local Strategic Policy across a range of themes including Design, Conservation,</p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>G3 Sets out standards for open space, sport and recreation and that ...open space standards will be used to determine the adequacy of existing supply.</p> <p>WDNP policy HG2 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in identifying deficits in local provision and seeking to plan for proportionate new provision.</p>	<p>Landscape and Green space.</p> <p><u>The Heritage and Greenspaces Theme is an important underpinning for the Walton Plan, enabling growth that is sensitive to its context.</u></p>
<p>HG3: Local non-designated heritage assets</p>	<p>Policy P10: Design</p> <p>Policy P11: Conservation</p>	<p>P10 Plans for new development that is based on context and provides for good design, including protection of historic and natural assets.</p> <p>P11 Identifies the importance of the historic environment, including locally significant assets which are not afforded statutory protection.</p> <p>WDNP policy HG3 conforms with Local Strategic Policy Local Strategic Policy in identifying locally significant heritage assets and providing for their conservation where this enables sustainable development.</p>	
<p>HG4: Design in the village centre</p>	<p>SP1: Location of development</p>	<p>SP1 (iii) Sets out how developments should respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and</p>	

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
	<p>Policy P10: Design</p> <p>Policy P11: Conservation</p> <p>Policy P12: Landscape</p>	<p>neighbourhoods.</p> <p>P10 (i) Sets out how size, scale, design and layout...is appropriate to its context and respects the character and quality of surrounding buildings.</p> <p>P11 States that the historic environment... including locally significant undesignated assets and their settings, will be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>P12 States that the character, quality ... of townscapes ...will be conserved and enhanced to protect their distinctiveness.</p> <p>WDNP policy HG4 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in seeking to deliver high quality design that contributes to sustainable development through reflecting the best of design in the Conservation Area in new development.</p>	
<p>HG5: Key views</p>	<p>SP1: Location of development</p> <p>Policy P10: Design</p> <p>Policy P12: Landscape</p>	<p>SP1 (iii) For developments to respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>P10 (ii) The development protects and enhances...existing, historic and natural assets, in particular...skylines and</p>	

