

# **Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Review 2025**

## **Basic Conditions Statement**

**March 2026**

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (ANDPR).

## The Basic Conditions

- 1.2. Paragraph 8, sub-paragraph (2), of schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires a Neighbourhood Development Plan to meet the following basic conditions:

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

- 1.3. This Basic Conditions Statement addresses these requirements in four sections:

Section 2 Demonstrates conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework as revised in December 2024 (NPPF);

Section 3 Shows how the ANDPR will contribute to sustainable development and the various designated heritage assets throughout the Neighbourhood Area;

Section 4 Demonstrates conformity with the strategic policies contained within the Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) Core Strategy; and

Section 5 Demonstrates compliance with the appropriate EU obligations.

## The Qualifying Body

- 1.4. The ANDPR is submitted by Alcester Town Council, which is the Qualifying Body as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

## The Neighbourhood Area

- 1.5. The ANDPR applies to the Parish of Alcester which is within Stratford-on-Avon District. In accordance with Part 2 of the Regulations, SDC, as the local planning authority, publicised the Neighbourhood Area application from Alcester Town Council to designate their Parish for the purposes of producing a NDP and advertised it accordingly for the statutory period of 6 weeks.
- 1.6. The application was approved by the Cabinet of SDC in September 2013 and consequently the Parish of Alcester was designated as a Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.7. As the Qualifying Body, Alcester Town Council confirms that the ANDPR:
- Relates only to the Parish of Alcester and to no other Neighbourhood Area(s); and
  - Will be the only NDP within the designated area and no other NDP will exist nor be in development for part or all of the designated area once the Plan Review replaces the 'made'
- 1.8 Alcester is an attractive rural market town and civil parish of Roman origin at the junction of the River Alne and River Arrow in Warwickshire, England, approximately 8 miles west of Stratford-upon-Avon, and 8 miles south of Redditch, close to the Worcestershire border. The 2021 census recorded a population of 6035. The area covered by the Plan includes the town of Alcester and the settlements of Oversley Green, Kings Coughton and Alcester Heath. Kinwarton parish has 1357 residents and according to its Parish Plan, identifies itself as a village rather than as part of the town of Alcester. Similarly, Arrow with Weethley parish has only 226 residents and is a small hamlet.
- 1.9 Apart from general text updates/amends the Review amendments to Policy can be summarised as follows:

Page number of "made" NDP/Section/ paragraph number	Proposed amendments	Reason
Page 15, Policy HBE1	Addition of wording to encourage use of small sites for affordable housing.	Housing Needs Survey indicates affordable housing is in short supply and sites are limited so amendment encourages use of small sites.
Page 18, Policy HBE2	Addition of wording to ensure that the chartered surveyor is appropriately qualified and independent.	To improve operation of policy.

Page 20, Policy HBE5	Retained policy unaltered.	Further references to relevant evidence added.
Page 21, Policy HBE6	Delete policy.	The issues referred to in this policy are now covered by other planning provisions and Building Regulations therefore the policy is not required.
Page 21 Policy HBE7	Delete policy.	The issues referred to in this policy are now covered by higher level planning policies therefore the policy is not required.
Page 22, Policy HBE8	Amend final paragraph to refer to Design for Homes "Building for a Healthy Life" which replace "Building for Life 12".	Update.
Page 24, Policy HBE9	Addition to require proposals to achieve Secured by Design Silver Level Certification.  Policy now requires developers to provide additional street furniture	This certification was not available when NDP was made.  Recent experience of new build developments in Alcester has shown the need for such street furniture.
Page 28, Policy EC1	Addition of wording to encourage reuse of commercial premises for uses which encourage the sustainability and attractiveness of the Town Centre.  Addition of wording to support additional parking provision and improved signage.	To reflect current economic situation on the High Street and to ensure its sustainability.  To reflect the fact that parking provision is limited in the town centre.

