



AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Democratic Services

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28 September 2017

CABINET

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held at **6.30 pm** on **Tuesday 10 October 2017** in **The Oculus, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF**, when your attendance is requested.

NOTE: There will be an informal session starting at 6.15 pm to give Members the opportunity to comment on issues on the Agenda. The press and public may attend as observers.

Membership: Councillors: N Blake (Leader), A Macpherson (Deputy Leader), J Blake, S Bowles, H Mordue, C Paternoster, Sir Beville Stanier Bt and J Ward

Contact Officer for meeting arrangements: Bill Ashton; bashton@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk;

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 20)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September, 2017, copy attached as an appendix.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests.

**4. PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN
(REGULATION 19) (Pages 21 - 364)
Councillor Mrs Paternoster
Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy**

To consider the attached report.

**5. SILVERSTONE PARK ENTERPRISE ZONE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (Pages 365
- 368)
Councillor Bowles
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration**

To consider the attached report

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following matter is for consideration by Members "In Committee". It will therefore be necessary to

RESOLVE –

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraph indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act:-

Item No. 7 – Silverstone Park Enterprise Zone

The public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information because the reports contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of organisations (including the Authority holding that information) and disclosure of commercially sensitive information would prejudice negotiations for contracts and land disposals or transactions.

**7. SILVERSTONE PARK ENTERPRISE ZONE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (Pages 369 -
376)
Councillor Bowles
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration**

To consider the attached confidential information.

CABINET

6 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Councillor N Blake (Leader); Councillors S Bowles (Deputy Leader), J Blake, H Mordue, C Paternoster, Sir Beville Stanier Bt and J Ward.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor M Rand

APOLOGY: Councillor A Macpherson

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of 28 June, 2017, be approved as a correct record.

2. AYLESBURY GARDEN TOWN - GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

In October 2016, AVDC had co-ordinated the preparation and submission of a bid to the Government's Garden Towns and Villages Programme. In January this year, Aylesbury had been announced as one of the successful town bids. The first step had been to bring together the key partners responsible for the development of the Vale and to form a local Aylesbury Garden Town Partnership. This group comprised AVDC, BCC, the two Local Enterprise Partnerships and Buckinghamshire Advantage. This would probably expand as the project matured to include engagement with Town/Parish Councils, local residents and developers.

A project team had been established to carry the initiative forward and included a Garden Town Project Manager. Other support staff would be recruited in due course. Advice was being received from expert consultants with strong experience in running similar projects. The consultants had reviewed the overall project plan, the governance arrangements and the stakeholder strategy.

A clear project plan, identifying key work streams had been put together and the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) included clear guiding principles and commitments to enable the project to progress. Work was soon to begin on a series of supplementary planning documents to support the Local Plan and the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town, focussing on issues such as infrastructure and high quality design principles. Work would also start on a vision for the future and planning beyond the period covered by the VALP.

Cabinet was advised that one of the early tasks was to put in place a formal delivery board that would provide leadership and oversight of the general strategy of the project. Draft governance arrangements had been formulated and copies of these documents were submitted. They set out the governance structure, membership and key functions of the delivery board, programme delivery team and the relationship with key forums (yet to be established).

Active engagement and communication would be a key component of the work and it was proposed that there would be regular briefing notes for Councillors and stakeholder groups.

By way of reminder, Members were advised that the Council had secured £810k of funding from Central Government to support the initiative and this would be used to support the development of the Garden Town Group approach, master planning, the

development of supporting evidence and dedicated staff. This initial funding would also be used to help further refine the total infrastructure requirements and bidding opportunities to help achieve the garden Town ambitions. AVDC was the accountable body for these funds.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That, subject to the final documents making reference to the fact that the District comprised two Parliamentary Constituencies and therefore had two MPs and reference to surrounding Parish Councils as well as the Town Council, approval be given to the governance arrangements for the Aylesbury Garden Town Project, as outlined in the papers accompanying the Cabinet report and that the Leader of the Council be appointed as the AVDC representative on the Board.
- (2) That the Director with responsibility for Community Fulfilment, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the governance arrangements/documents taking into account the above and any other matters considered necessary or appropriate having regard to the aspirations of the project.

3. HOUSING AND PLANNING ACT 2016

The Housing and Planning Act was expected to come into force in several stages during 2017. The provisions relating to civil penalty notices and rent repayment orders had commenced on 1 April, 2017. The provisions for Banning Orders were scheduled to come into force on 1 October.

The Act provided local authorities an alternative enforcement option for non compliance with certain Housing Act 2004 offences rather than taking a prosecution in court. Although the burden of evidence would be the same for a civil penalty as it was for a prosecution, prosecutions could be both time consuming and expensive. The provisions did not replace the option for prosecution, and it was expected that a prosecution would still be taken in the most serious of cases or for repeat offenders.

The use of Banning Orders was designed to prevent rogue landlords and/or property agents from letting property for a fixed period of time, from holding an HMO licence or from making a prohibited disposal of property. A Banning Order could be made by a first tier tribunal if a person was convicted of a Banning Order offence which would be specified in Regulations. Breach of a Banning Order was an offence and a person being found guilty on summary conviction might face a fine and/or imprisonment for a period of up to 51 weeks. However, an authority could as an alternative to prosecution impose a civil penalty fee of up to £30,000 if it decided beyond all reasonable doubt that the person had breached a Banning Order. The authority would have a statutory duty to enter data on a national database of rogue landlords. Civil penalties were designed to act as a punishment to the offender, deter others and to remove financial benefit the offender might have obtained as a result of committing the offence.

The Council had a statutory duty as a local housing authority to enforce relevant housing legislation. Officers had to have delegated powers under the Act in order to carry out their functions. The Council had to have regard to any statutory guidance issued in relation determining the level of any civil penalty. The Act allowed the authority to use income from civil penalty charges to further the local housing authority's statutory functions in relation to their enforcement activities covering the private rented sector.

The Cabinet report summarised the provisions of the Act in relation to civil penalties, Banning Orders, the database of rogue landlords and Rent Repayment Orders. It was

reported that consultation was taking place with the other Buckinghamshire authorities to ensure that AVDC's procedures for enforcement and for determining the amount of any civil penalties was consistent. It was proposed that officers would design and implement a procedure that enabled the use of civil penalties as an alternative to prosecution, which would be finalised in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the provisions of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 ('the Act') and the introduction of civil penalty charges for certain offences under the Housing Act 2004 be endorsed.
- (2) That the power to apply for a Banning Order against certain persons convicted of a Banning Order offence to prohibit them from letting property for a specified period of time be endorsed.
- (3) That the power to apply for a Rent Repayment Order for certain offences to seek recovery of rent paid by Universal Credit be agreed.
- (4) That delegated authority be given to the Group Manager, Regulatory Services to delegate officers to enforce the provisions of the Act.
- (5) That the Principal Enforcement Officer (Private Sector Housing) be authorised to prepare and agree a penalty fee structure in respect of the penalty charges in line with the Act and Statutory Guidance for relevant offences specified under Act after consultation with the Group Manager, Regulatory Services and the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
- (6) That a fee structure be adopted to set penalty charges for certain specified offences under the Housing and Planning Act in accordance with Statutory Guidance.

4. CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY / STRATEGY

Cabinet received a report concerning the work undertaken to update the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy and the formulation of an implementation strategy. This was a Policy Framework issue and as such a similar report had been considered by the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet's recommendations would be submitted to full Council.

The Policy would apply to all staff employed by the Council, either directly or indirectly and to any person or organisation that used Council services or premises for any purpose. The existing policy had not been the subject of a comprehensive refresh since 2014. The Policy would also apply to temporary staff, young workers, staff working from home and contractors working on Council business. The principles of the Policy would apply to all Council work activities, regardless of who had or who was supplying or providing them.

The aims of the Policy were to:-

- Outline the requirements of Health and Safety Regulations.
- Outline Health and Safety Guidance and Approved Codes of Practice that applied to the Council.
- Inform managers, supervisors and staff as to their roles and responsibilities in relation to health and safety.

- Demonstrate the Council's commitment to reducing accidents and incidents causing ill-health, as well as other environmental hazards and risks in the workplace.
- Set out clearly and unambiguously the organisation's arrangements for health and safety in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Guidance – HSG65, Managing for Health and Safety.
- Set out the organisation's training requirements for health and safety.

The Policy identified the roles and responsibilities of Directors, Assistant Directors, Managers, Supervisors and Staff and reflected legislative changes that had occurred since it was last reviewed. The Policy would result in the following outcomes:-

- To ensure that there was a standardised approach to the Council's health and safety management system.
- To prevent foreseeable accidents or incidents so far as was reasonably practicable by undertaking suitable and sufficient risk assessments.
- To demonstrate how the Council complied with its statutory obligations against legislation, Regulations, Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) and best practice.
- The prevention of the reoccurrence of adverse events so far as was reasonably practicable.

The Council had a Corporate Health and Safety Board and in accordance with HSG65 – Managing for Health and Safety, the Board would review the Policy and performance against it annually.

The Health and Safety Strategy (Implementation Plan) set out the Council's approach to managing a positive health and safety culture. It would put in place a defined and co-ordinated process for health and safety performance. The Strategy had last been reviewed in 2015. A corporate health and safety action plan would be prepared to support the Strategy. This would be monitored by the Corporate Health and Safety Manager and the Corporate Health and Safety Board. The targets would be reviewed and updated annually by the latter. The aims and objectives of the Strategy were to:-

- Ensure that there was a standardised approach to the Council's health and safety management system.
- Regularly measure and monitor the Council's health and safety performance.
- Use accident, incident and near miss software for the Council to record and consolidate accurate reports and data.
- Ensure that there was an appropriate level of health and safety risk control throughout the Council.
- Ensure that all managers, supervisors and staff were engaged actively in the positive management of health and safety.
- Ensure that there was a standardised approach for event safety planning and resilience.

The following outcomes would be delivered:-

- Necessary key performance indicators would promote a positive health and safety culture within the Council.
- Appropriate means of co-operation and communication between sectors and roles would be secured.
- The Council would automatically audit, monitor and review all health and safety policies, guidance notes, safe systems of work and risk assessments.
- Health and safety management would be embedded as an integral part of the management approach to the achievement of objectives.
- Staff would be involved in health and safety performance within the Council.

The Finance and Services Scrutiny had also received a similar report and the Chairman of that Committee attended the Cabinet meeting and elaborated upon the Committee's deliberations. The Committee had made a number of observations, including:-

- **Stress at Work/Mental Health/Equalities/Disabilities** - It had been commented that the policy should demonstrate with more clarity the impacts of stress in the workplace. Cabinet appreciated however the need to avoid the blurring of policies. The Council did and would continue to have regard to all policies when making operational decisions, and as such it was considered unnecessary to duplicate responsibilities within the Council's policy structures. The streamlining that had taken place in relation to the Health and Safety Policy was intended to achieve that and references to disability, equalities and mental health would recreate that blurring. Health and Safety Policies should relate to health and safety responsibilities and the Equalities Strategy should deal with equalities etc.

There was no obligation under Health and Safety at Work legislation for mental health first aid. However the Council was a responsible employer and would make sure that there was a clear statement of how it would respond to mental health issues within its HR policies.

Equalities/disabilities issues would be dealt with in the Council's equalities strategy/policies. Due regard would however be had to equalities issues when undertaking risk assessments.

- **Working at Height** - The Committee had sought clarity around the wording used. Cabinet was advised that the refreshed Health and Safety policy used the statutory definition.
- **Roles and Responsibilities** – The Committee had felt that there should be greater clarity within the context of officer delegations. In particular it had been felt that the authority sought in the report should be to the Director rather than the Assistant Director. Cabinet accepted this point.
- **CCTV** – The Committee had commented on the need to preserve CCTV evidence within the context of violence against staff. Cabinet was advised that the Council's CCTV policies would be reviewed and that this would be reflected in any revisions.
- **Key Performance Indicators** – The Committee had felt that reference should be made high level performance indicators. Cabinet was advised that these would

be included within the Strategy and would be monitored accordingly. A health and safety monitoring report was normally brought to the Scrutiny Committee annually and this would include necessary statistics and details of performance against targets.

- **Corporate Health and Safety Board/ Health and Safety Committee** – The Committee had felt that the titles and responsibilities should be clearly defined. Cabinet concurred with this view.

Cabinet thanked the Committee for its input and confirmed that where necessary and/or appropriate the final documents would be amended to reflect the Committee's considerations.

RESOLVED –

That Council be recommended to:-

- Approve the updated Health and Safety Policy and Strategy for its implementation and;
- Authorise the Director with responsibility for finance after consultation as necessary with the Corporate Health and Safety Board and/or Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste to make any changes to reflect the Scrutiny Committee's views and in particular to reflect:-
 - Changes in legislation and Statutory Requirements.
 - Changes in British Standards.
 - The introduction of 'new machinery or technology.
 - Changes in nominated responsible persons.
 - Changes in the responsibilities of nominated persons.
 - Changes in management policy and/or procedures.

5. HOUSING BENEFITS - RISK BASED VERIFICATION POLICY

The Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Schemes were the cornerstones of the Welfare State. Nationally, nearly £25 billion was paid out in total per annum. As at November, 2011, the total number of housing benefit claimants was 4.94 million, with 5.87 million people claiming Council tax reduction.

In the early 1990s the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) had introduced a "verification framework policy" for administering housing and council tax benefit claims. This was a voluntary policy that strongly recommended that local councils should obtain a substantial amount of documentary evidence, and carry out numerous pre-payment checks and visits before making any payment.

The verification framework had proved to be costly and had caused significant delays in processing. It had to be applied to all claims and there was little scope for local discretion. Although it had been abandoned in 2006 by the DWP, most authorities, including AVDC had continued to use at least some of the guidelines set out in the framework.

In 2011, the DWP had allowed a number of councils to pilot a different type of scheme to try to reduce fraud and error. This had been on risk based verification (RBV) principles. This concentrated on the risk profile of each claimant. Resources could then be targeted at the higher risk groups where most of the fraud and error would be. It was

an approach used by many public services as well as businesses, the police and immigration authorities. The pilots had been a success and the DWP had confirmed that all councils could now adopt this approach. It was intended that RBV would apply to new housing benefit claims, council tax reduction and changes in circumstances. However once implemented, it could be used for reviews and overpayments.

The benefits Service had conducted a fundamental service review over the last year. The implementation of RBV was a recommendation from that process. This was to reduce the burden on customers to provide excessive evidence, and reduce the cost of administering claims by reducing the correspondence with customers in chasing evidence, and the scanning of that evidence. It was intended that RBV should be implemented for new claims by the Council from October, 2017. It was believed that this step would provide an improved service for customers and contribute to a significant reduction in costs.

AVDC had to adhere to housing benefit legislation. The Regulations within the legislation did not specify what information and evidence they should obtain from a benefit customer. However, it did require an authority to have information which allowed an accurate assessment of a claimant's entitlement, both when a claim was first made and when the claim was reviewed. The legislation was supplemented by detailed guidance from Government which had to be applied. Failure to do so would lead to an adverse inspection report, possible audit sanctions and loss of subsidy. Given those requirements, quality assurance and detection of fraud were key aspects of the assessment process. This had led over a period of time to a complex and demanding process of verification.

Risk based verification was a method of applying different levels of checks to different circumstances depending on a complex mathematical risk profile given to each customer. The associated risk matrix was based on many years of experience and statistical information about what type of claim represented what type of risk. The higher the deemed risk, the higher the amount of resources would be used to establish that the claim was genuine.

The pilots had demonstrated that this type of approach was very effective in both identifying higher levels of fraud and error and reducing overall cost of verifying claims. It had an immediate impact on work processes and resources were able to be better targeted. Overall timescales for processing new claims had improved dramatically in the pilots, including for those deemed to be higher risk.

RBV also allowed the Council more flexibility to take into account local issues and build in checks and balances. Improving the time taken to process claims would help those moving from benefits to work whilst reducing the level of overpayments for example.

It was intended to implement an IT solution for RBV following a service review which clearly highlighted a significantly high percentage of time was used in verifying and requesting documentation. This would be adopted for new claims only. Any change in circumstances would follow separate standards.

For the purpose of applying verification on a risk basis, each claim was ranked into one of three categories; these categories were low, medium and high risk. A schedule was submitted showing the requirement to be upheld dependent on the risk grouping. A National Insurance number and identity confirmation had to be made in all cases irrespective of the risk grouping, so as to comply with the legislation. Where photocopies had been supplied, originals could be requested if something on the photocopy did not look right or conflicted with information already held.

In respect of low risk, the only checks to be made were proof of identity, production of a National Insurance number; if they were a student, formal confirmation of status would be required and if they were persons from abroad, formal confirmation of immigration status would be required.

Medium risk cases would be subject to the same checks as outlined above plus, for every type of income or capital declared above the thresholds, documentary proof would be required. The documentation could be photocopies or electronic versions in this instance.

With regard to high risk, these cases must be subject to the same checks as low risk and documentation provided for each type of income or capital. However, preferably the documents would be original, although photocopies or electronic versions would be acceptable. Furthermore, all cases would be subject to a credit reference check (CRA) completed to determine if there were any discrepancies between the information provided by the customer on a claim form and the information available via CRA checks. The CRA checks would be carried out by assessment officers trained to analyse the information from these checks.

In line with the DWP guidance, it was expected that around 47% of cases would be low risk, 30% medium risk and 23% high risk. Detailed records of all risk scores would be maintained and reviewed to ensure compliance with the Regulations and that the Council was maintaining proper quality control and fraud interventions.

Cases could not be downgraded at any time by an assessment officer, but they could be increased though with approval from a team leader or senior officer. Reasons for upgrading a case might include previous fraud, previous late notification of changes in circumstances, or where there was good reason to doubt the veracity of information provided. All high risk claims would require access to credit reference details and access to the enhanced credit reference agency for 10% of all high risk cases.

To help monitor the effect of fraud and error detection the rates would be compared to the baseline rate. It was expected that the levels of fraud and error would be a small amount in low risk and increased for medium risk and increased further still for high risk. Furthermore the Council would undertake a minimum of 4% checks across all assessments to make sure that the guidance was adhered to correctly. Regular internal monitoring of cases would be carried out to check that requirements were met and improvements to assessment time were achieved.

Training would be provided for all officers using RBV to ensure that the agreed processes, procedures and guidelines were adhered to. Discussions would take place with all internal and external stakeholders, including investigation staff, housing staff, social landlords and voluntary sector employees so that they were fully aware of the change.

The DWP had confirmed that RBV properly applied would meet audit requirements. A dialogue would be maintained with the external auditors to ensure that the Council was not at risk through the adoption of the policy. Internal audit processes would have to be amended and the application of RBV would be a useful internal audit theme for the coming year. The external auditors had confirmed that they were satisfied that this policy met their requirements.

The business case for the RBV IT solution had been made as part of the benefits service review. The cost of obtaining a solution had been minimal set against the savings that the review had identified. It was anticipated that the cost of the RBV IT solution would be £3,000 pa and would contribute to overall savings of £50,000 pa. The

Cabinet report included an evaluation of the risks associated with the implementation of RBV.

RBV would apply to all new claims for housing benefit and council tax benefit. A mathematical model was used to determine the risk score for any claim. This model did not take into account any of the protected characteristics dealt with in the Equalities Act. The course of action to be taken in respect of the risk score was governed by this policy and as such there should be no equalities impact.

It was possible that people with certain protected characteristics may be over represented or under represented in any of the risk groups. As such monitoring would be carried out to ascertain whether this was the case. As this was a new approach to verifying benefit claims, there was no baseline monitoring that could be used as a comparison.

There were no direct financial implications of adopting this policy. The experience of other local authorities which had adopted RBV was that more fraud and error had been identified at the benefits gateway. This was fraud and error that would otherwise have entered the benefits system. This could then become the subject of investigative work and result in the need to collect overpayments. Alternatively it could remain unidentified at an on-going cost to the public purse. By identifying more fraud and error at the gateway, these costs would be reduced.

The RBV policy proposed complied with the recommendations of the DWP. This policy would be the basis on which the service would be audited in the future. The policy had been approved by the Section 151 Officer and required formal Member approval. The relevant legal framework was also included with the Cabinet report.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the process of Risk Based Verification (RBV) for verifying housing benefit and council tax reduction claims, as outlined in the Cabinet report be approved and adopted.
- (2) That approval be given to the implementation of RBV in accordance with the policy also set out in the Cabinet report.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2016-17 YEAR END AND 2017-18 MID YEAR REVIEW

The Authority's Treasury Management Policy required that an annual report be brought to Council each year end and also a mid-year report for the current year. Cabinet received reports on both.

The objectives of the Treasury Management Team had been set out in the Action Plan agreed by Council in May, 2016. The main activities continued to be:-

- Foremost to maintain the security of the Council's deposits by only depositing with trusted financial institutions and limiting the size and length of deposit with each organisation.
- To directly manage a range of deposits in order to provide sufficient flexibility to meet day to day operational needs and with the aim of equalling the Local Authority Average 7 Day Rate for the rate of interest earned.
- To only undertake new long term borrowing where the business case justified it.

It was reported that actual performance had been in line with the plan. The Council had placed deposits in a decreasing market by spreading its deposits thinly across many trusted institutions in accordance with its policy. The Authority had not taken any new long term borrowing and the in-house team had achieved interest rates above the 7 day LIBOR rate.

The report contained charts showing the monthly balances deposited by the in-house team and the monthly interest rates achieved during the year compared with the 7 day LIBOR rate.

When managing the Council's deposits the primary consideration had been to protect capital rather than to maximise return. This reflected the fact that the deposited sums were public money and therefore, any loss of capital should be avoided at all costs. The Treasury Management Team continued to invest money in line with its list of approved (safe) institutions, varying the amounts and length of deposit according to the institution and cash flow requirements at the time.

Although a safe list of institutions was maintained, major unexpected events or sudden loss of confidence in the banking sector could not always be predicted. Historically, the majority of the Council's lending had been with building societies, but over the last year the Council had invested with some of the major banks in order to spread the risk of its portfolio. The lending list was monitored throughout the year to take account of any changes within the sector i.e. building society mergers/conversions to banks. During 2016/17 there had been no mergers that had affected the Council's lending list.

Within the constraints of the lending list the objective of the in-house team remained to at least equal the Local Authority 7 Day Rate of Interest (LIBOR), whilst ensuring that money was always available to meet the Council's day to day operational needs.

With interest rates still at their lowest level, the actual amount of deposit income generated had exceeded expectations by £84,763. This had been due to the high level of money available for deposit from unspent reserves and balances held to meet capital programme needs. The amount of interest received had been £344,763. With the prevailing low rates the likelihood of an increase in the interest generated remained low, especially if the Capital Programme started to pick up.

