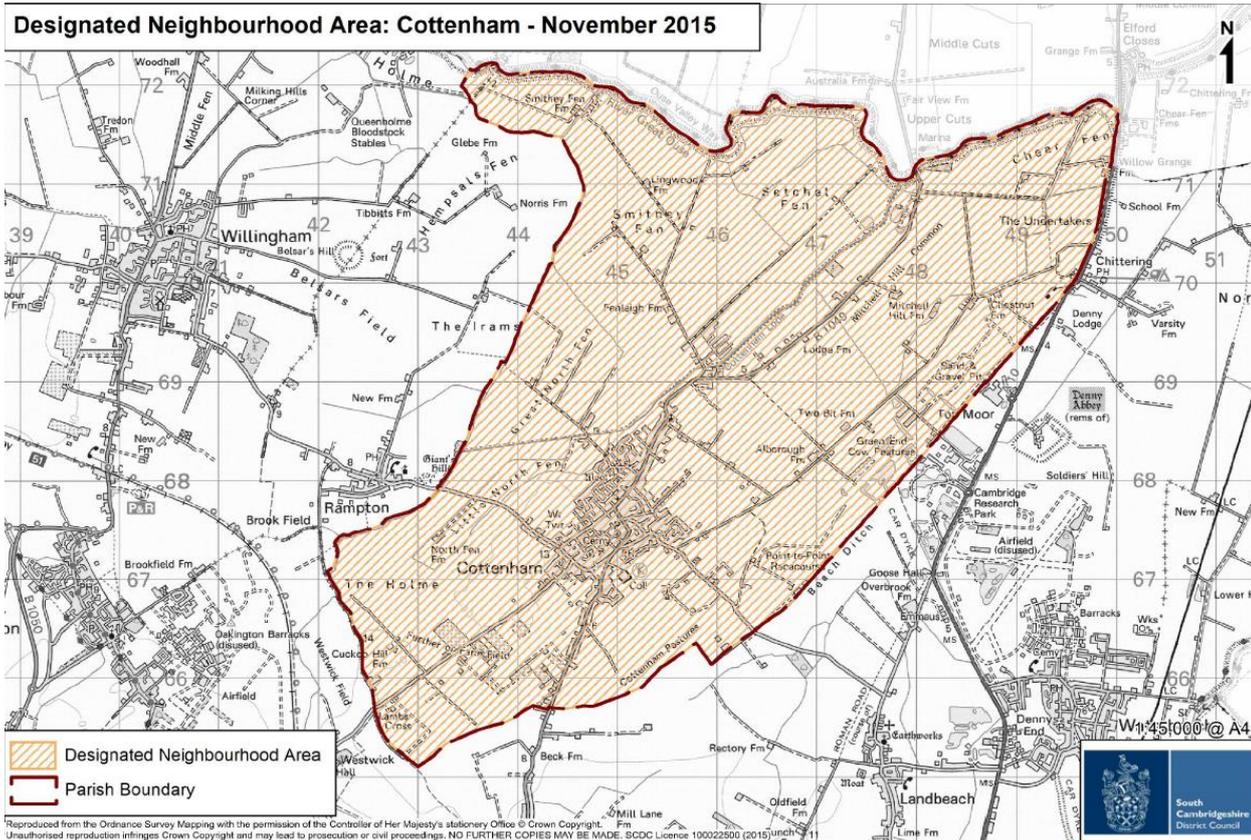


Cottenham Civil Parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan

2017 to 2031



Cottenham Parish Council

Basic Conditions Statement

December 2018

In 2031 Cottenham will still be an attractive safe rural village, proud of its character and retaining its sense of community with improved amenities and facilities, reduced impact of traffic, especially in the centre of the village, and having more affordable housing for the next generation of residents.

