



**Basic Conditions Statement  
Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

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## Introduction

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Cambridgeshire ACRE is an independent charity established in 1924. We are part of a network of 38 Rural Community Councils across England and are a member of ACRE (the national umbrella for RCCs). We are proud to support local communities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and nearby where appropriate. We put a lot of effort into getting to know our customers so we can understand what they need from us. This ensures we focus on providing products and services that really make a difference to local people as they work in their own communities.

As part of our work, we provide a Neighbourhood Planning service for local communities. We have developed this service by building on our skills, knowledge and competencies gained in other project areas such as rural affordable housing and community-led planning and by working with local planning consultants to broaden our capacity.

Our current partners are:



You can find out more about our team and our work on our website [here](#).

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## INTRODUCTION

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1. The Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared on behalf of Soham Town Council to support and accompany the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan's (SBNP) submission<sup>1</sup> to the Local Planning Authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC).

### Basic Conditions

2. The Neighbourhood Plan must meet a set of basic planning conditions<sup>2</sup> before it can be put to a referendum and be formally adopted. A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) meets 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 plan;
  - 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;
  - the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach the requirement of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>3</sup> and
  - the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.
3. The Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements by demonstrating that the SBNP has had regard to the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023); is in conformity with the strategic policies identified in the Adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023), will contribute to achieving sustainable development and does not breach, and is compatible with, EU obligations.

**Note: The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill proposes to update the list of Basic Conditions. If the changes need to be taken on board in the submission, (i.e. there are no transitional arrangements) the paper will be updated.**

### The Qualifying Body

4. The SBNP is submitted by Soham Town Council, who is a qualifying body, as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

### The Neighbourhood Plan Area

5. The SBNP Neighbourhood Plan Area is the Parish of Soham, East Cambridgeshire. A map of the designated area is included in Figure 1.

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<sup>1</sup>Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Plan (General) Regulations 2012 (the 'regulations')

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

<sup>3</sup>Schedule 2 - paragraph 8(2) (g) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning 1990 Act

6. The SBNP relates only to the Parish of Soham and to no other Neighbourhood Plan area. It is the only designated area and no other Neighbourhood Plan exists or is emerging in any part of the Neighbourhood Area.

### Plan Period

7. The SBNP confirms that the plan period is 2021 to 2031 to align with the Adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan to 2031 (as amended).

### Neighbourhood Plan Vision

8. The Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision, objectives, and 25 policies. The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the plan area. The Soham Vision Statement is:

‘Soham will be a vibrant 21st century rural town, where everyone has access to a ‘green loop’ of open space, with a thriving town centre which encourages visitors and residents to spend time there. It will also have good employment opportunities for school leavers and more qualified workers in a range of disciplines. Attractive new housing, with attractively designed and an appropriate level of off-street car and cycle parking, will help to increase footfall in the High Street, and support a revitalised town centre with a range of different shops, cafes, youth facilities, a heritage centre and other community facilities. New residents will be encouraged to become part of the community by getting involved with the many local clubs and societies available.

The town’s strategic location will be attractive to employers wishing to establish or expand on newly serviced employment sites, bringing forward new job opportunities at many levels. A new sixth form centre will provide more suitably trained employees for local businesses.

With its unique Commons setting, and enhanced green infrastructure, Soham will provide a place to live a healthy life with low pollution levels. Improved cycleways will enable travel within and beyond the town in a greener and safer way. The town will reduce its carbon footprint by generating more green electricity and reducing the use of petrol and diesel vehicles.

The new train station will allow more connections to the wider area and provide opportunities for work and leisure. It will encourage more tourists to visit its attractive town centre, with its history and green connections to the surrounding Fens’.

9. The Soham Vision Statement for Barway is:

Barway is essentially a very small peaceful and tranquil rural collection of homes and it will stay that way. There is no real appetite for any further development, either of more houses, small businesses or provision of facilities. However, there may be scope for tourism development and perhaps agricultural needs.

The Lode through Barway should be protected because it is used by lots of wildlife and is an important green corridor and a very pleasant place to take exercise either on foot or horseback. Views across the flat land surrounding Barway should also remain uninterrupted.

However, the road to Barway from A142 is used by a large number of HGVs and tractors going to and from the vegetable packing plant, as well as the residents. In order to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians it needs widening. There is also a problem where the Barway Road joins the A142 where there have been several accidents and it is considered that interventions are needed to reduce these incidents.

## Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

10. The overarching purpose of the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan is to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development and to enhance the quality of life for existing and future residents. The objectives of the Plan were created, shared and discussed through community consultations as set out in the Consultation Statement. There is a clear 'thread' between the Vision and Objectives through to the policies to support sustainable development. The table below details where a policy seeks to meet the objectives.

### Objectives

Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham's development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure
Ensure that Soham is resilient against the future impacts of Climate Change with particular attention to flooding issues and the moves toward greener living.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character Policy SBNP18 - Sustainable Buildings Fit for a Net Zero Carbon Future Policy SBNP19 - Renewable Energy Policy SBNP20 - Water Efficiency Policy SBNP21 - Flood Risk
Ensure any additional housing provision meets the needs of local people within the NP Area, now and in the future.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP2 - Affordable Housing Policy SBNP3 - Allocation of Affordable Housing Policy SBNP4 - Housing Mix and Accessible Standards
<b>Green Spaces</b>	
Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham and Barway, including Soham's Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP11 - Soham's Commons Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces
Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections to the 'Green Loop' and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.	Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP11 - Soham's Commons Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife

	Habitats Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces
Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.	Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces
<b>Transport and connections</b>	
Improve transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users including those with disabilities. Encourage safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town.	Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP22 - Road Safety and Parking Policy SBNP23 - Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes Policy SBNP24 - Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way Policy SBNP 25 - Connectivity and Permeability
Improve the provision and quality of off-street parking (and parking in residential developments) for motorised users (cars, buses etc) and non-motorised users (e.g. bikes) in the parish.	Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP22 - Road Safety and Parking
<b>Housing and Heritage</b>	
Ensure new development delivers high quality design, meets modern living requirements, National Space Standards, appropriate to identified housing needs and is designed to be low carbon.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP2 - Affordable Housing Policy SBNP3 - Allocation of Affordable Housing Policy SBNP4 - Housing Mix and Accessible Standards Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP17 - High Quality Design Policy SBNP18 - Sustainable Buildings Fit for A Net Zero Carbon Future
Protect and enhance heritage assets in the town centre (conservation area, listed buildings) and protect the historic environment in Barway and all areas of the parish.	Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP15 - Soham Conservation Area Policy SBNP16 - Non Designated Heritage Assets
<b>Employment and Business</b>	
Support job retention and creation, maximising the community benefits of local employment by retention of existing employment sites and facilitating new developments on the edge of the town within the natural boundaries.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities
Address existing barriers faced by local young people in accessing Further Education, post 16 and beyond.	Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities

