



# *Harrold* NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## Basic Conditions Statement

January 2021 V3



## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared by the Harrold Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to accompany its submission to the local planning authority (Bedford Borough Council) of the Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan (“Harrold NDP”) under regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2 The policies described in the Harrold NDP relate to development and the use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Plan area only. The plan period for the Neighbourhood Plan is 2020 to 2030. It does not contain policies relating to excluded development, in accordance with the Regulations. The way in which the Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the Regulations and the Basic Conditions is explained below.
- 1.3 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) [excluding 2b, c, 3 to 5 as required by 38(C)] sets out in the following way how a Neighbourhood Plan should meet the basic conditions:
- 1) *The examiner must consider the following:*
    - (a) *whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see sub-paragraph (2))*
    - (b) *whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 61E(2), 61J and 61L, as amended by s38C(5)(b)*
    - (c) *whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates and*
    - (d) *such other matters as may be prescribed.*
  
  - 2) *A draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions if:*
    - (a) *having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan*
    - (b) *the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development*
    - (c) *the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)*

*(d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations and*

*(e) prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood development plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood development plan.*

- 1.4 Section 2 of this Statement sets out how the Harrold NDP complies with the legal requirements of sub-paragraphs 1 (b), (c) and (d). Section 3 of this Statement sets out how the Harrold NDP meets the basic conditions contained in sub-paragraph 1 (a) and sub-paragraph 2.

## **2.0 Summary of Submission Documents and Supporting Evidence**

- 2.1 In addition to the Basic Conditions Statement, the following documents have been prepared to support the preparation of the Plan and meet the Basic Conditions:

- *The Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020*
- *The Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Statement 2020*
- *The Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement and responses*
- *Site Assessments undertaken by Matodesign Ltd on behalf of Harrold Parish Council*
- *Harrold Village Design Statement prepared by Building the Past (Dr. J Duck)*
- *Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Housing Needs Survey October 2016*
- *Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Harrold Neighbourhood Plan by Bodsey Ecology Limited*

## **3.0 Legal Requirements**

- 3.1 The Plan complies with the provisions of sub-paragraph 1(b) as described below.

*The Plan is being submitted by a qualifying body*

- 3.2 The Harrold NDP has been submitted by Harrold Parish Council, which was confirmed as a *qualifying body* by Bedford Borough Council in its decision statement dated 26 July 2016. The Parish Council is therefore entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and guided by a Steering Group set up by Harrold Parish Council and made up of members of the Parish Council and parish residents.

What is being proposed is a neighbourhood plan

- 3.3 The Harrold NDP contains policies relating to the development and use of land within the neighbourhood area and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.

The proposed neighbourhood plan states the period for which it is to have effect

- 3.4 The Harrold NDP states that the period which it relates to is from 2020 until 2030. The period has been chosen to align with that of the Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2030.

The policies do not relate to excluded development

- 3.5 The Harrold NDP does not propose policies relating to mineral extraction or waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The proposed neighbourhood plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the neighbourhood area.

- 3.6 The proposed neighbourhood plan relates only to the parish of Harrold and no other area. It does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place within the neighbourhood area. The Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan was subject to a referendum on [INSERT DATE] 2020 with an [XX] vote in favour. In relation to sub-paragraph 1(c) of the NPPF, it is not considered that there is any benefit or reason for extending the area for the referendum beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area. In relation to sub-paragraph 1(d), there are no other prescribed matters.

Human Rights

- 3.7 The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as -

- Age
- Disability
- Gender (including gender identity)
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion and belief
- Sex and sexual orientation

3.8 An Equalities Impact Assessment is therefore required to identify likely impacts the Harrold NDP will have on the above. An assessment has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix B. This concludes that the impact of the plan on protected characteristics is positive. The neighbourhood plan process has included an extensive range of community consultation and engagement activities thereby ensuring that the scope of the plan and its policies are informed by issues and themes identified by local people. The launch event and initial questionnaire helped to identify topics and issues which needed to be addressed through the plan process. Policies proposed in the Harrold NDP were derived from the results of both community engagement and a clear development plan rationale, supported by a variety of data and evidence. Details of all public consultations can be found in the accompanying Consultation Statement.

#### **4.0 The Basic Conditions**

4.1 This section addresses how The Harrold NDP 2020 fulfils the basic conditions set out in sub-paragraph (2) (see section 1.3 above). It has been prepared having regard to national policies and advice set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to the strategic policies contained in the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2020-2030 (adopted January 2020). An explanation of how each of the neighbourhood plan policies have shown regard to the NPPF are outlined in Table (i) which is attached at Appendix A.

4.2 In general terms the Harrold NDP -

- has empowered the local community to develop the plan for their neighbourhood.
- sets out a positive aim for the future of the area with a vision “*To maintain Harrold's strong sense of place and local identity, respecting well designed growth that will help sustain local services, facilities and employment for the benefit of the community, whilst maintaining and protecting its rural setting.*”
- will provide a policy framework within which planning application decisions can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.
- has been a creative process and policies seek to protect, enhance and improve the character and appearance of the village.
- policies seek to deliver new housing to meet the needs of the local and wider community, secure high quality design for new buildings in keeping with the distinctive historic character of the village, actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing, to protect the character and enhance the vitality of village services and amenities for the benefit of residents and to protect and strengthen the local businesses and the wider local economy.

*Achieving sustainable development*

- 4.3 The Neighbourhood Plan consists of positive policies and reflects the presumption in the NPPF in favour of sustainable development. It seeks to manage development pressures to ensure that, in addition to economic considerations, reasonable environmental and social considerations are taken into account.
- 4.4 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal. However, the Harrold NDP has been drafted to conform generally to the approved Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (adopted in January 2020) for which a sustainability appraisal has been carried out to help deliver sustainable development across the Borough. This section of the Statement demonstrates how the Harrold NDP fulfils the basic condition that the plan contributes to achieving sustainable development.
- 4.5 The NPPF sets out three dimensions to sustainable development. The ways in which the Harrold NDP contributes to achieving the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development are set out in Table (ii) on the following page.

**Table (ii) – Harrold Neighbourhood Development Plan sustainable development dimensions**

<b>Harrold NDP Policies</b>	<b>Economic</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Environmental</b>
NDP1 General Housing Needs of the Village	✓	✓	✓
NDP2 Land at Odell Road, Harrold (Housing)	✓	✓	✓
NDP 3 Land east of Orchard Lane, Harrold (Housing)	✓	✓	✓
NDP 4 Harrold Village Design Statement		✓	✓
NDP 5 Heritage Assets		✓	✓
NDP 6 Provision of Services	✓	✓	
NDP 7 Sustainable Transport	✓	✓	✓
NDP 8 – Existing Community Facilities	✓	✓	
NDP 9 – New Community and Retail facilities	✓	✓	
NDP 10 – New Business Uses	✓	✓	✓