1 Summary

- 1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared in support of the submission of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012.
- 1.2 This Statement addresses each of the five 'basic conditions' required by the Regulations and explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 1.3 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
 - a) having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
 - b) the making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - c) the making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
 - d) the making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations;
 - e) The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- 1.4 The legal requirements for a plan to be made are summarised in section 2.
- 1.5 A summary of how the plan has been developed forms section 3, including the various consultations and surveys.
- 1.6 Compliance with National Policy set out in NPPF 2012 is covered in section 4
- 1.7 Various tests of how the plan's policies meet the requirements for sustainable development are applied in section 5.
- 1.8 Section 6 demonstrates how the plan as a whole is in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan.
- 1.9 Compliance with European obligations and legislation is explained in section 7.
- 1.10 The appendix tracks how policy nomenclature and names have evolved during the main phases of the plan's development.
- 1.11 In summary, the submission plan meets the necessary conditions.



Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan
Submission Plan – Basic Conditions Statement 181231



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2 Legal Requirements

- 2.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared by a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for Cottenham Parish Council to accompany its submission to the local planning authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council, of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”) as amended. No other neighbourhood plan has been submitted for the neighbourhood area.
- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party for Cottenham Parish Council, a qualifying body for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Cottenham Neighbourhood Area, as designated by South Cambridgeshire District Council on the 17th November 2015. The neighbourhood area as defined follows the Cottenham Civil Parish boundary.
- 2.3 The policies described in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area only. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan extends from 2017 until the end of 2031 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations.
- 2.4 This Statement addresses each of the five ‘basic conditions’ required by the Regulations and explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.
- 2.5 The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
 - Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood development plan;
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations;
 - The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

3 Introduction & Background

- 3.1 Early in 2015, Cottenham Parish Council delegated two Parish Councillors and a District Councillor to investigate the potential value of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Cottenham.
- 3.2 At the Annual Parish Meeting in 2015, it was noted that the SCDC Local Plan included no housing development for Cottenham, despite there being clear demographic pressure creating demand for new homes, particularly for young local families and the elderly wishing to down-size. The meeting introduced the concept of a Neighbourhood Development Plan in influencing where and how appropriate development might be allowed and the benefits of a Community Land Trust in securing locally-affordable homes.
- 3.3 During 2015, it became clear that Cottenham was becoming a target for speculative developers keen to take advantage of the lack of a 5-year supply of housing land in South Cambridgeshire and the Working Party evolved a set of “nine development principles” against which to assess the merits and demerits of any proposal. The nine principles were subsequently used by the Working Party as a basis of a full-scale parish-wide survey
- 3.4 Later in 2015, following a public meeting to review the likely planning applications, an application was made for Cottenham Civil Parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. Following the consultation necessary at that time, Cottenham Civil Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Plan Area on 17th November 2015.
- 3.5 The Working Party, now expanded by several additional Parish Councillors, began to develop a parish-wide survey to assess “likes and dislikes; facilities and omissions” as a basis for the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.6 In parallel with the work drafting a survey, a number of village “opinion leaders” – usually prominent people, often leaders, within local groups - were recruited as “Neighbourhood Plan Ambassadors” and briefed on the plan’s goals and likely approach with regular updates by eMail.
- 3.7 A market research company, was engaged to undertake the survey.
- 3.8 The survey achieved 973 responses, sufficiently high to be representative, and the report was used to identify the key issues on which to base the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.9 By mid-2016, four policy areas were emerging for discussion with residents:
 - a) The Conservation Area & Lanes
 - b) An Extended Residential Framework
 - c) An Extended Employment Framework
 - d) The Rural Parish
- 3.10 By December, 2016, the draft had evolved into five sections, covering:
 - Amenities
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Traffic and
 - Character
- 3.11 A Reg 14 consultation was held during May/June 2017, supported by a Cottenham Newsletter insert outlining a simplified “in a nutshell” version of the plan.
- 3.12 In August 2017, two planning decisions permitting development of over 300 houses rendered the draft plan and its feedback obsolete. Both were enabled as a consequence of SCDC not being able to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land.