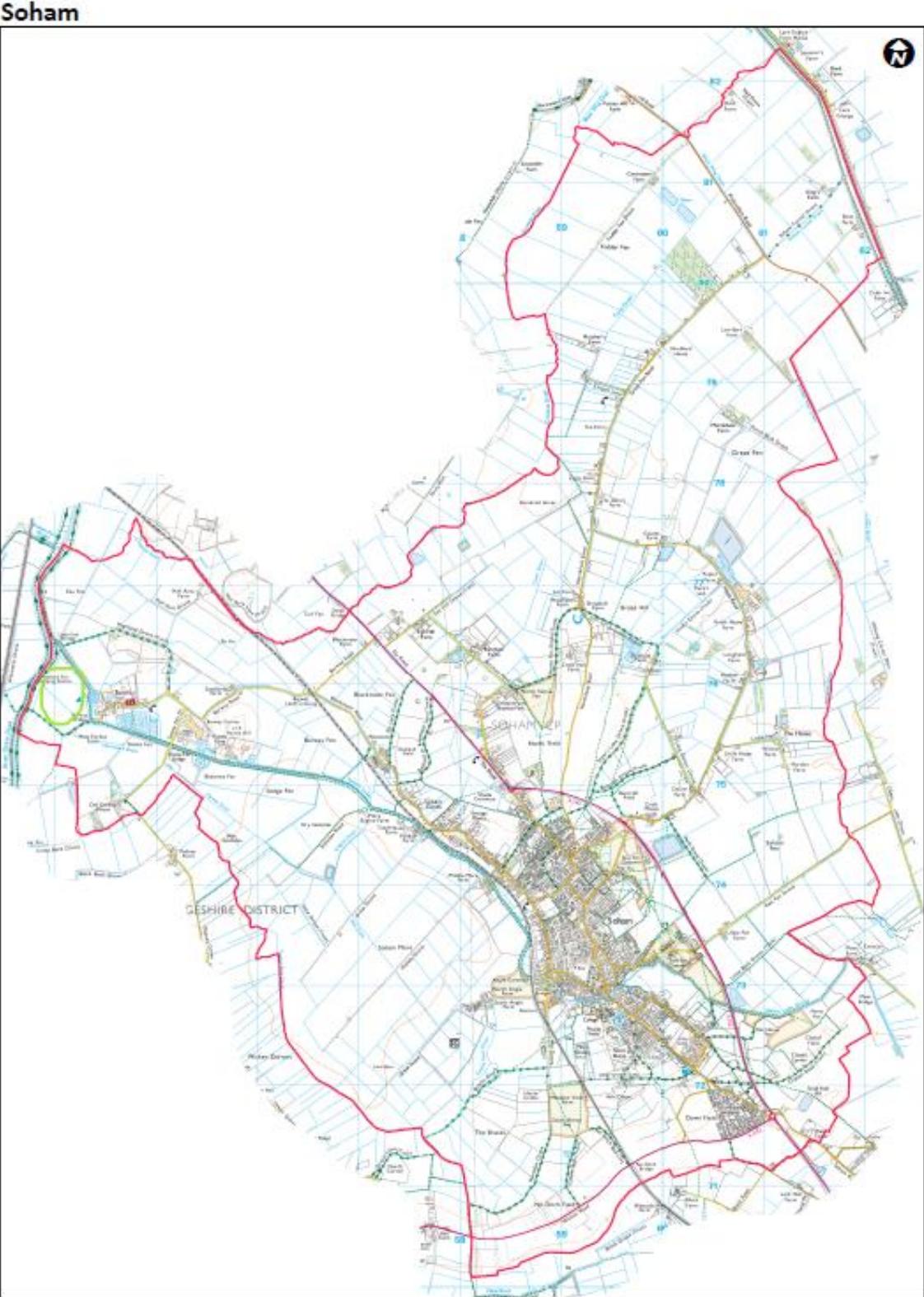
	Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments
<b>Local Facilities</b>	
Fulfil the potential of the town centre in providing a revitalised and vibrant hub with a greater variety of shops, leisure, cultural and community activities.	Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments
Provide enhanced infrastructure, including sport, health and cultural facilities to support growth and meet the needs of local people, on a scale appropriate to serve neighbourhoods.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments
Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.	Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments Policy SBNP11 - Soham's Commons Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces
Ensure that although Barway remains separate from Soham, its needs are not forgotten.	Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments

## Excluded Development

11. The plan cannot include policies that relate to excluded development. The Excluded development definition includes a County Matter (schedule 1 of the 1990 Act) relating to minerals development<sup>4</sup>. The SBNP does not include any 'excluded' development policies.

<sup>4</sup>. 1990 Act 61K And Schedule 1

**FIGURE 1 SOHAM AND BARWAY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN APPROVED DESIGNATED AREA**



Scale 1:5000

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## NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

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12. The SBNP policies are required to be appropriate having regard to national planning policy. This national policy is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated and published in December 2023 but also provided by planning practice guidance and ministerial statements. This section demonstrates that the SBNP policies have been prepared having regard to the framework. It also has regard to the planning principles contained in the most recent National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published by Government in relation to the formation of Neighbourhood Plans.
  
13. The table below sets out how the SBNP has had regard to the national policy and demonstrates that it meets this specific basis condition. The NPPF paragraphs referred to are the most relevant to the policy and are not intended to be a comprehensive list of every possible relevant paragraph.

Table 1: Relationship between SBNP objectives and core principles set out in NPPF 2023

NPPF Core Principle	Objectives - Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
<p>Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p>	<p>Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham's development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.</p> <p>Ensure any additional housing provision meets the needs of local people within the NP Area, now and in the future.</p> <p>Ensure new development delivers high quality design, meets modern living requirements, National Space Standards, appropriate to identified housing needs and is designed to be low carbon.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy                      Policy SBNP2 - Affordable Housing                      Policy SBNP3 - Allocation of Affordable Housing                      Policy SBNP4 - Housing Mix and Accessible Standards</p>
<p>Building a Strong economy</p>	<p>Support job retention and creation, maximising the community benefits of local employment by retention of existing employment sites and facilitating new developments on the edge of the town within the natural boundaries.</p> <p>Address existing barriers faced by local young people in accessing Further Education, post 16 and beyond.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy                      Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre                      Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth                      Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure</p>
<p>Ensuring the vitality of town centres</p>	<p>Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham's development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.</p> <p>Fulfil the potential of the town centre in providing a revitalised and vibrant hub with a greater variety of shops, leisure, cultural and community activities.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy                      Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre                      Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth                      Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure</p>

NPPF Core Principle	Objectives - Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
<p>Promoting healthy and safe communities</p>	<p>Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham's development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham and Barway, including Soham's Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible. Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections to the 'Green Loop' and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Improve transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users including those with disabilities. Encourage safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town.</p> <p>Improve the provision and quality of off-street parking (and parking in residential developments) for motorised users (cars, buses etc) and non-motorised users (e.g. bikes) in the parish.</p> <p>Address existing barriers faced by local young people in accessing Further Education, post 16 and beyond. Provide enhanced infrastructure, including sport, health and cultural facilities to support growth and meet the needs of local people, on a scale appropriate to serve neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Ensure that although Barway remains separate from Soham, its needs are not forgotten.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy  Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities  Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities  Policy SBNP10 Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments  Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character  Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces  Policy SBNP22 - Road Safety and Parking  Policy SBNP23 - Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes  Policy SBNP24 - Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way  Policy SBNP 25 - Connectivity and Permeability</p>

NPPF Core Principle	Objectives - Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
Promoting sustainable transport	<p>Improve transport connections and accessibility around the town and parish for all users including those with disabilities. Encourage safe cycle routes both within and beyond the town.</p> <p>Improve the provision and quality of off-street parking (and parking in residential developments) for motorised users (cars, buses etc) and non-motorised users (e.g. bikes) in the parish.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP22 – Road Safety and Parking  Policy SBNP23 – Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes  Policy SBNP24 - Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way  Policy SBNP 25 - Connectivity and Permeability</p>
Supporting high quality communications	Not applicable to this plan	
Making effective use of land	Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham’s development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character</p>
Achieving well designed places	<p>Secure growth in line with strategic requirements focused in Soham’s development envelope and protecting the countryside status and the views outside of this.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham and Barway, including Soham’s Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy  Policy SBNP11- Soham’s Commons  Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character  Policy SBNP17 - High Quality Design</p>
Protecting Green Belt land	Not applicable to this plan	

NPPF Core Principle	Objectives - Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
<p>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p>	<p>Ensure that Soham is resilient against the future impacts of Climate Change with particular attention to flooding issues and the moves toward greener living.</p> <p>Ensure new development delivers high quality design, meets modern living requirements, National Space Standards, appropriate to identified housing needs and is designed to be low carbon.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy  Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments  Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character  Policy SBNP18 - Sustainable Buildings Fit for a Net Zero Carbon Future  Policy SBNP19 - Renewable Energy  Policy SBNP20 - Water Efficiency  Policy SBNP21 - Flood Risk</p>
<p>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>	<p>Protect and enhance the unique green setting of Soham and Barway, including Soham's Commons and open green spaces together with its green lanes and blue spaces taking particular care to improve biodiversity wherever possible. Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections to the 'Green Loop' and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.</p> <p>Promote and protect from further development, the peace and tranquillity which encourages the wonderful wildlife which makes Barway very special to its residents.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP1 - Spatial Strategy  Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments  Policy SBNP11 - Soham's Commons  Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character  Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces</p>

NPPF Core Principle	Objectives - Growth and the future	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	<p>Promote the town, its history, its Lode and its green connections to the 'Green Loop' and make it a focus for sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Protect and enhance heritage assets in the town centre (conservation area, listed buildings) and protect the historic environment in Barway and all areas of the parish.</p>	<p>Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure  Policy SBNP10 - Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments  Policy SBNP11- Soham's Commons  Policy SBNP12 - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats  Policy SBNP13 - Landscape Character  Policy SBNP14 - Local Green Spaces  Policy SBNP15 - Soham Conservation Area  Policy SBNP16 - Non Designated Heritage Assets</p>
Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable to this plan	

