

**The Parish of  
Charlton Neighbourhood Plan 2018 - 2029  
Basic Conditions Statement**

Published by the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
on behalf of Charlton Parish Council under the Neighbourhood  
Planning (General) Regulations 2012

December 2019

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Statement has been prepared by the Parish of Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Charlton Parish Council (“the Parish Council”) to accompany its submission to the local planning authority, the Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC or “the Borough Council”), of the Parish of Charlton Neighbourhood Plan (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared on behalf of the Parish Council, a qualifying body, for the Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the Parish of Charlton, as designated by the Borough Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 (see Figure 1 below). The policies described in Section 8 (Land Use Policies) of the Neighbourhood Plan all relate to the development and use of land in the designated Neighbourhood Area. It does not contain policies relating to excluded development as defined by, and in accordance with, the Regulations. The plan period of the Neighbourhood Plan is from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029.
- 1.3. The main purpose of the Plan is to define land-use policies that can be used to help determine planning applications and appeals within the designated area. The resulting policies, which have been the subject of significant consultation within the Parish, allocate one area for development.
- 1.4. The Steering Group of the qualifying body (Charlton Parish Council) have acted independently and sought to create a plan which addresses the issues of today, and a positive and directed view of future development, to meet the needs of appropriate housing for local people, and any new incoming residents, whilst meeting the need for sustainable development and without detriment to the nature of the locality. This is a fine balance, but it is believed that with the evidence base submitted, that justification for the declared policies, achieves the need to meet the basic conditions, and establishes ‘general conformity’ with the strategic policies of the Development Plan.
- 1.5. The Statement addresses each of the five ‘basic conditions’ required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act (as amended).
- 1.6. The following documents constitute the Charlton Parish Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents in their entirety, which are being submitted to the TVBC in

order to allow for subsequent independent examination, followed by a public referendum in the designated area for the Plan:

- The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031 (December 2019 submission version) including Appendices.
- A map of the Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area
- This Basic Conditions Statement (December 2019).
- A Consultation Statement (December 2019) detailing the extensive consultation with residents, businesses, other local stakeholders and statutory bodies throughout the development process, including a final public consultation of over six weeks that was held during September/ October 2019.
- A Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) carried out by TVBC (formal notification was received 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019). The conclusion of this Screening Statement was that the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan does not require either SEA or HRA.

1.7. An evidence base consisting of:

- Charlton Parish Character Assessment (December 2019).
- Local Green Space Assessment (June 2019, revised November 2019)
- Site Assessment (updated November 2019)
- Charlton Parish Viewpoint Assessment (August 2019)
- Charlton Housing Needs Assessment (July 2019)
- Charlton Evidence Base Review (April 2019)



## **2. Background to the Neighbourhood Plan**

- 2.1. The decision to proceed with a Plan was made by the Parish Council in 2014. A chief concern was to ensure that local planning policies were sufficiently robust & specific to protect the character of the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan is designed to complement and refine as appropriate the policies of the Test Valley Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan 2031.
- 2.2. A Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was formed by the Parish Council, comprising parish councilors and members of the local community and it was delegated authority to make day-to-day decisions on the Neighbourhood Plan. However, as a qualifying body, the Parish Council itself approved the publication of the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan of August 2019 [and now the Submission Neighbourhood Plan of January 2020.]
- 2.3. There has been considerable community engagement activity on the Plan. This is laid out in detail in the separate Consultation Statement, which is published by the Steering Group as part of the submission documentation. The Steering Group has worked closely with officers of the Borough Council during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the relationship between the Plan and the policies of Local Plan and reasoning and evidence of the emerging Local Plan have been properly understood. The Steering Group has also benefited from the professional planning and design advice of Bluestone Planning Partnership LLP.
- 2.4. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to allocate one development site and contains a number of land use policies intended to take a positive and directed view toward future development. For this reason, the Parish Council has deliberately sought to focus policies on the key issues that matter to the local community and to avoid proposing policies that may duplicate national planning guidance and/or development plan policies that are already material considerations in determining future planning applications.
- 2.5. The Neighbourhood Plan and its supplementary evidence documents, are supported by a Consultation Statement and this Basic Conditions Statement.