- 3.13 AECOM were commissioned to provide:
- i. An independent assessment of housing need
 - ii. A character and heritage assessment
 - iii. A site assessment for the potential development sites
- 3.14 A series of NP Evidence Papers were developed and published on the Cottenham Parish Council website.
- 3.15 A mini-consultation, supported by a full version of the draft Pre-Submission Plan (v3.1) and updated “plan in a nutshell” sought resident’s views on seven outstanding key questions. 466 responses were received in October 2017 during the survey window.
- 3.16 A revised draft plan was prepared and subjected to consultation by statutory and other consultees and local residents under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012. The consultation, which ran from 19th June to 7th August 2018 obtained over 250 responses to the proposed policies.
- 3.17 The draft plan was also assessed in 2018 for environmental impact and compliance with EU regulations and, while being “screened out” under the Habitat Regulations, was “screened in” for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the possible impact of some of its proposals on the environment.
- 3.18 Responses from that consultation have been considered, and some changes made to the policies in the plan as a result of that consultation. It is now ready to be submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Local Planning Authority. As required by the NP Regulations 2012; the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Local Planning Authority is accompanied by this Basic Conditions Statement, a Consultation Statement and the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening opinion.
- 3.19 The full set of evidence documentation is listed in figure 1.

Reference	Paper
B1	Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan Survey – Final Report (NPS)
B2	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v2.1
B3	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v3.1
B4	AECOM Housing Needs assessment
B5	AECOM Site assessment
B6	AECOM Heritage & Character assessment
B7	Evidence Paper E1 Housing need and supply
B8	Evidence Paper E2 Brownfield sites
B9	Evidence Paper E3 Rural Exception Sites and Community Land Trust
B10	Evidence Paper E4 Recreation Ground
B11	Evidence Paper E5 Village Hall
B12	Evidence Paper E6 Nursery
B13	Evidence Paper E7 Medical and Drop-in & Chat Centre
B14	Evidence Paper E8 Village heritage and character
B15	Evidence Paper E9 NP Survey to Plan
B16	Evidence Paper E10 Burial ground extensions
B17	Evidence Paper E11 Drainage & Flooding
B18	Evidence Paper E12 Village Design Statement 2007
B19	Evidence Paper E13 Traffic & Transport Strategy
B20	Evidence paper E14: Community Transport
B21	Evidence paper E15: Play
B22	Evidence Paper E16: Open Space
B23	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v4.2
B24	Strategic Environment Screening Opinion
B25	Consultation statement
B26	Cottenham Submission Neighbourhood Plan v5
B27	Strategic Environment Assessment
B28	Basic Conditions Statement

Figure 1: The NP Evidence Papers

4 Conformity with National Planning Policy

- 4.1 The Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of April 2012. It is also mindful of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published in April 2014, and updated thereafter.
- 4.2 Set out in Figure 2 below, is a brief summary of how each policy conforms to the NPPF. The particular paragraphs referred to in the table are those considered the most relevant to each policy, but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible relevant paragraphs.