Table 2: Relationship between SBNP polices and NPPF 2023

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
Policy SBNP1 – Spatial Strategy	8b; 8c; 128	<p>Policy SBNP1 seeks to support the implementation of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015.</p> <p>Policy SBNP1 has regard to paragraph 8b by supporting sufficient numbers and range of homes to meet the needs of present and future generations and paragraph 8c by protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment. Has regard to paragraph 128 by ensuring planning decision consider the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services.</p>
Policy SBNP2 – Affordable Housing	8b; 63-66;	<p>Policy SBNP2 seeks to ensure that 30% of affordable housing is secured alongside major residential development.</p> <p>Policy SBNP2 has regard to paragraph 8b by supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities by securing homes that meet the needs of present and future generations. Has regard to paragraph 63-66 by ensuring affordable housing meets the needs of those who require affordable housing within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>Has regard to paragraph 64 by setting out the type of affordable housing needed.</p>
Policy SBNP3 – Allocation of affordable housing	8b; 63-66;	<p>Policy SBNP3 seeks to ensure that 50% of affordable housing coming forward in the parish is allocated to those households with a strong local connection to Soham and Barway.</p> <p>Policy SBNP3 has regard to paragraph 8b by supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities by securing homes that meet the needs of present and future generations. Has regard to paragraph 63-66 by ensuring affordable housing meets the needs of those who require affordable housing within the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p> <p>Has regard to paragraph 63 by setting out the type of affordable housing needed.</p> <p>A Ministerial statement dated 21st May 2021 stated that plans are expected to set out their approach to the ‘New Homes’ affordable housing product. In the view of Soham Town Council, there is currently</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>insufficient evidence available at a local level to set out a policy approach towards the provision of First Homes. First Homes are a specific kind of discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of 'affordable housing' for planning purposes. A review of the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan will need to consider evidence of need for First Homes and set out a suitable policy framework. In the meantime, it is considered that national policy in the NPPF and advice set out in Planning Practice Guidance can be used in decision making on planning applications.</p>
Policy SBNP4 - Housing Mix and Accessible Standards	8b; 61; 63; 82 – 84; 128	<p>Policy SBNP4 seeks to inform the development of new housing within Soham and Barway.</p> <p>Policy SBNP4 has regard to paragraph 8b by ensuring that new housing development meets the needs of present and future generations. Has regard to paragraph 62 by ensuring that further development in the parish, takes into consideration the current imbalance of housing stock and the community's desire to provide smaller homes.</p> <p>It will ensure that the plan promotes the principles of sustainable development whilst meeting its housing needs. Has regard to paragraph 63 by ensuring the size, type and tenure of housing meets the needs of those who require housing within the Neighbourhood Plan Area. Has regard to paragraphs 82-84 Rural Housing by ensuring further development meets local housing needs.</p>
Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre	8a; 90- 95; 112	<p>Policy SBNP5 seeks to support a vibrant town centre which broadens its service, retail, tourism, leisure, cultural and employment offer to create opportunities for greater social and community interaction, with green space and infrastructure and improvements to the public realm.</p> <p>Policy SBNP5 has regard to paragraph 90 which seeks to promote the long term vitality and viability of the town centre within the context provided by the Local Plan hierarchy of town centres. Has regard to paragraph 112 by improving the quality of parking alongside measures to promote accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth	8a; 85 – 89	<p>Policy SBNP6 seeks to support the expansion of the cluster of industries in and around Soham which offer a broad range of businesses to encourage local people to work and live in and around Soham and Barway.</p> <p>Policy SBNP6 has regards to paragraphs 8a and 88 which seek to build strong, responsive and competitive economy creating the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. The policy has regard to paragraph 85 by supporting economic growth and productivity, considering both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.</p>
Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure	8a; 88	<p>Policy SBNP7 seeks to support and expand tourism and leisure provision in and at the edge of Soham as part of a wider economic strategy to promote East Cambridgeshire as a tourism destination by capitalising upon Soham’s proximity to existing and new tourism and visitor assets.</p> <p>Policy SBNP7 has regards to paragraphs 8a and 88 which seek to build strong, responsive and competitive economy and sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside.</p>
Policy SBNP8 – Local Services and Facilities	8b; 20c; 88; 96a- c; 97; 128	<p>Policy SBNP8 seeks to protect valued facilities and services for members of the community.</p> <p>Policy SBNP8 has regard to paragraph 8b by supporting strong vibrant, healthy communities and accessible services by identifying services that are valued by the community. Has regard to paragraph 28 by setting out detailed policies for the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level. Has regard to paragraph 88c by supporting the sustainable growth of businesses in rural areas including leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside. Has regard to paragraph 96a) by promoting social interaction and enabling and supporting healthy lifestyles by planning positively for community facilities. Has regard to paragraph 97 by ensuring planning policies provide the social and recreational facilities and services the community needs. Has regard to paragraph 128 by considering the need to secure well designed, attractive and healthy places.</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
Policy SBNP9 – New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities	8b; 20c; 88; 96a- c; 97; 128	<p>Policy SBNP9 seeks to support new facilities and services for members of the community.</p> <p>Policy SBNP9 has regard to paragraph 8b by supporting strong vibrant, healthy communities and accessible services by identifying services that are valued by the community. Has regard to paragraph 28 by setting out detailed policies for the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level. Has regard to paragraph 88c by supporting the sustainable growth of businesses in rural areas including leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside. Has regard to paragraph 96a) by promoting social interaction and enabling and supporting healthy lifestyles by planning positively for community facilities. Has regard to paragraph 97 by ensuring planning policies provide the social and recreational facilities and services the community needs. Has regard to paragraph 128 by considering the need to secure well designed, attractive and healthy places.</p>
Policy SBNP10 – Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments	8b; 96 - 117	<p>Policy SBNP10 seeks to support environments which encourage healthier day-to-day behaviours and are supported by local services and community networks to sustain health, social and cultural wellbeing.</p> <p>Policy SBNP10 has regard to paragraphs 8b; 96 – 117 by supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities by enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.</p>
Policy SBNP11 – Soham’s Commons	8c; 128; 135; 180; 185; 186	<p>Policy SBNP11 seeks to protect and enhance Soham’s Commons in accordance with Design Guidance and the Soham Commons Recreational and Biodiversity Enhancement Study.</p> <p>Policy SBNP11 has regard to paragraph 8c and 186 by protecting and enhancing the natural environment, in this instance habitats of biodiversity value. Has regard to paragraphs 128 and 135 by ensuring development considers the desirability of maintaining an area’s prevailing character, its setting, is sympathetic to the local character and history, by safeguarding key habitats. Has regard to</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>paragraphs 180 and 185 by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value which are seen as priority habitats in the parish.</p> <p>Natural Cambridgeshire is a partnership of key local authorities, including East Cambridgeshire District Council, and environmental stakeholders who have adopted a Strategy, 'Doubling Nature 2018 – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough in 2050'. Its vision is that by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become a world-class environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.</p> <p>This policy has regard to the national policy on securing Biodiversity Net Gain. It seeks to increase the biodiversity net gain to 20%, in excess of the 10% minimum set for qualifying developments set out in the Environment Act. It is essential that in terms of mitigating the impact of climate change, supporting increased biodiversity, and meeting the challenges set out in the Doubling Nature 2018 strategy, and the Commons Study 2017, a net biodiversity gain of at least 20% is required.</p> <p>The Parish Council sets out work completed by local planning authorities which reports that the move from 10% to 20% BNG will not materially affect the viability of the development. However, the policy includes provision for viability testing.</p>
Policy SBNP12 – Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats	8c; 128; 135; 180; 185; 186	<p>Policy SBNP12 seeks to ensure sites of ecological importance and locally valued sites are safeguarded including the connectivity between them.</p> <p>Policy SBNP12 has regard to paragraph 8c and 186 by protecting and enhancing the natural environment, in this instance habitats of biodiversity value. Has regard to paragraphs 128 and 135 by ensuring development considers the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character, its setting, is sympathetic to the local character and history, by safeguarding key habitats. Has regard to paragraphs 180 and 185 by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity value which are seen as priority habitats in the parish.</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>Natural Cambridgeshire is a partnership of key local authorities, including East Cambridgeshire District Council, and environmental stakeholders who have adopted a Strategy, 'Doubling Nature 2018 – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough in 2050'. Its vision is that by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become a world-class environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.</p> <p>This policy has regard to the national policy on securing Biodiversity Net Gain. It seeks to increase the biodiversity net gain to 20%, in excess of the 10% minimum set for qualifying developments set out in the Environment Act. It is essential that in terms of mitigating the impact of climate change, supporting increased biodiversity, and meeting the challenges set out in the Doubling Nature 2018 strategy, a net biodiversity gain of at least 20% is required.</p> <p>The Parish Council sets out work completed by local planning authorities which reports that the move from 10% to 20% BNG will not materially affect the viability of the development. However, the policy includes provision for viability testing.</p>
Policy SBNP13 – Landscape Character	28; 128; 131-141; 196; 203	<p>Policy SBNP13 aims to ensure that development proposals are designed in a manner that not only respects and responds positively to, but also enhances the existing landscape and settlement character of the local area.</p> <p>Policy SBNP13 has regard to paragraph 28 by setting out more detailed policies establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies which is based upon the Soham Design and Guidance assessment and an assessment of Valued Views and Vistas. Has regard to paragraph 128 by considering the desirability of maintaining an area's prevailing character and setting and securing well designed, attractive and healthy places. Has regard to paragraphs 131 to 141 by seeking to create high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places. Has regard to paragraph 196 by setting out a positive design approach which respects and complements local character including the historic environment. Has regard to paragraph 203 by considering the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
Policy SBNP14 – Local Green Spaces	96, 105 to 108	<p>Policy SBNP14 identifies sites as Local Green Spaces where it will be protected from inappropriate development.</p> <p>Policy SBNP14 has regard to paragraph 96 which seeks to support and enable healthy lifestyles through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure. Has regard to paragraphs 105 to 108 by taking the opportunity to identify Local Green Spaces which is of particular importance to the local community and is most valued. The sites have been assessed against the NPPF criteria and satisfy the full criteria. Development within the sites will be in line with Green Belt policy. The SBNP supports the implementation of the Local Plan including housing and public services and facilities and the allocation of Local Green Space is in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.</p>
Policy SBNP15 – Soham Conservation Area	8c; 20d; 28; 128; 131-141; 196; 200-210	<p>Policy SBNP15 seeks to protect and enhance the Conservation Areas and historical assets which provide an historical backdrop to the character of the Parish.</p> <p>Policy SBNP15 has regard to paragraphs 8c, 20d and 28 by seeking to protect and enhance the built and historic environment. Has regard to paragraph 128 by considering the desirability of maintaining an area’s prevailing character and setting and securing policies for well designed, attractive and healthy places. Has regard to paragraphs 131 to 141 by seeking to create high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places. Has regard to paragraph 196 by setting out a positive design approach which respects and complements local character including the historic environment. Has regard to paragraphs 200 to 210 by setting out policies that preserve or enhance the positive attributes of significant heritage assets.</p>
Policy SBNP16 – Non Designated Heritage Assets	8c; 20d; 28; 128; 131-141; 196; 200-210	<p>Policy SBNP16 seeks to protect designated and non-designated historical assets which are important to the character of the Parish.</p> <p>Policy SBNP16 has regard to paragraphs 8c, 20d and 28 by seeking to protect and enhance the built and historic environment. Has regard to paragraph 128 by considering the desirability of maintaining an area’s prevailing character and setting and securing policies for well designed, attractive and healthy places. Has regard to paragraphs 131 to 141 by seeking to create high quality, beautiful and sustainable</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>buildings and places. Has regard to paragraph 196 by setting out a positive design approach which respects and complements local character including the historic environment. Has regard to paragraphs 200 to 210 by setting out policies that preserve or enhance the positive attributes of significant heritage assets and particularly paragraph 209 which provides advice on non-designated heritage assets.</p>
<p>Policy SBNP17 – High Quality Design</p>	<p>8b, 88, 96, 128, 129; 131 - 33</p>	<p>Policy SBNP17 seeks to ensure development is guided by the characteristics and context and create high quality, safe and sustainable environment.</p> <p>Policy SBNP17 has regard to paragraph 8b, 88, 96, 128, 129; 131 - 33 by seeking well designed, beautiful and safe places. It also supports paragraph 88 supporting well designed, beautiful and safe buildings enabling the rural economy.</p>
<p>Policy SBNP18 – Sustainable Buildings Fit for A Net Zero Carbon Future</p>	<p>8c; 157; 159b; 162b</p>	<p>Policy SBNP18 sets out sustainable construction design principles to enable all new development within Soham and Barway Parish to minimise energy demand, maximise the energy efficiency of new buildings, using the best of modern design and technology to minimise the demand for energy and to maximise the supply of energy from low carbon sources.</p> <p>Policy SBNP18 has regard to paragraph 8c by seeking to ensure developments use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy. Has regard to paragraph 157 where the SBNP supports the transition to a low carbon future. Has regard to paragraph 159b by helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through a development’s location, orientation and design. Has regard to paragraph 162b by ensuring development responds to the requirement to consider landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.</p> <p>In 2019, the government announced the Future Homes Standard. This introduced a set of standards that to complement Building Regulations to ensure an uplift in the energy performance of new homes. In January 2021, the government issued its response to a consultation which ran October 2019 to February 2020 where it confirmed that all new homes will be required to be equipped with low carbon</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>heating and be zero-carbon ready by 2025. In December 2023, the government launched its consultation ‘The Future Homes and Buildings Standard’ in which it refers to the 2025 Future Homes and Buildings Standard. These introduce further requirements for energy efficiency and heating for homes and non-domestic buildings - the government asserts that once implemented, no further work will be needed for new buildings to produce zero carbon emissions as the electricity grid decarbonises.</p> <p>It is considered entirely appropriate for the Soham and Barwa7 Neighbourhood Plan to signpost developers to tools to assist with the planning, design and delivery of low carbon developments in the parish. An example of such a tool is the Net Zero Carbon Toolkit, prepared by Levitt Bernstein, Elementa, Passivhaus Trust and Etude and commissioned by West Oxfordshire District Council, in collaboration with Cotswold District Council and Forest of Dean District Council. It is aimed at small and medium sized house builders, architects, self-builders and consultants and is available to view here: <a href="https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/netzerocarbontoolkit">https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/netzerocarbontoolkit</a>. Policy SBNP18 is consistent with the ministerial statement dated 13th December 2023 as it encourages developments to support innovative ways in which to assess and monitor energy use targets which are more robust than carbon reduction targets (those promoted in the ministerial statement).</p>
Policy SBNP19 – Renewable Energy	8c; 157; 159b; 162b	<p>Policy SBNP19 supports renewable energy.</p> <p>Policy SBNP19 has regard to paragraph 8c and paragraph 157 by setting out a policy which seeks to mitigate and adapt to climate change and transition to a low carbon future by supporting the development of renewable energy in the Parish subject to safeguarding conditions. Has regard to paragraphs 159 - 162 by supporting the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat. It maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including impacts on food production).</p>
Policy SBNP20 Water Efficiency	8c; 20b; 28; 128-129; 157	<p>Policy SBNP20 seeks to maximise water efficiency in new development.</p> <p>Policy SBNP20 has regard to paragraph 8c by providing a policy which seeks to use natural resources prudently thereby mitigating and adapting to climate change. Has regard to paragraph 20b by providing</p>

