

Health check template DAVENHAM and WHATCROFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Report

Summary of Recommendations

The Plan is to be commended for the efforts of the Parish Council and the extent of public consultation. The Plan is set out well and easy to read with good use of plain English.

There are certain areas specified on the Extra Sheet which need attention and some discussion with the Council . however, I do not believe there are any insurmountable obstacles.

Some of the are in conflict with NPPF and the Local Plan but can be re-adjusted or removed. There is a need for greater clarity in some areas to enable the Plan to withstand the robust scrutiny it will be under.

Part 1 – Process

	Criteria	Source	Response/Comments
1.1	Have the necessary statutory requirements been met in terms of the designation of the neighbourhood area?		No information on this but it should be done
1.2	If the area does not have a parish council, have the necessary statutory requirements been met in terms of the designation of the neighbourhood forum?		n/a
1.3	Has the plan been the subject of appropriate pre-submission consultation and publicity, as set out in the legislation, or is this underway?	Consultation statement	Yes
1.4	Has there been a programme of community engagement proportionate to the scale and complexity of the plan?		Yes.
1.5	Are arrangements in place for an independent examiner to be appointed?		Not aware
1.6	Are discussions taking place with the electoral services team on holding the referendum?		Not aware

1.7	Is there a clear project plan for bringing the plan into force and does it take account of local authority committee cycles?		Not aware
1.8	Has an SEA screening been carried out by the LPA?		<p>No evidence that it has. This must be done to meet basic conditions and should be in accordance with the procedures in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). It can be done by the Parish Council in consultation with the requisite bodies and the Council. Documentary evidence is needed that this has been done.</p> <p>Note the Sustainability Appraisal is not an SEA.</p>
1.9	Has an HRA screening been carried out by the LPA?		Same as above

Part 2 – Content

	Criteria	Source	Response/Comments
2.1	Are policies appropriately justified with a clear rationale?	Draft plan	See attached “Extra Sheet”.
2.2	Is it clear which parts of the draft plan form the ‘neighbourhood plan proposal’ (i.e. the <i>neighbourhood development plan</i>) under the Localism Act, subject to the independent examination, and which parts do not form part of the ‘plan proposal’, and would not be tested by the independent examination?		Yes
2.3	Are there any obvious conflicts with the NPPF?		Yes. Certain aspects of Green Belt policy as advised in the Extra Sheet
2.4	Is there a clear explanation of the ways the plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development?		Para 5.6 explains it to some degree. However in order to meet basic conditions a sustainability statement should be prepared. This should extend the statements in para 5.6 to relate to the whole Plan. In fact bearing in mind the relative limited potential for further development this can be relatively brief.
2.5	Are there any issues around compatibility with human rights or EU obligations?		Yes, the need for screening opinions for SEA and HRA.
2.6	Does the plan avoid dealing with excluded development including nationally significant infrastructure, waste and minerals?		Yes

2.7	Is there consensus between the local planning authority and the qualifying body over whether the plan meets the basic conditions including conformity with strategic development plan policy and, if not, what are the areas of disagreement?		Not aware of any conflict
2.8	Are there any obvious errors in the plan?		See Extra Sheet

Notes:

Parts 1 and 2 of the template should be completed first. The box should be completed in as concise a way as possible. It should state whether the criterion has been met, with a brief explanation (1-3 sentences, preferably). Any recommendations for action should also be included (1-2 sentences preferable). These actions should also be transferred to the 'Summary of Recommendations' section at the beginning of the report, with criteria in brackets after.

The report is meant to help qualifying bodies by identifying any possible problems so that they can address them prior to submission. It should be written in clear, concise and accessible way. Recommendations should be practical and constructive.