NDP Policy	NPPF 2012 paragraph	Comment on conformity
Objective: Conserving the village character		
COH/1-1 Landscape character	109	NPPF recognises the need to conserve and enhance the natural environment
COH/1-2 Heritage assets	132, 137	Conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are promoted in the NPPF.
COH/1-3 Non-designated heritage assets	132, 137	Conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are promoted in the NPPF.
COH/1-4 Village character – alterations	58, 132, 137	Ensuring quality of development, conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are promoted in the NPPF.
COH/1-5 Village character – new build	50, 58, 69	This policy promotes good design, quality open space and a range of dwelling types as required by the NPPF.
COH/1-6 The village core or centre	29, 30	Sustainable Travel that reduces carbon emissions is supported by the NPPF.
COH/1-7 Local Green Space	58, 76, 77	Designation of Local Green Space is a power granted to NDPs in the NPPF.
COH/1-8 Protected Village Amenity Areas	58, 69, 73	The provision of high-quality public space is promoted in the NPPF.
Objective: Making housing more affordable		
COH/2-1 Development framework		
COH/2-2 Large site design	50, 58, 69, 100	This policy promotes good design, quality open space, a range of dwelling types and mitigation of flood risk as required by the NPPF. Dwelling numbers are increased from the Local Plan allocation.
COH/2-3 Brownfield sites	17, 50	A local need and use of brownfield sites are promoted as supported by the NPPF.
COH/2-4 Locally affordable housing and CLT	50	A local need is promoted as supported by the NPPF.
Objective: Improving amenities and facilities		
COH/3-1 Medical Centre	70	NPPF supports the provision of adequate community facilities.
COH/3-2 Supermarket	70	NPPF supports the provision of adequate community facilities.
COH/4-1 Recreation & Sports Hub	69, 109, 117	Open Space for active healthy communities and protection of local wildlife is promoted in the NPPF.
COH/4-2 Multi-purpose Village Hall	69, 70	The NPPF promotes social interaction and delivering community facilities as a role of the planning system.
COH/4-3 Nursery	70	NPPF supports the provision of adequate community facilities.
COH/4-4 Sport for all	69, 109, 117	Open Space for active healthy communities and protection of local wildlife is promoted in the NPPF.
Objective: Encouraging employment		
COH/5-1 New Recreation Ground	69, 81, 109, 117	Open Space for active healthy communities and protection of local wildlife is promoted in the NPPF.
COH/6-1 Extension of burial grounds	70	NPPF supports the provision of adequate community facilities.
COH/7-1 Village employment	20,21, 58, 132, 137	Supporting businesses for the 21st century, conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are all promoted in the NPPF.
COH/7-2 Rural employment	20,21, 58, 132, 137	Supporting businesses for the 21st century, conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are all promoted in the NPPF.
COH/7-3 New Durman Stearn site	20,21, 58, 132, 137	Supporting businesses for the 21st century, conserving local heritage and locally distinctive innovative design are all promoted in the NPPF.

Figure 2: Compliance of NP policies with NPPF policy

5 Contribution to Achieving Sustainable Development

- 5.1 Paragraph 7 of the NPPF (2012) defines sustainable development as having three elements: economic, social and environmental.
- Economically, this plan supports increased local employment within the regenerated brownfield sites in the village centre, and increased housing stock to service the local economy, and will provide a limited increase in the use of local services and facilities.
 - Socially, the plan significantly improves a range of amenities and facilities within the village while adding a number of truly affordable homes available to local people in perpetuity through use of a Community Land Trust.
 - Environmentally, various measures within the plan will reduce dependence on unsustainable forms of transport by increasing the use of village centre facilities that are within 800-metre walking distance of most residents and providing a community transport scheme to outlying areas of the parish.
- 5.2 A Sustainability Appraisal has not been undertaken as this is not a requirement for a Neighbourhood Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has taken account of the need to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and the Vision and Objectives have sustainability at their heart.
- 5.3 The plan's vision looks to the creation of a neighbourhood with a strengthened community served by new facilities and innovative good quality new homes. Thus social and environmental sustainability is at the heart of this Plan, and the economic benefits of regeneration are also welcomed.
- 5.4 Figure 3 below has assessed the plan's policies in terms of how it will deliver sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainability. It shows that the plan's policies are normally positive in impact on all three aspects, and where they are not, a decision has been taken about the greater benefit of the proposal in terms of another aspect of sustainability.
- 5.5 Although somewhat subjective, the ratings are as follows:
- broadly neutral
 - * some benefit
 - ** significant benefit
 - *** strong benefit