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		<p>a policy which sets out the approach and response to concerns over the areas significant water stress identified by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Has regard to paragraph 28 where Neighbourhood Plans can set out development management policies to ensure new development safeguards water resources. Has regard to paragraph 128 by ensuring planning decision consider the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services. Has regard to paragraph 157 by preparing a policy that takes full account of water resources, minimises vulnerability and improves resilience to climate change.</p>
Policy SBNP21 - Flood Risk	8c; 20b;28; 128; 157; 165-175	<p>Policy SBNP21 seeks to ensure development coming forward in the parish should not lead to additional surface water flooding and opportunities to reduce overall flood risk in the parish should be realised taking a positive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change.</p> <p>Policy SBNP21 has regard to paragraph 8c by providing a policy which seek to ensure development responds positively to the increased threat of flood risks including those associated with climate change. Has regard to paragraph 20b by providing a policy which sets out the approach and response to flood risk by supporting natural flood management measures that lower the risk of flooding and increase the land's natural water holding capacity. Has regard to paragraph 28 where Neighbourhood Plans can set out in more detail, policies for the provision of infrastructure at a local level and setting out development management policies to ensure new development provides Natural Flood Measures. Aligns with paragraph 128 by recognising that land can perform many functions including flood risk mitigation. Has regard to paragraph 128 by ensuring planning decision consider the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services. Has regard to paragraph 157 by preparing a policy that takes full account of flood risk, minimises vulnerability and improve resilience to climate change. Has regard to paragraph 165 to 175 – Planning and Flood Risk by ensuring that flood risk is efficiently managed through Natural Flood Management.</p>
Policy SBNP22 – Road Safety and Parking	108; 114	Policy SBNP22 ensures development decisions consider the impact on road safety hotspots identified in the parish.