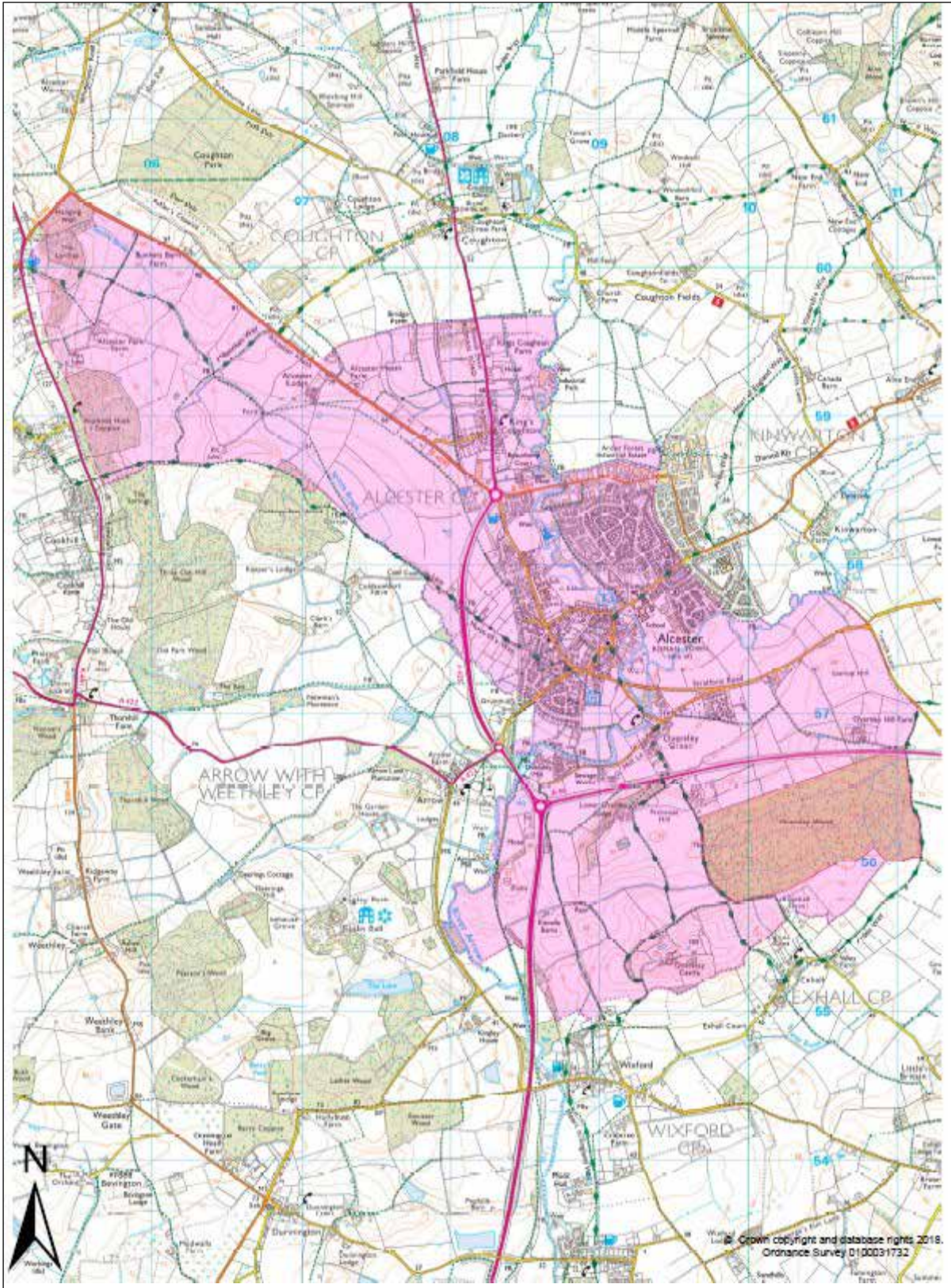
Page 31, Policy EC2	Addition of words relating to scale of the proposals.	To provide a more rounded policy.
Page 31, Policy EC3	Delete paragraph about new developments requiring home office space.	This paragraph is no longer required because working from home is now more commonplace and residents use suitable space in other rooms if they have no home office.
Page 31, Policy EC4	Addition of words “ancillary and” to final paragraph.	To ensure that employment is the majority use of such sites.
Page 31, Policy EC5	Addition to require development outside the Town Centre to be accessible by public transport.	To ensure sustainability.
Page 32, Policy EC6	Addition to require new educational facilities to be accessible by public transport.	To ensure sustainability.
Page 34, Policy EC7	Addition to require new further and adult educational facilities to be accessible by public transport.	To ensure sustainability.
Page 34, Policy EC8	Addition to require new tourist attractions etc to encourage improvements to public transport.	To ensure sustainability.
Page 36, Policy TI1	Wording to extend the policy to commercial developments.	To ensure sustainability.
Page 37, Policy TI2	Preference included for underground rather than overhead cabling.	Since the NDP, a large number of telecoms companies have sought to install overhead cabling for broadband.
Page 37, Policy TI3	Delete policy.	This policy is now out of date and no longer required.