	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	Comments
Objective: Conserving the village character				
COH/1-1 Landscape character	-	**	***	Conserves key landscape features for the benefit of the community
COH/1-2 Heritage assets	*	**	**	Conserves key character and heritage features for the benefit of the community
COH/1-3 Non-designated heritage assets	*	**	**	Conserves key character and heritage features for the benefit of the community
COH/1-4 Village character – alterations	***	**	**	Allows evolution while conserving key principles for the benefit of the community
COH/1-5 Village character – new build	**	**	-	Allows expansion while conserving key principles for the benefit of the community
COH/1-6 The village core or centre	***	***	**	Encourages regeneration while encouraging sustainable forms of transport
COH/1-7 Local Green Space	*	***	***	Conserves valued open spaces for the benefit of the community
COH/1-8 Protected Village Amenity Areas	*	***	***	Conserves valued open spaces for the benefit of the community
Objective: Making housing more affordable				
COH/2-1 Development framework	***	**	*	Applies different policy set within established settlement
COH/2-2 Large site design	***	***	**	Allows expansion while conserving key principles for the benefit of the community
COH/2-3 Brownfield sites	***	**	***	Allows expansion while conserving key principles for the benefit of the community
COH/2-4 Locally affordable housing and CLT	***	***	*	Allows expansion while providing locally-affordable homes for the next generation
Objective: Improving amenities and facilities				
COH/3-1 Medical Centre	***	***	***	Significant improvement in facilities, increased employment and potential to reduce traffic
COH/3-2 Supermarket	***	***	***	Significant improvement in facilities and safety of location
COH/4-2 Multi-purpose Village Hall	***	***	**	Significant improvement in facilities and increased employment
COH/4-3 Nursery	***	***	**	Significant improvement in facilities and employment
COH/4-4 Sport for all	**	***	**	Health and well-being benefits across age and gender
COH/5-1 New Recreation Ground	**	***	**	Health and well-being benefits across age and gender
COH/6-1 Extension of burial grounds	-	*	**	Significant improvement in facilities
Objective: Encouraging employment				
COH/7-1 Village employment	**	**	**	Modest increase in employment within village with potential to reduce traffic
COH/7-2 Rural employment	**	*	**	Modest increase in rural employment avoiding significant traffic increase.
COH/7-3 New Durman Stearn site	***	**	**	Potentially large increase in employment with traffic safety benefits to village centre

Figure 3: Sustainability assessment of Cottenham NP policies

- 5.6 This section compares the thirteen sustainable development themes of the NPPF with the policies in the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan:
1. Building a strong, responsive and competitive economy. Given the modest size of Cottenham and its status in the Local Plan as a Rural Centre, any local economic growth will be small in scale and likely to be compatible with the local environment. Local opportunities do exist and policies COH/7-1, COH/7-2 and COH/7-3 support these.
 2. Ensuring the vitality of village centres. The plan expands employment and leisure possibilities, especially within the village development framework with policies COH/3-1 and COH/3-2, and at the Recreation ground through policies COH/4-2 and COH/4-3.
 3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy. The neighbourhood plan acknowledges the importance of encouraging appropriate business opportunities in the parish. Policy COH/7-1 supports opportunities within the village, COH/7-2 encourages business in the rural parish while COH/7-3 focuses on a specific opportunity to expand an already important engineering business.
 4. Promoting sustainable transport. The rural location of Cottenham limits the availability of regular public transport services other than to Cambridge. Inevitably most journeys are undertaken by car. Nevertheless policies COH/1-6, COH/2-3, COH/2-4, COH/3-1 and COH/3-2, with their focus on providing facilities and housing within easy walking distance and the requirement in COH/2-2 for contributions to a Community Transport Service where housing is beyond easy walking distance of the village centre will help reduce the need for travel by car. The Traffic & Transport Strategy also looks at ways to reduce the transit time of the main bus service to improve its attractiveness.
 5. Supporting high-quality communication infrastructure. Cottenham's proximity to Cambridge and relatively-affluent population has encouraged good provision of fixed and mobile communications. Nevertheless there are "not-spots" with poor coverage which limit the possibility of working at home or home-based businesses in some parts of the village and wider parish. Policy COH/4-2, which includes the proposed drop-in "business club" will help.
 6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. Paragraph 50 of the NPPF requires plans to cater for current and future needs, with a variety of sizes, types and tenure and to provide affordable homes where necessary. The allocations in the plan under policy COH/2-1 and COH/2-2 go beyond the needs of the plan in terms of overall quantity but do not provide enough affordable homes, and even these are unaffordable by as many as 50% of Cottenham's population. Policy COH/2-3 will make available a number of smaller homes on brownfield sites and policy COH/2-4 sets out to deliver "locally-affordable" homes on Rural Exception Sites.
 7. Requiring good design. Cottenham was one of the first places in England to develop a Village Design Statement which identified specific features of Cottenham's landscape and architecture to guide future development without constraining innovation. While some of those features have been absorbed into SCDC's Design Guide, individual villages do have individual characteristics and many of these have influenced this Neighbourhood Plan especially in policies COH/1-4, COH/1-5 and COH/2-2. The complete Village Design Statement has been included in the submission documents as NP Evidence Paper E12.
 8. Promoting healthy communities. The plan seeks to expand and enhance provision of outdoor spaces in Cottenham to keep pace with its enlarged population and evolving demographic. Policies COH/1-7 and COH/1-8 increase the amount of protected public green spaces while