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>views.</p> <p>P12 The character, quality...of landscapes...will be conserved and enhanced to protect their distinctiveness.</p> <p>WDNP policy HG5 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in seeking to conserve the historic importance of the village and ensuring new development contributes to this.</p>	
<p>HG6: Former Thorp Arch Royal Ordnance Filling Factory</p>	<p>Policy P10: Design</p> <p>Policy P11: Conservation</p>	<p>P10 (ii) The development protects and enhances ... existing, historic and natural assets.</p> <p>P11 The historic environment...including locally significant undesignated assets and their settings, will be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>WDNP policy HG6 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by seeking to conserve the heritage features of the TAE whilst enabling sustainable growth of this important employment area.</p>	
Community facilities (CF)			
<p>CF1: Protecting existing community assets</p>	<p>Policy P9: Community facilities and other services</p>	<p>P9 Access to local community facilities and services...is important to the health and wellbeing of a</p>	<p>The Community Facilities theme seeks to protect and enhance the range of</p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>neighbourhood.</p> <p>W NDP policy CF1 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in seeking to maintain existing facilities important to the community and identified through meaningful consultation.</p>	<p>facilities available to existing and future residents, recognising the familiar erosion of local provision in rural communities.</p> <p><u>The theme provides important policies enabling population growth to take place and to be sustainable.</u></p>
<p>CF2: New and improved community facilities</p>	<p>Policy P9: Community facilities and other services</p>	<p>P9</p> <p>Access to local community facilities and services...is important to the health and wellbeing of a neighbourhood. The scale of such facilities should be proportionate to the need in/of the community and its place in the hierarchy of settlements.</p> <p>W NDP policy CF2 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in seeking to see new and improved facilities commensurate with new development.</p>	
Transport (T)			
<p>T1: Traffic management</p>	<p>SP11: Transport infrastructure investment priorities</p> <p>Policy T2: Accessibility requirements and new development</p>	<p>SP11</p> <p>(vii) The provision of infrastructure to serve new development.</p> <p>T2</p> <p>(i)...new infrastructure may be required...for cyclists, pedestrians...</p> <p>(ii) Developer contributions may be required for...improvements to the off-site highway...and to</p>	<p>The Transport theme provides a set of policies in support of new housing development; by seeking to link the village together in an improved fashion and by ensuring that infrastructure is provided to ensure</p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>pedestrian, cycle and public transport provision.</p> <p>WDNP policy T1 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in seeking to integrate appropriate improvements in relation to new development to assist the sustainability of the transport infrastructure for the village and the safety of the community.</p>	<p>pedestrian safety.</p> <p><u>The theme is also important in addressing critical deficits in PROW provision in the parish.</u></p>
T2: Public Rights of Way	<p>Policy T2: Accessibility requirements and new development</p> <p>Policy G1: Enhancing and extending green infrastructure</p>	<p>T2</p> <p>(i)...new infrastructure may be required...for cyclists, pedestrians.</p> <p>(ii) Developer contributions may be required for...improvements to the off-site highway...and to pedestrian, cycle and public transport provision.</p> <p>G1</p> <p>(iv) Opportunities are taken to protect and enhance the PROW network...by adding new links.</p> <p>WDNP policy T2 conforms with Local Strategic Policy in promoting new sustainable transport opportunities for the village and wider neighbourhood area, linking homes with facilities and the wider rural hinterland.</p>	
Housing (H)			
H1: Sites for new homes	<p>SP1: Location of development</p> <p>SP6: The housing</p>	<p>SP1</p> <p>(iii) For developments to respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>The land around Walton is currently designated as Rural Land through Policy RL1 of the Saved Unitary Development Plan. The</p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
	<p>requirement and allocation of housing land</p> <p>SP7: Distribution of housing land and allocations</p> <p>Policy H2: New housing development on non-allocated sites</p> <p>Policy P10 Design</p>	<p>SP6 “Delivery of 500 dwellings per annum (8,000 over the plan period) is anticipated on small and unidentified sites.” (ii) Preference for brownfield and regeneration sites (WNDP Policy H3). (iii) The least impact on Green Belt purposes (WNDP Policies H2, H3, H4). (iv) Opportunities to reinforce ... distinctiveness ... quality of life...through design...of new homes. (vi) The least negative...impacts on green infrastructure, corridors, space and nature conservation (WNDP Policies H2, H3, H4). (vii) Generally avoiding...areas of flood risk.</p> <p>SP7 2% of total allocated to infill/extension in ‘other rural’ locations.</p> <p>H2 (i) The number of dwellings does not exceed the capacity of transport, educational and health infrastructure as existing or provided as a condition.</p> <p>P10 New development for buildings and spaces...should be based on a thorough contextual analysis and provide good design that is appropriate to its location, scale and</p>	<p>Submission Draft Site Allocations Plan DPD (May 2017) is proposing that Rural Land is designated as Green Belt. Through ongoing consultation with Leeds City Council, a Statement of Common Ground has been drafted to mitigate the implications and risks to the Neighbourhood Plan of the proposed Green Belt designation. The City Council, should the housing sites be indeed allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan following independent examination, will propose a modification to the SAP Inspectors to amend the Green Belt boundary so as not to wash over the proposed NP housing allocations.</p> <p>The Housing theme provides a set of policies based on the development of 3 sites located in and around the village of Walton. All 3 sites have distinctive and different characteristics but taken together can provide</p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>function.</p> <p>W NDP policy H1 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by identifying through a systematic process of consultation and engagement alongside rigorous needs analysis a small number of development sites to satisfy the identified need for the sustainability of the community through the planning period.</p>	<p>for the growth that has been determined necessary to sustain the community during the Plan period.</p> <p>The theme and its policies conform with LCC policies including those related to the location of new homes.</p>
<p>H2: Land west of Springs Lane/Walton cricket pitch</p>	<p>SP1: Location of development</p> <p>SP6: The housing requirement and allocation of housing land</p> <p>SP7: Distribution of housing land and allocations</p> <p>Policy H2: New housing development on non-allocated sites</p> <p>Policy P10 Design</p>	<p>SP1</p> <p>(iii) For developments to respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>SP6</p> <p>“Delivery of 500 dwellings per annum (8,000 over the plan period) is anticipated on small and unidentified sites.”</p> <p>(iii) The least impact on Green Belt purposes.</p> <p>(iv) Opportunities to reinforce ... distinctiveness ... quality of life...through design...of new homes.</p> <p>(vi) The least negative...impacts on green infrastructure, corridors, space and nature conservation .</p> <p>(vii) Generally avoiding...areas of flood risk.</p> <p>SP7</p> <p>2% of total allocated to infill/extension in ‘other rural’ locations.</p>	<p>Policies have been crafted so as to ensure they conform with District policy related to location, Green Space provision and Design of the built environment, including in relation to integrating adequate car parking.</p> <p><u>The Housing theme is at the heart of the Walton Plan by enabling sustainable growth of a small rural settlement that would otherwise not have had land allocated for housing, being at the lowest tier of the Settlement Hierarchy.</u></p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
	<p>Policy G4: New green space provision</p>	<p>H2 (ii) The number of dwellings does not exceed the capacity of transport, educational and health infrastructure as existing or provided as a condition.</p> <p>P10 New development for buildings and spaces...should be based on a thorough contextual analysis and provide good design that is appropriate to its location, scale and function.</p> <p>G4 On site provision of green space of 80 square metres pre residential unit will be sought for development sites of 10 or more dwellings that are outside the City Centre.</p> <p>WNDP policy H2 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by bringing forward a modest site which has local importance in the sustainability of the community by placing community facilities, existing and new, at the heart of the community. The proposal successfully integrates new public green space, reflects the character of the nearby Conservation Area, connects new residents to existing facilities by foot and cycle and does not obstruct with important views of the Church from outside the village. By careful design, the proposal has limited impact on the open countryside.</p>	<p><u>The fact that the Parish Council has chosen to allocate more housing than that required through the Core Strategy is entirely within the spirit of neighbourhood planning as expressed in 2011 in the Localism Act.</u></p>