		Alcester now has superfast broadband availability.
Page 39, Policy CLW1	Wording to identify a list existing community and leisure facilities	For clarification.
Page 39, Policy CLW2	Wording to include reference to access to Oversley Wood.  Reference to cyclists	Since the NDP, access to Oversley Wood has been limited by the Forestry Commission.  To ensure sustainability.
Page 40, Policy CLW3	Wording added to ensure such facilities are accessible.	To ensure that any new premises are accessible.
Page 40, Policy CLW4	Deletion of first paragraph.	So as not to conflict with designation of existing allotment sites as Local Green Spaces.
Page 42, Policy NE1	Replace "appropriate" and "possible" with "feasible".	To improve the wording of the policy.
Page 43, Policy NE2	Wording to add a minimum % level for biodiversity net gain.	To add clarity.
Page 43, Policy NE3	Addition of 8 new Local Green Spaces.	To identify and protect areas of land identified as valuable and important to the local community.
Page 46, Map 7 Local Green Spaces	New map to include 8 new Local Green Spaces.	For clarification for policy NE3.
Page 50, Policy NE5	Various amendments to the wording of the policy to strengthen the value of this policy and to better relate to current practice.	Alcester has two rivers running through the centre of the town and flooding is an ongoing significant risk.
Page 55, Appendix 1	Updated Appendix 1	Update to provide details of housing commitments and completions.

Appendix 2	New Appendix 2 to list Community and Leisure facilities	Update to provide further detail for policy CLW1.
Page 57, Local Green Spaces	Added descriptions for new Local Green Spaces	Update required due to additions in policy NE3.

## Plan Period

- 1.10 The ANDPR states that the period it relates to is from 2025 until 2035. The period has been chosen to move the start and end dates forward by the same amount but, pending the adoption of the emerging South Warwickshire Local Plan, not as far as 2050.



Alcester Neighbourhood Area

## 2. National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1. The ANDPR must have appropriate regard to national planning policy. The following section describes how the ANDPR relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) revised December 2024.

### Sustainable Development

- 2.2. The central theme throughout the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. In this context sustainable development is broadly defined internationally as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 2.3. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives).
- 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;
  - 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 and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
  - an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 2.4. Paragraph 9 of NPPF gives clear advice on how plans should contribute to these sustainability objectives:

*“Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.”*

- 2.5. Paragraph 13 states the role of neighbourhood plans in attaining sustainable development:

*“Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies.”*

2.6. Footnote 17 to paragraph 30 notes that:

*“Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in any development plan that covers their area.”*

2.7. Neighbourhood Plans can do more than just support or facilitate development. They also have a part to play in meeting other sustainability objectives of the NPPF. The NPPF chapters to which Alcester’s plan contributes are:

- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes;
- Building a strong, competitive economy;
- Promoting healthy and safe communities;
- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Making effective use of land;
- Achieving well-designed places;
- Protecting Green Belt Land (and in Alcester’s case: Local Green Spaces);
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.8. The tables below summarises how ANDPR policies contribute to the sustainability objectives of NPPF:

### Achieving sustainable development

**Policy HBE 1** supports development within the Built-up Area Boundary (BUAB) through new build, conversion, extending or redeveloping existing underused buildings. **Policy HBE 2** supports local needs housing development beyond but adjacent to the BUAB. **Policy HBE 3** encourages development with a housing mix based on the most up-to-date housing assessment. **Policy HBE 5** supports proposals of high design quality. **Policy HBE6** supports high design quality for the public realm. **Policy EC 1** supports proposals that provide new retail, offices, hospitality or tourism units which enhance or extend existing units. It also supports change of business uses which enhance or enhance the vitality of the Town Centre. **Policy EC 2** supports proposals for employment uses on brownfield sites. **Policy EC 3** supports proposals for small-scale business space for start-ups and new builds or conversions with live-work space. **Policy EC 4** supports change of use from business to residential only when it can be demonstrated that continued business use is no longer viable. **Policy EC 5** supports new commercial developments where it demonstrates direct benefit to the local area and workforce. It also supports environmental improvements to existing employment land within the BUAB as well as the provision of low-cost business space within the BUAB. **Policies EC 6 and 7** support the provision of new education, further education and childcare facilities and the extension of existing ones provided they have adequate parking provision. **Policy EC 8** supports proposals that increase or improve the amount and range of visitor attractions and accommodation within the town. It requires applicants to demonstrate how they will contribute to cycle storage, linkages to public transport, improved cycle and footpath routes. **Policy TI 1** requires developments to provide direct connection to existing networks of footpaths bridleways and cycleways and should seek to reduce car journeys. **Policy TI 2**

supports new and enhanced telecommunications development. **Policy CLW 1** supports proposals which enhance and improve existing community and leisure facilities. **Policy CLW 2** supports proposals which improve access to and recreational usage of open green spaces. **Policy CLW 3** supports proposals which create or enhance facilities that support improving mental or physical health. **Policy CLW 4** supports the enhancement of allotments. It also requires new dwellings to provide sufficient space for homeowners to grow their own food. **Policy NE 1** requires new developments to protect mature, healthy trees and hedges. **Policy NE 2** seeks to ensure that new developments contribute to and enhance the natural environment, provide net gains for and minimise impact on biodiversity. **Policy NE 4** discourages proposals which adversely affect the local landscape. **Policy NE 5** ensures that new development does not increase pluvial or fluvial flooding and requires new developments to include SuDS. It also encourages the re-use and recycling of water within developments.

### Delivering a sufficient supply of homes

**Policy HBE 1, 6.1.4** The plan recognises the two housing sites identified and allocated through the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy. Together, the two sites provide for up to 350 dwellings. **Policy HBE 1** supports development in the Built-up Area Boundary (BUAB) through new build, converting, extending or redeveloping existing underused buildings. **Policy HBE 2** supports local needs housing development beyond but adjacent to the BUAB. **Policy HBE 3** encourages development with a housing mix based on the most up-to-date housing assessment. **Policy HBE 5** seeks to encourage suitable housing to meet the local range of special needs.

### Building a strong, competitive economy

**Policy EC 1** supports proposals that provide new retail, offices, hospitality or tourism units which enhance or extend existing units. It also supports change of business uses which enhance or support the vitality of the Town Centre. **Policy EC 2** supports proposals for employment uses on brownfield sites. **Policy EC 3** supports proposals for small-scale business space for start-ups and new builds or conversions with live-work space. **Policy EC 4** supports change of use from business to residential only when it can be demonstrated that continued business use is no longer viable. **Policy EC 5** supports new commercial developments where it demonstrates direct benefit to the local area and workforce. It also supports environmental improvements to existing employment land within the BUAB as well as the provision of low-cost business space within the BUAB. **Policies EC 6 and 7** support the provision of new education, further education and childcare facilities and the extension of existing ones. **Policy EC 8** supports proposals that increase or improve the amount and range of visitor attractions and accommodation within the town. It requires applicants to demonstrate how they will contribute cycle storage, linkages to public transport, improved cycle and footpath routes.