COH/4-4, COH/4-1.1 and COH/5-1 increase provision for more active pursuits. COH/3-1 also has a part to play.

9. Protecting Green Belt land. Generally the plan does not detract from the openness of the extensive stretch of Green Belt in the southern quadrant of Cottenham. Policy COH/7-3 does marginally increase utilisation of an existing site by an engineering business with considerable economic and traffic safety benefits to Cottenham. Policy COH/5-1 is likely to create a modest new Recreation Ground and supporting infrastructure within the Green Belt, possibly as part of a Rural Exception site developed under policy COH/2-4.
 10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. Cottenham is already vulnerable to flooding from two embanked rivers that take surface water through the parish from a wide catchment to the west and south-west. Cottenham itself is generally drained indirectly via the ditch network and the pumping stations of the Old West Internal Drainage Board. The upgrading of those systems is outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan but policy COH/2-2 in particular contains policies to set out the more challenging design parameters and requirements for long-term maintenance of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems used in this sensitive area. NP Evidence Paper E11 has been included in the submission documents.
 11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Cottenham's Village Design Statement went some way to characterise key aspects of the landscape around Cottenham, including means to improve its accessibility to residents and key vistas that are to be conserved. This plan reinforces that work in policy COH/1-1 and its influence is visible in elements of other policies.
 12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Cottenham has an extensive Conservation Area, 66 Listed Buildings and several Ancient Monuments which form a key foundation for Cottenham's character both as complete buildings and architectural elements, many of which are outlined in the Cottenham Village Design Statement. AECOM's character and heritage assessment (included in the submission) drew on this and an incomplete draft Conservation Areas assessment undertaken by SCDC's Conservation Team. Policy COH/1-2 formalises some additional protective measures for the Conservation Area, while policy COH/1-3 identifies nine non-designated heritage assets for protection because of their architectural, cultural or historic significance to Cottenham.
 13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals. Mineral extraction is excluded development and not part of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.7 In conclusion, this plan will deliver sustainable development.

6 General Conformity with the Strategic Policies in the Local Plan

- 6.1 The development plan for the Neighbourhood Area is the South Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan adopted in 2018.
- 6.2 The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure its general conformity with the development plan for South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 6.3 Table 2 below sets out how each policy aligns with the strategic policies of the SCDC Local Plan where relevant.
- 6.4 Generally, where the NP policy deviates from a similar LP policy, the variation arises from localisation to maintain character or support a local evidence-based need.
- 6.5 Specifically, in the case of policy COH/2-1, the development framework has been “moved ahead” of that in the adopted LP to recognise actual planning permissions without undermining the fundamental principle of applying a development framework to apply different planning rules sets inside and outside the framework.