### 3. Neighbourhood Plan Requirements

3.1. The object of this Basic Conditions Statement is to explain how the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (as amended).

3.2. The Statement addresses each of the five 'basic conditions' required of the Regulations and explains how the submitted Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act.

3.3. 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 Plan;***
- ***The making of the Neighbourhood Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;***
- ***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 (or any part of that area);***
- ***The making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations; and***
- ***Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and prescribed matters have been complied with, in connection with the proposal for the Neighbourhood Plan.***

#### ***Human Rights***

3.4. The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. The main issues for planning in the context of human rights are: protection of property, right to respect for private and family life and prohibition of discrimination. The Plan complies with the requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998.

## 4. Related Statements

- 4.1. The Parish Council is a qualifying body and entitled to submit a Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan expresses policies that relate to the development and use of land, only within the designated neighbourhood plan area.
- 4.2. The Neighbourhood Plan area is contiguous with the parish boundaries, as shown in the map accompanying the neighbourhood area designation. See Figure 1 above.
- 4.3. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the period from 2019 to 2029 – i.e. from the year the Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the end of the Borough Council’s Local Plan period.
- 4.4. The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with excluded development such as County matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure, or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 4.5. The Neighbourhood Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the Parish of Charlton as designated by the Borough Council on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014.
- 4.6. There are no other Neighbourhood Plans in place for the Parish of Charlton Neighbourhood Plan area.

## 5. Conformity with National Planning Policy

5.1. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2019 and is mindful of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) in respect of formulating neighbourhood plans.

5.2. The sections of the NPPF of relevance to this Neighbourhood Plan are as follows:

- 2. Achieving sustainable development
- 3. Plan Making
- 5. Developing a sufficient supply of homes.
- 6. Building a strong, competitive economy.
- 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities.
- 9. Promoting sustainable transport policies.
- 11. Making effective use of land.
- 12. Achieving well-designed places.
- 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change.
- 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.
- 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

5.3. In overall terms, there are a number of NPPF paragraphs that provide general guidance on neighbourhood planning, to which the Neighbourhood Plan has directly responded:

**Paras 16, 59-66 and 77**

5.4. The Parish Council believes the Neighbourhood Plan is planning positively for future development in the Parish and that it is consistent with the provisions of the TVBC Local Plan. The parish has a rural heritage and that character remains throughout much of the Parish despite some development in recent times and the proximity of Andover on its southern boundary.

5.5. Charlton village is designated a rural village and also, currently, a Key Service Centre in the Borough settlement hierarchy. The Charlton Neighbourhood Plan Policy 2 (CNP2) allocates a site for development and will allow the building of small, high quality and affordable housing to meet the identified needs of the village over the period of the Plan. As such, Plan policies set out to deliver positive housing growth in the Plan area and do so in a positive way that will boost significantly the supply of housing land in the Plan area.

**Paras 80 – 84**

5.6. The Parish is located adjacent to a large industrial estate, of which a very small part lies within the Plan area. The Plan area as a whole is predominated by agricultural, residential, small commercial enterprises and leisure uses and their associated employment generation. The Plan therefore is focused on the protection and enhancement of employment opportunities in this regard.

**Paras 91-92, 96-101**

5.7. The policies have been written to promote social interaction, community facilities and healthy lifestyles. This has been undertaken by encouraging and protection the wide variety of leisure facilities in the parish, by siting development in accessible locations and encouraging the enhancement of community facilities, public rights of way and accessibility to these areas. The protection of open green spaces and the maintenance and enhancement of the Charlton Lakes area are all considered priorities for residents been based on the findings of community consultation surveys and events.

**Paras 102 – 107**

5.8. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure that sustainable transport is supported and maximized wherever possible. The Parish is situated in close proximity to Andover, where it is possible for some residents to walk and cycle to places of employment. The improvement of the public rights of way network is a key policy in this respect. There is limited public transport and it is key that new development is accessible by and can enhance the existing route network. The Plan area has a number of heavily trafficked and congested routes and larger scale development in the form of the housing allocation, has been located away from such areas.