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
<p>H3: Land south of Main Street (Coal Yard)</p>	<p>SP1: Location of development</p> <p>SP6: The housing requirement and allocation of housing land</p> <p>SP7: Distribution of housing land and allocations</p> <p>Policy H2: New housing development on non allocated sites</p> <p>Policy P10: Design</p>	<p>SP1 (iii) For developments to respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>SP6 “Delivery of 500 dwellings per annum (8,000 over the plan period) is anticipated on small and unidentified sites.” (ii) Preference for brownfield and regeneration sites. (iii) The least impact on Green Belt purposes. (iv) Opportunities to reinforce ... distinctiveness ... quality of life...through design...of new homes. (vi) The least negative...impacts on green infrastructure, corridors, space and nature conservation. (vii) Generally avoiding...areas of flood risk.</p> <p>SP7 2% of total allocated to infill/extension in ‘other rural’ locations.</p> <p>H2 (iii) The number of dwellings does not exceed the capacity of transport, educational and health infrastructure as existing or provided as a condition.</p> <p>P10 New development for buildings and spaces...should be based on a thorough contextual analysis and provide good</p>	

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>design that is appropriate to its location, scale and function.</p> <p>W NDP policy H3 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by bringing forward a brownfield, infill site in the village that had been used previously for industrial purposes no longer appropriate in a residential setting. The development proposes a small number of new dwellings, fitting with the Conservation Area setting and incorporating green space.</p>	
<p>H4: Land north of Hall Park Road</p>	<p>SP1: Location of development.</p> <p>SP6: The housing requirement and allocation of housing land</p> <p>SP7: Distribution of housing land and allocations</p> <p>Policy H2: New housing development on non allocated sites</p> <p>Policy P10: Design</p>	<p>SP1 (iii) For developments to respect and enhance the local character and identity of places and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>SP6 “Delivery of 500 dwellings per annum (8,000 over the plan period) is anticipated on small and unidentified sites.” (iii) The least impact on Green Belt purposes. (iv) Opportunities to reinforce ... distinctiveness ... quality of life...through design...of new homes. (vi) The least negative...impacts on green infrastructure, corridors, space and nature conservation. (vii) Generally avoiding...areas of flood risk.</p> <p>SP7 2% of total allocated to infill/extension in ‘other rural’</p>	