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Related NPPF Reference	Comment on how the SBNP has regard to NPPF
		Policy SBNP22 has regard to paragraph 108 which seeks to ensure transport issues are considered in the earliest stages of plan making. By identifying traffic hot spots, the policy has regard to paragraph 114 which ensures safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users and any significant impact on highway safety can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.
Policy SBNP23 – Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes	96; 104; 108c; 110d	Policy SBNP23 ensures any new development is designed with a layout that secures easy and safe movement for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from residential areas and to services and facilities. It has regard to paragraph 96b by seeking to ensure safe and accessible cycle and pedestrian routes. Has regard to paragraph 104 by enhancing public rights of way and access, taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users. Has regard to paragraph 108c by promoting opportunities for walking and cycling to key destinations. Has regard to paragraph 110d by providing attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks.
Policy SBNP24 - Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights of Way	104; 108d; 110d	Has regard to paragraph 104 by enhancing public rights of way and access, taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users. Has regard to paragraph 108c by promoting opportunities for walking and cycling to key destinations. Has regard to paragraph 110d by providing attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks.
Policy SBNP25 - Connectivity and Permeability	96; 104; 108c; 110d	Policy SBNP25 ensures any new development is designed with a layout that secures easy and safe movement for pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from residential areas and to services and facilities. It has regard to paragraph 96b by seeking to ensure safe and accessible cycle and pedestrian routes.  Has regard to paragraph 104 by enhancing public rights of way and access, taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users. Has regard to paragraph 108c by promoting opportunities for walking and cycling to key destinations. Has regard to paragraph 110d by providing attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks.

14. The SBNP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Development Plan for the area. Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan must support the delivery of the strategic policies in the Development Plan and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies<sup>5</sup>.

15. The adopted Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire comprises the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023), adopted 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, made Neighbourhood Plans and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan. The development plan is also supported by Supplementary Planning Documents including:

- Contaminated Land
- County Wildlife Sites
- Developer Contributions
- Design Guide
- Renewable Energy (commercial scale)
- Shop Fronts Design Guide
- Soham Conservation Area Appraisal (2008)
- Community Led Development
- Cambridgeshire Flood and Water
- Custom and Self-Build Housing
- Natural Environment
- Climate Change

12. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance states that "A local planning authority (or, where relevant, elected Mayor or combined authority) should set out clearly its strategic policies in accordance with paragraph 21 of the National Planning Policy Framework and provide details of these to a qualifying body and to the independent examiner." It further states that: "Strategic policies will be different in each area.

13. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision 12 and aspirations in the local plan or spatial development strategy

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<sup>5</sup> Paragraph 13 of the National Planning Policy Framework

- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the local plan or spatial development strategy
  - whether the local plan or spatial development strategy identifies the policy as being strategic”
14. East Cambridgeshire District Council have not identified which of the policies in the Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023) are determined to be “strategic”. However, other Neighbourhood Plans in the District have identified strategic policies, which the District Council has not contested, and have been successfully examined and found to meet the Basic Conditions.
  15. This Basic Conditions Statement has therefore taken guidance from the strategic policies identified in other ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plan’s Basic Conditions Statements to appraise the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan against the Local Plan strategic policies.
  16. Whilst Neighbourhood Plan policies should align with and support the delivery of those policies, neighbourhood plan policies can provide more distinctiveness, definition or finer grain of detail by applying them to specific sites or relating them specifically to Soham and Barway.
  17. The table below shows the relationship between the relevant strategic policies in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the relevant SBNP policies.