The Council continued to operate two money market funds to give the in-house team easy access to surplus funds. Whilst money market funds had the highest credit ratings, the interest rates offered during the year had reduced and this had meant that the returns had been lower than had been expected. Although the returns had reduced the money market funds were required to manage the daily cash flow as they offered daily access without any loss of interest.

No new borrowing had been taken out during the year. Any borrowing that the Council undertook had to be within the Authority's authorised limit and operational boundary. It was a requirement of the code that any deviations from these limits, approved or otherwise, should be reported to Council. The Council did not use fund managers to assist with its investment decisions.

At the time of writing the Cabinet report, no new borrowing had been taken out, leaving the balance outstanding at £23.5 million. Members considered later during the meeting a proposal to create a Property Investment Strategy, financed by up to £100 million of prudential borrowing. If approved by Council, the borrowing limits would need to be revised. In practice, it was likely that the need to borrow this sum would be phased over a number of years, as the acquisition of suitable property was likely to take some time. However so as not to prevent opportunities being taken to acquire suitable property earlier, should they present themselves, it was proposed that the limits be increased to

their maximum amounts as soon as the policy was agreed in order to provide maximum flexibility. The Council's current authorised and operational limits were set out for Cabinet as explained below. Should the Property and Investment Strategy be approved, then these amounts would both need to be increased by £100 million:-

Authorised limit - £70 million – the combined maximum amount the Authority could take in borrowing to finance its capital expenditure plans and its day to day cash flow purposes.

Operational limit - £50 million – the amount the Authority realistically expected to borrow and represented the figure that the Authority would not expect to exceed on a day to day basis.

The amount of money deposited with banks and building societies at the end of July was £50 million, with another £8.8 million held in the two money market funds.

The Council still had the option to place some deposits with foreign banks and during the year it had reviewed its accounts with Handelsbanken, the Swedish bank, so that money had been transferred from a 90 day notice account to a 30 day notice account, the balance currently on deposit being £2 million. Apart from Handelsbanken, the Council had deposited funds with the Sumitomo Mitsui Bank of Japan. This had been done after consultation with the Council's treasury management advisors, Capita Asset Services. The balance currently on deposit was £1 million.

Property funds still offered some of the best returns on capital and investing in a property fund was within the strategy but as yet the Council had decided not to invest. Current returns on investment were between 4.5% and 5%. However as investments in property were tied to property value, there remained the risk that investing in this sector could result in reductions in property value. For this reason any investment would have to be for a minimum of 5 years in order to smooth out fluctuations in the property sector and maximise the return. If there was any change in investment strategy and an investment was being considered, then a report would be brought to Council for consideration. The Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee had also received a copy of the Cabinet report. The Chairman of that Committee attended Cabinet and advised that the Committee had noted the report without the need to make any substantive comments.

The Authority continued to operate an interest equalisation reserve to smooth out fluctuations in interest rates. As a result of the increase in the level of sums managed by the Council during 2016/17, and despite the reduced interest rates available, the interest generated, although low compared with the previous year, had exceeded expectations. This had meant that at the end of 2016/17, the interest equalisation reserve stood at £2.897 million. The phased use of the balance on the reserve formed part of the annual budget setting exercise. Following the last budget round, it had been agreed that the current balance on the reserve was a prudent amount to hold in the light of there being no expected change in interest rates in the medium term.

The Medium Term Financial Plan also recognised the Council's use of capital and other balances in delivering its plans and the impact that this would have on interest earnings. The plan was therefore gradually reducing the Council's reliance on interest earnings over time, so as to manage the remaining balance on the interest equalisation reserve.

RESOLVED –

That Council be recommended to note:-

- the performance against the Treasury Management Action Plan for 2016/17, and
- the performance against the Treasury Management Acton Plan for 2017/18.

7. BUSINESS RATES - DISCRETIONARY RELIEF SCHEME 2017

In the Spring of this year the Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced three types of business rates relief to help businesses most affected by the revaluation that had taken effect on 1 April, 2017. These were:-

- Supporting small businesses – ensuring that no business losing small business rate relief or rural rate relief as a result of the revaluation, faced excessive increases in bills.
- Local discretionary fund – a £300 million pot to be distributed to the hardest hit businesses under locally designated criteria.
- Relief for pubs – a £1,000 rebate for all pubs with a rateable value of under £100,000.

Under the second point, the Government had announced the establishment of a £300 million discretionary fund over four years from 2017/18 to support those businesses that faced the steepest increases in their business rates bills as a result of the 2017 revaluation. The Cabinet report dealt mainly with this particular element.

Revaluations were a normal part of the business rates system and usually took place over five years. The revaluation process was not designated to generate more tax revenue but was intended to take account of regional and sector variations in the value of rated property. The revaluation had taken effect on 1 April, 2017 and had been the first for seven years, having been delayed by the introduction of Business Rates Retention into the Local Government Finance system. As a consequence, many businesses had seen significant changes in the amount business rates they were required to pay. To mitigate the most severe impacts the Government had committed to a transitional funding mechanism.

The relief scheme for pubs and small businesses had already been applied, but delays in Central Government caused by the General Election and the need to get software suppliers to effect the changes, had meant that it had not been possible, until now, to bring forward the design of the discretionary scheme element. The Government's intention was that every billing authority in England would be provided with a share of the £300, million made available nationally to support their local businesses. Billing authorities would be expected to use their share of this funding to develop their own discretionary rate relief schemes in order to deliver targeted support to the most hard pressed ratepayers.

The £300 million would cover four years from 2017/18 and AVDC's allocation was as follows:-

- £431,000 in 2017/18
- £209,000 in 2018/19
- £86,000 in 2019/20
- £209,000 in 2020/21

Officers of AVDC had been working with their counterparts in the other Districts in Bucks and the County Council to agree the basis of a common scheme within Buckinghamshire. The draft scheme was appended to the Cabinet report and would be adjusted as necessary to take account of the variations specific to Aylesbury Vale. The scheme had been largely framed within the existing discretionary relief scheme, but had been amended to reflect the higher values available to the Council as awarded by the Government through the Spring Budget announcement. The focus of the scheme was on supporting small and local businesses and not chains, multi-nationals or utility suppliers. The following was a summary of the proposed eligibility criteria:-

- Relief was aimed at local businesses.
- The business must see a significant increase in business rates between 2016 and 2017.
- Awards would be made as a 30% reduction. It was however reported that subsequent to writing the report, it had been calculated that it would be possible to increase this percentage rate to 35% and still remain within the limit of the Government funding made available. The Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee had asked specifically that the percentage rate be increased and Cabinet concurred with this view.
- The scheme would normally apply to businesses with a rateable value below £200,000.
- Awards in year two would be a proportion of the year one relief.
- There would be a de-minimus award of £60 pa.
- The following types of occupiers/properties would not qualify for relief:-
 - a. Unoccupied properties.
 - b. Ratepayers that occupied more than two properties.
 - c. Government buildings.
 - d. Betting and gambling premises.
 - e. Financial institutions, including cash machines/ATMs.
 - f. Pawnbrokers and pay day lenders.
 - g. Sex shops.
 - h. Education establishments.
 - i. NHS premises.
 - j. Premises occupied by a precepting authority (legislative restriction).
 - k. Ratepayers already in receipt of mandatory/discretionary relief.

The Government had awarded Aylesbury Vale £431,000 in 2017/18 and had been explicit that if not allocated it could not be carried forward to future years. As the funding reduced in future years, the relief awarded would need to reflect the funding available. Even allocating full support, to offset the total impact of the 2017 revaluation to all those classes of businesses which qualified in the local area, it would mean that approximately only 0% of the sum available would be allocated in 2017/18. It was therefore proposed, that in accordance with the existing scheme, decisions on allocating the remaining balance be delegated to officers. These would be considered on a case by case basis. Awards would be made to mitigate instances of hardship and consider the local impact.

The value of the awards would be up to the maximum level set by Government. It was possible for the Council to grant more relief than that allocated by grant. However, once

the maximum grant level had been reached, any additional award would be borne 40% by the Council, 9% by the County Council, 1% by the Fire and Rescue Authority and 50% by Central Government.

In the intervening time between the Government's announcement of its intention to provide this funding and the Council's ability to produce and get the scheme approved, officers of the Council had exercised discretion and judgement on enforcement action where they believed businesses might be covered by the scope of the proposed policy.

As mentioned earlier in this Minute, the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee had considered a similar report at its meeting on 5 September and the Chairman, who was present at the Cabinet meeting elaborated upon the Committee's deliberations. The Committee had been supportive of the proposal.

RESOLVED –

That subject to the level of the awards being increased from 30% to 35%, the revised discretionary business rate scheme appended to the Cabinet report (amended as necessary to reflect local variations as specifically set out in the Cabinet report), be approved and adopted as the mechanism for distributing the revaluation support awarded by Government.

8. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet received a report proposing the introduction of a commercial property investment strategy to support the Council's commercial agenda and generate new income streams to offset significant cuts in Central Government funding and finance the continued delivery of and investment in local services.

The overall aim of the strategy was to acquire and build a commercial property portfolio that generated income for the Council using a strong, stable financial model with an acceptable level of risk. Commercial income generated from property acquisitions would be used to help fund the delivery and enhancement of services to the local community and support the delivery of the District's growth. The primary objectives of the strategy were to:-

- Create a diverse portfolio with a range of risk, returns and property uses.
- Provide security of income by the strength of covenant and length of lease.
- Have a focus on high growth prospects of the District with some development risk.
- Meet the commercial aim and if possible utilize and lever the knowledge, existing assets base and expertise of the Council to invest in ways which support the strategic growth of the Vale.

The above objectives had enabled a number of parameters and guidelines to be developed to ensure that proposed acquisitions met one or more of the aims. These parameters and guidelines were submitted, as referred to in the confidential part of the Cabinet agenda.

The proposal was for a property acquisition capital fund of £100 million sourced from a loan from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). An additional revenue sum of £100k was also required to support the fees needed as part of the acquisition process, e.g.

agents, legal and stamp duty. These fees would be deducted from the purchase price and recovered from the income over time.

Depending on the number of assets acquired, the in-house asset management capacity needed to manage the asset after acquisition would be reviewed. Each acquired asset would require an asset management plan and any additional capacity needed to deliver this would be factored into the business case for acquisition and recovered from the income over a period.

Strong governance was needed coupled with agile decision making to ensure that suitable opportunities which came onto the market could be effectively bid for. It was therefore proposed to establish a Commercial Property Investment Panel to consider the business cases, with delegated authority being given to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Director with responsibility for finance and after consultation with the Panel to approve acquisitions/disposals.

The strategy and performance against the objectives would be reviewed annually by the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and Council, with a high level summary report being included in the Quarterly Financial Digest.

Town centre developments or other developments which had a stronger orientation towards regeneration/place would not be included within the strategy, which would be purely commercially driven. The Council already owned a number of commercial assets and the intention would be that these assets and their performance would be measured against the strategy and objectives to inform decisions about their future.

The specific supporting information used to shape and develop the strategy was appended to the Cabinet report (in the confidential section of the agenda).

The Council had an established interest in property and currently owned and managed a range of properties, from industrial units to offices. These properties generated an income offset by the asset management costs and any capital repayment. AVDC was also a 50% owner of Aylesbury Vale Estates (AVE) which had been set up as a joint venture with Akerman LLP in 2009. Whilst the recession during that period had proved to be challenging, the value of the portfolio had grown and both the Council and the private investor had now received a dividend payment. Further dividends were forecast alongside the investment of capital receipts in new properties to generate further revenue.

AVDC had also in recent years built a number of properties in Aylesbury Town Centre. These included Waitrose, Travelodge and the University Campus Aylesbury Vale. The Council would receive rental income from the commercial space which formed part of phase one of The Exchange (formerly known as Waterside North), currently under construction. These assets as opposed to those described previously in this minute, were orientated towards the Council's leading role in place shaping and town centre regeneration. They generated an income through rental, but the results of their provision and therefore the reason for AVDC investment, was wider than purely commercial. By helping to generate footfall and confidence in the town, these new services had acted as a catalyst for investment in the Friars Square Shopping Centre and had attracted new restaurant operators and had encouraged the conversion of long term empty offices to homes.

Property was increasingly proving to be an attractive way to generate income due to the ways that risk could be managed, its long term nature and stable cash flow characteristics. The Council's ability to access the PWLB to borrow at favourable rates additionally provided the opportunity to maximise its return on capital investment. Whilst AVDC intended to continue its partnership in AVE, the strategy would provide an

opportunity to enhance the Council's existing portfolio and have direct control over the financial benefits it could deliver. The strategy contained in the confidential part of the Cabinet agenda had been formulated with the support of Monagu Evans, leading experts in the property sector.

Many councils had recently turned to property investment to support their budgets. Some had made investments without going through the rigorous process of understanding what the objectives of the strategy were and setting clear parameters to make sure that acquisitions met those objectives. The input of Montagu Evans, with their experience in the market both in the private and public sector community had helped shape a strategy which avoided the mistakes which other councils had made and had clarity, strong governance and a clear delivery plan.

As referred to elsewhere in these minutes, the implementation of the strategy would require changes to the Treasury Management Borrowing Limits. The Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee had received a similar report at its meeting on 5 September and where a presentation had been given, to which all Members of the Council had been invited. The Committee Chairman attended the Cabinet meeting and elaborated upon the Committee's deliberations.

The Committee had made a number of observations, including:-

- The need to ensure strong governance arrangements which also provide sufficient flexibility for the Council to react quickly to investment opportunities.
- The need for careful due diligence within the context of the investment opportunities that presented themselves.
- The need to look at a wide range of investment opportunities and for strong criteria for selection The need for the Council to ensure that it was protected adequately from wide fluctuations in the rates of return.
- The impact, if any on the activities of AVE.

Overall, however, the Committee had been fully supportive of the proposal.

RESOLVED –

That Council be recommended to:-

- (1)** Approve the proposed Commercial Property Strategy described in the Cabinet report, including a capital fund of £100m to be met from borrowing from the Public Works Loans Board, and a revenue budget of £100k from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) Fund, both to be reimbursed, together with the objectives, investment criteria and governance arrangements set out in Appendix 2 (contained in the confidential section of the Cabinet agenda).
- (2)** Approve the necessary changes required to the current approved and operational borrowing limits as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy, in order to accommodate the increased prudential borrowing requirement as set out in the Cabinet report.
- (3)** Authorise the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Director with responsibility for finance, and after consultation with a Panel comprising the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Compliance and Resources and one Member to be nominated by the opposition groups represented on the Council, to approve expenditure within the overall limit of the Strategy, subject to them being satisfied with the business case (s) and risk assessment.

- (4) Require the officers to bring annual reports to Cabinet, the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Council on the progress of the Strategy and also to provide whatever high level information might appropriately be included in the Quarterly Financial Digest.

9. AYLESBURY VALE ESTATES - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2016/17 BUSINESS PLAN

Each year Aylesbury Vale Estates (AVE) prepared a business plan which was considered by the Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The business plan included a review of performance during the previous financial year. In order to reflect AVE's business plan and any financial benefits that might impact on AVDC's budget, e.g. dividend payment, the business plan was now reviewed during the Autumn Committee cycle. A report similar to that now before Cabinet had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 September.

Representatives from the AVE Board had attended the Scrutiny Committee meeting and were present at this meeting to respond to Members' questions. The detail of the report on performance had been summarised in the Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee.

A review document was submitted as referred to in the confidential part of the Cabinet agenda.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

NOTE: Councillor Mrs Ward declared a personal interest in the above item as one of the Council's representatives on the AVE Board and did not vote.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Paragraph(s) indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act:-

Commercial Property Investment Strategy (Paragraph 3)

Aylesbury vale Estates – Review of performance against 2016/17 Business Plan (Paragraph 3)

The public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information because the reports contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of organisations (including the Authority holding that information) and disclosure of commercially sensitive information would prejudice negotiations for contracts and land disposals or transactions.

11. COMMERCIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In connection with the decisions reached earlier during the meeting, Cabinet received copies of the proposed strategy.

12. AYLESBURY VALE ESTATES - REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2016/17 BUSINESS PLAN

With reference to the consideration given to this matter earlier during the meeting, Cabinet received an update on AVE's performance against its business plan for 2016/17.

Cabinet
10 October 2017

PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 19)
Councillor Mrs Paternoster
Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report enables Cabinet to consider the proposed submission draft Vale of Aylesbury Plan. The Plan was also considered by the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2017.
- 1.2 Based upon this, Cabinet is requested to make a final recommendation on the submission draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan to Council.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to:

- 2.1 Consider the comments received from the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee in relation to the proposed submission draft VALP and make any changes as deemed appropriate.
- 2.2 Recommend to Council to:-
- (i) Approve the proposed submission draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (attached as an appendix to the agenda), as amended by the attached schedule of changes, for the purpose of formally consulting, for a statutory period of 6 weeks in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012, and as the version proposed to be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012 (subject to recommendations 2.2 (ii) and (iii) below.
 - (ii) Delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Community Fulfilment, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy, to make minor amendments to the final VALP document and maps to address typographical errors and improve clarity, provided that these amendments do not alter policies significantly or change the sense of supporting text, prior to the start of the publication period.
 - (iii) Delegate authority to the Director with responsibility for planning after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy, to approve any modifications or other amendments which arise during the Examination.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 All local planning authorities are under a statutory obligation to prepare a local plan. The district does not have an up to date local plan. The last adopted local plan dates from 2004 and it does not therefore take into account the recent changes in Government planning policy. The Council has tried to prepare a replacement plan on a number of occasions and the most recent attempt was withdrawn following an examination in public in 2014. Since then the Council has been committed to delivering a new local plan and to ensuring that we meet the Government expectations that local plans are produced as soon as practicable.
- 3.2 The attached report and proposed submission draft of the VALP was considered by the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2017. The report set out the background to the production of the plan, as well as providing a

summary of the contents. A table of suggested minor post-publication changes was circulated at the scrutiny meeting and is attached to this report as an appendix.

- 3.3 Paragraph 3.7 of the covering report for the VALP Scrutiny Committee refers to the evidence that supports VALP being attached to the report as Appendix 2. However, due to the significant number of documents, the evidence is not appended to the report. Attached as Appendix 1 is a complete list of supporting evidence for the Plan, which includes links to the documents on the Council's website.

4. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1 The VALP Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2017 considered a number of questions and queries raised by Members. As a result a number of suggested changes were agreed. These are attached as Appendix 2 for consideration by Cabinet. If the changes are agreed they will be proposed to Council by Cabinet subject to any other amendments made by Cabinet. The Scrutiny Committee also considered that other modifications may be appropriate to the text of the proposed submission VALP but Officers needed to carry out further work before finalising any further suggested changes. These further changes will therefore be tabled at the meeting for consideration for Cabinet.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments made at that scrutiny meeting that Members asked Cabinet to take into account in making a final recommendation to Council are as follows:-
- (i) Policy D2 (page 114) – Members commented that there was a failure to recognise 'settlement boundaries' included in neighbourhood plans (NP). At paragraph C, it was recommended to delete the word 'village' and replace it with 'settlement' and then ADD, ... 'or, where there is a made neighbourhood plan which includes a settlement boundary, the application site is located entirely within said settlement boundary'.
 - (ii) Policy H1 (page 171) – Cabinet was requested to re-word Policy H1 Affordable Housing as follows:-
"Residential developments of 11 or more dwellings gross or sites of 0.3ha or more will be required to provide a minimum of 25% affordable homes on site: but if any policy in a made neighbourhood plan for the area in question proposes a higher percentage then that higher percentage will be required."
 - (iii) Employment (Policy D5 at page 152) – Cabinet was requested to consider at a) ADDING, "...and in made neighbourhood plans."
 - (iv) Policy E10 (Silverstone Circuit, page 204) – a discussion was held on the criteria that proposals should have particular regard to the definition of "'serious' additional disturbance" at a) . It was suggested that this could be updated to "'severe' additional disturbance.", or other suitable wording be taken on board from the Silverstone Masterplan.
 - (v) Policy NE7 (Local Green Space, page 241) – Members pointed out the difficulties that some communities could face if they decided to change the use of and element of green space but retain it for community use for leisure purposes. While it was suggested that a point c) be added to the policy, "the development of new or enhanced leisure related facilities", it was explained that that advice would need to be sought from the Corporate Planner on this matter.
 - (vi) Policy I3 (Communities Facilities and assets of community value, page 267) – at the second line after the word 'need', Cabinet was requested to consider

removing the full stop and adding, “unless the proposal includes the provision of alternative facilities of at least equal quality and serviceability”.

Members also sought and were provided with clarification on the following matters:-

- (a) Paragraph 1.15 (Town Centres) – it was confirmed that information on Buckingham Town Centre would need to be included at this paragraph.
- (b) Paragraph 1.25 (Using this plan) – that legal advice had recommended that all policies in the VALP should be regarded as ‘strategic’ as they were wide reaching and would be used in deciding a range of planning applications.
- (c) Paragraph 1.35 (Population) – that the population forecast was from the 2011 Census. However, this did not take account of the level of housing growth, including unmet need from other areas, that needed to be accommodated in Aylesbury Vale. Once the number of proposed houses in the VALP was confirmed then the future population would be able to be more accurately forecast.
- (d) Paragraph 3.17 (Housing and Economic Needs) – it was confirmed that the buffer figure was 5.2%, not 5.9%.
- (e) Paragraph 3.60, Table 4 (Allocations to meet the needs for Gypsies and Travellers) – Oaksvie Park, Boarstall – it was explained that the Council believed that an allocation of 13 potential pitches at this location was suitable.
- (f) Unmet Housing Need – Officers were satisfied that adjoining local authorities had done what they reasonably could to accommodate future housing needs in their own areas which had minimised unmet housing need included in the VALP. While they were constrained by the green belt it was felt that the other Bucks authorities had considered moderately acceptable green belt sites as part of their assessments. It was explained that the ability to be able to develop some sites would depend on the attitudes of landowners and would also depend in the longer term on Government guidance issued regarding developments on Green Belt land.

Members were also informed that it was anticipated that Luton, Central Bedfordshire and Wycombe Councils would submit their Local Plans for consultation/examination before 31 March 2018, so no additional unmet housing need would come forward from them for the next 5 years. However, if Chiltern DC / South Bucks DC did not submit their Local Plan by 31 March the new methodology for Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) could mean them having an uplift of 10% in their annual housing requirement which could impact on Aylesbury Vale. There was also the possibility that the London Plan, still in draft, could result in additional housing growth coming to the Vale.