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
		<p>locations.</p> <p>H2 (iv) The number of dwellings does not exceed the capacity of transport, educational and health infrastructure as existing or provided as a condition.</p> <p>P10 New development for buildings and spaces...should be based on a thorough contextual analysis and provide good design that is appropriate to its location, scale and function.</p> <p>WNDP policy H4 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by bringing forward a small infill site which has minimal impact upon the community and contributes positively to the overall housing need identified for the neighbourhood area.</p>	
H5: Residential car parking	Policy P10 Design	<p>P10 (iv) Car parking...should be designed in a positive manner and be integral to the development.</p> <p>WNDP policy H5 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by planning for the minimum necessary car parking spaces in the context of the development, recognizing the semi-rural setting of the village and limitations upon alternative and public transport.</p>	

NDP Policy	Leeds City Council Core Strategy references	Commentary on conformity of policies	Overall conclusion on conformity by policy theme
Business and employment (BE)			
BE1: Information and Communications Technology	SP8: Economic Development priorities	<p>SP8 (ix) Support the advancement of high quality communications infrastructure.</p> <p>W NDP policy BE1 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by supporting the development of ICT infrastructure to support business development and prosperity.</p>	<p>The Business and Employment Theme and its policies conforms with a range of LCC policies related not just to economic growth and development but also to the encouragement of the rural economy specifically.</p> <p>Policies reflect both the changing nature of industry and infrastructure supporting enterprise, as well as seeking to enable the continued growth of a well - established employment zone.</p> <p><u>The Thorp Arch Estate is of strategic importance to the City providing a highly significant employment zone in the north east of the District. Walton Plan policy supports its growth and sustainability.</u></p>
BE2: Supporting employment and enterprise	SP8: Economic Development priorities	<p>SP8 (v) Supporting the growth and diversification of the rural economy.</p> <p>W NDP policy BE2 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by supporting the continued successful economy in the neighbourhood area and future diversification which will enable new enterprises to grow.</p>	
BE3: Thorp Arch Estate	<p>SP8: Economic Development priorities</p> <p>SP9: Provision for offices, industry and warehouse employment land and premises</p>	<p>SP8 (viii) Supporting development in existing locations/sites.</p> <p>SP9 (ii)...locations and sites...across the whole of the District.</p> <p>W NDP policy BE3 conforms with Local Strategic Policy by supporting the development of TAE as a flourishing employment zone serving the north east of the District in particular.</p>	

3 Contribution to Achieving Sustainable Development

5.1 A Sustainability Appraisal has not been undertaken as this is not a requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has taken account of the need to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

5.2 The strategic objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan have sustainability at their heart. The Plan aims to:

- To support future development that will ensure parish sustainability and a thriving community.
- To recognise, respect and enhance the historical prominence and distinctive character of the parish.
- To have good access to community facilities.
- To be a welcoming community which promotes the interests of all.
- To support businesses and local employment that contributes to the vitality and sustainability of the parish.
- To mitigate the adverse impacts of traffic.

5.3 Table 3 below has assessed the Neighbourhood Plan's policies in terms of how it will deliver sustainable development with regards to economic, social and environmental aspects. It shows that the Plan's policies are, in the main, either neutral in effect or will make Walton more sustainable.

Table 3: Assessment of sustainability of Neighbourhood Plan policies

NDP Policy	Factors			Comments on sustainability and contribution made to achieving sustainable development
	Economic	Social	Environmental	
HG1: Local Green Spaces	*	**	**	Maintaining existing key green spaces ensures sustainability by providing for places for outdoor recreation and healthy activity.
HG2: New Green Spaces	*	**	**	Planning for new greenspace associated with population growth contributes to sustainability by ensuring new and existing residents have space for outdoor recreation and healthy living.
HG3: Local non-designated heritage assets	-	**	**	The conservation of locally important heritage assets contributes to the sustainability of the community by ensuring heritage is cherished and not lost through either neglect or new development.
HG4: Design in the village centre	*	*	**	The high quality of the built environment is a key component of sustainability in the village and the maintenance of this and reflection of quality in new development ensures future growth is undertaken sustainably.
HG5: Key views	*	**	**	Great importance is place locally upon the maintenance of views of the Grade II* Listed Parish Church as it dominates the skyline. Policy here is designed to shape new development and enable this to be sustainable in not overshadowing or detracting from the heritage of the place.
HG6: Former Thorp Arch Royal Ordnance Filling Factory	-	*	**	The sustainable development of this highly important employment zone is contributed to by policy that recognises the significance of the estate as a heritage asset and hence seeks to shape the growth and development of the estate in a way which does not result in undue damage or loss of its historic assets.
CF1: Protecting existing community assets	*	**	**	Rural communities such as Walton have over time lost many community facilities. The policy here contributes strongly to the sustainability of the place in the future by seeking to protect those remaining assets for future generations.