Table 3: Conformity between SBNP policies and Strategic Policies in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
<p>Policy Growth 1 – Levels of housing, employment and retail growth</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP1</b> – Spatial Strategy  <b>Policy SBNP5</b> – Vibrant Town Centre  <b>Policy SBNP6</b> – Economic Growth</p>	<p>Local Plan policy Growth 1 identifies the amount of housing, employment and retail growth that will take place in the district to 2031. This policy was amended as part of the Local Plan Review 2023 to state that the number of dwellings required between 2022 and 2031 is 5,400 dwellings.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of the Local Plan (as amended) including its housing and employment allocations. The Neighbourhood Plan also supports economic growth and development which supports the vitality and vibrancy of Soham’s town centre.</p> <p>The Council’s monitoring report notes that over 7,000 additional dwellings are expected to come forward through planning commitments and on existing allocated housing sites across the district. For the avoidance of doubt, the Neighbourhood Plan clarifies that further development on the ‘Broad Areas for Housing’ set out in the adopted Local Plan, beyond those sites with existing planning permissions, are not required to meet the district’s housing requirements between 2022 and 2031 as set out in the Local Plan (as amended). Any further development of the ‘broad areas for housing’ beyond existing commitments would need to be considered and debated through the next Local Plan Review.</p>
<p>Policy Growth 2 – Locational Strategy</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP1</b> – Spatial Strategy  <b>Policy SBNP5</b> – Vibrant Town Centre  <b>Policy SBNP6</b> – Economic Growth</p>	<p>Local Plan policy Growth 2 sets out a high level strategy for the distribution and growth across the district, identifying that development will be focused in Ely, Soham and Littleport. Development within the defined development envelopes supporting local services, shops and community needs will normally be permitted.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is in conformity with Local Plan Policy Growth 2. Between 2011 and 1st April 2022, a total of 763 dwelling units were completed in Soham. Unimplemented planning permissions and outstanding housing allocations in the parish total 1,781 dwellings units. Therefore, the total supply for 2011 to 2031 is</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
		<p>2,544 homes. Soham has made, and will continue to make, a significant contribution to the growing housing stock in the district, in accordance with the policies in the Local Plan (as amended).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has updated Soham's Development Envelope to include two housing sites that were granted consent on land outside the 2015 Development Envelope. The Barway Development Envelope has been updated to reflect the residential development completed beyond the 2015 Development Envelope. This recognises that these developments are now part of the built up area of Soham and Barway.</p> <p>Development in the countryside is limited to specific and limited opportunities set out in the Local Plan. Development will only be supported in accordance with requirements of national or local policies noting support for affordable housing and modest tourism and leisure proposals including holiday accommodation. This complements the approach in the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Policy Growth 3 – Infrastructure Requirements</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP1</b> – Spatial Strategy  <b>Policy SBNP5</b> – Vibrant Town Centre  <b>Policy SBNP8</b> – Local Services and Facilities  <b>Policy SBNP9</b> – New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities  <b>Policy SBNP10</b> – Health, Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments</p>	<p>The Local Plan Policy Growth 3 sets out a strategy for the provision of infrastructure and the key infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan states that planning permission will only be granted where it can be demonstrated that there is infrastructure capacity to support and meet the necessary requirements of the development. This aligns with the principles of sustainable communities set out in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of the Local Plan by identifying those local services and facilities that are valued by the local community which should be retained. It also identifies locally specific new and upgraded infrastructure and community facilities that will be supported to meet the needs of the community.</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
		<p>To improve the consideration of infrastructure, services and facilities as part of the design of development proposals, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to promote strong, vibrant and healthy communities and reduce health inequalities through the submission of a Health Impact Assessment.</p>
<p>Policy 4 – Delivery of Growth</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP1</b> – Spatial Strategy  <b>Policy SBNP5</b> – Vibrant Town Centre  <b>Policy SBNP6</b> – Economic Growth  <b>Policy SBNP7</b> – Tourism and Leisure</p>	<p>Local Plan policy Growth 4 identifies the amount of housing, employment and retail growth that will take place in the district to 2031.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of the Local Plan (as amended) and Soham’s housing and employment allocations. It also supports economic growth and development which supports the vitality and vibrancy of its town centre.</p> <p>The Council’s monitoring report notes that over 7,000 additional dwellings are expected to come forward through planning commitments and on existing allocated housing sites. For the avoidance of doubt, the Neighbourhood Plan clarifies that further development on the Broad Areas for Housing set out in the adopted Local Plan, beyond those sites with existing planning permissions, are not required to meet the district’s housing requirements between 2022 and 2031 as set out in the Local Plan (as amended). Any further development of the ‘broad areas for housing’ beyond existing commitments would need to be considered and debated through the next Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The employment allocations and Opportunity Areas identified in the Local Plan are unaffected by the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Policy Growth 5 – Presumption in favour of sustainable</p>	<p>All policies apply.</p>	<p>Local Plan policy Growth 5 seeks to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan policies complement the approach. The sustainability of the Neighbourhood Plan is discussed in more detail in the following section.</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
development		
Policy Growth 6 – Community Led Development	<b>Policy SBNP1</b> – Spatial Strategy <b>Policy SBNP2</b> – Affordable Housing <b>Policy SBNP6</b> – Economic Growth <b>Policy SBNP19</b> - Renewable Energy	<p>The Local Plan Policy Growth 6 supports community-led development, such as schemes involving affordable housing, small business units, renewable energy generation and other appropriate uses.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan includes a specific policy which particularly supports community led affordable housing. Additionally, the Neighbourhood Plan includes a specific policy for Renewable Energy, providing distinctive criteria which are applicable directly relevant to the parish and reflect recent ministerial statements.</p>
Policy HOU 1 – Housing Mix	<b>Policy SBNP4</b> – Housing Mix <b>Policy SBNP3</b> - Allocation of Affordable Housing	<p>The Local Plan policy sets a broad framework for the achievement of a mix of housing within different categories of development.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy on Housing Mix which provides a distinctive policy for Soham and Barway to reflect its identified existing and future housing needs identified in the Soham and Barway Housing Needs Assessment. A mix in the size and tenure of housing will be required considering the needs of young people looking for smaller homes, growing families as well as the needs of older residents as set out in the Housing Needs Assessment 2023.</p> <p>The policy also requires housing to be built to the accessible and adaptable M4(2) standard and 10% of housing to M4(3) standard to meet the needs of a growing and ageing population. This is evidenced in the Housing Needs Assessment 2023 and provides an up to date and area relevant policy supporting the implementation of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SBNP is complementary to the Local Plan reflecting the local and distinctive needs of Soham and Barway’s existing and future residents presented in up to date evidence.</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
		<p>Local Plan policy HOU3 is not considered to be a strategic policy, confirmed in the Basic Conditions Statements of made Neighbourhood Plans in East Cambridgeshire. It is important to note that the intent of the policy SBNP 3 is to ensure that a proportion of affordable homes in the parish are offered firstly to those with demonstrated affordable housing needs and who have a strong connection to Soham and Barway. The Local Connections criteria is based upon the Soham and Barway Community Land Trust criteria and offers a consistent approach to addressing housing need in the parish.</p> <p>It is accepted that such a policy approach is unusual – the Housing Strategy allocates S106 affordable housing on a district wide needs basis. However, securing an element of the affordable housing units for those with a connection to Soham and Barway is considered essential to facilitate a cohesive community and to achieve key principles of sustainable development.</p> <p>This principle of local allocation of affordable housing, and the policy format has been adopted in the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan in South Cambridgeshire. The Plan is available at: <a href="https://www.scamb.gov.uk/media/19884/waterbeach-np-made-version-march-2022-reduced-1.pdf">https://www.scamb.gov.uk/media/19884/waterbeach-np-made-version-march-2022-reduced-1.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Given the extent of the need for affordable housing in Soham and Barway, identified in the Housing Needs Assessment and the increasing number of people on the East Cambs Housing Register, and considering the likely sites to come forward, it is considered appropriate that local people should be given first preference on 50% of an affordable rental and 50% of Low Cost Affordable Housing.</p> <p>Locality have published a paper called Local Connection Policies in Neighbourhood Plans. <a href="https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/Local-Connection-Policies-in-Neighbourhood-Plans-.pdf">https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/Local-Connection-Policies-in-Neighbourhood-Plans-.pdf</a> . The approach taken in the SBNP is consistent with the advice in that paper.</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
Policy HOU2 – Housing Density	<b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design	<p>The Local Plan policy states that the housing density of a scheme will be judged on a site-by-site basis, considering a number of criteria.</p> <p>Policy SBNP17 compliments this approach by providing specific design criteria for the consideration of development proposals as set out in the Soham Design Code and Guidance 2022 including its Development Design Checklist.</p>
Policy EMP1 – Retention of existing sites and allocations	<b>Policy SBNP6</b> – Economic Growth	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks the retention of land and premises currently or last used for employment purposes.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides a complimentary approach which supports proposals for employment development for business startup space, grow on space, or a business hub within the development envelopes. Businesses and residents have advised that the local business offer can be improved by these provisions and will, if provided, support job opportunities for the local population.</p>
Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Settlement Character	<b>Policy SBNP13</b> - Landscape Character <b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks to ensure that the location, scale, form, design, materials, colour, edge treatment and structural landscaping of proposals will create positive, complementary relationships with existing development, identifying specific matters that should be considered.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy which complements the Local Plan by identifying those characteristics which are distinctive to the parish landscape including valued views and vistas, the transitional nature of Soham’s gateways between the countryside and the town and the settlement edges in Barway; and the Green Loop of open spaces and footpaths which encompass Soham.</p>
Policy ENV2 - Design	<b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design <b>Policy SBNP13</b> - Landscape Character <b>Policy SBNP16</b> - Non Designated Heritage	The Local Plan policy requires new development proposals to be designed to a high quality, enhancing and complementing local distinctiveness and public amenity by relating well to existing features and introducing appropriate new designs.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
	Assets <b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan provides a layer of specificity and distinctiveness which applies the principles of the design policy to the parish. The parish has developed a Design Guidance and Code, has completed an assessment of locally valued views and vistas and identified non designated heritage assets, the significance of which needs to be considered in determining applications.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is complementary, providing a layer of distinctiveness and clarity to the Local Plan as it applies to Soham and Barway.</p>
Policy ENV7 – Biodiversity and geology	<b>Policy SBNP11</b> - Soham’s Commons <b>Policy SBNP12</b> - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats <b>Policy SBNP14</b> - Local Green Spaces <b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design	<p>The Local Plan policy requires new development to protect land with biodiversity and geological value, allows for mitigation measures where appropriate and maximise opportunities for creation, restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats.</p> <p>The Local Plan policy predates the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan highlights the importance of retaining or enhancing specific features, which are a priority for biodiversity and green infrastructure within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan provides more detail on the important areas for biodiversity, geodiversity and natural heritage. The minimum biodiversity net gain for all qualifying developments shall be 20%, rather than the national mandatory minimum of 10% unless demonstrated in a viability assessment that it would make the development unviable. This ambition reflects the County Wide Strategy, ‘Doubling Nature 2018 – A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough in 2050’. Its vision is that by doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will become a world-class environment where nature and people thrive, and businesses prosper.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan safeguards valued community spaces and The Commons as Local Green Spaces recognising that such sites accord with National Planning Policy</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
		<p>Framework.</p> <p>The identified policies are complementary to the Local Plan and bring it up to date to reflect the intent of Government legislation.</p>
<p>Policy ENV11 – Conservation Areas</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP15</b> - Soham Conservation Area  <b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks development proposals in a Conservation Area to be of a high standard of design and materials to preserve or enhance the character of the area.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan complements this policy by ensuring that development demonstrates how it has considered the Soham Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document 2008 and the Soham Design Guidance and Codes 2022.</p>
<p>Policy ENV12 – Listed Buildings</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP15</b> - Soham Conservation Area  <b>Policy SBNP17</b> - High Quality Design</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy sets out criteria whereby proposals that would have an impact on a listed building may or may not be permitted.</p> <p>The identified policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are complementary to this policy.</p>
<p>Policy ENV13 – Local Register of Buildings and Structures</p>	<p><b>Policy SBNP5</b> - Vibrant Town Centre  <b>Policy SBNP15</b> - Soham Conservation Area  <b>Policy SBNP16</b> - Non Designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy states that proposals that affect a building or structure on the Local Register will not be permitted where it would have a detrimental impact on the visual, architectural or historic significance of the asset.</p> <p>The non-designated heritage assets included in Policy SBNP 16 as listed in the Neighbourhood Plan are justified based on assessment using the criteria defined in Table 1 of the Historic England’s Advice Note no.7 ‘Local Heritage Listing’ as set out in the Topic Paper – ‘Soham and Barway Non Designated Heritage Assets’. Assets that are within a Conservation Area are not additionally identified as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset as it is considered that they are appropriately safeguarded by the need to conserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area. This approach provides a distinctive and specific by identifying the parish’s</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
		non-designated heritage assets and is complementary to the Local Plan.
Policy COM1 – Location of retail and town centre uses	<b>Policy SBNP5</b> – Vibrant Town Centre <b>Policy SBNP8</b> – Local Services and Facilities	<p>The policy identifies in what circumstances proposals for new retail development in key centres such as Soham and small settlements such as Barway will be permitted.</p> <p>The Local Plan's approach to Soham's Town Centre predates the acceleration of the trend in online shopping, changes in work behaviours due to Covid, the reopening of the rail station and the anticipated adverse impact of out of town retail and leisure destinations on Soham's town centre.</p> <p>It is important to note that the retail floorspace ambitions in the Local Plan remain unchanged and are unaffected by the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect existing services and facilities in the town centre and take advantage of the identified opportunity areas.</p> <p>The continued presence of existing retail and community facilities is important to minimise the need to travel to other centres to secure the service, especially for those with limited access to a car. However, it is recognised that demands change over time, when planning permission is required to change the use of existing premises, it would be unreasonable to require the retention of facilities if there is no longer a proven need or demand for them. In such circumstances it might be appropriate for those uses to be lost where specific criteria can be met.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan also plays a role in supporting opportunities for a healthier place by not extending the proliferation of Hot Food takeaways particularly in proximity to locations where children and young people congregate. Such an approach is supported national policy guidance: Healthy and Safe Communities.</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment on Conformity with Strategic Policies in ECDC Local Plan
Policy COM3 – Retaining community facilities	<p><b>Policy SBNP8</b> – Local Services and Facilities</p> <p><b>Policy SBNP9</b> – New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy sets out criteria against which proposals for the loss of community facilities will be considered.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the implementation of the Local Plan by listing the valued services and facilities that should be retained within Soham and Barway. It also identifies the list of local community facilities which should be provided or upgraded.</p>
Policy COM7 – Transport Impact	<p><b>Policy SBNP23</b> – Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes</p> <p><b>Policy SBNP24</b> – Millenium Walks, Green Lane and Public Rights of Way</p> <p><b>Policy SBNP25</b> – Connectivity and Permeability</p>	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, and promotes sustainable forms of transport appropriate to its location.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan complements this policy by identifying key routes to services and facilities, routes for leisure and seeks to ensure permeability between developments to ensure that active and sustainable travel is promoted.</p>

## DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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18. The making of a Neighbourhood Plan should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This involves working to address the three separate strands of sustainability; economic, social and environmental.
19. The NPPF provides a framework within which local communities can produce neighbourhood development plans for their area and sets out how planning should help achieve sustainable development. The framework confirms that achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
  - a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
  - b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
  - c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy
20. The SBNP vision is set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.
21. The principles of sustainable development are embedded into the vision and the objectives of the SBNP by seeking to ensure that the parish continues to thrive, both to build a strong, vibrant and healthy community whilst protecting and enhancing the parishes’ natural, built and historic environment in the context of the impact of climate change. The bullet points below set out in broad terms how the SBNP supports the three principles of sustainable development.
22. Economic Objectives
  - The SBNP supports the retention of local services and facilities securing local job opportunities
  - The SBNP supports the retention of employment spaces and identifies gaps in the employment offer which could be filled by the promotion of small startup spaces and other business spaces
  - The SBNP seeks to support local hubs to enable economic growth and to maintain a sustainable community
  - The SBNP supports the promotion of modest scale tourism and leisure development, particularly those that take advantage of Soham’s location close to several key tourism destinations

- The SBNP supports the implementation of Opportunity Areas within Soham and developments which secure the vitality and vibrancy of the town

### 23. Social Objective

- The SBNP policies seek to maintain, and wherever possible enhance, key community infrastructure and services
- The SBNP policies support the development of existing allocated housing sites to support new homes meeting the needs of current and future residents and seeks to ensure new high-quality homes
- The SBNP seeks to ensure that new homes are resource efficient and use sustainable energy resources which addresses issues of fuel poverty and fuel resilience
- The SBNP policies encourages a well-designed and sustainable environment to meet the aspirations of the community supported by a Landscape and Settlement Assessment
- The SBNP seeks to do this without compromising the distinctive and attractive character of the built up area or natural environment. The SBNP is supported by a paper evidencing the proposed non designated heritage assets.

### 24. Environmental Objective

- The SBNP is expected to protect and enhance the natural environment and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by identifying key local environmental assets valued by local people. This includes views and vistas as set out in the Views and Vista analysis
- The SBNP seeks to enhance the positive attributes of its Conservation Areas, heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets
- The SBNP seeks to deliver more environmentally sustainable movement with an infrastructure that promotes cycling and walking
- The SBNP seeks to ensure the design and standard of new development maximises its contribution to climate change mitigation
- The SBNP seeks to recognise, preserve and enhance Soham and Barway's high quality and rich biodiversity and secure additional enhancements through biodiversity net gain
- The SBNP seeks to protect Local Green Space, Open Spaces and Commons including the Green Loop
- The SBNP seeks to address and minimise flood risk

25. The following table demonstrates that the SBNP has regard to the principles of sustainable development which are embedded within NPPF.

Table 4: Impact of SBNP policies on three strands of Sustainable Development: social, economic and environmental

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
<b>Spatial Strategy and Housing</b>				
Policy SBNP1 – Spatial Strategy	**	*	*	<p>The policy has a very positive social impact by supporting development within the built up area that will meet the housing needs of the local community. The policy will also have a positive social impact by ensuring infrastructure necessary as a result of a development in provided in a timely manner.</p> <p>The policy has a positive environmental impact by securing development within the built up area, which is more accessible by foot and cycle. The policy will also seek to protect the open countryside by limiting development which complies with national and local plan policies.</p>
Policy SBNP2 - Affordable Housing	**	-	-	The policy has a very positive social impact in meeting local housing needs and increasing the accessibility and affordability of housing to local people by securing 30% affordable housing on major sites.
Policy SBNP3 – Allocation of affordable housing	**	-	-	The policy has a very positive social impact in meeting local housing needs and increasing the accessibility and affordability of housing to local people by ensuring the affordable housing is prioritised to those with a strong local connection.
Policy SBNP4 - Housing Mix	**	-	-	The policy has a very positive social impact in meeting local housing needs by ensuring that the size, tenure, of both affordable and open market housing meets the needs of the local community.

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
<b>Employment, Town Centre, Service and Facilities</b>				
Policy SBNP5 - Vibrant Town Centre	**	**	*	The policy will have a very positive economic impact by supporting services and facilities which enhance the vitality of the town centre. A more sustainable town centre will have positive social benefits enhancing the health and wellbeing of the local community. Design guidance and a more pedestrian friendly environment will seek to enhance the Conservation Area in which the town centre sits.
Policy SBNP6 - Economic Growth	-	**	*	The policy will have a very positive economic impact by supporting the type of business space that has been identified by the business community. The policy will have a positive impact .
Policy SBNP7 - Tourism and Leisure	*	**	-	The policy will have a very positive economic impact by supporting investment and jobs in leisure and tourism opportunities so long as they are related to the scale and function of the town. This will lead to indirect social benefits from increased opportunities for employment.
Policy SBNP8 - Local Services and Facilities				The policy will have a very positive social impact by safeguarding a range of services, leisure and recreation facilities throughout the Plan area. This policy will help to promote a strong vibrant and healthy community. This will ensure local services reflect the current and future needs to support the community's health and social well-being.
Policy SBNP9 - New and Upgraded Infrastructure and Community Facilities	**		**	The policy will have a very positive social impact by safeguarding a range of services, leisure and recreation facilities throughout the Plan area. This policy will help to promote a strong vibrant and healthy community. This will ensure local services reflect the current and future needs to support the community's health and social well-being.
Policy SBNP10 - Health,	**	*	**	The policy will have a very positive social impact by ensuring that development considers the impact upon the wellbeing and health of

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
Wellbeing and Health Impact Assessments				the community. This policy will help to promote a strong vibrant and healthy community. The policy will also facilitate environmental improvements which will in turn support the health and wellbeing of the community. Such improvements will have an indirect economic benefit.
<b>Natural Environment</b>				
Policy SBNP11 – Soham's Commons	**	*	**	This policy has a very positive environmental impact and encourages the protection, enhancement and further development of biodiversity rich habitats for both visual and wildlife habitat benefits. The benefits of habitats will help create areas attractive to local residents and the consequent benefits to their health and wellbeing. The policy will enhance well- designed spaces to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.
Policy SBNP12 – Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitats	*	-	**	This policy has a very positive environmental impact and encourages the protection, enhancement and further development of biodiversity rich habitats for both visual and wildlife habitat benefits. The benefits of habitats will help create areas attractive to local residents and the consequent benefits to their health and wellbeing. The policy will enhance well- designed spaces to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.
Policy SBNP13 – Landscape Character	-	-	**	This policy values the landscape and settlement character of Soham which will provide significant environmental gains by safeguarding valued character assets including views and vistas. This policy provides environmental gains in that it protects and enhances the Parishes natural, built and historic environment and its setting.
Policy SBNP14 – Local Green Spaces	**	-	**	This policy has very positive social and environmental impacts by seeking to protect local green spaces which is of particular importance to the local community, which has attributes such as recreation, tranquillity, and landscape value.