NP policy	LP policy	Comment on Conformity
Objective: Conserving the village character		
COH/1-1 Landscape character	NH/2	Some features derived from VDS are more specific
COH/1-2 Heritage assets	HQ/1, NH/14	Some features derived from VDS are more specific Some features derived from VDS are more specific
COH/1-3 Non-designated heritage assets	HQ/1,	Some features derived from VDS are more specific
COH/1-4 Village character – alterations		Some features derived from VDS are more specific
COH/1-5 Village character – new build	TI/10	Conformant
COH/1-6 The village core or centre	CC/1	The focus on the village centre reduces car usage
COH/1-7 Local Green Space	NH/12	Not Strategic Policy
COH/1-8 Protected Village Amenity Areas	NH/11	Not Strategic Policy
Objective: Making housing more affordable		
COH/2-1 Development framework	S/7, S/8	Conformant with policy principle; framework to be extended. Conformant
COH/2-2 Large site design	CC/1, CC/8, HQ/1 TI/1 TI/3	The focus on the village centre reduces car usage Cottenham's drainage network creates specific needs Some features derived from VDS are more specific Conformant by condition Some features derived from VDS are more specific
COH/2-3 Brownfield sites	CC/1, TI/1	The focus on the village centre reduces car usage Conformant
COH/2-4 Locally affordable housing and CLT	NH/8, H/11 TI/1	May need conformant housing on Rural Exception Sites in GB Sequential tested, less than 20% market-priced homes of 30 Conformant
Objective: Improving amenities and facilities		
COH/3-1 Medical Centre	CC/1, SC/4, SC/5, SC/6, TI/3	The central location reduces car usage Conformant; more specific outline of need / location Conformant; more specific outline of need / location Conformant; more specific outline of need / location Conformant by design
COH/3-2 Supermarket	SC/4, TI/3	Conformant; more specific outline of need / location Conformant by design
COH/4-1 Recreation & Sports Hub	SC/7, SC/8, SC/9	Conformant by aspiration Conformant Conformant by design
COH/4-2 Multi-purpose Village Hall	SC/4, TI/3, TI/10	Conformant; more specific outline of need / location Conformant by design Conformant
COH/4-3 Nursery	CC/1, TI/3, TI/9	Co-location of facilities reduces car usage Conformant by design Conformant
COH/4-4 Sport for all	SC/7, SC/8, SC/9	Conformant by aspiration Conformant Conformant by design
COH/5-1 New Recreation Ground	NH/10, SC/7, SC/8	May need conformant facilities in GB Conformant Conformant
COH/6-1 Extension of burial grounds	SC/4	Conformant
Objective: Encouraging employment		
COH/7-1 Village employment	CC/1, E/12	The focus on the village centre reduces car usage Some features derived from "core development" are more specific
COH/7-2 Rural employment	E/13, E/16, E/19, E/20	Tighter focus on types of employment Tighter focus on types of employment Conformant Conformant
COH/7-3 New Durman Stearn site	NH/9	Implementation can be made conformant

Figure 4: General conformity of NP policies with SCDC Strategic Policies

7 Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation

- 7.1 The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights and complies with the Human Rights Act.
- 7.2 A screening decision^{B24} was issued by South Cambridgeshire District Council on the 25th September 2018 following consultation on a Screening Opinion with the relevant national bodies.
 - a) The Council determined that the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any Habitats site. The requirement for the Plan to undertake an accompanying HRA was therefore screened out. This meets the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Habitat Regulations 2017.
 - b) The Council also determined that the content of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be **screened in** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 7.3 AECOM were commissioned to provide a Strategic Environment Assessment^{B27} utilising the SEA framework. Their findings are summarised:
 - i. The assessment has concluded that the current version of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is likely to lead to significant long term positive effects in relation to the 'Population and Community' and 'Transportation' SEA themes. These benefits largely relate to the Neighbourhood Plan's focus on providing new housing, employment and retail development to meet local needs in accessible locations, the provision of new community infrastructure in Cottenham, the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure networks in the area, an expansion of local pedestrian/cycle networks, and the protection and enhancement of the quality of the public realm and neighbourhood distinctiveness.
 - ii. The allocations proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan will potentially enable enhancements to be made to the quality and vitality of the villagescape and the setting of the historic environment at locations of relatively poor public realm in Cottenham. Supporting this further, the Neighbourhood Plan has a close focus on conserving and enhancing landscape and villagescape character in the parish, and on protecting and enhancing the setting and fabric of the historic environment. Taken together, these will have the potential to lead to long term positive effects in relation to the 'Landscape and Historic Environment' themes. Longer term, this includes through limiting negative effects from potential new development areas in the parish, and securing enhancements to local distinctiveness.
 - iii. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to take a 'brownfield first' approach, the Neighbourhood Plan facilitates the delivery of up to 90 predominantly locally affordable homes on greenfield Rural Exception Sites, if a set of criteria are met. Whilst the approach does not include allocations, this has the potential to lead to the loss of productive agricultural land in the Neighbourhood Plan area. However, given the detailed location of such development has not been established, it is unclear whether this will lead to the loss of areas of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. As such, impacts in relation to the 'Land, Soil and Water Resources' SEA theme are uncertain. (N.B. this risk will be mitigated by avoiding use of best and most versatile agricultural land unless this loss is outweighed by other material benefits).
 - iv. The Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan will initiate a number of beneficial approaches regarding the 'Biodiversity' and 'Climate Change' SEA themes. These are not though considered to be significant in the context of the SEA process given the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan and the scale of proposals.