## Promoting healthy and safe communities

**Policy CLW 1** supports proposals which enhance and improve existing community and leisure facilities. **Policy CLW 2** supports proposals which improve access to and recreational usage of open green spaces. It also requires that consideration should be given to wheelchair users as well as pedestrians. Level, safe pathways, and appropriate signage/ waymarking should be provided where possible. **Policy CLW 3** supports proposals which create or enhance facilities that support improving mental or physical health. **Policy CLW 4** supports additional allotment provision in the Neighbourhood Area.

## Promoting sustainable transport

**Policies EC 5, 6, 7 and 8** require new development to be accessible by public transport. **Policy TI 1** requires developments of 10 or more units to provide direct connection to existing networks of footpaths bridleways and cycleways and should seek to reduce car journeys. **Policy CLW 2** supports proposals which improve access to and recreational usage of open green spaces.

## Making effective use of land

**Policy HBE 1** supports development in the Built-up Area Boundary (BUAB) through new build, conversion, extension or redeveloping existing underused buildings. **Policy EC 2** supports proposals for employment uses on brownfield sites.

## Achieving well-designed places

**Policy HBE 3** requires developers to justify developments with a housing mix that departs from the policy's approach with regard to viability and character of the area. **Policy HBE 6** seeks to ensure that all development is well designed, in keeping and scale with its location, and sensitive to the character of the countryside and local distinctiveness. It also requires all new developments to demonstrate how they would positively contribute to the local character during the design process with regard to density, scale, surrounding landscape, materials and height. **Policy HBE 7** seeks to ensure that developments strive to establish a high quality environment in the public realm. **Policy TI 1** requires developments of 10 or more units to provide direct connection to existing networks of footpaths bridleways and cycleways and should seek to reduce car journeys.

## Protecting Green Belt land

The ANDPR does not designate any land for development within the Green Belt and all policies respect national Green Belt policy.

### Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

**Policy NE 1** requires new developments to protect mature, healthy trees and hedges. **Policy NE 2** seeks to ensure that new developments contribute to and enhance the natural environment, provide net gains for and minimise impact on biodiversity. **Policy NE 5** ensures that new development does not increase pluvial or fluvial flooding and requires new developments to include SuDS. It also encourages the re-use and recycling of water within developments.

### Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

**Policy NE 1** requires new developments to protect mature, healthy trees and hedges. **Policy NE 2** seeks to ensure that new developments contribute to and enhance the natural environment, provide net gains for and minimise impact on biodiversity. **Policy NE 3** designates additional Local Green Spaces. **Policy NE 4** requires development proposals to demonstrate how they are appropriate to, and integrate with, the character of the landscape. **Policy NE 5** encourages the re-use and recycling of water within developments.

### Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

The Neighbourhood Area contains a number of listed buildings and a Conservation Area within the town centre. **Policy HBE 8** will only support development proposals within or adjacent to the Conservation Area or a designated or non-designated heritage asset or its setting if the proposals conserve and enhance the Conservation Area or the heritage asset. It also supports proposals that bring heritage assets back into use.