**Paras 117-123**

5.9. Making effective use of land is crucial to the long term viability of the Parish. There are few sites for development which do not have constraints and of the land available, it is clear that there needs to be a balance between creating development of a sufficiently

high density and meeting the needs of the Parish for the future. In the last five years, the Parish has seen large scale, high density, generic development which has not met the needs of local residents. It is key that future development meets those needs identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, taking account of market conditions and in keeping with the character of the village rather than generic modern estate development. Policies have therefore sought to maintain the balance in the new housing allocations and through appropriate housing mix, type and design criteria.

#### **Paras 124-32**

5.10. Design policies within the Neighbourhood Plan have been based on a detailed analysis of the landscape and urban form of the Parish through a Character Appraisal. This has been based on established methodology, National Character Areas and the Test Valley Landscape Assessment. These have identified the special qualities of the area and how it should be reflected in new development. Although no detailed design brief has been included, so as not to be too prescriptive, instead a pre-application protocol has been set out to ensure that there will be early discussion between the community and applicants.

#### **Paras 148 - 161**

5.11. The Neighbourhood Plan policies have included measures to mitigate impacts of development and support proposals which allow the provision infrastructure to combat climate change. The housing site allocation provides support for energy from renewable sources, and sets out criteria to minimize energy consumption. The Neighbourhood Plan policies acknowledge that such small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Whilst much of this is covered by building regulations, policy sets out there should be a minimum target for renewable energy where possible.

5.12. The main areas of fluvial flood risk take place away from much of the residential areas. There are however issues of surface water flooding in many of the parish areas, including those potentially considered for housing development. To ensure inappropriate development is not placed in areas of high risk, such areas have been excluded from residential allocations in favour of reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower risk of flooding. Specific policies have also been proposed to look at the specific local issues with surface water flooding and drainage.

#### **Paras 170 - 174**

5.13. The rural landscape makes up a large proportion of the Parish and residents consider the Parish to have a predominantly rural character. This is reflected by the number of policies which seek protect those areas of the Parish which have been identified through Character Appraisal and Viewpoint Assessments as forming part of the intrinsic character and beauty of the local countryside. All land parcels have been assessed in terms of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and the provision of trees and woodland.

5.14. In particular, policies have set out to minimize the impacts on and provide net gains for biodiversity. Whilst there are no sites of international or national ecological importance, there are a number of locally designated sites and habitats which are considered to be of national significance. The Charlton Lakes area for example feeds into a site of national importance and could be further enhanced to provide larger scale future net gains in biodiversity.

### **Paras 180 - 183**

5.15. The Neighbourhood Plan establishes a clear vision and objectives for the parish that reflect the views of the majority of the local community. It has sought to translate the objectives into a number of meaningful planning policies to complement other development plan policies for managing development proposals. It avoids duplicating development plan policies by focusing on policies that translate the general requirements of the development plan and other adopted supplementary planning guidance into specific policies that better address the social needs and unique qualities of the parish. Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan should be easily considered alongside the Local Plan and the emerging Local Plan and any other material considerations in determining planning applications.

5.16. The Parish Council believes the Neighbourhood Plan, as is highlighted below, is in general conformity with all the relevant policies of TVBC Local and Emerging Plan and this has been confirmed by officers of TVBC. The CNP is considered to strike a positive balance between the community vision of remaining a village and yet developing to meet the housing (and other) needs of the population.

### **Paras 184 – 202**

5.17. The historic environment forms an important part of the Parish. Whilst there are no conservation areas, there is a significant scale Scheduled Ancient Monument as well as a number of listed buildings. These have all been identified within the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base documents and focus is upon keeping such assets

in viable use as well as sustaining and enhancing their significance. Policies set out that new development must also describe the significance of such assets and analyse the impact that the proposals will have on their setting.

## **6. Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Development**

6.1. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental (paragraph 8, NPPF). The three dimensions are mutually dependent. In addressing the above basic conditions, the Neighbourhood Plan pays particular regard to NPPF, Paragraph 9, which requires that: “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”.