NDP Policy	Factors			Comments on sustainability and contribution made to achieving sustainable development
	Economic	Social	Environmental	
CF2: New and improved community facilities	-	**	-	As the village grows, so to will demand upon community facilities, hence the policy aims to sustainable growth by matching new growth of the population with appropriate growth in facilities to meet their needs.
T1: Traffic management	*	**	*	A key component of sustainable development is the safety and security of citizens. Policy here looks towards a more sustainable village by managing traffic more effectively.
T2: Public Rights of Way	*	**	**	The integration of new public right of way contributes towards sustainability by reducing vehicle movements and promoting healthy walking and cycling.
H1: Sites for new homes	**	**	-	Housing policy seeks to enable the neighbourhood area to grow in a sustainable manner. In particular, new residents will support the wider social, economic and environmental well-being of Walton.
H2: Land west of Springs Lane/Walton cricket pitch	**	**	x	While any loss of green field necessitates some environmental loss, the site provides for significant new high quality multifunctional green infrastructure and design is sympathetic to its surroundings.
H3: Land south of Main Street (Coal Yard)	**	**	*	A small brownfield infill site contributing to sustainable development by re-using previously developed land and integrating with its surrounding Conservation Area.
H4: Land north of Hall Park Road	*	*	-	A small infill site which is sustainable in terms of the low impact it will have upon the surrounding built and natural environment.
H5: Residential car parking	*	**	-	Sustainable development in a rural setting such as Walton necessitates (at present) access to private cars. Hence policy seeks to minimise the impact of this upon the street scene.
BE1: Information and Communications Technology	**	**	**	New ICT provision enable more home working and clean industry to take place contributing directly to reducing vehicle movements and providing new employment opportunities.

NDP Policy	Factors			Comments on sustainability and contribution made to achieving sustainable development
	Economic	Social	Environmental	
BE2: Supporting employment and enterprise	**	*	*	Business growth provides for new employment in the parish, contributing to sustainable development by reducing vehicle movements.
BE3: Thorp Arch Estate	**	*	*	Promoting the development of a major employment zone in a sustainable manner is a key component of sustainable development in Walton in keeping employment opportunities in a range of industries available on the doorstep.

Assessment of policies: ** very positive * positive - neutral x negative xx very negative

4 Compatibility with EU Obligations and legislation

6.1 The Neighbourhood Plan 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 A screening opinion for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment has been undertaken by Leeds City Council, and informed by the Statutory Consultees; Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency, see appendix 1 below. The Screening Report concludes that the proposals in the Walton Neighbourhood Plan are not likely to have a significant environmental effect and that a full SEA is not required.

6.3 The Neighbourhood Area is in relatively close proximity to the Kirk Deighton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - the only internationally-designated site within a 15km radius of the Walton Neighbourhood Area boundary. However, screening has determined that the Walton Plan's policies are very unlikely to have an impact upon this site and so does not require an appropriate assessment under the EU Habitats Regulations.

5 Overall conclusion

In conclusion, Walton Parish Council has presented a Neighbourhood Development Plan that conforms with both the National Planning Policy Framework and the Leeds City Council Core Strategy.

The Walton NDP plans positively for sustainable development across the designated neighbourhood area, recognising and responding to the need for stimulating and supporting housing growth and business development while seeking to conserve the best of the area in terms of its environmental quality and heritage assets. Policies are proposed across key themes identified through a substantive process of community engagement and working closely with the City Council's Planning Service. Policies are clear, based on strong evidence and provide a direct link to the sustainable development of the neighbourhood area, in promoting sustainable growth for residents in relation to new housing, business development, alongside strong conservation measures for the built and 'green' environments and opportunities for the local community to preserve and enhance existing community and recreational assets and to increase provision.