- (g) Allocation of Site Specific housing allocations in Neighbourhood Plan areas – legal advice had recommended that allocating sites in the policy, rather than housing numbers in NP areas would assist the Council in evidencing at examination that it had a 5 year housing land supply. However, it would be possible for NP areas to revise and specify their own sites with a view to submitting information to the Inspector.

(Note: it would be possible to discuss this issue with the QC at the Members’ VALP seminar on 2 October 2017).
- (h) Consultation with NP communities – it was suggested that greater clarification was required on the consultation that had been held with NP communities regarding housing allocations.

- (i) Housing at RAF Halton – it was explained that the proposed allocation of housing at RAF Halton was on a brownfield site within the green belt, which was acceptable to Government. It had been assessed that there was the capacity to realistically allocate 1,000 homes here in this plan period. It was likely that the VALP would start to be reviewed as soon as it was approved and any updated details on RAF Halton’s situation would be factored into reviews.

An explanation was also provided that the Council had been challenged on allocating additional housing on the edge of Milton Keynes (i.e. Shenley Park) when the majority of unmet housing need was coming from the south of the County. Officers believed that, on balance, the RAF Halton allocation was the best strategic decision.

- (j) HS2 impact on RAF Halton – it was explained that the County Council (as the local highways authority) had been consulted in relation to traffic modelling in relation to the construction of HS2 and they had advised that RAF Halton would not be affected by HS2 related traffic (HS2 was to the south of Wendover, RAF Halton was to the north of Wendover). This had also been confirmed following a conversation with the Station Commander, RAF Halton.

Concerns were expressed that the traffic modelling had fully taken into account the wider impact of HS2 construction.

- (k) Affordable Housing – Members sought clarification:-

- on why only 25% affordable housing was proposed in the VALP, when the Wycombe DC Local Plan Policy DM24 was proposing 40% on greenfield sites and 30% on brownfield sites.
- on Wycombe Local Plan (paragraph 4.51), which stated that the affordable element of their unmet need being delivered by AVDC would match the requirements of their Plan.
- on whether affordable housing levels proposed in NPs should take precedence over the ‘basic’ level proposed in VALP. As such, a revised policy wording was suggested, as detailed at Minute 3(ii).

It was agreed that this policy re-wording should be put forward to Cabinet for consideration.

It was explained that the differences in affordable housing proposed in the Plans was due to the results of viability assessments. It was clarified that any of Wycombe’s unmet housing need that was delivered in Aylesbury Vale would be required to provide 25% affordable housing (as proposed in the VALP).

- (l) Affordable Housing on rural exception sites – a detailed explanation was provided on this area of VALP and on policy H2 (Rural Exception sites).
- (m) Student Accommodation – it was explained that student accommodation/buildings (e.g. plans for 400 units in Buckingham (page 117)) was not covered within the VALP, although it was part of the made Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan. As such, the 400 units would not count towards achieving Buckingham’s accommodation growth numbers of 2,359 homes.
- (n) Affordable Housing definition (page 278) – a detailed explanation was provided on this matter. If the Government guidance in relation to starter homes / rent mix for affordable housing changed, then the definition would be suitably updated.

- (o) Employment (Policy E2, page 190) – a discussion was held on certain types of traditional shops that were moving from town centre locations to key employment sites. Officers explained that they believed the VALP included appropriate safeguards such that the alternative reuse of employment sites to an alternative employment use would not normally be permitted.
- It was also believed that the VALP and supporting documents were supportive of employment sites being located in rural areas.
- (p) Employment numbers – it was explained that the target figures for jobs in the plan period were set out in the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (supporting document) although the numbers had not been translated into the VALP. While the VALP was oversupplying employment areas, the job numbers were a forecast and were not necessarily an accurate prediction.
- (q) Aylesbury Vale Employment Land Review Update (page 187) – it was explained that while the update had identified 16 key employment sites in the district which included both B1/B2/B8 sites and other employment sites, it was unlikely that B8 (storage and distribution) would be attracted to most sites due to the poor road networks and connections to motorways in the Vale.
- (r) Policy E4 (Working at home) – there were some general comments from Members that this policy was very vague. It was explained that this was a difficult area of planning. Applications were usually decided on a case-by-case basis and having regard to whether the impact of the partial use was acceptable.
- (s) Policy E5 (Development outside town centres) – clarification was provided on the proposed 400 square metre floor space threshold which was detailed at c) in this policy.
- (t) Edlesborough (p.129) – it was noted that the A4146 (line 4) had changed and was now the B440.
- (u) Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group (AVCCG) – it was confirmed that the AVCCG were regularly consulted, including on the Aylesbury Garden Town planning, regarding facilities that would necessarily need to be provided for to serve the VALP's housing growth. This did present some challenges and it was explained that the Government required CCGs to plan for 5 years (and then provided related funding for 5 years) while the VALP was planning for the next 20 years.
- (v) Flooding, Flood Risk and Water Courses (pages 268-274) – an explanation was provided on the work, testing and mitigation that had been done to the south west of Aylesbury that included the Willows and land area around to Fairford Leys. This had been an area of concern and a lot of work had been done with the County Council who were the lead on flooding. The Environment Agency had not made any objections to the VALP as long as issues were addressed as a part of planning applications.
- It was confirmed that it was not intended to build on the land area adjacent to the Willows.
- (w) Buckingham Transport Strategy (page 207) – it was agreed that a link would be put into the VALP enabling people to be able to access the Strategy.
- (x) Policy T3 (page 210) – it was explained that the scheme route would only be protected in any review to the VALP when it had been agreed.

- (y) Policy T5 (page 212) – it was acknowledged that there were some difficult issues to address relating to parking spaces allocated for housing as well as any visitor parking. This included where visitors wished to make use of an electric charging point. These issues would be addressed in the design SPD.
- (z) Policy T7 (page 214) – it was explained that requirement to provide electric charging points for new developments of 10 dwellings or more would be set out in the design SPD. It was likely that the SPD would change the percentage requirement over time.
- (aa) Policy H6 / Housing for older people / Households with specific needs / Policy (page 182-184) – a detailed explanation was given of housing provision for older people in the VALP. In particular, paragraph of Policy H6 (Housing Mix) was read out to the meeting by the Chairman, and states:-

“In all residential development schemes, opportunities for the provision of extra care, specialist housing for older people and other supported housing for those with specific living needs will be encouraged in suitable locations, taking account of viability.”

It was further explained that the regulation of care homes was outside of the VALP and that housing provided by care homes did not count towards the housing numbers that the VALP had to deliver.

5. Next Stages

- 5.1 Once the Council has agreed the plan for consultation in October, the Submission Draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will be published for a period of 6 weeks starting on 2 November 2017 and concluding on Thursday 14 December 2017. Details on the procedures and the tests of soundness will be provided to help guide consultees. The formal consultation process will be published in accordance with the Local Planning Regulations and using all relevant media channels. A purpose built online consultation system will be used to gather and manage the comments received.
- 5.2 Comments at the formal Regulation 19 stage will need to focus on the soundness tests set out at paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework and the legal compliance of the plan with relevant legislation on the understanding that the council has approved the Local Plan as the version it intends to submit for examination. Any person may make representations on the plan and those that are made in accordance with the representation procedure will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate to consider as part of the formal Public Examination process.
- 5.3 Information on the Public Examination stage for the Plan are included in the VALP Scrutiny Committee covering report (paragraphs 3.33 to 3.36 inclusive).

6. Options Considered

- 6.1 None, all local planning authorities are under a statutory obligation to prepare a local plan.

7. Resource Implications

- 7.1 Funding of the Local Plan preparation is being met from existing budgets.

Contact Officer: Tracey Aldworth 01296 585003

Background Documents All background supporting documents for Submission Draft VALP listed on AVDC website

[SA scoping report \(September 2015\)](#)

[Reasonable Alternatives SA report \(October 2015\)](#)

[Reasonable Alternatives SA report \(July 2016\)](#)

[SA to accompany pre submission plan \(September 2017\) – Non technical summary](#)

[SA to accompany pre submission plan \(September 2017\) – Main Report](#)

[SA to accompany pre submission plan \(September 2017– Technical annex](#)

[Habitats Regulations Appraisal Report \(April 2017\)](#)

[Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum on RAF Halton \(August 2017\)](#)

[Equalities Impact Assessment \(September 2017\)](#)

Aylesbury Garden Town

[Aylesbury Garden Town Bid document \(October 2016\)](#)

Cumulative Growth

[Cumulative Growth Impact Final Report \(June 2017\)](#)

Duty to Cooperate

[Buckinghamshire MOU \(August 2015\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire MOU \(January 2016\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe MOU \(December 2016\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire MOU \(July 2017\)](#)

Green Belt

[Buckinghamshire Green Belt Assessment Report Part 1 \(March 2016\)](#) (maps and on [evidence page](#)), [annex 1A](#), [annex 1B](#), [annex 1C](#), [annex 1D](#), [annex 1E](#), [annex 1F](#), [annex 1G](#)

[Buckinghamshire Draft Green Belt Assessment Methodology Part 2 \(July 2016\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Green Belt Assessment Report Part 2 \(July 2016\)](#)

Gypsy and Travellers

[Bucks Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment \(August 2013\)](#)

[Bucks Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment 2013: 2014 update \(October 2014\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Assessment \(July 2016\)](#)

[Bucks Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment \(February 2017\)](#)

Housing and Employment

[Housing Market Areas and Functional Economic Market Areas in Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas \(March 2015\)](#) and [technical appendices](#)

[HMAs and FEMAs in Buckinghamshire: Updating the evidence \(June 2016\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire Councils HEDNA Methodology Statement \(April 2015\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire HEDNA \(December 2016\)¹ and appendices](#)

[Buckinghamshire HEDNA update 2016 Addendum \(September 2017\)](#)

[Central Bucks HELAA Methodology \(May 2015\)](#)

[HELAA version 4 - Erratum \(January 2017\)², Part 1 \(intro-Aylesbury\), Part 2 \(Beachampton – Cuddington\), Part 3 \(Dagnall – Grendon Underwood\), Part 4 \(Haddenham – Oving\), Part 5 \(Padbury – Swanbourne\), Part 6 \(Thornborough – conclusions\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Employment Land Review Update \(GL Hearn, Sept 2012\)](#)

[Luton HMA Growth Options Study \(November 2016\)](#)

[Housing delivery study for Buckinghamshire \(August 2017\)](#)

[VALP Housing Land Supply Soundness Document \(September 2017\)](#)

Infrastructure

[Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(September 2017\) and appendix A](#)

Landscape

[Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment \(Jacobs, May 2008\)](#)

[Landscape Character Assessment and Sensitivity Advice to Aylesbury Vale DC \(March 2015\)](#)

[Defining the special quality of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District \(March 2016\) and Combined Maps](#)

[Strategic Landscape and Visual Capacity Study \(August 2017\), Assessment Part 1, Assessment Part 2, Assessment Part 3](#)

New Settlement

[New Settlement Scoping Study \(June 2016\) \(appendices on \[evidence page\]\(#\)\)](#)

Retail

[Aylesbury Vale Retail Study \(March 2015\) and annexes](#)

[Retail Capacity Update \(December 2016\)](#)

[Aylesbury Town Centre Growth Opportunity Assessment Study \(November 2016\)](#)

[Aylesbury Town Centres Health and Outlook Assessment \(September 2016\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Retail Impact Threshold \(June 2017\)](#)

[Aylesbury Town Centre Plan \(April 2014\)](#)

¹ Previous versions include Buckinghamshire HEDNA draft (October 2016), Buckinghamshire HEDNA draft (January 2016), Central Buckinghamshire HEDNA draft (October 2015), Aylesbury Vale HEDNA (June 2015)

² Previous versions include HELAA version 2 (October 2015), HELAA version 3 (May 2016)

Settlement Hierarchy

[Settlement Hierarchy Assessment \(September 2017\)](#)³

Sports, Leisure, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

[Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale \(March 2017\)](#)

[Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale – Addendum on RAF Halton \(September 2017\)](#)

[Vision and Principles for Improvement of Green Infrastructure in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes \(September 2016\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan Forward to 2020 \(January 2015\)](#)

Transport

[Buckinghamshire Countywide Local Plan Modelling \(March 2017\)](#) and [appendices \(link to evidence page\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire Countywide Local Plan Modelling \(July 2016\)](#) and [appendices \(link to evidence page\)](#)

[Buckinghamshire Countywide Local Plan Transport Modelling \(August 2017\)](#)

[Aylesbury Transport Strategy \(January 2017\)](#) (report is Appendix 1)

[Buckingham Transport Strategy \(January 2017\)](#) (report is Appendix 2)

Viability

[Viability assessment \(August 2017\)](#), [Appendix I](#), [Appendix IIa](#), [Appendix IIb](#), [Appendix III](#)

Water Cycle / Flooding

[Water Cycle Study phase 1 \(February 2017\)](#) and [appendices/maps](#)

[VALP: Aylesbury Vale District Flood Risk Sequential Test \(September 2017\)](#), [Appendix 1](#), [Appendix 2 \(policies map\)](#), [Appendix 2 \(whole of Aylesbury\)](#), [Appendix 2 \(Aylesbury Central\)](#), [Appendix 2 \(Rest of District\)](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Level 1 Final Report \(May 2017\)](#) and [maps](#)

[Aylesbury Vale Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Level 2 Final Report \(August 2017\)](#) and [maps](#)

³ Previous versions include Draft Settlement Hierarchy Assessment (July 2016), Draft Settlement Hierarchy Assessment (October 2015)

Schedule of suggested minor changes to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

Appendix 2

Table 1: Presented to VALP Scrutiny Committee, 26 September 2017

Page number	Section/ Paragraph	Original text (Proposed Submission Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, November 2017)	Suggested changed text (deleted text shown as struck through and changes shown in bold)	Reason for change	Ref.
195	Policy E6	Within the primary shopping frontages in the town centres (as shown on the Policies Map) ¹ at ground floor level, A2 and A3 uses will be permitted where they adjoin an A1 use, subject to achieving a good mix of retail uses overall provided the proposal...	Within the primary shopping frontages in the town centres (as shown on the Policies Map) ¹ at ground floor level only A1, A2 and A3 uses will be permitted. A2 and A3 uses will be permitted where they adjoin an A1 use, subject to achieving a good mix of retail uses overall provided the proposal...	Editing error. This change is required to ensure that the plan robustly protects primary shopping frontages	001
Policies Map	Central Aylesbury	No Aylesbury town centre boundary shown on plan	Show Aylesbury town centre boundary on plan	Town centre boundary omitted	002
Policies Map	Legend	Existing employment sites	Existing Key employment sites	To ensure consistency with policy wording (E1)	003
129	4.147	It allocates land for 71 dwellings in Edlesborough...	It allocates land for 74 61 dwellings in Edlesborough...	Correct drafting error. A site for 10 dwellings has recently gained planning permission so this is no longer included in the allocation	004
130	Policy D-EDL021	The rest of the HELAA site EDL020 is allocated as a reserve site in Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan.	The rest of the HELAA site EDL021 0 is allocated as a reserve site in Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan.	Correct drafting error	005
130	Policy D-EDL021	For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy EP2 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan.	For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy EP 2 4 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan.	Correct drafting error	006
112	Policy D-NLV001	...and a community centre will be required through a S106 Agreement.	...and a community centre will be required through a S106 Agreement. Multi functional Green Infrastructure will be required to control surface water flows and flooding.	Point required to control surface water flows and flooding	007

¹Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015) defines these for Buckingham.

Page number	Section/ Paragraph	Original text (Proposed Submission Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, November 2017)	Suggested changed text (deleted text shown as struck through and changes shown in bold)	Reason for change	Ref.
111	Policy D-NLV001	...and to provide for multifunctional habitats.	...and to provide for multifunctional habitats. Proposals will need to minimise the impact on Howe Park Wood SSSI	Point required to make specific reference to the SSSI	008
110	Policy D-NLV001	Whaddon Road, Buckingham Road and A421 Standing Way, all of which are within the control of Milton Keynes Council.	Whaddon Road, Buckingham Road and A421 Standing Way, all of which are within the control of Milton Keynes Council. Of these three access/egress points serving the site, Buckingham Road and A421 Standing Way are both within the control of Milton Keynes Council and Whaddon Road is within the control of Aylesbury Vale District Council.	Correct drafting error	009
303	Milton Keynes, Bletchley and Newton Longville Policies Map		Remove NLV026 as a commitment on the map	Correct drafting error – site completed in the year ending 31 st March 2017	010
191	Policy D2	c. be located within or adjacent to the existing developed footprint of the village	Development in strategic settlements, larger and medium villages on sites that are not allocated c. be located within or adjacent to the existing developed footprint of the village settlement , or, where there is a made neighbourhood plan which includes a settlement boundary, the site is located entirely within that settlement boundary.	Correct drafting errors as the policy relates to towns and villages and to recognise settlement boundaries in made neighbourhood plans	011
279	Glossary: Development Plan	The statutory development plan for determining planning applications and appeals in the district. This currently comprises the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2004 saved policies and any made neighbourhood plans. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) will replace AVDLP on adoption in summer 2017.	The statutory development plan for determining planning applications and appeals in the district. This currently comprises the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2004 saved policies, and any made neighbourhood plans and the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) will replace AVDLP on adoption in summer 2017 when adopted.	Correct drafting error	012

Table 2: Resulting from VALP Scrutiny Committee, 26 September 2017, to be considered by Cabinet on 10 October 2017

Page number	Section/ Paragraph	Original text (Proposed Submission Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, November 2017)	Suggested changed text (deleted text shown as struck through and changes shown in bold)	Reason for change	Ref.
18	135	The population is forecast to increase to around 214,000 by 2033.	The population is forecast by ONS to increase to around 214,000 by 2033 (this does not take account of the redistribution of housing for unmet needs).	Include source of population forecast for clarity	013
32	3.13current circumstances in the commercial property market which indicate a growth of 7,240 employees in B Class employment . Based on this....	To indicate the job growth forecast in Aylesbury Vale.	To improve clarity	014
54	3.72	'Made' neighbourhood plans will not replace the Local Plan but will sit alongside it, with their non-strategic policies applying ahead of similar policies in the Local Plan, e.g. in relation to parking requirements.	'Made' neighbourhood plans will not replace the Local Plan but will sit alongside it, with their non-strategic policies applying ahead of similar policies in the Local Plan, e.g. in relation to parking requirements.	To clarify the local plan's relationship with neighbourhood plans	015
Page 32	3.17	In total, the development allocated in this plan, alongside existing commitments and completions totals 29,016, which represents a 5.9% buffer on top of the requirement...	In total, the development allocated in this plan, alongside existing commitments and completions totals 29,016 28,830 , which represents a 5.9 5.2% buffer on top of the requirement...	Correct drafting error	016
15	1.15	The indicative target for convenience floorspace is 6,980 sqm in Aylesbury town centre by 2033, 29 sqm in Wendover and 328 sqm in Winslow.	Alongside housing and employment development, retail development needs to keep pace with the growth in the population, and key retail locations such as Aylesbury's and Buckingham town centres need to develop to meet the needs of the expanding population. The Plan seeks to maintain Aylesbury town centre's position and allow for organic growth to match future housing developments. This includes providing for new local centres as part of major development schemes. The Plan also seeks to ensure that the district's other town centres continue to flourish. With the assistance of neighbourhood plans the Council will also be aiming to protect and enhance its existing town and village centres. The indicative target for convenience floorspace is 6,980 sqm in Aylesbury town centre by 2033, 29 sqm in Wendover and 328 sqm in Winslow. In terms of comparison floorspace, the indicative target is 29,289 sqm by 2033 for in the whole district. It is anticipated that Aylesbury, and on a smaller scale Buckingham,	To reflect Buckingham town centre's role	017

Page number	Section/ Paragraph	Original text (Proposed Submission Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, November 2017)	Suggested changed text (deleted text shown as struck through and changes shown in bold)	Reason for change	Ref.
			will accommodate the majority of new comparison floorspace over the plan period.		
173	H1 Affordable Housing	Residential developments of 11 or more dwellings gross or sites of 0.3ha or more will be required to provide a minimum of 25% affordable homes on site.	Councillor Llew Monger to put forward some text about neighbourhood plans. VALP Scrutiny Chair Chris Poll to put this amendment forward at Cabinet.	Aim is to allow neighbourhood plans to require higher percentages of affordable housing	018
154	D5 Provision of employment land	Employment development will generally be supported in sustainable locations: a. through allocations in this plan	Criteria a. to refer to “allocations in this plan and neighbourhood plans ” subject to legal advice as it may commit neighbourhood plans to allocating land for employment		019
NA	NA	NA	Agreed to put link on AVDC website to Buckingham Transport Strategy	To provide access to evidence	020
287	I3 Community facilities and assets of community value	The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need.	The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need , unless the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.	To allow for replacement facilities to justify redevelopment.	021
317	Winslow Policy Map		Add on employment allocation under Policy 7 in WNP	Correct drafting error	022
131	4.146	It is assessed as being a large village by the latest settlement hierarchy being situated on the A4146 with a primary school and a small number of shops and services.	It is assessed as being a large village by the latest settlement hierarchy being situated on the A4146 B440 with a primary school and a small number of shops and services.	Correct drafting error	023
206	E10 Silverstone Circuit	a. The need to avoid serious additional disturbance to those who live in the area	a. The need to avoid serious noticeably significant additional disturbance to those who live in the area	To clarify policy	024
208	7.13and an upgrade of the A421 corridor through the district....and an upgrade of the A421 corridor north of Buckingham and south of Aylesbury through the district....	To clarify supporting text	025

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PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 19)

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee's comments on the attached Submission Draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.

2 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- 2.1 Note the attached Submission Draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and
- 2.2 Identify any issues it wishes to ask Cabinet to take into account when it considers the Submission Draft VALP in October 2017.