6.2. In considering the economic role, the Plan does not seek to control employment development, but the policies will help to maintain the local rural economy by seeking to retain and enhance local community infrastructure which will in turn help to support local jobs remaining in the Parish.

6.3. Turning to the social role, the Plan’s policies fully meet the social element of sustainable development, by seeking to ensure that an appropriate level of infrastructure is maintained commensurate with the needs of the community and by guarding against the loss of valued community facilities.

6.4. In considering the environmental role, the Plan seeks, where appropriate, to protect and/or enhance the local character and quality of the Parish and its settlement, the surrounding landscape and heritage assets, views throughout the Parish and local green spaces.

6.5. The TVBC Local Plan (COM 2) defines Charlton as a rural village but also as a Key Service Centre. The designation as a Key Service Centre is not supported by the Parish Council and will be challenged during development of the TVBC Future Local Plan.

6.6. The Parish Council has sought to fulfil its obligations to sustainable development by allocating a site for around 50 dwellings within its adjusted settlement area. Outside the settlement area development will be limited to that which is considered appropriate ‘development within the countryside’ as specified by the relevant policies

of the Development Plan or national planning policy – e.g. under ‘permitted development rights’ legislation in respect of redundant agricultural buildings.

6.7. Proposals to redevelop brownfield sites within the Parish will also be determined in accordance with the policies of the Development Plan and national planning policy.

6.8. The Neighbourhood Plan policies are listed in Tables 1 below together with a brief summary of how each has regard for one or more of the specified NPPF policies. The particular paragraphs referred to in the respective tables are those considered the most relevant to each policy but are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all relevant paragraphs. Having regard to national policy and guidance it is considered appropriate to make the Parish of Charlton -Neighbourhood Plan.

6.9. The table below sets out the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan policies, how these relate to the relevant NPPF paragraphs and how they meet the key sustainable development objectives/ dimensions. These have been scored as set out below:

- Positive (+)
- The policy has a positive effect on the dimension concerned. In certain cases where the effect is very positive this is recorded as ++
- Neutral (0)
- The policy is neutral on the dimension concerned. It would be difficult to assert that the effect was either positive or negative
- Negative (-)
- The policy has a negative effect on the dimension concerned. In certain cases where the effect is very negative this is recorded as - -

**Table 1 Comparison of NP policies against NPPF**

<b>CNP Policies</b>	<b>Relevant NPPF 2019 sections</b>	<b>Relevance to NPPF 2019</b>	<b>Sustainable Development</b>
CNP1 Settlement Boundary/ Built up Area	77-79, 84,118	<i>This policy seeks to define a separate settlement boundary for Charlton (not part of Andover) and confirms: 1. Development within the revised settlement boundary will be permitted subject to other policies in the development plan. 2. Development in the plan area outside the settlement</i>	<b>Economic ++</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ 0</b>

		<p><i>boundary will be permitted only if:</i></p> <p><i>a. It is allocated within the Adopted Local Plan.</i></p> <p><i>b. There is a genuine and proven need for a countryside location in accordance with countryside policies of the Adopted Local Plan and the NPPF.</i></p>	
CNP2 Land to the North of Goch Way	77-79, 84, 118	<i>This policy seeks to set the conditions for development of the allocated site.</i>	<b>Economic ++</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ 0</b>
CNP3 Housing Mix	77-79, 84, 118	<i>This policy seeks to achieve a balanced community and maintain a choice of dwellings in the Parish, new housing development should favour an appropriate mix of dwellings as set out in the Parish Housing Needs Assessment to help address the current imbalance of stock or as identified in the future.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ 0</b>
CNP4 Retirement and Nursing Homes	77-79, 84, 118	<i>This policy seeks to address the needs of the aging population of Charlton highlighted in the Housing Needs Assessment/Survey.</i>	<b>Economic +</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ 0</b>
CNP5 Landscape Character and setting	127,151,170	<i>This policy seeks to protect Charlton against inappropriate development and enhance local landscape features such as, but not limited to trees, woodland, hedgerows and watercourses.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP6 Setting of the Local Gap	118, 127, 170	<i>This policy seeks to protect important landscape and reinforce the importance of the Local Gap as set out in the</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>