2.9. The table below provides a matrix of the ANDPR policies against the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF:

Alcester Neighbourhood Plan Policy ref.	NPPF Paragraph ref.
<b>6.1 Housing and the Built Environment</b>	
Policy HBE 1 – Residential Development within the Built-up Area Boundary	82-84
Policy HBE 2 – Local Needs Housing	61-64
Policy HBE 3 – Housing Mix	61-63
Policy HBE 4 - Bungalows	61-63
Policy HBE 5 – Specialist Accommodation	63
Policy HBE 6 – Development Design	131-141
Policy HBE 7 – Public Realm	131-141
Policy HBE 8 – Heritage Assets	8c, 202-221
<b>6.2 Economy</b>	
Policy EC 1 - Development within the Town Centre	8a, 20c, 90-95
Policy EC 2 - Supporting Employment on Brownfield Sites	39,125(c), 147(a)
Policy EC 3 – Supporting Business Start Up	8a, 85-89
Policy EC 4 – Employment Land Change of Use	8a, 85-89
Policy EC 5 – Support for Commercial Development	8a, 85-89
Policy EC 6 – Education and Childcare Provision	8b, 96-102, 111
Policy EC 7 – Further Education Support	8b, 96-102, 111
Policy EC8 – Support for new or improved tourist attractions and accommodation	8a, 88-89
<b>6.3 Transport and Infrastructure</b>	
Policy TI 1 – New Development and Connectivity	8b & c, 109-118
Policy TI 2 - Telecommunications	119-123

6.4 Community, Leisure and Well-being	
Policy CLW 1 - Community and Leisure Facilities Development	8b, 83d, 91a & c, 92, 96, 97, 121b
Policy CLW 2 - Enhancing Access and Utilisation of open green spaces	91a & c, 96, 98, 102c, 104a & d, 108a, 110a, b & c
Policy CLW 3 - Health Provision	8b, 20c, 91, 92, 96, 97, 110b
Policy CLW 4 - Allotments and Growing Spaces	91c, 92a & b, 96, 170, 174b
6.5 Natural Environment	
Policy NE 1 - Trees, Hedges and Landscape Features	8c, 187-191
Policy NE 2 - Biodiversity	8c, 192-195
Policy NE 3 - Local Green Spaces	8c, 105-108
Policy NE 4 - Protecting Valued Landscapes and Important Views	8c, 187-201
Policy NE 5 - Mitigating and Preventing Increased Flood Risk	8c, 161-182

### 3. Delivering Sustainable Development

The key ways that the ANDPR will contribute to the achievement of the NPPF's three overarching objectives of sustainable developments are:

#### 3.1. Economic objective

- The ANDPR policies seek to protect and enhance existing employment sites.
- The ANDPR supports new employment sites and encourages local employment growth and opportunities where there is no conflict with Green Belt policy.
- It supports home-working and live-work units through the use of flexible design.

#### 3.2. Social objective

- The ANDPR supports new housing development within the town boundary, on brownfield sites and garden land. It also supports the principle of rural exception housing.
- It encourages a well-designed and safe environment which will ensure the town continues to evolve in accordance with residents' wishes.
- It protects and enhances local green spaces, footpath, bridleways and valued landscapes which support the community's health, social and cultural well-being.
- It encourages the protection of local social and recreational amenities and businesses which serve the current and future needs of the community.

#### 3.3. Environmental objective

- It protects the valued countryside and AONB surrounding the village, including agricultural and horticultural land.
- It seeks a harmonious relationship between developments and local flora and fauna.
- It ensures development within or near the Conservation Area is undertaken with sensitivity and an awareness of its impact on the setting of the town's heritage assets.
- It notes the impact of flooding in the locality and requires all developments to mitigate any future contribution to this by minimising off-site run-off and incorporating sustainable drainage systems.
- It encourages new developments to make effective use of renewable energy and resource recycling.