3 Supporting information

Background to the production of the Submission Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

- 3.1 All local planning authorities are under a statutory obligation to prepare a local plan. The district does not have an up to date local plan. The last adopted local plan dates from 2004 and it does not therefore take into account the recent changes in Government planning policy. The Council has tried to prepare a replacement plan on a number of occasions and the most recent attempt was withdrawn following an examination in public in 2014. Since then the Council has been committed to delivering a new local plan and to ensuring that we meet the Government expectations that local plans are produced as soon as practicable.
- 3.2 An initial scoping consultation on the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and call for sites took place in 2014, which led to a large number of development sites being suggested across the District. This was followed by an issues and options consultation in 2015, which looked at how 31,000 houses could be accommodated in the district to 2033. The council received over 700 responses to the issues and options consultation which contained over 4,500 comments, many of which were very detailed. All of these comments were summarised and are on the council's website. Where possible the content of those responses was taken into account in the preparation of the draft plan.
- 3.3 From July to September 2016 public consultation took place on the Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. Through the consultation, residents and other interested parties were able to comment on any aspect of the draft Plan, such as locations identified for new homes and jobs and the wording of policies.
- 3.4 Ten exhibitions were held across the district through the summer and a letter inviting people to respond was sent to those on the Local Plan consultation database. Further publicity and information was provided by way of press releases, leaflets, exhibitions and articles and social media promotions.
- 3.5 Some 1,600 responses were received from that consultation, with over 5,000 comments about the draft Plan and its supporting policies. A summary of the representations has been prepared and is also on the website, together with spreadsheets which detail the content of the responses. The main issues raised were:
- a) the overall level of housing

- b) meeting unmet need from other areas
 - c) the possible new settlement
 - d) developments on the edge of Milton Keynes
 - e) provision of infrastructure such as schools and roads
 - f) removal of land from the Green Belt
 - g) distribution of development across the District
 - h) level of development in the villages
- 3.6 Again consideration has been given to these points raised and taken into account in the preparation of the Submission Plan. A Consultation Statement, which details all the consultation activities in relation to the plan preparation, will be produced and submitted to the Secretary of State, alongside the plan.
- 3.7 Since the consultation on the draft plan, Officers have been analysing the comments and have commissioned and prepared a range of supporting technical evidence to further inform the submission draft of the plan, which is attached as Appendix 1. Discussions with other local authorities and relevant agencies have continued to ensure that all the latest evidence and information has been factored into the Submission version of the Plan.
- 3.8 In August 2017, we had an advisory visit from a representative of the Planning Inspectorate to help provide informal advice on the Submission Draft and the next stages of taking the plan through the examination process. The informal feedback was very useful and overall the Inspector was positive about the approach we were adopting and made some suggestions for further improvement to the way in which the information was presented in the final submission document.

Content of the Submission Draft VALP

- 3.9 A Local Plan has to set out where development can take place, areas that will be protected and policies that will be used to determine planning applications. To determine how much development is required in the Vale, the Council has undertaken a Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) in conjunction with the other Buckinghamshire Councils. This latest update to the HEDNA can be found on our website.
- 3.10 This sets out the levels of growth that we need to accommodate and the evidence shows that just to meet the district's own housing and employment needs, the plan will have to deliver 19,300 new homes and 26 hectares (ha) of employment land within the district up to 2033.
- 3.11 In addition to meeting our own needs in the local plan preparation, we have a formal Duty to Co-operate with other adjoining local planning authorities to work together on strategic issues which cross boundaries. This requires positive engagement with neighbouring authorities and other organisations, about issues such as housing numbers and employment requirements.
- 3.12 The Council is co-operating, particularly with other authorities in Buckinghamshire, over what evidence their plans should be based on. This has included:
- (a) A joint housing needs assessment
 - (b) A joint assessment of employment land requirements

- (c) A joint review of the Green Belt
 - (d) A joint report on a best-fit housing market area, and
 - (e) An agreed methodology over the assessment of land availability.
- 3.13 This joint work has identified that the areas to the south of Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire have a collective unmet need of 8,000 homes (2,200 to meet Wycombe's unmet need and 5,750 for Chiltern/South Bucks). This is then added the Vale's own locally generated need to create a housing requirement of 27,400 additional homes to the period 2033.
- 3.14 The Duty to Co-operate is an on going duty through the plan preparation and the four district councils in Buckinghamshire, together with the Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and this is attached at appendix 2.
- 3.15 At the present time we have not been asked to accommodate any unmet need from any other adjoining authorities and as Councils are at different stages of plan preparation, this needs to be kept under review.

Spatial Strategy

- 3.16 The overall spatial strategy proposed in the Submission Draft VALP to meet the housing and employment needs of the district is to direct sustainable levels of development to existing settlements, through the implementation of a capacity-based approach. This represents a move away from the percentage approach to apportioning development to settlements via their size as was proposed in the draft version of the VALP.
- 3.17 Table 1 on page 35 of the Submission Draft VALP sets out the proposed housing distribution across the settlement categories in the Vale. This table also details that over half of the additional 27,400 homes that we need to plan for have already been completed or have the benefit of planning permission. More than half of the new homes planned for the district are to go in and around Aylesbury.
- 3.18 Development is also proposed in the other key settlements of Buckingham, Winslow and Haddenham. Some homes are also expected to be delivered at RAF Halton once the site closes, currently scheduled to happen in 2022. The plan also recognises that in the longer term and beyond the plan period, a new settlement may be needed. This will be considered once we know more about the route of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge "Expressway".

Employment

- 3.19 The employment land forecast in the plan is for 26 hectares (for B1/B2 & B8), although there is currently an oversupply of employment space. However, in light of the shortfall in employment space in adjoining authorities, it is expected that Aylesbury Vale's surplus will play a crucial role in helping to meet this demand in due course.

Infrastructure

- 3.20 Ensuring that sufficient provision has been made for the infrastructure that needs to accommodate such levels of growth in housing and employment as proposed in VALP has been a key consideration in the preparation of the

plan. Officers have been working closely with Buckinghamshire County Council and other key agencies in formulating the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will be essential in determining the Community Infrastructure Levy, and this itself will be the subject of a separate public consultation and examination in due course.

Affordable Housing

- 3.21 The HEDNA identifies an affordable housing need of 4,130 during the plan period. The Submission Plan details the policies that relate to the provision of affordable housing and that a minimum of 25% affordable housing should be provided on sites with 11 or more units or 0.3ha or larger in size.
- 3.22 The Submission Plan also details how affordable housing on rural exception sites will be handled and also includes policies that deal with self/custom build housing, housing mix and dwelling sizes.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Provision

- 3.23 In line with Government guidance, the submission plan contains a policy in relation to the provision of suitable pitches for the gypsy and traveller community. The level of need for these sites been informed by a study jointly commissioned by the authorities in Buckinghamshire. It will also be something that needs to be kept under regular review.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.24 Members will recall that once a Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' or put into effect, it becomes part of the overarching development plan, which then forms the basis for planning decisions. Neighbourhood Plans have to take account of strategic elements of the relevant local plan. To avoid adding extra development beyond that which local communities consider necessary to meet its needs and where the level of development proposed in a neighbourhood plan enables the district to meet its strategic housing need, no further sites are being allocated. However in the strategic settlements, due to the overall housing need for the district, capacity identified and suitability of available sites, in some instances housing figures differ to those set out in neighbourhood plans.
- 3.25 Rather than impose sites on settlements with neighbourhood plans to meet these figures, the council has worked with town and parish councils to identify sites which can be allocated through revisions to their neighbourhood plans. The council will work to identify sites it can keep in reserve in such locations, so the supply which the local plan has to identify is set out in the Plan. These will only be activated if a neighbourhood plan revision has not passed pre-submission consultation within 12 months of the local plan being adopted, which is when neighbourhood plans gain enough weight to be considered in planning decisions.

Development Management Policies

- 3.26 The Submission Plan also contains a full suite of development management policies. These will continue to be kept up to date to ensure that they reflect and new government planning policy requirements prior to submission.

Policies Map

- 3.27 A key element of the local plan is the map which accompanies it, which is referred to as a policies map (also known as a proposals map). This identifies areas to be allocated for development and designations which need to be taken into account in applying policies. The local plan policies map does not replicate proposals and designations from the 'made' neighbourhood plans and their maps will need to be consulted separately.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.28 A sustainability appraisal needs to accompany the Submission Plan and this has been prepared and is one of the key pieces of evidence that will be scrutinised at examinations. This is one of the key background documents related to the plan and can be found on the council's website, alongside all of the other supporting evidence documents.

Engagement Strategy

- 3.29 At each stage of the plan preparation, members of this Council, Town and Parish Councils, other authorities and key partners have been actively engaged in the issues associated with the development of the plan. Regular briefing notes and seminars have been arranged to help keep everyone up to date with progress and the issues being considered. This engagement will continue as the plan progresses through to examination.

Next Stages

- 3.30 Once the Council has agreed the plan for consultation in October, the Submission Draft of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will be published for a period of 6 weeks starting in November. Details on the procedures and the tests of soundness will be provided to help guide consultees.
- 3.31 The formal consultation process will be published in accordance with the Local Planning Regulations and using all relevant media sources.
- 3.32 Comments at the Regulation 19 stage need to focus on the soundness and legal compliance of the plan on the understanding that the council has approved the Local Plan as the version it intends to submit for examination. Any person may make representations on the plan and those that are made in accordance with the representation procedure will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate to consider making as part of the formal examination process.
- 3.33 At examination the Inspector will be judging whether the Plan is
- a) Positively prepared – ie based on a strategy which seems to meet objectively assessed need and infrastructure requirements
 - b) Justified – ie the plan should be an appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives
 - c) Effective – ie should be deliverable of the Plan period and based on effective joint working on cross boundary strategic priorities

- d) Consistent with national policy - ie should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework
- 3.34 Once the publication period ends, we intend to submit the plan for examination by an independent Inspector. Comments received and any updated evidence will be passed to the Inspector, along with the comments from the 2016 consultation. It is our intention to submit the plan in January 2018.
- 3.35 We do not know when the examination is likely to be held but we hope this will be as early as possible in 2018. The Planning Inspectorate are aware of our timetable and will be keen to help move the plan forward in light of the level of development proposed and the history associated with plan preparation in the district.
- 3.36 The Government have recently announced that in September it plans to consult on a new methodology for calculating Objectively Assessed need. It is expected that this will ultimately lead to an increase in the levels of OAN in most areas. Government have confirmed that for those areas that have submitted their plan by March 2018, the new methodology will not need to be used, but will need to be at the review stage of the plan.

4 Resource implications

- 4.1 Funding of the Local Plan preparation is being met from existing budgets.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Tracey Aldworth 01296 585003
All background supporting documents for Submission Draft VALP
listed on AVDC website

**Proposed
Submission**



Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

2013 - 2033

November 2017

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Foreword

Shaping the Vale's future

This is an important time for Aylesbury Vale, which like many places across the country will see significant development over the next two decades. Between now and 2033 more than 27,000 homes are set to be built within this area through this Plan. As well as additional housing, we're confident this growth will bring more investment, employment and opportunity, helping the district to thrive.

When it's finalised the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will manage and direct this growth up until 2033 in a way that will protect what makes the district a special place. It contains some exciting proposals such as the development of Aylesbury as a Garden Town, which will provide sustainable growth in a way that works with Aylesbury's rural setting, and the redevelopment of Halton Camp. Following three phases of public consultation this is the version of the Plan which the Council believes will build on the vibrant community we already have and play a significant part in the district's bright future.

Wherever possible we have responded positively to the many comments we received last year on the draft Plan. The forthcoming examination will determine whether our Plan is sound and can be put into effect. We hope people will be able to support its content wherever possible.

As well as the Plan itself there are a range of evidence documents that sit behind it. These are all available on the Council's website. Much of what you will see in this document relies on the content of that evidence and we expect people to comment on those as well. The examination will also consider whether the evidence reaches the required standards.

Residents and other interested parties will have six weeks to look at this document and give their formal responses to the Plan's contents and the supporting evidence. We will then submit the Plan with the evidence and all the representations so it can be subject to independent public examination. It is hoped that we will be able to deliver an adopted Plan at the end of this process that will allow us direct future development to the best locations and ensure it is the kind of development we want.

The way the process works means that the council cannot amend the Plan once it has been submitted. Please ensure that you take the opportunity to tell us what you want in preference to the current content of this Plan. The independent inspector can propose changes to the Plan, if your comments are agreed with. The inspector's conclusions will be binding on the Council.

Please take this last opportunity to play your part in the development of our new Plan!

Thanks in advance for your participation.



Cllr Carole Paternoster
Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy

1 Background

Introduction

- 1.1 Under the planning system most development needs planning permission. The principal basis for making those decisions is the development plan and this Local Plan, once adopted, will form the main part of it for the district, replacing the 2004 Local Plan saved policies. Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), is the local planning authority responsible for producing the Local Plan; town and parish councils can produce neighbourhood plans, and the county council is responsible for producing minerals and waste local plans. Together these plans make up the development plan, which sets out where development can take place, or where it shouldn't, and what form development should take.
- 1.2 This document is the Vale of Aylesbury's proposed submission Local Plan. In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 it has been published to allow representations to be made before the document, along with the representations, is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in public. Consultation on the proposed submission Local Plan will run from November to December 2017.

What is the Local Plan?

- 1.3 This document is the latest stage in the preparation of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP), which sets out the long-term vision and strategic context for managing and accommodating growth within the district until 2033. The aim of this plan is to set out:
 - the areas where development will take place
 - the areas that will be protected, and
 - policies that will be used to determine planning applications.

How the Local Plan has been prepared

- 1.4 The key stages for preparing the Local Plan have included gathering evidence, identifying key issues and options and consultation. The Council has consulted extensively on the development of the Local Plan. Key consultations are listed below:
 - Scoping consultation on the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) *Spring 2014*
 - Call for sites (2014) and consideration of further sites submitted up to September 2016
 - Issues and options: October – December 2015
 - Draft VALP: August – September 2016
- 1.5 The Council received more than 700 responses (4,500 comments) to the Issues and Options consultation, and 1,630 responses (5,000 comments) to the Draft Plan consultation, many of which were very detailed. Summaries of responses and key issues raised are available on the Council's website. In addition, various events have been held around the district including meetings with town and parish councils, ongoing discussions with service and infrastructure providers and other local authorities and key bodies. Wherever possible, responses have been taken into account in the preparation of this plan.

National planning policy

- 1.6 The Local Plan is not prepared in isolation. Its content has to conform to the Government's planning policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the guidance contained in the national Planning Practice Guidance, the content of new relevant legislation and Government statements about planning. The NPPF has at its core a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means that the Council should 'positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area' and "should meet objectively assessed (development) needs with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change".

- 1.7 Particularly significant in the NPPF is the Government’s commitment to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth and the requirement that councils should boost significantly the supply of housing. Government policy is to deliver 250,000 houses per annum nationally. At the same time, the NPPF also states that ‘the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment and that there should be a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’.

Expected growth

- 1.8 The Local Plan has to take account of physical characteristics of the district and what is expected to happen to the area’s population up to 2033. These factors are the subject of a wide range of evidence such as maps of identified floodplains and forecasts of the district’s housing, retail and employment needs. Evidence shows that to just meet the district’s own housing and employment needs, the plan will have to deliver 19,400 new homes and 27 hectares (ha) of employment land.

Duty to cooperate

- 1.9 Aylesbury Vale district does not exist in isolation. It has major conurbations nearby which have effects across district boundaries. As there is no regional or sub-regional planning, councils are under a formal duty to cooperate over strategic issues which cross their boundaries. This means the Council has to engage positively with neighbouring councils and other organisations, about issues such as housing numbers and employment requirements.

- 1.10 The Council is cooperating, particularly with other councils in Buckinghamshire, over what evidence their plans should be based on. This has included:

- a joint housing needs assessment
- a joint assessment of employment land requirements
- a joint review of the Green Belt
- a joint report on a best-fit housing market area
- an agreed methodology over the assessment of land availability, and
- a joint housing delivery study

- 1.11 Comparing the land available for development in each district’s plan area against the forecast need for development shows that the capacity for development in areas south of Aylesbury Vale does not match the need for development. This is primarily because of the constraint of the Green Belt and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

- 1.12 Councils to the south of the district have identified an estimated collective unmet need of 8,000 homes and this is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding¹. Sufficient suitable and deliverable sites have been found to meet this need and, as a result, the housing requirement for the district will total 27,400 homes.

Housing

- 1.13 The overall strategy adopted by this council to meet housing need is to direct sustainable levels of development to existing settlements, through the implementation of a capacity-based approach. Local Plan site allocations are made on the basis of whether a site is suitable and in a sustainable location, rather than applying a blanket housing percentage based on settlement size. More than half of the new homes planned for the district are to go in Aylesbury. The

¹ <https://www.aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

Council anticipates these will be delivered in a way that is in line with the town's Garden Town status. Some new homes are expected to be delivered at RAF Halton once the site closes. The Plan recognises that in the longer term, beyond the Plan period, a new settlement may be needed. This is to be considered as part of an early review. Important factors within the delivery of new housing will be to meet the needs for particular types of housing. The Plan makes specific provision for affordable housing given the high cost of housing in the district and to meet specialist needs such as housing for the elderly and for people with disabilities and special needs. The Council also has to meet Traveller needs and has updated a joint survey of Traveller need with other councils in Buckinghamshire.

Employment

- 1.14 Employment need is usually met by new allocations to satisfy the forecast requirement. However the forecast requirement for the district is 27ha whilst the Council has a supply of over 100ha (excluding site allocations not yet consented). In light of neighbouring authorities' shortfall of employment land and the need to provide for sufficient employment land within the wider Functional Market Area, Aylesbury Vale's employment land surplus will play a crucial role in helping to make up for this shortfall. Consideration has been given to whether some employment sites might be allocated to other uses, including housing. Beyond those sites already identified (e.g. Hampden House, Royal Mail Sorting Office, parts of the Gateway Industrial Estate) there is considered to be no further scope at present. Given the significant role of employment land in Aylesbury Vale in servicing the wider FEMA employment and business requirements, it is not considered prudent to encourage further release of employment land. Employment land supply and requirements will be kept under review as the Plan goes forward.

Town centres

- 1.15 Alongside housing and employment development, retail development needs to keep pace with the growth in the population, and key retail locations such as Aylesbury's town centre need to develop to meet the needs of the expanding population. The Plan seeks to maintain Aylesbury town centre's position and allow for organic growth to match future housing developments. This includes providing for new local centres as part of major development schemes. With the assistance of neighbourhood plans the Council will also be aiming to protect and enhance its existing town and village centres. The indicative target for convenience floorspace is 6,980 sqm in Aylesbury town centre by 2033, 29 sqm in Wendover and 328 sqm in Winslow. In terms of comparison floorspace, the indicative target is 29,289 sqm by 2033 in the whole district.

Infrastructure

- 1.16 The provision of infrastructure to support new housing is essential, such as new roads, schools, water and sewerage provision, accessible green spaces, policing and other emergency services infrastructure. The implications of future developments are being considered by relevant infrastructure bodies such as Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC). This work has informed the contents of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This in turn will support the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and site-specific policies in this Plan.
- 1.17 An essential part of the new infrastructure will be the provision of new transport infrastructure. The main focus for road improvements will be in relation to Aylesbury, to improve the circulation of traffic around the town. There will also need to be a focus on improving north / south connectivity to enable the district to function better in relation to national highway networks and rail networks. Currently, there is a distinct boundary between Buckinghamshire including Aylesbury Vale and employment locations in the west of London. East West Rail will provide commuting opportunities to the west of London and to the south of Buckinghamshire. In the longer term, the potential provision of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway across the district would improve east / west connections. The proposed delivery of East West Rail will also

increase connectivity. It is important to mitigate the effect of new transport infrastructure, such as the proposed HS2. The Council will utilise the Local Plan to deliver suitable mitigation.

Evidence

1.18 In order to ensure that the Plan's policies are robust and supported by evidence, the Council has carried out and commissioned a wide range of studies. Work undertaken includes:

- further assessing land availability and suitability in relation to larger and medium villages, existing and new sites as part of an updated housing and economic land availability assessment
- definition of housing market areas
- forecasts of housing and employment need / housing and economic development needs assessment
- revisions to landscape designations
- Green Belt assessment
- a revised settlement hierarchy
- a new settlement scoping study
- retail studies, including a retail thresholds report, capacity update, local centres report, Aylesbury Town Centre Growth Opportunity Assessment, Buckingham Town centre retail appraisal
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople site assessment
- traffic modelling
- an infrastructure delivery plan and viability assessment

Sustainability appraisal

1.19 A sustainability appraisal report is required under European and government legislation, which has to assess the sustainability implications of the proposals and policies in the new Local Plan. The legal requirement is for a report to be prepared to accompany the pre-submission plan, but as it is a process which works alongside the production of a Local Plan, reports are generally prepared at every stage of Local Plan preparation. A sustainability appraisal report has therefore been prepared to accompany the Plan.

Neighbourhood plans

1.20 When a town or parish neighbourhood plan is 'made', or put into effect, it becomes part of the overarching development plan, which is the basis for planning decisions. Neighbourhood plans have to take account of strategic elements of the relevant Local Plan. Apart from that they can determine how development will take place in their area. The expectation was that they would be created where a local plan was already in place but this is not the case in many places, including Aylesbury Vale district. As a result, neighbourhood plans which have been made are not based on this Local Plan.

1.21 This has always been pointed out to town and parish councils preparing neighbourhood plans with the advice that housing numbers would probably need raising to meet overall housing need in the district. To avoid adding extra development beyond that which a community considers necessary to meet its needs and where the level of development proposed in a neighbourhood plan enables the Council to meet its strategic housing need, no further sites are being allocated. In strategic settlements, due to the overall housing need for the district, capacity identified and suitability of available sites, in some instances housing figures differ to those set out in neighbourhood plans.

Policies Map

- 1.22 A key element of the Local Plan is the map which is referred to as a 'Policies Map'. This map identifies areas to be allocated for development and designations which need to be taken into account in applying policies. The Local Plan Policies Map does not replicate proposals and designations from the 'made' neighbourhood plans and their maps will need to be consulted separately.
- 1.23 The Local Plan Policies Map show areas marked as 'not built development' on certain sites, which are required due to flood risk vulnerability covered in the SFRA and the Sequential Test and/or the recommendations from the Strategic Landscape and Visual Impact Capacity Study (2017). These areas should only comprise green infrastructure, landscape or biodiversity mitigation or water compatible development unless a sequential test has been passed. They do not denote the full extent of green infrastructure, landscape or other open space that may be needed within the site allocations. The Masterplan SPDs may set out further areas of open space and the Council may require additional green infrastructure or open space areas in considering the impacts of planning applications.

Using this plan

- 1.24 When considering planning applications the development plan is the starting point for making decisions. That includes this Plan, any minerals or waste plans and any made Neighbourhood Plans. Importantly the courts have specified that plans should be read as a whole rather than decisions being based on individual policies. Therefore when considering a proposal all relevant policies will need to be considered. Anyone referring to this Plan in relation to a development proposal must have regard to all the policies it contains in regard to that proposal. If, for example, the conversion of a rural building is being proposed it will not be sufficient to refer to just policy C1 as such proposals could have other implications which will be addressed by policies on such matters as heritage, biodiversity, Green Belt, parking, etc.
- 1.25 All policies in this Plan are regarded as being strategic policies in relation to neighbourhood plans as per the requirement in paragraph 184 of the NPPF on the basis that they either apply across a wide area and are likely to affect a wide range of planning applications or are allocating sites for development to meet the strategic development requirements of the district. Site allocations in this Plan that gain planning permission or are allocated in a made neighbourhood plan ahead of adoption of the Plan will be removed and the Policies Map updated accordingly.