		<i>Adopted Local Plan between the settlements of Charlton and Penton Mewsey.</i>	
CNP-7 Important Views	127, 151, 170	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that the natural environment, character and key views and vistas of the CNP area are protected in order to maintain its rural character and historical context</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors	170, 174, 176, 177	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that the natural environment, character and key views and vistas of the CNP area are protected in order to maintain its rural character &amp; historical context</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP9 Public Rights of Way	98	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to public rights-of-way and access, while minimising any adverse impact on current traffic flow within the settlement.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment	149, 170, 174, 175	<i>This policy seeks to protect habitats that support significant bio-diversity, and other green spaces that are of particular value to the community.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP11 Charlton Lakes	149, 155, 157- 162, 170, 174, 175	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that Charlton Parish Council becomes a key stakeholder in the management and development of Charlton Lakes to ensure any changes accord with the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP12 Local Green Space	99 - 101	<i>This policy seeks to protect and enhance all the nominated green spaces to maintain and improve their biodiversity whilst managing appropriate public access and recreational use.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ ++</b>

CNP13 Flooding and Drainage	157- 165	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that any development takes full account of surface water drainage and will not cause any adverse impact to neighbouring properties or surrounding environment.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP14 Design	8, 28, 83, 95, 124 - 132	<i>This policy uses core NPPF objectives to provide a template against which to measure the suitability of proposed development with regard to quality and sustainability, while minimising any negative impact on the local character or heritage assets.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP15 Sustainable Construction	1 149, 150, 151	<i>This policy seeks to ensure that for new developments water efficiency standards are met in addition to at least 10% of their total regulated energy is from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.</i>	<b>Economic +</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP16 The Historic Environment	184-202	<i>This policy seeks to protect and safeguard heritage assets, particularly the deserted medieval village of Foxcote but also historic footpaths and listed buildings.</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social 0</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP17 Community and Sports facilities – retention and enhancement	28, 83, 92	<i>This policy seeks ensure that infrastructure is maintained and enhanced commensurate with any development. New developments must provide or contribute towards facilities, including the enhancement of existing facilities, for formal or informal sport and recreation to meet adopted standards for any increased population generated by the development</i>	<b>Economic +</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ 0</b>
CNP18 Retention of local shops and businesses	80-84	<i>This policy seeks to support existing businesses, community facilities and services, seeking</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>

		<i>to guard against their loss other than where justified in specific circumstances</i>	
CNP19 Employment	80-84	<i>This policy seeks protect and promote new small businesses</i>	<b>Economic 0</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ ++</b>
CNP20 Access and Road Safety	102-111	<i>This policy seeks to improve the walking and cycling network as well as ensure that any development takes account of road safety, traffic flows and speeds but also has due regard for impacts such as undue noise or urbanising features.</i>	<b>Economic +</b> <b>Social ++</b> <b>Environ +</b>
CNP21 Delivery and Pre- Application engagement on major development proposals	39 - 46	<i>out details via which developers will be expected to effectively engage with the local community.</i>	<b>Economic +</b> <b>Social +</b> <b>Environ +</b>

## **7 General Conformity with the Strategic Policies of Test Valley**

### ***Development Plan***

- 7.1 The Test Valley Development Plan currently comprises the following:
- a. The Test Valley Adopted Local Plan 2016
  - b. The Test Valley Emerging Local Plan. At the time of writing, yet to be adopted. Where appropriate, strategic policies expected in the Emerging Local Plan have been referenced to indicate conformity.
- 7.2 The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan are shown in Table. 2 below together with a brief summary of how each conforms with the relevant strategic policies of the Development Plan. Any Development Plan policy that is not referenced is not considered relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan as it does not have any related policies.