## 4. General Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

- 4.1. The ANDPR has been prepared with regard to national policies set out in the NPPF as outlined above. It must also be in general conformity with strategic policies of the local Development Plan.
- 4.2. The Development Plan for the Neighbourhood Area is the Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy 2011-2031, adopted July 2016.
- 4.3. Paragraph 13 of NPPF declares that Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies.
- 4.4. The ANDPR supports the delivery of the strategic policies of the Core Strategy, and contains no conflicts with these policies.
- 4.5. The ANDPR builds on, adapts or otherwise makes use of selected Core Strategy policies to suit the local environment and economy of Alcester.
- 4.6. The table below provides a matrix indicating the relationship between the ANDPR policies and the SDC Core Strategy policies:

Alcester Neighbourhood Plan Policy ref.	SDC Core Strategy Policy ref.
<b>6.1 Housing and the Built Environment</b>	
Policy HBE 1 – Residential Development within the Built-up Area Boundary	CS.15b, CS.20, AS.10a-d, f, i
Policy HBE 2 – Local Needs Housing	CS.18, AS.2b.1, AS.10a
Policy HBE 3 – Housing Mix	CS.18, CS.19
Policy HBE 4 - Bungalows	CS.19c
Policy HBE 5 – Specialist Accommodation	CS.19c
Policy HBE 6 – Development Design	CS.9, AS.10
Policy HBE 7 – Public Realm	CS.23, CS.24, AS.2.c
Policy HBE 8 – Heritage Assets	CS.5, CS.8, CS.9, AS.10
<b>6.2 Economy</b>	
Policy EC 1 - Development within the Town Centre	CS.22, CS.23, CS.24, AS.2.c
Policy EC 2 - Supporting Employment on Brownfield Sites	AS.2.c, AS.11a-g

Policy EC 3 – Supporting Business Start Up	CS.22, CS.23, CS.24, AS.2.c
Policy EC 4 – Employment Land Changes of Use and mixed use development	CS.22
Policy EC 5 – Support for Commercial Development	CS.23, CS.24, AS.2.c
Policy EC 6 – Education and Childcare Provision	CS.9, CS.25, AS.10a
Policy EC 7 – Further and Adult Education Support and Training	CS.2, CS.9, CS.25, AS.10a
Policy EC 8 – Support for new or improved tourist attractions and accommodation	CS.9, CS.22, CS.24, AS.2c, AS.10
<b>6.3 Transport and Infrastructure</b>	
Policy TI 1 – New Development and Connectivity	CS.9, AS.2b, CS.25
Policy TI 2 - Telecommunications	CS.9, CS.26
<b>6.4 Community, Leisure and Well-being</b>	
Policy CLW 1 - Community and Leisure Facilities Development	CS.22, AS.2a, AS.10a, CS.25
Policy CLW 2 - Enhancing Access to and Utilisation of open green spaces	CS.5, CS.6, CS.7, CS.9, AS.2.b
Policy CLW 3 - Health Provision	CS.22, CS.26
Policy CLW 4 - Allotments and Growing Spaces	CS.2, CS.7, CS.25
<b>6.5 Natural Environment</b>	
Policy NE 1 - Trees, Hedges and Landscape Features	CS.5, CS.6, CS.9
Policy NE 2 - Biodiversity	CS.5, CS.6, CS.7, AS.2a
Policy NE 3 - Local Green Spaces	CS.5, CS.6, CS.7, AS.2a, CS.25
Policy NE 4 - Protecting Valued Landscapes and Important Views	CS.5, CS.6, CS.7, CS.9
Policy NE 5 - Mitigating and Preventing Increased Flood Risk	CS.2, CS.4, CS.7, CS.9

## **5. European Union Obligations**

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 5.1. A revised Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening exercise was undertaken by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) in December 2025/January 2026.
- 5.2. The screening exercise involved consultation with the statutory environmental bodies (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency).
- 5.3. The three consultees concurred with the conclusions of the Screening Document that the preparation of a SEA was not required. Stratford-on-Avon District Council has confirmed by letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 that they agree with this decision.

### **Habitat Regulations Assessment**

- 5.4 It is considered that a Habitat Regulations Assessment would not be required as the Neighbourhood Plan makes reference to and includes a link to the SDC Core Strategy's HRA.
- 5.5 Stratford-on-Avon District Council has confirmed by letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 that they agree that a Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

- 5.6 It is considered that an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required as the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any projects which fall under the criteria set out in either Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive.

### **Human Rights**

- 5.7 The ANDPR has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.