The next stages

- 1.26 After the publication period ends, we intend to submit the plan for examination by an independent inspector. Comments received and updated evidence will be passed to the inspector, along with the comments from the 2016 consultation. The intention is to submit the plan in early 2018.
- 1.27 The Council anticipates that an examination in public will be held on the plan in spring 2018 with adoption of the Plan taking place later that year. However, the timetable after submission is beyond the Council's control and will be in the hands of the Government-appointed planning inspector.

Profile of Aylesbury Vale District

- 1.28 Aylesbury Vale is a large district (900 km²) which is mainly rural in character and has a high quality environment. The main settlements in the district are Aylesbury, Buckingham, Winslow, Wendover, and Haddenham, as shown on the district key diagram. Key features about the district and which the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan needs to take into account are set out below.

Places

- 1.29 Aylesbury is by far the largest town in the district, and is the county town of Buckinghamshire. It is a focal point for housing, employment, retail, and community services and facilities. According to the Office of National Statistics Census 2011, Aylesbury town has a population of about 71,500 which is just over 41% of the population of the district.
- 1.30 Buckingham is the second largest settlement, with a population of 12,000, (2011) and is located in the northern part of the district. It has a strong employment base and a wide range of other facilities serving the town and surrounding villages.
- 1.31 There are over 80 larger, medium and smaller settlements across the district, many of which are very attractive. A number of these settlements are larger, in particular Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow, and provide key local facilities and services which serve surrounding rural areas. The settlement hierarchy reviews these to identify the most sustainable areas for growth.
- 1.32 The northern part of the district directly adjoins Milton Keynes so there are strong linkages in terms of employment, retail and other facilities.
- 1.33 The southern part of the district contains substantial tracts of high quality landscape, including part of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and is also partly within the Metropolitan Green Belt around London. Districts to the south of Aylesbury Vale have significant environmental constraints due to the AONB and Green Belt designations, which can affect the scale and type of development they can accommodate.

Population

- 1.34 The total population of Aylesbury Vale was 174,100 at the 2011 Census. This is an increase of 5% compared to the 2001 Census.
- 1.35 The population is forecast to increase to around 214,000 by 2033.
- 1.36 The population is becoming increasingly elderly: 21% of the population were aged over 60 in 2011, compared to 17% in 2001. There was a corresponding decrease in the young working population (aged 25 to 39) from 23% of the population in 2001, to 19% in 2011.
- 1.37 The latest census show that 14.8% of the population are in ethnic groups other than white British.
- 1.38 The quality of life in Aylesbury Vale is generally high, as demonstrated by the Government's indices of deprivation (2015) which show that the district falls within the 14% least deprived areas in England. However, there are pockets within Aylesbury town which rank among the 26% most deprived in the South East region.
- 1.39 Life expectancy of residents has been steadily increasing, and is longer than the average for England.

Economy and employment

- 1.40 The latest Government figures indicate that there are 73,000 employee jobs in Aylesbury Vale (Source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey, 2015).

- 1.41 Unemployment (2016) amongst residents, at 3.4%, is significantly lower than the level for Great Britain as a whole (4.8%). Average earnings of residents are higher than across the South East region or Great Britain.
- 1.42 The district is influenced by a number of larger employment centres around its borders, particularly Milton Keynes to the north, Luton/Dunstable and Hemel Hempstead to the east/south east, High Wycombe to the south, and Oxford and Bicester to the west. Data from the 2011 Census shows that 35,025 residents commute out of the district to work (predominantly to areas just outside the district, but also further afield such as London) and 19,872 residents from other districts commute into Aylesbury Vale each day. Significant employment is planned across the district which will increase opportunities for residents to work within its borders.
- 1.43 As well as centres of employment in the main settlements, there are a number of other important large employment locations across the district, including part of Silverstone Circuit, Buckingham Industrial Park, Westcott Venture Park, Long Crendon Industrial Park, Haddenham Business Park and College Road North Business Park associated with the Arla development. The RAF training base at RAF Halton, near Wendover, is of significant importance to the local economy. The base is, however, expected to close during the Plan period, after which land will become available for other uses, predominantly housing. The National Spinal Injuries Centre is located at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, and Stoke Mandeville Stadium is the national centre for wheelchair sport.
- 1.44 There are a large number of small to medium sized business enterprises thriving across the more rural parts of the district which form an important part of the overall economy.

Homes

- 1.45 The total stock of homes was around 78,591 in March 2016. Around 86% of these homes are privately owned, and the remainder are housing association or other public-sector homes.
- 1.46 Affordability of housing is an issue, with the average house price being over 10 times the average income in 2016.
- 1.47 The total number of households on the Bucks Home Choice housing register waiting for a social housing tenancy in April 2016 was over 3,000.
- 1.48 Rates of house building over recent years have remained high with an average of 1,127 dwellings built each year over the past five years. Out of this total, an average of 349 were affordable dwellings.
- 1.49 There are a considerable number of homes either under construction or with planning permission awaiting development.
- 1.50 Over the past five years, an average of 29% of new homes have been built on brownfield sites. This percentage has decreased in the past 5 years and is expected to continue to decrease in the future as the supply of available brownfield sites decreases and greenfield urban fringe sites are built.
- 1.51 The average household size in 2011 was 2.5 people.

Transport

- 1.52 Road transport links to the south of the district are reasonable, connecting to London, Heathrow and Luton airports, and access to the M40 and M25 motorways. There is poorer access to the Thames Valley area by road or public transport, which maybe addressed by East West Rail connections via Princes Risborough. In the longer term north/south rail connectivity

via Amersham may be supplemented by an improved rail network which provides links to west London and the Thames Valley without the need to travel into central London.

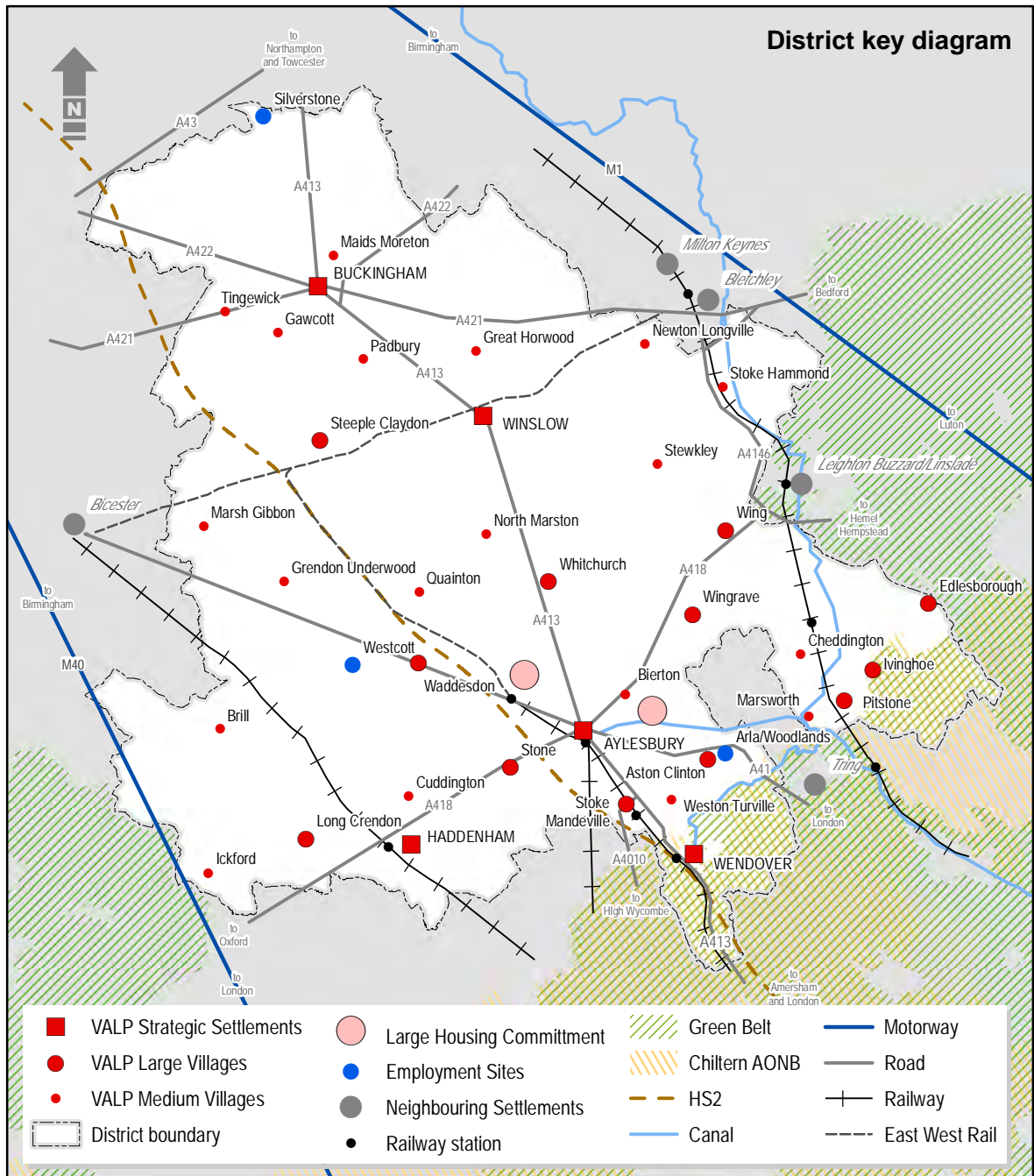
- 1.53 The northern half of the district is less well served by good road links, although places such as Silverstone and Buckingham have reasonable north-bound access to the M1 and M40 motorways via the A43.
- 1.54 Parts of Aylesbury town suffer from road congestion at peak times, and three air quality management areas have been declared close to the town centre.
- 1.55 The district has rail links to London Marylebone from Aylesbury Parkway, Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville, Haddenham & Thame Parkway, and Wendover. Services to the West Midlands are also available from Haddenham & Thame Parkway (to Birmingham Snow Hill, Bicester North and Stratford upon Avon). Cheddington is on a different line and enjoys a faster service to London Euston and Milton Keynes Central.
- 1.56 The Government, in 2012, made commitment to the East-West Rail line to address the current connectivity issues to the east and west by rail. When open, this will connect Aylesbury and Winslow by rail to Milton Keynes and Oxford/Bicester.
- 1.57 Express bus services operate between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes and between Cambridge and Oxford via Buckingham.

Natural and built environment

- 1.58 The district contains a wealth of historic houses and key historic landscapes, such as Waddesdon Manor, Claydon House, and Stowe landscape gardens. There are 124 existing conservation areas which protect areas of architectural or historic interest, many of them located in attractive, locally distinctive villages.
- 1.59 Over 1,200 hectares are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which is indicative of their importance for biodiversity or geology. In addition, there are many nature reserves and high quality open spaces valued for their landscape, nature, or recreational interest. In the south of the district land falls within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nationally designated as one of the finest landscapes in England.
- 1.60 The district is at the head of two major river catchment systems: the Great Ouse in the north, which flows through Buckingham, and the Thame in the south, which is a tributary of the River Thames. The Grand Union Canal and its arms to Wendover, Aylesbury and Buckingham, provide local interest, character, leisure opportunities, and habitat diversity. The large network of watercourses, many of which pass through Aylesbury, form an important part of the green and blue infrastructure for the district, allowing wildlife to move along their corridors. Additionally, this provides opportunities for people to enjoy nature, along with the physical and mental health benefits that this brings. Most areas in the district are in flood zone 1 (areas of lowest flood risk).
- 1.61 CO2 emissions per head increased slightly from 2011 to 2012, but have dropped since 2005. The figure, at 6.2 tonnes per person per year, is less than the average for the UK as a whole (7.1 tonnes per person per year).

Monitoring

- 1.62 To assess whether the Local Plan is meeting its aims and objectives we have identified a series of monitoring indicators. Where policies are failing to deliver the strategic objectives of this plan, necessary actions will be identified in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). This may include an early review of the Plan.



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2 Vision and Strategic Objectives

A Vision for Aylesbury Vale to 2033

- 2.1 The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is the cornerstone of planning for the whole district and is critical to delivering national, community and corporate objectives and aspirations. It sets the ambition and direction for the district as a whole, which all relevant strategies and delivery plans of the Council and its delivery partners should support. This includes proposals by development partners and in neighbourhood policy documents that may emerge. It needs to reflect the Council's overall vision which is:

To secure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the people and businesses in the area

- 2.2 The vision for Aylesbury Vale is also based on the characteristics of the area and the key issues and challenges it faces. The vision is informed by the evidence base for the Plan, sustainability considerations, and the views of the community and encompasses the approaches set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.3 The vision for VALP, together with the ensuing objectives, will guide and drive the delivery of all elements of the Plan. The vision and objectives also form a key element in judging compliance of neighbourhood planning documents and development proposals as they come forward.

Spatial vision

- 2.4 By 2033 Aylesbury Vale will see a sustainable amount and distribution of growth to meet needs and which will contribute to creating a thriving, diverse, safe, vibrant place to live, work and visit where all residents enjoy a high quality of life.

For this to happen:

- a. Growth will be shaped by strong place-shaping and sustainability principles to create safe, well-designed developments that are sensitive to the district's local character and heritage and well integrated with existing communities, both in terms of scale, land-use and design. People will have a sense of pride in their communities, wherever they live in the district. Environmental, heritage and cultural assets will be protected and, where possible, enhanced. The Green Belt will be strongly defined and protected from inappropriate development.
- b. New housing will have been provided in sustainable locations to a high standard of design to meet housing needs in the area. This will include the delivery of affordable housing and housing to meet the needs of older people, people with disabilities and those with specialist needs. The needs of the Traveller community will have been met by the provision of suitable sites. Unmet housing need from other areas will have been met where reasonable and sustainable to do so.
- c. The economy will be more competitive and innovative. Existing commitments, allocations and enterprise zones (at Aylesbury, Silverstone and Westcott), will deliver a diverse and flexible range of land, premises and opportunities for new and existing businesses. The main town centres in Aylesbury and Buckingham will be enhanced to deliver retailing, services, and other activities their communities need. This will create more jobs and high quality facilities, letting residents and visitors work, shop, and spend their leisure time in the local area.
- d. Growth will be accompanied by the delivery of infrastructure, services, and facilities in the right places at the right time, to bring maximum benefits to new and existing communities. This includes improving transport (to encourage sustainable transport choices), education, health, green and blue infrastructure, community facilities, leisure facilities, communications technology, water and air quality and flood management measures and policing and emergency services infrastructure. Improved links to London and the Thames Valley area, including Oxford and Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge (via East West Rail) and the Oxford-Cambridge expressway, will help to ensure that local businesses continue to thrive and grow and attract new enterprise and inward investment. The environmental impact of infrastructure improvements, such as HS2, will have been suitably mitigated.

- e. Growth and regeneration will have narrowed the difference in opportunities between the wealthier and the less well-off, with increased opportunities for all residents to participate in local community events celebrating their history, identity and diversity.
- f. Growth will allow people in the district to have access to excellent education and training, both academically and vocationally, with opportunities for life-long learning accessible to all.
- g. Aylesbury will grow significantly and will:
 1. be an inclusive, safe, innovative and forward-looking Garden Town that meets the needs and aspirations of the existing population, new residents and visitors
 2. be a recognised centre for investment and growth providing new housing, business and enterprise and opportunities for all
 3. be a key hub for public transportation and interchange offering a diverse choice of travel modes with stronger public transport links to Milton Keynes, Oxford and the Thames Valley, meaning that Aylesbury is an integral part of the national rail network rather than the end of the line
 4. have had significant transport improvements across the town with new link roads connecting the existing highway network and making provision for alternative routes to and within the town centre around the town which will provide capacity for a comprehensive quality cycling and walking network within the town and extending to the expanded town and surrounding villages
 5. have seen the regeneration of previously-developed sites, and development of well-designed, connected, healthy, safe and integrated greenfield urban fringe sites. These will help deliver identified strategic infrastructure, without compromising the character of surrounding villages or community cohesion
 6. have increased the range and quality of services, homes, retail and leisure facilities in Aylesbury town centre by designing and building to high standards and attracting new retailers and leisure operators. This will bring a renaissance to the town that protects and promotes its historic core, whilst adapting to the changing role of town centres. The centre will be vibrant and energetic with plenty for all to do and enjoy throughout the day and into the evening, serving both the urban and rural populations
 7. have an accessible, sustainable and well-managed network of green and blue infrastructure. This will include improved linkages from the town into surrounding countryside along the Aylesbury Canal corridor and other routes, enhancing watercourses for wildlife and people, protecting and enhancing the biodiversity of the area and supporting a range of recreational activities
 8. be increasingly seen as a tourist destination and used as a base to explore local tourism attractions such as Waddesdon Manor, Hartwell House, Wendover Woods, the Chilterns AONB and other tranquil and attractive areas, and
 9. have enhanced its role and reputation as a centre for education, diversity and excellence.
- h. Buckingham, led by neighbourhood planning, will have grown and will:
 1. be an inclusive, safe, innovative and forward-looking market town that meets the needs and aspirations of existing and new residents and visitors
 2. be a recognised centre for investment and growth providing new housing and opportunities for all

3. have seen sustainable regeneration of previously-developed sites and integrated extensions to the town on greenfield urban fringe sites
 4. be a hub of higher education and skills through growth and enhancement of the University of Buckingham and other facilities which support job training and skills
 5. have enhanced the town centre creating a vibrant and energetic place with plenty for all to do and enjoy throughout the day and into the evening, serving both the town and rural population, and
 6. have benefitted from further investment in transport infrastructure with active links within the town (high quality pedestrian and cycle routes) and to the new station at Winslow as part of East West Rail.
- i. The rural areas will have accommodated sustainable growth, focussed at Winslow, Haddenham, Wendover (Halton Camp) and villages according to capacity and needs , and:
1. will remain predominantly rural in character, enjoying high-quality landscapes with heritage, cultural and biodiversity assets protected and where possible enhanced
 2. the economy will have seen continuing economic growth including a mix of strategic sites, expansion of existing sites and local small-scale development, supported by improved communications infrastructure
 3. transport links will have been improved by the provision of a new station at Winslow on the East West Rail line that will have restored to the northern and central district a local and convenient access to the national rail network, absent since the mid-1960s
 4. growth will have been proportionate and reflect places' capacity to grow and community aspirations in terms of scale, phasing, type and design of development. Further details will come through neighbourhood plans in most cases
 5. development will reflect the character of the local circumstances in which growth is delivered
 6. growth will protect high-quality agricultural land
 7. there will be a well-managed network of green infrastructure which protects and enhances biodiversity and supports a range of recreational activities, and local services which support sustainable communities, including shops and pubs.

Strategic objectives

2.5 The objectives flowing from the vision set out above represent the key delivery outcomes the VALP should achieve.

2.6 In order to accommodate growth and deliver development in accordance with the vision:

OBJECTIVES
<p>1. Provision will be made for balanced sustainable growth which will deliver new housing and jobs to meet the needs of new and existing residents through a flexible and pro-active approach to promoting sustainable development which includes a combination of new allocations, protection of existing sites, redevelopment of previously developed land and a more intensive use or conversion of existing sites.</p>
<p>2. Provision will be made for the housing and employment needs of the new and existing population, including unmet needs from elsewhere if reasonable and sustainable, as identified through the VALP and in future revisions of the Local Plan, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. affordable housing to meet identified needs b. a mix of house sizes and types to meet identified needs c. specific accommodation to meet the needs of an ageing population and those with special housing needs, d. phasing to ensure needs are being met throughout the planned period, and e. a range of employment land and premises to support inward investment and retain existing business
<p>3. The Council, working with its partners, will secure timely and well-located provision of infrastructure, services and facilities needed to sustain and enhance existing and new communities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. education, training and access to community facilities such as shops and community buildings, b. transport infrastructure including enhanced public transport, (rail and bus), traffic management, cycling and walking to promote a shift to more sustainable travel choices. c. telecommunications including broadband by all means possible, including provision along HS2 route to reach remote areas d. police, fire and ambulance services e. accessible green infrastructure and associated sport, recreational and cultural facilities f. utilities, and g. social care and health infrastructure.
<p>4. Development will be allocated in accordance with the settlement hierarchy taking a capacity-led approach. It is also an Aylesbury Garden Town first approach. Therefore the main focus of development will be in sustainable locations at Aylesbury Garden Town where the majority of development will be located. The remainder of housing will be then be located in the next most sustainable locations, the other strategic settlements, which are Buckingham, Haddenham, Winslow and Wendover, together with an appropriate level of development at the most sustainable settlements in the</p>

rural areas
<p>5. The Council will promote enhancement of the district’s town and local centres and village facilities, including new retail provision particularly in Aylesbury town centre. The focus will be on quality design and development, flexibility of uses, and protection of local services and local distinctiveness to support their vitality and viability.</p>
<p>6. The Council will manage development in a way that ensures the protection and enhancement of the district’s built, natural and historic environment, landscape and biodiversity. Planning positively for biodiversity and green infrastructure, the overall approach will minimise development on high-quality agricultural land, conserve and enhance areas of sensitive landscape including the Chilterns AONB and designated local landscapes and achieve high-quality design and building at appropriate densities.</p>
<p>7. The Council will manage development in a way that ensures that climate change is adapted to and mitigated against, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. no inappropriate development to take place in the functional floodplain other than for essential strategic infrastructure b. effective flood management including more effective use of multi-functional green spaces and sustainable drainage which can assist in flood control, and provide environmental, health and social benefits c. reduction in waste generation and increase in recycling and re-use of materials and resource efficiency d. making appropriate provision for the generation and use of renewable or low-carbon energy, and locally distributed energy e. building to high standards of sustainable construction and design, creating spaces designed to respond to winter and summer temperatures, and f. retention and enhancement of wildlife corridors to ensure adaption to climate change by wildlife.
<p>8. The Council will promote provision of, and support for, measures and initiatives that strengthen the quality of life for new and existing residents of the district, address pockets of deprivation and health inequalities, especially within Aylesbury town, and improve access to services and facilities across the district as a whole.</p>

3 Strategic

Sustainable development of Aylesbury Vale

Sustainable development at the heart of decision making

- 3.1 This section sets out the overall strategy for sustainable development, the identified growth requirements, and how this growth will be delivered spatially in Aylesbury Vale.
- 3.2 The principles of sustainable development are central to the planning system, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 11-16. All development has to fit with the NPPF and the central presumption in favour of sustainable development. The framework recognises that sustainable development is about change for the better and it defines sustainable as ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’
- 3.3 Sustainable development is about positive growth making economic, environmental and social progress for current and future generations. To achieve this, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly as they are mutually dependent. The planning system performs a number of roles in this respect:
- **An economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places to support growth and innovation, including infrastructure provision
 - **A social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing housing (including affordable housing), and by creating a high quality built environment with accessible local services
 - **An environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment, and as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change
- 3.4 In line with this, the Council has adopted a positive approach to development and the VALP provides a clear framework of policies to guide development that creates positive and sustainable growth. Policy S1 therefore seeks to ensure that all development is sustainable and follows the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This policy will be at the heart of decision making when assessing planning applications.