**Table 2 Comparison of NP policies against TVBC Adopted Local Plan Policies**

CNP Policies	TVBC Strategic policy	Relevance to TVBC Strategic Policies
CNP1 Settlement Boundary/ Built up Area	SD1, COM 1, COM 2	The policy sets a Settlement Boundary for Charlton that is separated out from the Andover Settlement Boundary and includes the recent Goch Way development.
CNP 2 Land to the North of Goch Way	COM 7, COM 14, E1	The policy allocates a site and indicates the required criteria for its development
CNP3 Housing Mix	COM 7, COM 14	The policy uses an AECOM Housing Needs Assessment and an extensive parish survey to identify the mix of housing required.
CNP4 Retirement and Nursing Homes	COM 14	The policy tackles the aging population of Charlton and identifies a potential need for retirement and nursing homes.
CNP5 Landscape Character and setting	E1, E2	The policy identifies the intrinsic character and setting of the village and sets criteria for maintaining and enhancing it.
CNP6 Setting of the Local Gap	E3, E2	The policy recognises the importance placed by residents of maintaining the local gap between Charlton and Penton Mewsey.
CNP-7 Important Views	E3, E2	The policy recognises the important views in the Plan area and seeks to prevent these being eroded or lost by unsympathetic development
CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors	E6, E2	The policy records Local Green Spaces within the Plan area to prevent these being eroded or lost by

		unsympathetic/unnecessary development
CNP9 Public Rights of Way	E3, E2	The policy identifies all current public Rights of Way and seeks to protect them and sets criteria for any proposed New Rights of Way
CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment	E5	The policy shows the importance placed on biodiversity and the natural environment. It sets criteria for any future development.
CNP11 Charlton Lakes	LHW1	The policy identifies Charlton Lakes as very important to the Parish and seeks to have transparency and joint working with any proposed developments via a Management Plan.
CNP12 Local Green Space	LHW1	The policy records Local Green Spaces within the Plan area to prevent these being eroded or lost by unsympathetic/unnecessary development
CNP13 Flooding and Drainage	E7	The policy identifies Flood Zones and seeks to ensure implications are fully considered with any future planned developments
CNP14 Design	E1, E2	The policy identifies the criteria for future planned development whether new builds or extensions . It promotes good design, local distinctiveness and sustainable construction as applicable
CNP15 Sustainable Construction	E1, E2, E5	The policy sets out the policy for sustainable development including green issues.

CNP16 The Historic Environment	E9	The policy records heritage and historic sites in the village in order to protect them
CNP17 Community and Sports facilities – retention and enhancement	COM 14, COM 15, LHW1	The policy identifies the wide range of sports facilities and seeks to ensure they are maintained or enhanced. This policy also seeks to support local amenities and facilities, some of which are of prime importance to the community e.g. a community hall.
CNP18 Retention of local shops and businesses	COM 14	The policy identifies local shops and businesses and confirms they must be maintained as part of the health and wellbeing of the village. Current and future small businesses are/will be supported but there is no support for the introduction or larger businesses.
CNP-19 Employment	COM 14	The policy recognises that most residents work away from Charlton. It supports the current employment levels.
CNP 20 Access and Road Safety	T1, T2	The policy recognises the over use of Charlton as a 'rat run' to Newbury. It seeks to reduce traffic levels, particularly HGV , and improve traffic flow and safety by traffic calming measures It also seeks to enhance cycle and footpaths to encourage non-vehicle movement

## **8 Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation and Prescribed conditions**

- 8.1 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, 1998.
- 8.2 As referenced in 1.4 above the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, on behalf of the Parish Council, submitted a formal screening request regarding the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of the draft Neighbourhood Plan on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the Borough Council formally certified a SEA was required. It is therefore considered that the making of the Parish of Charlton Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

## **9. Final Observation**

- 9.1 In submitting the Parish of Charlton Neighbourhood Plan and the policies therein for examination, the Parish Council consider that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) have been met.

## **10. Equality Impact Assessment**

Neighbourhood Plans fall within the remit of the Equality Act 2010. This legislation seeks to ensure that no groups or individuals are disadvantaged as a result of decisions being made which fail to take account of their requirements: that policies and decision making do not discriminate either accidentally or deliberately.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the proposed Plan, which examines each of its policies in turn, is included in Appendix 1. The assessment concludes that draft policies are likely to have either a neutral or positive impact on the protected characteristics. No negative impacts have been identified and therefore no mitigation measures are considered necessary or proposed. There have been no changes made to policies in the Submission Draft of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan.

## Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) transposed into English, Welsh and Scottish law the various European Equal Treatment Directives. It brought several earlier pieces of domestic legislation under a single Act, harmonising the level of protection that is afforded to all characteristics by new policies and programmes.

The Act aims to ensure that groups or individuals are not disadvantaged by decisions that fail to take account of their requirements. It names several 'protected characteristics', which could either accidentally or deliberately be discriminated against during the course of decision making or policy processes:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion and belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation; and
- Gender reassignment.

The EqIA assesses the implications of policies contained within the submission draft of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan on groups with a protected characteristic. Guidance on the Equality and Human Rights Commission website ([www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)) has been considered. It provides an opportunity for Charlton Parish Council to amend policies that may have an undesirable impact on equality, prior to the submission of the Plan to Test Valley Borough Council. Alternatively, the results, could inform any changes to the Plan that are recommended at a later stage by the independent examiner.

It should be noted that extensive community consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, which aimed to ensure all members of the community were able to contribute, as detailed in the Consultation Statement which accompanies the Plan.

The 21 policies within the Plan are focus on delivering development and land use outcomes on behalf of the whole community, whilst protecting the environment and social-economic well-being of the local area.

The following matrix includes an assesses each of the policies in the Plan for its likely impact on protected characteristics. Where a positive or neutral impact is identified, no

change will be made to the policy. If a negative impact is identified, it is graded in terms of its severity:

- High impact, meaning that mitigation is unlikely to overcome the issue;
- Medium impact, meaning that future or existing mitigation could overcome the issue; or
- Low impact, meaning that the negative issue is considered insignificant.

<b>Policy CNP1 Settlement Boundary/ Built Up Area</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP2 Land to the North of Goch Way</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age	X				
Disability	X				
Marriage or civil		X			

partnership					
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	Policy CNP2 promotes a range and mix of new homes (including starter homes and adaptable housing for those wishing to downsize) on land to the North of Goch Way, which will meet local housing needs, for example first time buyers.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP3 Housing Mix</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age	X				
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	Policy CNP3 promotes an appropriate mix of dwellings will help to meet the				

	needs of those looking to enter the housing market, young families and those who wish to downsize/require retirement accommodation.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP4 Retirement and Nursery</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age	X				
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	Policy CNP4 promotes well designed and accessible residential care or nursing homes and therefore helps to meet the housing needs of the elderly.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP5 Landscape Character and Setting</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy		X			

and maternity					
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP6 Setting of the Local Gap</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP 7 Important Views</b>					
Protected	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H

characteristic					
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP8 Maintaining and Enhancing Green Spaces and Green Corridors</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			

Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP9 Public Rights of Way</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP10 Biodiversity and Enhancement of The Natural Environment</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			

Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP11 Charlton Lakes</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP12 Local Green Space</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			

Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP13 Flooding and Drainage</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				

<b>Policy CNP14 Design</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP15 Sustainable Construction and Future Infrastructure Provision</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual		X			

orientation					
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP16 The Historic Environment</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Age		X			
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP17 Community and Sports Facilities – Retention and Enhancement</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			

Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP18 Retention of Local Shops and Businesses</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP19 Employment</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil		X			

partnership					
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP20 Access and Road Safety</b>					
Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				
<b>Policy CNP21 Delivery and Pre-Application Engagement on Major Development Proposals</b>					

Protected characteristic	Positive	Neutral	Neg L	Neg M	Neg H
Disability		X			
Marriage or civil partnership		X			
Pregnancy and maternity		X			
Race		X			
Religion and belief		X			
Sex		X			
Sexual orientation		X			
Gender reassignment		X			
Comments	None.				
Mitigation	None.				

In conclusion, no changes are required to policies in the Submission Draft of the Charlton Neighbourhood Plan. The policies have either a neutral or positive impact on the protected characteristics. None of the impacts are considered to be negative and therefore no mitigation measures are proposed.