- 7.4 The Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is considered to meet the following Human Rights articles:
- a) Article 1 – Protection of property
 - b) Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life
 - c) Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination
 - d) Protocol 12 – Article 1 – General prohibition of discrimination.
- 7.5 The proposed policies within the Neighbourhood Plan do not give rise to any potential impacts on these Human Rights.
- 7.6 In conclusion it is considered that the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is compliant with EU obligations.

Appendix 1 Policy evolution

A.1 The table below outlines the evolution of the plan policies, many of which have retained the same objective while being refined and clarified.

	Pre-submission Plan policies v2.1 June 2017		Pre-submission Plan policies v4.2 July 2018		Submission Plan policies December 2018
Objective: Conserving the village character					
	C/1 Landscape character		C/1 Landscape character		COH/1-1 Landscape character
	C/2 Heritage character		C/2 Heritage assets		COH/1-2 Heritage assets
	C/2 Heritage character		C/2 Heritage assets		COH/1-3 Non-designated heritage assets
	H/3 Cluster design		C/4 Village character – alterations		COH/1-4 Village character – alterations
	H/3 Cluster design		C/5 Village character – new build		COH/1-5 Village character – new build
			C/3 Development framework		COH/1-6 The village core or centre
	C/3 Tree conservation		C/6 Local Green Space		COH/1-7 Local Green Space
	C/3 Tree conservation		C/7 Protected Village Amenity Areas		COH/1-8 Protected Village Amenity Areas
Objective: Making housing more affordable					
	C/0 Residential framework		C/3 Development framework		COH/2-1 Development framework
	H/2 New housing sites		H/1 Large site design		COH/2-2 Large site design
	H/1 Up to 35 affordable homes		H/2 Brownfield sites		COH/2-3 Brownfield sites
	H/1 Up to 35 affordable homes		H/3 Greenfield sites and CLT		COH/2-4 Locally affordable housing and CLT
Objective: Improving amenities and facilities					
	AF/1 Medical Centre		AF/1 Medical Centre		COH/3-1 Medical Centre
	AF/5 Larger supermarket		AF/6 Supermarket		COH/3-2 Supermarket
	AF/3 Sports facilities		AF/5 Sports facilities AF/2 Multi-purpose Village Hall AF/3 Nursery		COH/4-1 Recreation & Sports Hub
	AF/2 Village Hall & Nursery		AF/2 Multi-purpose Village Hall		COH/4-2 Multi-purpose Village Hall
	AF/2 Village Hall & Nursery		AF/3 Nursery		COH/4-3 Nursery
	AF/3 Sports facilities		AF/5 Sports facilities		COH/4-4 Sport for all
	AF/3 Sports facilities AF/4 Play facilities		AF/5 Sports facilities		COH/5-1 New Recreation Ground
	AF/6 Extending burial grounds		AF/6 Extending burial grounds		COH/6-1 Extension of burial grounds
Objective: Encouraging employment					
	E/1 Village employment		E/1 Village employment		COH/7-1 Village employment
	E/2 Rural employment		E/2 Rural employment		COH/7-2 Rural employment
	E/3 New Durman Stearn site		E/3 New Durman Stearn site		COH/7-3 New Durman Stearn site

Figure A: Policy evolution to meet objectives better