S1 Sustainable development for Aylesbury Vale

All development must comply with the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF. In the local context of Aylesbury Vale this means that development proposals and neighbourhood planning documents should:

Contribute positively to meeting the vision and strategic objectives for the district set out above, and fit with the intentions and policies of the VALP (and policies within neighbourhood plans where relevant). Proposals that are in accordance with the development plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Council will work proactively with applicants to find solutions so that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

- a. Where there are no policies relevant to the application then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

- any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole, or
- specific policies in the NPPF indicate that development should be restricted.

In assessing development proposals, consideration will be given to:

- b. providing a mix of uses, especially employment, to facilitate flexible working practices so minimising the need to travel
- c. delivering strategic infrastructure and other community needs to both new and existing communities
- d. giving priority to the reuse of vacant or underused brownfield land.
- e. minimising impacts on local communities
- f. building integrated communities with existing populations
- g. minimising impacts on heritage assets, sensitive landscapes and biodiversity
- h. providing high-quality accessibility through the implementation of sustainable modes of travel including public transport, walking and cycling
- i. providing access to facilities including healthcare, education, employment, retail and community facilities
- j. meeting the effects of climate change and flooding.

Sustainable strategy for growth and its distribution

- 3.5 The development strategy seeks to deliver the Local Plan's vision and objectives to meet the wider needs of places and communities within the district.
- 3.6 The Local Plan strategy and its vision, objectives and policies have been shaped by a number of factors including:
- the identification of the strategic housing market area and functional economic market area within which Aylesbury Vale sits
 - the identification of employment, housing and retail needs for the district
 - infrastructure capacity and constraints, in particular wastewater, roads and transport
 - environmental constraints – to avoid flood risk areas, protecting environmental assets, landscape quality, contaminated land and pollution, the historic environment and settlement character
 - the availability of potential housing sites and their deliverability and phasing
 - public consultation and the sustainability appraisals of options and policies.
- 3.7 Policy S2 sets out the magnitude of growth and the spatial strategy for the district. AVDC is working actively to meet the Government's objective of significantly boosting supply and increasing the affordability of new housing. The spatial strategy and policy S2 meets the existing and future housing needs of people in the district, whilst also meeting some unmet needs originating from neighbouring authorities.
- 3.8 The VALP seeks to ensure that development is located in the most sustainable locations as set out in Policy S1.

Housing and economic needs

- 3.9 The NPPF requires Local Planning authorities to:
- 'Ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively-assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area' and 'identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period which meets household and population projections, taking account of migration and demographic change'. Paragraphs 47 and 159
- 3.10 The NPPF also identifies that:
- 'Local Planning authorities should have a clear understanding of business needs within the economic markets operating in and across their area' and establish 'a robust evidence base to understand both existing business needs and likely changes in the market.' Paragraph 160.
- 3.11 In accordance with requirements set out in the NPPF, the Council, alongside other Buckinghamshire authorities, commissioned a series of reports to identify the Buckinghamshire housing market and functional economic areas, as well as a Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA).
- 3.12 The reports (produced by consultants ORS) identify that Aylesbury Vale sits within a best-fit housing market area that includes Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks districts. There was a recognition that Aylesbury town sat within its own area but within a wider strategic housing market area. Aylesbury Vale also has links with housing markets in neighbouring areas, such as Milton Keynes.

- 3.13 For the VALP to be considered sound in terms of housing provision, it was necessary to identify the full, objectively-assessed needs for the whole housing market area. The Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)^[1] is the most up-to-date assessment of local housing needs, which identifies the needs for new jobs and homes up to 2033. The HEDNA starts by considering the Government's population projections, determines whether they need to be varied to reflect local circumstances and concludes that the number of new dwellings required across the 'best fit' housing market area is 46,200, with 19,400 required in Aylesbury Vale. Wycombe and Chiltern/South Bucks District Councils have carried out comprehensive capacity assessments, and cannot accommodate all of their housing need in their own districts. As a result there is a significant element of unmet need to be accommodated in Aylesbury Vale. Wycombe District's unmet need figure is 2,250 and Chiltern/South Bucks Districts' unmet need figure is 5,750. This gives a total of 27,400 dwellings to be accommodated in Aylesbury Vale between 2013 and 2033. The HEDNA also considered the level of employment land for offices, manufacturing and warehousing that should be provided for in the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA). This has involved evaluating two employment forecasts, determining which of them is the most appropriate for the economic area and taking into account current circumstances in the commercial property market. Based on this, the identified need is for 27 hectares (ha) of new employment land in Aylesbury Vale. The Council currently has an oversupply of over 100ha of employment land, but this surplus will play a crucial role in helping to make up the shortfall elsewhere in the economic market area as well as providing for flexibility in the longer term.
- 3.14 The VALP focuses the majority of growth in Aylesbury Buckingham, Winslow, Wendover and Haddenham and adjacent to Milton Keynes. Development at these strategic settlements will maintain and enhance their respective roles in the Vale's settlement hierarchy (Policy S3), minimising the need to travel, and optimising sustainable modes of travel. It will also help to deliver facilities and services needed and enable an integrated and balanced approach to the provision of homes, jobs and leisure.
- 3.15 A new settlement had been proposed to be part of the strategy for VALP in order to help deliver the housing requirement. As a result of the reduction in our housing figures, a new settlement is no longer part of this plan. However, we fully anticipate the need to carry out an early review of VALP to take into account newly emerging issues such as the Government's changed methodology on calculating housing need, as well as the impacts of major strategic schemes such as the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, the London Plan and the expansion of Heathrow, and we expect a new settlement to form part of that Local Plan review.
- 3.16 In addition to growth at the strategic settlements, further growth will also take place at the larger, medium and smaller villages reflecting the capacity of these settlements to accommodate development. This will allow these settlements to have growth to sustain their communities and meet their local needs for housing, employment and community facilities.
- 3.17 In total, the development allocated in this plan, alongside existing commitments and completions totals 29,016, which represents a 5.9% buffer on top of the requirement to meet the district's own objectively assessed need and the unmet need from the other

^[1] The full report including executive summary is available to download from the following page <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

authorities (27,400). This gives sufficient flexibility in case sites do not come forward at the rate or density anticipated in the Plan.

- 3.18 It is recognised that Aylesbury Vale does not exist in isolation and the Council will continue to work closely with surrounding authorities with relation to cross-boundary issues such as strategic infrastructure projects including highways and transportation.

S2 Spatial strategy for growth

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan will make provision for the delivery of the following in the period to 2033:

- A total of 27,400 new homes in accordance with the spatial distribution set out below and in Table 1. This is made up of:
 - 19,400 homes to meet the needs of Aylesbury Vale District
 - 2,250 homes to meet the needs of Wycombe District
 - 5,750 homes to meet the needs of Chiltern/South Bucks Districts
- Provision for the identified need of 27 hectares of employment land and additional provision of some employment land to contribute to the employment needs of the wider economic market area.
- Retail convenience floor space of 7,337 sqm² and comparison floor space of 29,289 sqm³.
- Associated infrastructure to support the above.

The primary focus of strategic levels of growth and investment will be at Aylesbury, and development at Buckingham, Winslow, Wendover and Haddenham supported by growth at other larger, medium and smaller villages. The strategy also allocates growth at a site adjacent to Milton Keynes which reflects its status as a strategic settlement, albeit not within Aylesbury Vale District. The spatial distribution will be as set out below.

Strategic growth and investment will be concentrated in sustainable locations as follows:

- a. Aylesbury Garden Town (comprising Aylesbury town and adjacent parts of surrounding parishes), will grow by 16,398 new homes. It will be planned and developed drawing on Garden City principles which are set out in the Aylesbury Garden Town section, with high quality place-making and urban design principles at the core. This development will seek to support the revitalisation of the town centre. New housing will be delivered through existing commitments, including Berryfields and Kingsbrook, and complemented by other sustainable extensions and smaller scale development within the existing urban area. New homes to support economic growth will be accommodated through the effective use of previously developed land or sustainable greenfield urban fringe sites. These sites will provide or support delivery of identified strategic infrastructure requirements, and sustainable transport enhancements and make connections to strategic green infrastructure and the Vale's enterprise zones.
- b. Buckingham will accommodate growth of 2,359 new homes. This, growth will enhance the town centre and its function as a market town, and will support sustainable economic growth in the north of the district.

² Made up of 6,980 sqm at Aylesbury town centre, 29 sqm at Wendover and 328 sqm at Winslow

³ District-wide provision

- c. Haddenham will accommodate growth of 1,051 new homes. This will be supported by infrastructure and recognise the important role of Haddenham and Thame railway station.
- d. Winslow will accommodate growth of 1,166 new homes, linked with the development of East-West Rail and the new railway station in Winslow.
- e. Wendover will accommodate around 1,128 new homes with 1,000 new homes at Halton Camp which is now confirmed to be closing in 2022 recognising the sustainability of Wendover and the railway station. No further growth is allocated at Wendover reflecting the environmental constraints of the surrounding AONB and Green Belt land.
- f. Land within Aylesbury Vale adjacent to Milton Keynes will make provision for 2,212 homes on a number of sites.
- g. At larger villages, listed in Policy S3, housing growth of 1,963 will be at a scale in keeping with the local character. This will help meet identified needs for investment in housing and improve the range and type of employment opportunities across the district.
- h. At medium villages, listed in Policy S3, there will be housing growth of 1,095 at a scale in keeping with the local character and setting. This growth will be encouraged to help meet local housing and employment needs and to support the provision of services to the wider area.
- i. At smaller villages, listed in Policy S3, there will be more limited housing growth coming forward through either 'windfall' applications or neighbourhood plan allocations rather than allocations in this Plan.
- j. Elsewhere in rural areas, housing development will be strictly limited. This is likely to be incremental infill development and should be principally in line with Policy D4 and other relevant policies in the Plan.

Development that does not fit with the scale, distribution or requirements of this policy will not be permitted unless bought forward through neighbourhood planning.

Table 1 Spatial strategy for growth in Aylesbury Vale

Category	Settlement	Completions 2013 - 2017	Commitments as at March 2017	Completions and Commitments 2013-2017	Allocations in this plan	Total development
Strategic settlements	Aylesbury	2,861	5,727	8,588	7,810	16,398
	Buckingham	826	683	1,509	850	2,359
	Haddenham	135	601	736	315	1,051
	Wendover / Halton Camp	108	20	128	1,000	1,128
	Winslow	128	453	581	585	1,166
	Land adjacent to Milton Keynes	166	191	357	1,855	2,212
Larger villages	-	275	1,380	1,655	308	1,963
Medium villages	-	184	637	821	274	1,095
Smaller villages and other settlements	-	240	256	496	No allocations made at these locations	496
Windfall	-	-				962
Total	-	4,923	9,948	14,871	12,997	28,830⁴

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⁴ This represents a 5.2% buffer on top of the total housing requirement made up of Aylesbury Vale's objectively assessed need and the unmet need from other authorities (27,400).

Settlement hierarchy and cohesive development

- 3.19 The strategy for development generally reflects the size and character of different settlements and seeks to deliver a sustainable level of development that will support their different roles and functions. In order to ensure that new development takes place in locations that have the best access to a wide range of services, facilities and employment opportunities, the Council has developed a settlement hierarchy which ranks all settlements (with a population of over 100), in order of their sustainability. The settlement hierarchy forms the basis for the distribution of growth outlined in the strategy in that it identifies the most sustainable locations for growth, and therefore where housing allocations should be made. It may also assist providers of community facilities and services in their investment decisions.
- 3.20 The settlement hierarchy is based on an assessment of population size, settlement connectivity, and the availability of employment and other services and facilities. A draft settlement hierarchy has been consulted on, and a number of changes have been made to the conclusions as a result of comments received. A report has been produced setting out how the settlement hierarchy was established⁵ which is available on the Council's website. The proposed settlement hierarchy is set out in Table 2, along with the amount of housing to be accommodated at each settlement. The allocations for each settlement are based on the capacity of the settlement to accommodate housing growth, rather than a blanket percentage increase on existing housing stock as was previously proposed in the draft Plan

⁵ Settlement Hierarchy for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan June 2017

Table 2 Proposed settlement hierarchy and housing development

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development	
			Total	Made up of
Strategic settlements	The most sustainable towns and villages in the district and the focus for the majority of development. These settlements act as service centres for other villages around them. The plan will allocate sites at strategic settlements	Aylesbury Buckingham Haddenham Wendover/Halton Camp Winslow	16,398 ⁶ 2,359 1,051 1,128 1,166 (TOTAL 22,102)	8,588 completions/commitments, 7,810 allocated 1,509 completions/commitments, 850 allocated 736 completions/commitments, 315 allocated 128 completions/commitments, 1,000 allocated 581 completions/commitments, 585 allocated
Land adjacent to Milton Keynes	Allocation of land adjoining Milton Keynes that falls within Aylesbury Vale district	Sites within the parish of Newton Longville.	2,212	357 completions/commitments, 1,855 allocated
Larger villages	Larger, more sustainable villages that have at least reasonable access to facilities and services and public transport, making them sustainable locations for development. The plan allocates sites at some of the larger villages	Aston Clinton Edlesborough Ivinghoe Long Crendon Pitstone Steeple Claydon Stoke Mandeville Stone (including Hartwell) Waddesdon (including Fleet Marston) Whitchurch Wing Wingrave	627 176 18 100 199 216 128 36 166 63 125 109 (TOTAL 1,963)	627 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 116 completions/commitments, 60 allocated 18 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 77 completions/commitments, 23 allocated 199 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 98 completions/commitments, 118 allocated 128 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 26 completions/commitments, 10 allocated 91 completions/commitments, 75 allocated 41 completions/commitments, 22 allocated 125 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 109 completions/commitments, no allocated sites
Medium villages	Medium villages have some provision key services and facilities, making them moderately sustainable locations for	Bierton (including Broughton) Brill Cheddington	23 6 107	23 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 6 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 107 completions/commitments, no allocated sites

⁶ This includes figures for Stoke Mandeville, Bierton and Weston Turville parishes.

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development	
	development. The plan allocates some sites at medium villages	Cuddington Gawcott Great Horwood Grendon Underwood Ickford Maids Moreton Marsh Gibbon Marsworth Newton Longville North Marston Padbury Quainton Stewkley Stoke Hammond Tingewick Weston Turville	25 8 74 42 23 171 47 15 48 8 48 59 101 149 105 36 (TOTAL 1,095)	4 completions/commitments, 21 allocated 8 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 74 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 42 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 3 completions/commitments, 20 allocated 1 completion/commitment, 170 allocated 38 completions/commitments, 9 allocated 15 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 31 completions/commitments, 17 allocated 8 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 48 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 22 completions/commitments, 37 allocated 101 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 149 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 105 completions/commitments, no allocated sites 36 completions/commitments, no allocated sites
Smaller villages	Smaller, less sustainable villages which have relatively poor access to services and facilities. It is expected that some small scale development could be accommodated at smaller villages without causing unreasonable harm. This level of development is also likely to help maintain existing communities. Sites at smaller villages will come forward either through neighbourhood plans or by individual 'windfall' planning applications, no site allocations are made at smaller villages	Adstock Akeley Ashendon Aston Abbotts Beachampton Bishopstone Buckland Calvert Green Chackmore Charndon Chearsley Chilton Cublington Dagnall Dinton Drayton Parslow East Claydon	To come forward through neighbourhood plans or through the development management process considered against relevant policies in the Plan	

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development
		Ford Granborough Great Brickhill Halton Hardwick Ivinghoe Aston Little Horwood Ludgershall Mentmore and Ledburn Mursley Nash Northall Oakley Oving (including Pitchcott) Preston Bissett Shabbington Slapton Soulbury Stowe and Dadford Swanbourne Thornborough Turweston Twyford Weedon Westbury Westcott Whaddon Worminghall	
Other settlements	The remainder of settlements in the district which are not sustainable locations for development and are places where it is likely that any development would cause harm to the local environment. Some very limited development could take place in	All remaining settlements (listed in the settlement hierarchy document)	To come forward through neighbourhood plans or through the development management process considered against relevant policies in the Plan

Category	Description	Settlements	Amount of housing development
	accordance with the policies in this plan, but no allocations for housing will be made		

- 3.21 Specific policies for each of the settlement hierarchy categories are set out in the Strategic Delivery section (policies D1 – D4).
- 3.22 The Council will seek to preserve the character and identities of neighbouring settlements or communities. The Council will resist development that would compromise the open character of the countryside between settlements, especially where the gaps between them are already small.
- 3.23 It is acknowledged that in some cases, whilst neighbouring communities may still have separate characters or identities, the built-up areas of those settlements are already linked in part. The Council will resist further development that would result in the consolidation of such linkage that threatens what remains of the separate character or identity of the settlement or communities.
- 3.24 In addition to the general control of coalescence⁷, there is a need for more specific protection in locations that are, or will be, experiencing the strongest pressures for development.

S3 Settlement hierarchy and cohesive development

The scale and distribution of development should accord with the settlement hierarchy set out in Table 2 and the site allocation policies that arise from it. Other than for specific proposals and land allocations in the Plan, new development in the countryside should be avoided, especially where it would:

- a. compromise the character of the countryside between settlements, and
- b. result in a negative impact on the identities of neighbouring settlements or communities leading to their coalescence⁸.

In considering applications for building in the countryside the Council will have regard to maintaining the individual identity of villages and avoiding extensions to built-up areas that might lead to coalescence between settlements.

⁷ & ⁸ Coalescence is the merging or coming together of separate settlements to form a single entity

Green Belt

- 3.25 A relatively small part of the London Metropolitan Green Belt falls within the district, as shown on the Policies Map. The Green Belt in Buckinghamshire was originally designated in 1954 through the Buckinghamshire County Development Plan. It has since been expanded and in 1979 was extended to include the approximately 48 square kilometres of Green Belt land that is now in the district. The northern boundary of the Green Belt was broadly established in line with the Chiltern escarpment excluding the settlement of Wendover.
- 3.26 The purposes of the Green Belt are to restrain the outward sprawl of London, to prevent the merging of towns, and so safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, checking unrestricted sprawl, to preserve the setting and character of historic towns and assisting in urban regeneration. The Green Belt partly surrounds the strategic settlement of Wendover and small parts of the villages of Aston Clinton and Ivinghoe. The villages of Halton and Dagnall are within the Green Belt. To the south of the district the Green Belt joins the Green Belt within Wycombe, Chiltern and Dacorum. To the east the district borders the Green Belt in Central Bedfordshire although this does not cross into the district. The Green Belt in these areas has helped shape the towns and villages.
- 3.27 Nationally, the Government places great importance on the Green Belt which has a range of important functions. The most important attributes of Green Belts are their 'openness' and 'permanence' and their general extent should only be altered in exceptional circumstances and when a Local Plan is being prepared or reviewed.
- 3.28 A Green Belt assessment has been undertaken jointly by the Buckinghamshire authorities. This is in the context of a significant level of need being identified across the Housing Market Area (HMA) which as a whole contains a large amount of land within the Green Belt (88% of Chiltern District, 87% of South Bucks District and 48% of Wycombe District is within the Green Belt). The housing requirements for Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Council cannot be met on the land outside of the Green Belt within their district boundaries leaving a large unmet need requirement. Therefore exceptional circumstances are considered to exist across the districts in Buckinghamshire to justify removing specific sites from the Green Belt to help meet need closest to where it arises.
- 3.29 Part 1 of the assessment (published in March 2016) identified parcels of land covering all of the Green Belt within Buckinghamshire as well as some adjoining land and assessed these against the purposes of the Green Belt as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The assessment concluded that all areas of the Green Belt met the NPPF purposes to some extent, but identified parcels across all four districts that performed weaker or had areas within them which were likely to perform weaker if assessed on their own.
- 3.30 Part 2 of the assessment (published in June 2016) gave further consideration to the areas of land identified in Part 1. They were assessed for the suitability of development, whether there were exceptional circumstances for removing sites from the Green Belt, and whether further land should be designated as Green Belt.
- 3.31 Following this assessment, there is an area of land to the west of Leighton Linlade that is proposed for inclusion within the Green Belt. This can be justified by the exceptional circumstances of the construction of the A4146 in this area, which opened in September 2007, since the original designation of Green Belt. Amending the boundary will provide a more recognisable and permanent boundary that would be more in line with what the NPPF requires than is used currently. The additional area of Green Belt will help to balance the loss of Green Belt land in other areas (including land removed from the

Green Belt around Leighton Buzzard) and will complete the Green Belt protection on all sides of Leighton Linslade as well as the parcel performing strongly against the purposes of the Green Belt as defined in the NPPF.

- 3.32 At the draft plan stage the Council had also proposed two potential revisions to the boundary of the Green Belt to the north of Wendover. One revision was to provide a site for approximately 800 dwellings to the north of Wendover with the Green Belt removal potentially justified on the basis that there was very little capacity identified without this and another to remove part of RAF Halton as it is built up and has an urbanising effect within the Green Belt. Since then there has been an announcement that RAF Halton is to close by 2022 and an estimation for the amount of housing this site could deliver has been included in this plan in Policy D-HAL003. Because of the proximity of RAF Halton to Wendover it is considered that the justification for the site north of Wendover to provide 800 dwellings no longer exists as the capacity for housing in the area has significantly increased. Whilst the arguments for releasing the RAF Halton site still remain, because of the change in circumstances and the future work to be done around how the site is developed after its closure, it is considered premature to define the boundary of the site to be released from the Green Belt. This boundary will be defined in a future Local Plan review.
- 3.33 The new Green Belt boundary around Leighton Buzzard is defined on the Policies Map. The Green Belt within the district will be protected for the long term, and opportunities which enhance the Green Belt particularly in terms of public accessibility will be supported. The majority of the Green Belt within the district also lies within the Chilterns AONB, therefore Policy NE5 also applies.
- 3.34 Housing may come forward within the Green Belt through the conversion of existing buildings, the reuse of previously developed sites or through limited infilling within villages, where the openness of the Green Belt is maintained. The limited infilling should be within the existing developed footprint which is defined as the continuous built form of the village, and excludes individual buildings and groups of dispersed buildings. This includes former agricultural barns that have been converted, agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the village and gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land within the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where the land relates more to the surrounding countryside than to the built-up area of the village.
- 3.35 The replacement of existing buildings and extensions will where appropriate also be supported. When working out volume increase calculations the term 'original building' means the house as it was first built or stood on 1 July 1948 (if it was built before that date) excluding sheds and outbuildings.