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
<b>Historic Environment</b>				
Policy SBNP15 – Soham Conservation Area	*	-	**	This policy values the character of Soham’s Conservation Area which will provide significant environmental gains. This policy provides environmental gains in that it protects and enhances the Parish’s built and historic environment within, and within the setting of, the Conservation Area.
Policy SBNP16 – Non Designated Heritage Assets	*	-	**	The policy will have a very positive social impact in encouraging the protection of a wide range of local heritage assets from unnecessary loss, embedding a community sense of place. In doing so, some will have a social and economic value. This policy also values heritage setting which will provide both social and environmental gains. This policy has a very positive environmental impact by providing environmental gains that protects and enhances the Parish’s built and historic environment; including using local resources and materials and the mitigation and conversion of buildings to tackle climate change.
<b>Development Design and Climate Change</b>				
Policy SBNP17 – High Quality Design	*	-	**	This policy values the design and settlement character of the parish which will provide significant environmental gains by safeguarding and enhancing the design of new development to reflect the distinctive character areas. This policy provides environmental gains in that it protects and enhances the Parishes natural, built and historic environment. The policy has a positive social impact by improving the quality of development and the green spaces.

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
Policy SBNP18 – Sustainable Construction and Energy Efficiency	*	*	**	<p>This policy has a very positive environmental impact in requiring improvements to energy efficiency, maximises the use of renewable energy resources, reduces carbon emissions and secures high energy standards.</p> <p>This policy has indirect positive social impacts by seeking to reduce the consumption and cost of energy whilst also having indirect positive economic benefits by seeking to ensure supply chains in the construction industry move to low energy construction.</p>
Policy SBNP19 – Renewable Energy	*	*	**	The policy will have a positive social and environmental impact by encouraging a Community Heat and Energy Storage Hub. This policy will protect and enhance our natural environment by increasing the community's use and production of renewable and low carbon energy.
Policy SBNP20 – Water Efficiency	*	*	**	This policy has a very positive environmental impacts by ensuring the implementation of fittings, appliances, water harvesting, water recycling and storage features to improve water efficiency in an area of acknowledged water stress.
Policy SBNP21 – Flood Risk	*	-	**	<p>This policy has a very positive environmental impact in ensuring no net increase in surface water run off to minimise the impact on localised flooding.</p> <p>This policy has a very positive environmental impacts by encouraging Natural Flood Management to ensure efficient management of flood risk.</p>
<b>Transport and Accessibility</b>				

SBNP Plan Policy	Social	Economic	Environment	Comments
Policy SBNP22 – Road Safety and Parking	**	**	**	The policy will have very positive social and environmental impacts by encouraging the extension and improvement of active travel across the parish with benefits to local health and the environment. It will improve the environment by providing safe crossings across main roads for walking and cycling.
Policy SBNP23 – Pedestrian, Cycle and Bridleway Priority Routes	**		**	The policy will have a very positive social and environmental impact by supporting and expanding cycle routes - a low carbon transport network. The policy will protect and enhance the surrounding natural environment by supporting and moving towards low carbon methods of travel.
Policy SBNP24 - Millennium Walks, Green Lanes and Public Rights	**		**	The policy will have a very positive social and environmental impact by protecting and expanding important rights of way network - a low carbon transport network. The policy will protect and enhance the surrounding natural environment by supporting and moving towards low carbon methods of travel and be ensuring development does not adversely affect the environmental benefits of these public rights of way.
Policy SBNP25 - Connectivity and Permeability	**	*	**	The policy will have a very positive social and environmental impact by encouraging developments to improve the accessibility of services and facilities and residential areas encouraging active travel within the parish. This policy will protect and enhance our natural environment by minimising pollution and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

## EUROPEAN UNION OBLIGATIONS

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### Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment

44. European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for plans or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. UK legislation is set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). The local planning authority should determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect and consult the consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency). The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations requires either that a SEA is submitted with a Neighbourhood Plan proposal or a determination obtained from the District Council that the plan is not likely to have 'significant effects.'
45. A screening exercise was carried out by ECDC as the Local Planning Authority to determine whether a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required in support of the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan. ECDC consulted the statutory consultees on the screening opinion in March 2024 and responses were received from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. The Screening Opinion and the Determination Statement dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 is included with the Neighbourhood Plan submission documents.
46. The assessment for both the SEA and HRA was undertaken based on the policies and proposals set out in Soham and Barway (pre submission draft) Neighbourhood Plan and within the strategic framework established in the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2031 (as amended).
47. The Screening Opinion concludes that the SBNP does not allocate any land or sites for housing or other form of development. The effects of any potential growth have been considered previously through the submitted but now withdrawn East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 and supporting evidence base, including the Sustainability Appraisal (which incorporated SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment, and the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023). For the purposes of SEA screening, this evidence base is considered appropriate and relevant.
48. The Screening Opinion comments that to take an alternative approach, such as preparing evidence bespoke to the SBNP would be disproportionate and result in unnecessary duplication. This would be contrary to national planning policy.
49. The Screening Outcome notes that several SBNP policies are particularly environmentally conscientious and address environmental issues positively by seeking to improve the quality of new development to reduce its impacts on the environment. However, for the purposes of SEA, these effects are not considered 'significant'.
50. Based on the findings of the screening assessment confirmed by the consultation with Statutory Agencies, ECDC is of the view that the implementation of the SBNP will not result in likely significant environmental effects. As such, a full SEA is not required for the Soham & Barway Neighbourhood Plan.
51. The Screening Opinion also considers the effects of the SBNP in respect of European sites. The assessment determines that implementation of the SBNP is not expected to

result in likely significant effects on European sites. As such, a full HRA is not required for the Soham & Barway Neighbourhood Plan.

## Human Rights

52. The Human Rights Act 1998 encapsulates the Convention and its articles into UK Law. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to the fundamental rights and freedom guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights.
53. An assessment has been carried out to assess the potential impacts of the SBNP in relation to the protected characteristics as identified in the Equality Act 2010. This assessment is shown below and shows that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to lead to increased inequalities or discrimination in the plan area. Some of the policies are identified as having positive impacts on people who may experience disadvantage by virtue of their age, disability, pregnancy and maternity. This is primarily due to the fact the SBNP seeks to ensure new housing provision meets the range of needs in the community (thereby increasing access to people who are older, infirm or disabled), seeks to increase the quality of the pedestrian environment and cyclist environment (thereby increasing access to facilities for younger people or older people who may not have access to private transport) and by seeking to ensure the continued provision of local healthcare provision (securing local access for those who are older, infirm, have a disability).

Protected Characteristic	Impact	Commentary
Age	+ Positive	Plan objectives and policies seek to improve access to housing and facilities, including improved local provision doctors' surgery.
Disability	+ Positive	Housing Objective relates specifically to meeting the full range of housing needs of current and future residents.
Gender Reassignment	0 Neutral	No specific impact identified
Marriage and civil partnership	0 Neutral	No specific impact identified
Pregnancy and maternity	+ Positive	Policies seek to improve access continued local provision of improved services and facilities including an improved Doctor's Surgery
Race	0 Neutral 0 Neutral	No specific impact identified
Religion or belief	0 Neutral	No specific impact identified
Sex	0 Neutral	No specific impact identified

Protected Characteristic	Impact	Commentary
Sexual Orientation	0 Neutral	No specific impact identified

54. The SBNP has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998. No sectors of the community would be discriminated against, would generally have public benefits and encourage the social sustainability of the plan area. Considerable emphasis has been placed throughout the consultation process to ensure that no sections of the community have been isolated or excluded.