S4 Green Belt

Within the Green Belt (as defined on the Policies Map), land will be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national policy. Small-scale development as set out below will be supported providing that their provision preserves the openness of the Green Belt, and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it:

- a. for the purposes of agriculture, forestry, appropriate facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation or cemeteries
- b. if within the existing built-up area of settlements within the Green Belt, residential infilling of small gaps in developed frontages with one or two dwellings will be

permitted if it is in keeping with the scale and spacing of nearby dwellings and the character of the surroundings

- c. for the re-use of buildings of permanent and substantial construction where there is no greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the form, bulk and design of any conversion is in keeping with the surroundings and does not involve major or complete reconstruction. Permission for the re-use of such buildings may include conditions regulating further building extensions, and the use of land associated with the building
- d. replacement of existing buildings in the Green Belt by new buildings that are not significantly larger in volume, normally by no more than 25-30% of the original building (as measured externally)
- e. extensions and alterations to buildings in the Green Belt that are not out of proportion with the original building, normally no more than 25-30% volume increase of the original building
- f. the redevelopment of previously developed sites where the gross floorspace of the new building(s) is not out of proportion to the original building(s), normally by no more than 25-30% increase of the original building (as measured externally), and the buildings are positioned on land previously built on.

Measures to improve public access to the Green Belt areas will be encouraged.

Infrastructure

- 3.36 The VALP aims to ensure that there is sufficient and appropriate infrastructure to meet future needs. In order to identify the required infrastructure an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been produced. The IDP identifies the necessary and critical infrastructure required to deliver the Council's growth aspirations and requirements to 2033. It has also identified desirable infrastructure requirements which support the sustainability objectives of the Local Plan but can be prioritised according to funding availability and overall net benefit.
- 3.37 Although the production of the IDP is an iterative process as infrastructure is continually being delivered through the development management process, it is crucial that items of infrastructure are identified as early as possible in the process to better plan for the required growth to be delivered over the Local Plan period.
- 3.38 The term infrastructure covers a wide variety of services and facilities provided by private and public bodies including:
- transport infrastructure – rail, roads, cycle routes, buses, footpaths/pedestrian links, parking and management systems
 - utilities and flood management infrastructure – water supply and treatment, sewerage, flood prevention and drainage, waste disposal, energy
 - telecommunications infrastructure including high-speed broadband provision across the district
 - community infrastructure – schools, sport, cultural and recreation facilities, healthcare, public transport, emergency services, social care facilities, community buildings, places of worship and associated facilities, and community recycling facilities
 - green infrastructure – a network of high quality, multi-functional green spaces which improve connectivity of towns and villages and the wider countryside. It also delivers ecological enhancements, and economic and social quality of life benefits for local communities at both the local and strategic level. It can include green corridors, such as hedgerows or transport routes, and open green spaces, such as parks, allotments, and country parks.
- 3.39 The Council will continue to co-operate with key delivery partners to secure the funding and delivery of key infrastructure projects including East-West Rail and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway to minimise the impacts of the projects both during construction and operation phases. The HS2 scheme should co-ordinate with local projects and not delay the provision of necessary infrastructure at Aylesbury or the delivery of East-West Rail. We will also seek to secure funding and delivery of key transport, utility, and other improvements where major infrastructure improvements are needed to achieve sustainable development. We will urge Government, and support Buckinghamshire County Council, the local economic partnerships (LEPs) and other partners.
- 3.40 Some of the infrastructure identified above is essential to ensure that the needs of new and existing residents are met. Some relate more to quality of life or environmental provisions.
- 3.41 Infrastructure should be delivered in a timely manner and integrated alongside new development, with the specific phasing to be determined in agreement with the local planning authority.

- 3.42 Infrastructure should be provided on-site as part of the development wherever possible, especially on larger developments, to contribute towards creating sustainable development and ensuring that new developments are attractive places to live.
- 3.43 While infrastructure associated with water supply and sewers can be provided and funded by developers, upgrades to wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) can only be provided by water and wastewater utility companies. Within the district, this work is dependent on Thames Water and Anglian Water's funding programmes (asset management plans), which works in five-year cycles.
- 3.44 The Aylesbury Vale Water Cycle Study has been prepared. It has identified which WwTWs are currently at capacity. It has also identified if increases in flow through parts of the sewerage network are likely to cause an increase in the frequency of diluted but untreated discharges from the system. If these discharges increase this may have an effect on the waterways they discharge into. The discharges must meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.
- 3.45 Aylesbury Vale District Council is working with Buckinghamshire County Council (the minerals and waste local planning authority), in developing a policy approach for the management of waste water treatment works.
- 3.46 Development proposals that would result in the VALP growth targets being significantly exceeded must ensure, in consultation with Thames Water and Anglian Water, that the objectives of the Water Framework Directive are not compromised. There must be adequate capacity in foul waste infrastructure to accommodate the proposed development in order to prevent the deterioration in current water quality standards.

Community infrastructure levy and developer contributions

- 3.47 The IDP identifies a number of different ways infrastructure can be funded and provided for, some of which can be made via a financial contribution, in kind or in lieu, from a developer, through Government capital funds, district or county capital funds and a myriad of funding streams open to organisations like DCLG, Homes England and the Department for Transport (DfT). Another avenue of funding is through the implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Government consulted on CIL reforms in summer 2016 and a review of this consultation has now been made available in relation to the consultation on the Housing White Paper. The CIL review set out several recommendations which the Government may choose to accept or reject. The Council remains committed to the implementation of CIL based on the reviews recommendations set out in summary below:
- Replace CIL with a Local Infrastructure Tariff (LIT)
 - Continue to seek Section 106 (S106) agreements on more strategic sites
 - Seek LIT on some types of infrastructure identified in existing CIL regulations
 - Pooling of up to five s106 agreements to be revoked
 - Standardised CIL rate set between 1.75-2.5% above GDV (Gross Development Value)
 - Limited exceptions from Tariff
 - Small development of 10 and under should pay LIT and no other obligations.
- 3.48 Work to establish a CIL or LIT is currently at an early stage. The IDP will set out what infrastructure is in place, what is needed through the VALP period, and whether it is needed in the short or medium/longer term in order to deliver development identified in the VALP plus existing commitments.

S5 Infrastructure

All new development must provide appropriate on- and off-site infrastructure (in accordance with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan) in order to:

- a. avoid placing additional burden on the existing community
- b. avoid or mitigate adverse social, economic and environmental impacts and
- c. make good the loss or damage of social, economic and environmental assets.

In planning for new development, appropriate regard will be given to existing deficiencies in services and infrastructure provision. Development proposals must demonstrate that these have been taken into account when determining the infrastructure requirements for the new development.

The provision of infrastructure should be linked directly to the phasing of development to ensure that infrastructure is provided in a timely and comprehensive manner to support new development.

Where an applicant advises that a proposal is unviable in light of the infrastructure requirement(s), open book calculations will need to be provided by the applicant and then verified by an independent consultant verified by the Council at the expense of the applicant and be submitted to the Council for its consideration.

A Community Infrastructure Levy or Local Infrastructure Tariff for Aylesbury Vale will be developed to secure funding for infrastructure. A supplementary planning document will be produced regarding the delivery and use of Section 106 planning obligation agreements.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision

- 3.49 Gypsies and Travellers are amongst the most socially excluded groups in society and research has consistently confirmed the link between the lack of good quality sites for Gypsies and Travellers and poor health and education. The Government and the Council acknowledge that these issues must be addressed, but it is important to ensure that the planning system is not misused and that development is located in the most appropriate locations.
- 3.50 Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers form an ethnic minority group and are legally protected from discrimination under the Equalities Act 2010, the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Government guidance sets out that councils should assess and meet Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople's accommodation needs in the same way as other accommodation needs, including the identification of land for sites. The Government guidance on this is specifically set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS). This was first published in March 2012 and updated in August 2015.
- 3.51 For the purposes of planning policy, Gypsies and Travellers are defined in the PPTS (2015 update) as being:
- Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.
- 3.52 In determining whether persons are "Gypsies and Travellers" for the purposes of the PPTS, consideration should be given to the following issues amongst other relevant matters:
- whether they previously led a nomadic habit of life
 - the reasons for ceasing their nomadic habit of life
 - whether there is an intention of living a nomadic habit of life in the future, and if so, how soon and in what circumstances.
- 3.53 The Council is required to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople, which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs. It is required to identify and annually update a five-year supply of deliverable Traveller sites and to identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for six to 10 years and, where possible, for 11 to 15 years.
- 3.54 A joint Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTAA) was produced with Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe District Councils in 2013, updated in 2014 and updated again with a 2017 report to take into account the latest Government definition of Gypsy and Travellers. The 2017 study includes an assessment of existing provision, any current needs and forecasts of what the future need is in each district.
- 3.55 Aylesbury Vale district has, as of May 2017, 92 permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches, 27 temporary (or temporary permission that has lapsed) and two tolerated unauthorised pitches, totalling 121 altogether. The need figure is made up of concealed households (two families doubled up on one pitch), older teenagers in need of their own pitch and existing households on unauthorised pitches, existing households on temporary sites and growth in household numbers due to household formation. The 2017 assessment

sets out the future net requirement for the district as eight Gypsy and Traveller pitches from those who are known to meet the new definition and up to 76 pitches from those who are not known whether they meet the new definition.

3.56 No need has been identified for transit sites as there is little evidence of travelling through the area.

Table 3 Pitch provision required in the district to accommodate Gypsies and Travellers

	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-33
Requirement for those meeting the definition	5	1	1	1
Requirement from unknowns	56	7	8	5

3.57 The allocations set out in Table 6 below are sufficient to meet the need for knowns and unknowns for the first 10 years i.e. 69 pitches. There was a very high level of non-responses to the survey work carried out by consultants ORS. Further survey work will be undertaken to establish whether the unknowns meet the definition or not. Longer term need will need to be addressed when the Local Plan is reviewed as there is still uncertainty over whether unknowns will be confirmed through further survey work to establish whether those unknowns meet the definition or not. Nevertheless the allocations set out below will allow all of the first 10 years unknowns to be catered for should they meet the definition.

3.58 As well as identifying the accommodation need figures the original joint Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment published in 2013 recommended the following on how to approach the provision of Traveller sites:

- existing sites should be safeguarded, to ensure that needs continue to be met in perpetuity
- the identification of additional pitch provision should take into account where the need arises
- the Councils should be reasonably flexible about the location of small private sites
- the Councils should investigate the potential for existing sites to achieve additional pitches/plots either through increasing the capacity within existing boundaries or through site extension onto adjoining land, and
- the Councils should also undertake site assessment work to identify new sites to meet identified future Gypsy and Traveller needs.

3.59 Policy D10 provides a sequential and criteria-based approach for identifying suitable locations for new sites.

3.60 The site assessment process has looked at finding suitable and available sites to meet the need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation that the GTAA set out, as above. Sites with temporary permission were considered initially, followed by the consideration of the intensification/expansion of existing sites. Sites promoted for Gypsy and Traveller pitches were also considered as well as if there were opportunities for the effective use of previously developed (brownfield), untidy or derelict land. These did not give sufficient supply to meet the needs in the district. Therefore, consideration was then given to other sites that have been identified as available for development, including securing pitches

alongside traditional housing provision on strategic sites on the urban periphery. Including provision on these sites will help ensure that the needs of Gypsies and Travellers are met and that sites can remain small-scale. The precise location and design of the new sites would be guided by the relevant site master plans.

Table 4 Allocations to meet the needs for Gypsies and Travellers

Site	Current pitches	Commentary	Potential number of pitches to be allocated
Willows Park, (Green Acres) Slapton	10 permanent 3 temporary	The temporary pitches have been given permanent permission since the latest GTAA (Feb 2017)	3
Marroway, Weston Turville	7 permanent	Large plot sizes where some sub division has already happened	5
Dun Roaming Park, Biddlesdon	11 permanent 10 temporary	The temporary pitches have been given permanent permission since the latest GTAA (Feb 2017)	10
Oakhaven Park, Gawcott	21 permanent	3 pitches have recently been granted permission. There is another existing unauthorised pitch	4
Oaksview Park, Boarstall	13 temporary (lapsed)		13
Land at Swan Edge, Wendover	2 approved subject to S106		2
Land opposite Causter Farm, Nash	11 temporary	The temporary pitches have been given permanent permission since the latest GTAA (Feb 2017)	11
South and South West Aylesbury MDAs	0	To be included within housing allocations	10

Vacant pitches at Baghill,	6	Pitches available for occupation	6
Vacant pitches Dun Roaming Park	5	Pitches available for occupation	5
Total			69

3.61 Travelling Showpeople are defined by the PPTS as being:

3.62 Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined above.

Table 5 Plot provision required in the district to accommodate Travelling Showpeople

	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-33
Requirement those meeting the definition	0	0	0	0
Requirement from unknowns	2	0	0	0

3.63 There is currently an unauthorised Travelling Showpeople's plot in the district which would meet the needs shown above.

Table 6 Potential allocations to meet the needs for Travelling Showpeople

Site	Current pitches	Commentary	Potential number of pitches to be allocated
Fairview, Stoke Hammond	3 unauthorised		2
Total			2

S6 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople provision

The Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment (2017) identifies the potential need for permanent pitches and plots for the period 2016-2033 as:

- a. 84 (net) additional pitches for travelling or unknown Gypsies and Travellers
- b. Two (net) additional plots for travelling or unknown Showpeople

In order to meet these requirements, and to provide and maintain a five-year supply of deliverable sites allocations will be made as set out in Tables 4 and 6 above.

Existing Traveller sites will be safeguarded for Traveller use.

Previously developed land

- 3.64 Previously developed (or 'brownfield') land is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and refers to land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. The definition excludes land uses such as private residential gardens and agricultural or forestry buildings.
- 3.65 The full definition according to the NPPF glossary is:
- 'Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface have blended into the landscape in the process of time.'
- 3.66 One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to encourage the effective use of land by reusing previously developed land, provided it is not of high environmental value.
- 3.67 The Government announced a new initiative in July 2015 that could see automatic planning permission being granted on previously developed sites in an attempt to raise the productivity of the economy. The Government intends to introduce a new zonal system which will effectively give automatic planning permission on suitable brownfield sites. A number of Local Planning authorities are taking part in a pilot scheme to trial this initiative.

S7 Previously developed land

Development in Aylesbury Vale will be expected to make efficient and effective use of land. We will encourage the reuse of previously developed (brownfield) land in sustainable locations, subject to site-specific considerations including environmental value and the impact on local character, and subject to other policies in the Local Plan.

Delivering through neighbourhood planning

- 3.68 Neighbourhood development plans, neighbourhood development orders and community right to build orders have the potential to allow communities to develop a shared vision to shape their neighbourhoods and to work with landowners, developers and service providers to deliver new development and facilities.
- 3.69 The Local Plan provides a framework within which people can decide how to shape their local neighbourhoods through community-led planning documents. Many communities have already embraced this opportunity and have prepared or are setting out to prepare their own neighbourhood plans. At the time of writing there are 11 'made' neighbourhood plans in the district and a further 21 neighbourhood areas approved.
- 3.70 A neighbourhood plan provides a mechanism for communities to bring forward development and for the community to have a say in its location and specification, and to plan positively to support local development in meeting the strategic needs of the Local Plan. Neighbourhood plans must adhere to the strategic policies within the Local Plan.
- 3.71 The involvement of the community goes to the heart of successful planning for and implementing sustainable and inclusive growth and change. The Local Plan sets out the strategic policies to provide the framework for delivery of homes, jobs and infrastructure in the district. A neighbourhood plan and its policies will work alongside, and where appropriate replace, the non-strategic policies in the Local Plan where they overlap. The policies within a neighbourhood plan will only apply to the specific area covered by that neighbourhood plan or order.
- 3.72 'Made' neighbourhood plans will not replace the Local Plan but will sit alongside it, with their non-strategic policies applying ahead of similar policies in the Local Plan, e.g. in relation to parking requirements. The Council will work with local communities to deliver growth through neighbourhood plans and good communication between the Council and local communities will be essential.
- 3.73 Whilst it is possible for a parish or town to prepare a neighbourhood plan prior to the adoption of the Local Plan, and many in this district have done so, the risks of this have been highlighted. The Council is required to demonstrate delivery of housing numbers, employment, retail and Gypsy and Traveller sites, all of which are required by Government planning policies in its Local Plan. It could mean that a higher amount of development is now required. AVDC has and will continue to take an active role in advising and supporting the neighbourhood planning process by sharing evidence and information and ensuring the neighbourhood plan fits with its strategic policies and national policy.
- 3.74 Neighbourhood development orders and community right to build orders can give permitted development rights to the types of development specified in that order, allowing development that is consistent with the Local Plan to proceed without unnecessary delay.

S8 Neighbourhood plans

The preparation and production of neighbourhood plans will be supported. Neighbourhood plans should:

- a. show how they are contributing towards the strategic policies of the Local Plan and be in general conformity with its strategic approach

- b. clearly set out how they will promote sustainable development at the same level or above that which would be delivered through the Local Plan, and have regard to information on local need for new homes, jobs and facilities, for their plan area.

Monitoring and review

- 3.75 Effective monitoring is essential to ensuring that the policies in the Local Plan (and associated documents including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan) are achieving their aims. The Council prepares a yearly monitoring report which will measure and report on the effectiveness of the Local Plan policies. A monitoring framework will be established against which performance will be measured. Actions will be identified where policies are not achieving their aims and the Council will consider whether policies need adjusting or replacing either because they are not working as intended, or they need changing to reflect changes in national policy or local circumstances.
- 3.76 As required by the duty to co-operate, due consideration will be given (including through a review of the Plan where appropriate) to the housing needs of other local planning authorities in circumstances when it has been clearly established through the Local Plan process that those needs must be met through provision in Aylesbury Vale.
- 3.77 On the basis of current available evidence, it is envisaged that the Plan will need to be reviewed soon after adoption. Regional, national and international connectivity schemes such as the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and Heathrow expansion will potentially have a significant impact on the district in the future, and therefore will inevitably influence future planning. Other circumstances that would trigger either a review of the plan, or alternative sustainable sites to be brought forward, include:
- site allocations not coming forward at the rate anticipated in the housing trajectory, leading to development not being delivered at the rate expected in the plan
 - evidence established through another Local Planning authority's Local Plan process show that its unmet need can only be accommodated in Aylesbury Vale
 - changes to travel-to-work patterns
 - changes in national planning policy and guidance that mean one or more of the policies in the Plan are not up to date, or
 - evidence in the monitoring report shows that one or more of the policies in the Plan are not achieving the Plan's objectives or is working contrary to effective planning in the district.

Monitoring the five-year housing land supply

- 3.78 A housing trajectory accompanying the Plan shows how sites are envisaged to deliver housing over the Plan period, based on discussions with developers, infrastructure providers and looking at previous delivery rates as well as other relevant factors. This illustrates that the Council will deliver the overall housing requirement and also maintain a five-year housing land supply. It will be kept up to date and monitored to ensure that the projected housing delivery is achieved. The trajectory sets out when delivery can reasonably be expected but does not prevent earlier or accelerated delivery.
- 3.79 Annualising the overall housing requirement results in a yearly need to build 1,370 homes. However there have already been four years of the Plan period with another one likely to have passed before the Plan is adopted. The delivery in these years, whilst significantly higher than delivery rates previously, has cumulatively fallen short of this target:

Table 7 Housing delivery in the plan period

	2013/4	2014/5	2015/6	2016/7	2017/8
Annual requirement	1,370	1,370	1,370	1,370	1,370
Completions	990	1,419	1,191	1,323	1,289 (projected)
Cumulative shortfall	-380	-331	-510	-557	-638

3.80 To address this shortfall and provide the 5% buffer on top of the housing need required by the NPPF (it would increase to a 20% buffer in the event of persistent under-delivery), there needs to be an annual rate of delivery higher than 1,370 dwellings to ensure a five-year housing land supply. This will be achieved by delivery from the existing commitments, including two Major Development Areas (Berryfields and Kingsbrook at Aylesbury) along with various medium and smaller sites delivering in the shorter term. In the later parts of the plan period the large allocations in the Plan will then start to provide housing delivery. Achieving this level of housing delivery is ambitious and will be a significant increase on past rates.

Calculating projected supply from windfall sites

3.81 Housing supply will also come forward through windfall sites⁹. The NPPF allows for a windfall allowance if there is “compelling evidence that such sites have consistently become available in the local area and will continue to provide a reliable source of supply” (para 48). Any allowance must be realistic and should not include residential garden land. It is anticipated that additional small and large windfall sites will continue to come forward (as they have done historically) and contribute towards meeting the additional housing requirement to be planned for in the future.

3.82 Based on the NPPF requirements, the Council has put together evidence for windfall projections for sites of four or fewer dwellings which has been accepted by inspectors¹⁰. This evidence has taken into account historic delivery rates and expected future trends and does not include residential gardens in accordance with the NPPF definition. Aylesbury Vale is a large rural district and therefore the majority of windfall sites are greenfield.

3.83 Windfall projections are based on the average dwelling completions for small sites (four or fewer dwellings) over the last ten years (2007 – 2017) (the windfall allowance is based on completions, therefore a non-implementation allowance is not needed). There has been a consistent and reliable supply of windfall sites as follows:

⁹ Defined in NPPF as sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available.

¹⁰ APP/J0450/A/14/2213924 paragraph 166 and APP/J0405/A/13/2210864 paragraph 66

Table 8 Historic windfall completion rates on sites with fewer than five dwellings

Year	Completions on small windfall sites (fewer than five dwellings) net (excluding residential gardens)
2007/08	85
2008/09	110
2009/10	54
2010/11	29
2011/12	66
2012/13	55
2013/14	84
2014/15	82
2015/16	81
2016/17	94

- 3.84 The average number of homes delivered on windfall sites over the last 10 years (1 April 2007 – 31 March 2017) is 74 per annum. The windfall allowance is not applied to the next three years as sites under five dwellings are coming forward in this time period are likely to already have planning permission and therefore are counted as commitments. This gives a total windfall allowance of 962 dwellings for the last 13 years of the Plan period, 2020-2033.

S9 Monitoring and review

The policies in the Plan will be monitored at least annually to ascertain whether or not they are fulfilling their aims.

The Plan will be reviewed, or proposals for alternative sustainable sites considered favourably (subject to compliance with other policies in the Plan), in any of the following circumstances:

- a. Site allocations are not coming forward at the rate anticipated in the housing trajectory, leading to development not being delivered at the rate expected in the Plan
- b. Evidence established through another local planning authority's Local Plan process show that its unmet need can only be accommodated in Aylesbury Vale
- c. Changes in national planning policy and guidance that mean one or more of the policies in the Plan are not up to date, or
- d. Evidence in the monitoring report shows that one or more of the policies in the plan are not achieving the Plan's objectives or is working contrary to effective planning in the district.

Irrespective of the above criteria, the Plan will be reviewed within five years.

4 Strategic Delivery

Aylesbury – Delivery of a Garden Town

- 4.1 In January 2017 Aylesbury was given “Garden Town” status. This announcement came after submission of a successful expression of interest by AVDC and its partner organisations¹¹ in October 2016. The expression of interest set out a bid for funding to support the delivery of new communities at Aylesbury and ensure that growth comes forward in the best possible way: ensuring high quality and design are embedded and to enable a cohesive and comprehensive approach to planning for growth. Work is now underway to create a masterplan for Aylesbury which will enable a overarching plan for future growth of the town.
- 4.2 Aylesbury is identified as playing a substantial and critical role in delivering growth for the district and the rest of Buckinghamshire. Identified as a new ‘Garden Town’ Aylesbury will be a focus for:
- new market and affordable housing
 - new investment in economic activity and regeneration
 - new retail and employment development
 - delivering Aylesbury Transport Strategy prioritising investment in multi-modal transport infrastructure and transport hub, and
 - new infrastructure, including health, education and community infrastructure, open space and recreation, and emergency and public services.
- 4.3 The identification of Aylesbury as a Garden Town recognises Aylesbury’s role as the county town for Buckinghamshire and its central location in the ‘brain belt’ between Oxford and Cambridge. The rural area that surrounds Aylesbury provides an exemplar setting for the town located on the edge of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Grand Union Canal.

Supplementary planning documents

- 4.4 Alongside the policy within VALP a series of accompanying supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are being developed to support delivery of the Garden Town. These SPDs will focus on:
- strategic infrastructure delivery of the Garden Town – this will set out all the key strategic physical and social infrastructure required to deliver a Garden Town setting out how it is funded, when it will be delivered and how
 - design guidance for the Garden Town – this will further define the character of the Garden Town and provide design guidance for key components such as transport and movement routes, parks and green space and built development, and focus on delivery and implementation of this
 - Site-specific SPDs, as required, for the garden communities to set out a clear and detailed framework for place-making and delivery of each site.
- 4.5 An overarching masterplan and work to look at the future of Aylesbury will seek to address some of these challenges and look beyond the Plan period to 2050.

¹¹ Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP, South East Midlands LEP and Buckinghamshire Advantage.

Challenges and Opportunities for Aylesbury Garden Town

Sustainable development

Aylesbury Garden Town housing

- 4.6 Aylesbury's housing requirements will be delivered through a combination of existing allocations and commitments, other 'deliverable' sites and VALP allocations, which together will meet the overall requirements for Aylesbury. The VALP allocations consist of a combination of allocations made on previously-developed land and on greenfield sites on the edge of Aylesbury.
- 4.7 Taking forward past completions since 2013 (2,861 dwellings)¹² and projected supply from existing allocated sites and other deliverable sites (5,727 dwellings), this leaves 7,810 dwellings to be allocated at Aylesbury in the VALP.
- 4.8 Where possible the Council seeks to ensure development of previously-developed sites. This is the case at Aylesbury and a number of dwellings are accommodated in the existing Aylesbury urban area (including the town centre) on previously developed land. These developments will improve the quality of the urban environment through their positive redevelopment and regeneration. The remainder of Aylesbury's housing development is at linked and integrated sustainable urban extensions on greenfield sites around the town (see the Aylesbury Garden Town maps) creating distinctive garden communities. These developments will be linked to the existing Aylesbury urban area but will also function as distinctive communities.
- 4.9 An important element of new housing development is the provision of affordable housing to meet the identified needs and to provide a mix of house types and sizes. These issues are covered in more detail in policies in the Housing section. The mix of housing within the Garden Town will respond to local needs in relation to mix, size and type, and ensure the development of inclusive and varied communities, planning for the elderly, lifetime homes, self and custom build.

Aylesbury Garden Town employment

- 4.10 Critical to the development of a sustainable Garden Town is accompanying growth in homes and jobs. Three Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zones (AVEZ) are designated at Aylesbury, Westcott and Silverstone. The designation of an enterprise zone based around the existing Arla complex at Aylesbury takes advantage of existing infrastructure and supports the growth of a sustainable employment location and is strategically placed at Aylesbury, on the A41 dual carriageway leading directly to the M25 near Watford. Employment allocations will also be made within the garden communities alongside new housing developments to complement housing growth and allow creation of sustainable urban extensions where people have the opportunity to both live and work without the need to travel long distances.
- 4.11 The overarching strategy is to stimulate the development of a number of emergent growing sectors – high performance technologies and motorsports focused at Silverstone EZ, space propulsion focused at Westcott EZ and environmental technologies and food and drink manufacturing and human health focused at Arla/Woodlands EZ.

¹² These include completions and commitments for Stoke Mandeville, Bierton and Weston Turville as these settlements do not have their own housing allocations due to their proximity to Aylesbury and are included within the Aylesbury figures (inline with Policies S2 and S3).

4.12 The key employment challenges for Aylesbury Garden Town are to:

- encourage economic growth to meet the forecast need for jobs;
- deliver employment in the most sustainable locations to support and complement housing growth and produce mixed use developments which reduce the need to travel;
- provide strategic sites as well as encourage existing companies to remain and grow within the area recognising the connectivity of businesses in Aylesbury to adjacent areas, the rest of the UK and internationally;
- provide a diverse and flexible range of employment sites and premises for new and existing businesses, by maintaining a flexible supply of employment land and premises in Aylesbury;
- retain and improve high value employment sites by making the best use of existing stock and encouraging its refurbishment and renovation where necessary particularly where applications come forward that will maintain existing number of jobs on sites;
- encourage skills growth innovation with the provision of business-led skills to help specifically grow the knowledge economy and manufacturing;
- retain highly qualified graduates and reduce the current levels of outward commuting;
- invest in strategic transport and broadband infrastructure to encourage more self employment in the knowledge-based sectors, micro businesses and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that make up to 90% of the economic activity;
- supporting business-to-business and educational collaboration between growing businesses to encourage further growth and expansion; and
- ensure there is support and nurturing activities for new enterprises to encourage the growth of the economy.

Aylesbury Garden Town - town centre

4.13 The growth at Aylesbury, and across the rest of the district, will need to be accompanied by and supported by a vibrant town centre. The Aylesbury Town Centre Plan contains a vision for the town:

- to be a high profile, sub-regional centre for entertainment and the arts, which has added a distinctive edge to its market town heritage
- to be a distinctive, 'best in class', modern market town, which is attractive, safe, sustainable and accessible, and
- to provide a quality, day and evening environment in terms of leisure, retail and food and drink, which attracts and brings together people of all ages and communities from within its enviable catchment.

4.14 Policy D7 (Aylesbury town centre) supports the delivery of development and revival/growth of Aylesbury town centre and sets out a strategy for improving and contributing to delivery of the visions and aims set out in the policy.

Aylesbury Garden Town movement

Aylesbury transport strategy

- 4.15 To continue to grow the town successfully, key transport issues need addressing including tackling congestion, managing demand, enhancing access, increasing active travel and enhancing public transport in Aylesbury. The district and county councils have developed a transport strategy for the Garden Town, the principles of which are seen as part of a balanced and integrated package of measures. Transport schemes that will be integral to supporting the growth of Aylesbury Vale will be secured under Policy T2 Protected Transport Schemes.
- 4.16 The Aylesbury Transport Strategy supports Aylesbury Garden Town by assessing the existing and future transportation network conditions based on future housing and employment growth and demographic change and identifying transport improvements across various modes which aim to deliver the six overarching strategic objectives to guide the growth:
- Improve transport access and movement to the town centre
 - Minimise the impact of future growth on traffic levels, congestion and air quality
 - Make it easier and more accessible through provision of walking and cycling connections and the use of public transport
 - Improve journey time reliability
 - Improve accessibility to other urban centres and new growth areas, and
 - Reduce the risk of death or injury on the transport network
- 4.17 The Aylesbury Transport Strategy builds on previous and currently planned improvements to transport infrastructure. The initial work has identified a list of potential transport interventions for Aylesbury which will enable growth, influence travel behaviour and meet the strategic objectives identified above. These will be based on:
- completing a series of outer link roads that will take traffic away from the town centre and allow public transport priority improvements to take place on the main radial roads closer to the town centre, improving public transport journey time reliability
 - implementing an overarching strategy to connect new developments, with each other, to key destinations and to the town centre by active travel and public transport
 - considering new ways to redesign roads within central area of Aylesbury to ensure access for all
 - undertaking a parking study to understand current supply and demand in order to reassess parking provisions and controls
 - completing gaps in the cycling/walking network, particularly connections within the Aylesbury Gemstone cycle network
 - improving pedestrian crossing options where safety is an issue or where major roads act as a barrier to pedestrian movements, including the inner relief road around the town centre, and
 - ensuring a strategic approach is in place for providing sustainable transport access to all new development and ensuring good transport links are in place to all three rail stations around the town centre.

Aylesbury Garden Town community

Community facilities, infrastructure and community cohesion

- 4.18 Providing appropriate new infrastructure to support housing and employment development at Aylesbury is essential to the creation of sustainable garden communities. With growth comes an increased demand for additional community facilities and infrastructure, but it also brings about a need to integrate new developments into existing communities and vice versa. Infrastructure includes hard infrastructure such as roads and cycle routes, community infrastructure such as schools, higher education, healthcare facilities, and green infrastructure such as green spaces and wildlife corridors. Policies D2 and S4 support infrastructure delivery. Design and development of new communities and infrastructure should maximise opportunities for community cohesion.

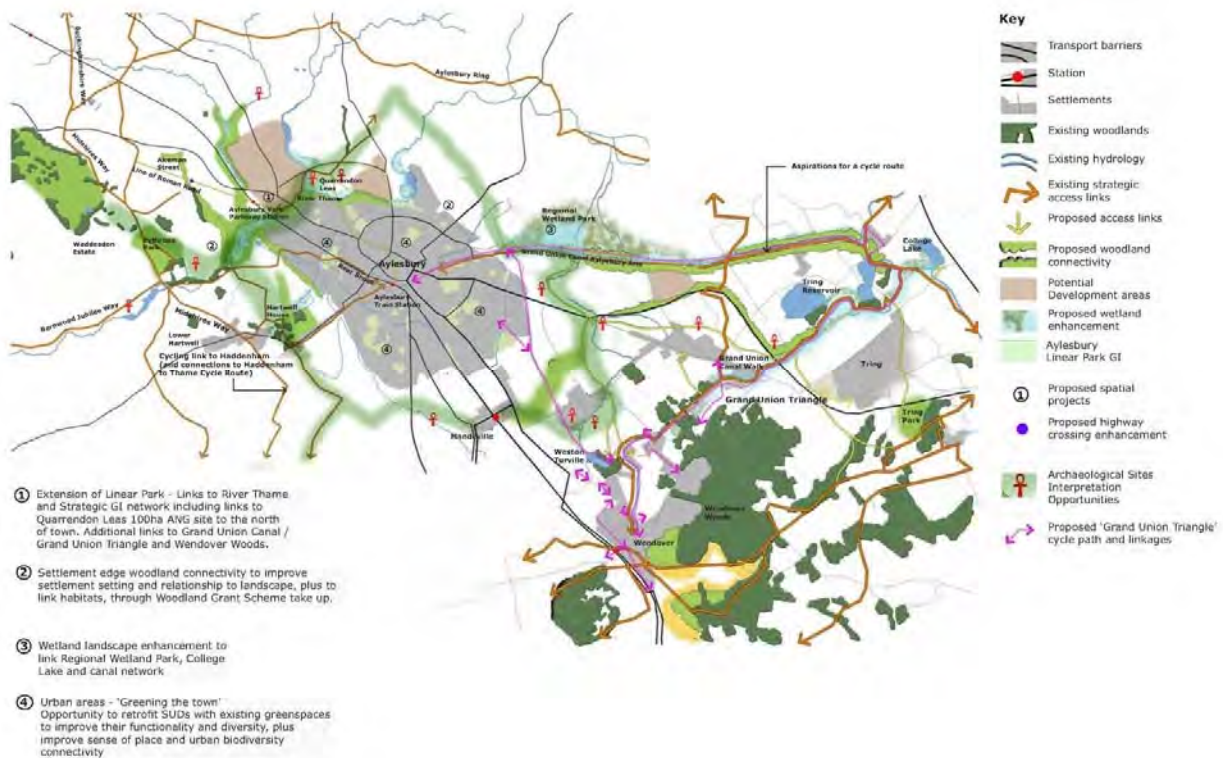
Aylesbury Garden Town green infrastructure

- 4.19 In creating a Garden Town, the Plan must include green spaces and natural environments for local communities. Strategic green infrastructure assets should be identified, retained and enhanced, including improving connectivity through the development of green corridors. Local open spaces should be protected and where possible connected to strategic green infrastructure networks. Aylesbury Garden Town has linkages which should be enhanced to connect the surrounding countryside to the Chilterns and surrounding rural areas.
- 4.20 The Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (August 2013) was produced to build upon the Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2009) and the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011). It identified a long list of green infrastructure (GI) projects, a number of which were focused around Aylesbury. From this list a series of priority areas were selected. One of these combined a number of the above projects and focuses on Aylesbury. This proposal area also forms the greater part of the county green infrastructure priority action area 2, Aylesbury environs. It includes a number of countryside access gateways identified in the 2009 County GI Strategy, notably Quarrendon Leas and, at greater distance, the Waddesdon Estate (National Trust), Tring Reservoirs Complex/College Lake and Wendover Woods:

<p>Aylesbury Linear Park (includes a number of flagship GI projects: Aylesbury Linear Park east and west and Quarrendon Leas to the west and Grand Union Triangle, Wendover Woods and Regional Wetland Park to the east)</p>	<p>Part of the 'Area Around Aylesbury' GI Priority Action Area 2 in the County GI Strategy. Selected due to large-scale planned and part-implemented growth (developer led GI through development at Berryfields and Aylesbury East) and the fact that the area around Aylesbury is already the focus for many positive strategic GI proposals – Linear Park, Quarrendon Leas, Regional Wetland Park, Grand Union Triangle, plus Vale Park and thematic projects such as 'Trees Please' in the Aylesbury Vale GI Strategy. A number of these address the strategic accessible natural greenspace standard (ANGSt) deficits identified in the county GI Strategy (e.g. Quarrendon Leas, Wendover Woods). Deficit continues to be experienced at the district accessible natural greenspace (ANG) level and this should be a focus for future urban GI</p>
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planning. The area is linked into key GI area corridors via the River Thames, plus Grand Union Canal corridors and foothills/scarps of the Chilterns to the east, which include strategic ANG resources which are the focus of strategic projects e.g. Wendover Woods. BOAs at Thame Valley and Wendover Woods.

4.21 The green infrastructure proposal map for this, shown below, sets out the proposal area and some detail about the project. More information can be found in the green infrastructure proposals schedule in the delivery plan. Policy I1 supports the delivery of green infrastructure.



Aylesbury Linear Park Green Infrastructure Proposals Map

Allocating at Aylesbury

4.22 In deciding where Aylesbury should grow, as much development as possible is to be located on previously-developed land in the town centre and existing urban area, but due to the scale of the growth, significant greenfield development will also be necessary.

4.23 A Cumulative Impact Assessment¹³ has been undertaken to assess the impacts of the future growth at Aylesbury as a whole and to ensure that future delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town is sustainable and well integrated into the town's existing urban edge and consideration of the impact of development, taking into account the following factors:

¹³ <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

- transport
- flood risk
- access to employment
- water supply
- specific infrastructure requirements
- sewerage
- integration with Aylesbury
- landscape
- strategic green infrastructure
- agricultural land classification
- contaminated land
- relationship with other settlements
- ecology
- accessibility
- historic environment
- deliverability
- overall environment
- utilities

Aylesbury Garden Town Vision

- 4.24 The vision for Aylesbury Garden Town builds on the principles of sustainable development established in the previous Local Plan (carried forward in VALP and set out in policy S1) with the delivery of high quality new homes, new jobs, new transport improvements, and community facilities. New housing allocations (combined with existing committed and sites already built) will ensure that 16,398 new dwellings will be provided in Aylesbury between 2013 and 2033. Jobs will be provided to support the delivery of homes, driven by the designated enterprise zone at Aylesbury (Woodlands/Arla). The transport strategy for Aylesbury Garden Town will deliver an overarching strategy to connect new developments, improve accessibility to the town centre, and improve public and sustainable transport for both existing and new residents and businesses. This will build on already planned improvements to transport infrastructure. In addition, there will be new shops in a reinvigorated town centre, alongside health, education, leisure and other community facilities, and other infrastructure associated with the new development.
- 4.25 The strategy for Aylesbury is to deliver a new Garden Town which creates a sustainable and economically viable place. The principles for development can be split into four categories: sustainable development, movement, community, and green infrastructure.
- 4.26 The vision for Aylesbury Garden Town is that:
- 4.27 By 2033, it will have grown and be an inclusive, innovative and forward-looking Garden Town that meets the needs and aspirations of existing and new residents, businesses and visitors. Aylesbury Garden Town will be a key hub, a place to visit, with public transport and interchange offering a diverse choice of travel modes, and a recognised centre for investment and growth providing new jobs and opportunities for all. Aylesbury Garden Town will have:
- a thriving and revitalised town centre
 - quality homes, facilities, infrastructure and job opportunities
 - distinctive garden communities each with their own identity
 - high quality, connected green space and good connections to its rural surroundings
 - walking cycling and sustainable transport links.
- 4.28 Between now and 2033:
- The town will have grown sustainably, by reusing previously developed sites and by developing well-designed, connected, safe and integrated urban extensions, creating an integrated network of thriving, vibrant garden communities. This growth will have a strong focus on sustainability and community cohesion, and each distinctive community will include new homes (including affordable homes), jobs, shops, leisure/recreational facilities and community, health and social care facilities. This will

provide good quality housing for people within Aylesbury Vale as well as business premises and facilities, enabling residents and visitors to find work, shop and spend their leisure time in the area.

- Taking forward the town centre masterplan, Aylesbury town centre will have an enhanced environment, with shops, leisure facilities, open space, homes and services, built and designed to high standards, bringing a renewal to the town enhancing the attraction of the historic core, and creating well-designed developments that are sensitive to the district's local character. The centre will be vibrant and energetic with plenty for all to do and enjoy throughout the day and into the night, serving both the urban and rural populations.
- Aylesbury's role as the county town will continue and be improved so that local government, legal and other essential services are recognised for their excellence and personal focus.
- The town will have an accessible, sustainable and well-managed green infrastructure network, including a new linear park adjoining the HS2 line on the western edge of the town, improved linkages from the town and new communities to the Chilterns and surrounding countryside, contributing to the biodiversity of the area and supporting a range of recreational activities.
- The growth will be planned in a way which minimises the need to travel by private car, with more and more people choosing to walk, cycle or use public transport. Traffic growth will be managed to control congestion.
- The residents of new garden communities at Aylesbury will feel a strong sense of their own community identity as well as feeling an integral part of a successfully growing, vibrant town.
- The benefits of growth will have been maximised, bringing about significant infrastructure improvements including:
 - increased public transport, with successful extension of the Aylesbury Rainbow bus routes
 - increased walking and cycling facilities, and extension of the Aylesbury Gemstone cycleways
 - road improvements linking new developments to the town, and creating a series of links road around the town
 - increased flood management and alleviation for the town, and
 - enhancements to the regional rail infrastructure linking us to neighbouring growth areas including East West Rail which will open up rail access to the north, east and west for the first time since 1965.
- As a result, new links will help to ensure that local businesses in Aylesbury and the surrounding rural areas continue to thrive and grow.
- Aylesbury's most valued assets such as the historic old town, conservation areas, the river Thame, the Grand Union Canal and Hartwell House historic park and garden will be protected and enhanced, allowing communities to celebrate their history, their identity and their diversity.
- The impacts of climate change will have been minimised, especially by building exemplar new developments and increasingly sustainable travel choices. As a result, local carbon emissions will be low relative to UK averages.
- Visitors will use Aylesbury more and more as a base to explore local attractions such as Waddesdon Manor, Hartwell House, Wendover Woods, the Chilterns AONB and other tranquil and attractive areas. The town will be a centre for entertainment and the arts, with a successful theatre, museums and festivals which make Aylesbury an attractive place to visit.

- Aylesbury's role and reputation as a centre for education diversity and excellence will be maintained and strengthened. People in Aylesbury will have access to excellent education opportunities, both academically and vocationally.
- The Paralympic heritage of the town will be celebrated and embedded into the vision and design principles for Aylesbury Garden Town ensuring the town is accessible to all.
- People will live longer, healthier lives, and the contribution made by older people to the community will be valued and appropriate services will be available to meet their changing needs. As a result of growth and regeneration, the difference in available opportunities between the most affluent and less well-off communities will be narrowed.

4.29 All of these will have combined to help make Aylesbury Garden Town a very attractive, healthy and cohesive place to live and work, offering its residents, visitors and employees the very best quality of life.

D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town

Aylesbury Garden Town is the focus for the majority of the district's growth. It should develop in accordance with the vision for Aylesbury Garden Town set out above and deliver key infrastructure requirements (in accordance with Policy S5).

Aylesbury will deliver 16,398 new homes. Taking account of commitments and completions, 7,810 homes are allocated at Aylesbury in the Plan. The Policies Map allocates the following major sites for development:

- South Aylesbury (D-AGT1)
- South west Aylesbury (D-AGT2)
- Aylesbury north of A41 (D-AGT3)
- Aylesbury south of A41 (D-AGT4)
- Berryfields, Aylesbury (D-AGT5)
- Kingsbrook, Aylesbury (D-AGT6)

The following smaller sites are also allocated:

- Ardenham Lane Aylesbury (D-AYL032)
- Land at Thame Road/Leach Road, Aylesbury (D-AYL073)
- Post Office Sorting Office Cambridge Street (D-AYL052)
- Land at the Junction of Buckingham Street & New Street (D-AYL059)
- Oaklands Hostel Aylesbury (D-AYL077)
- Hampden House (D-AYL063)
- Land North of Manor Hospital (D-AYL068)
- Rabans Lane (D-AYL115)

Provision will be made for employment within the enterprise zones and at identified employment sites across the town in line with Policy E1 and allocations AGT3, AGT4, AGT5 and AGT6.

All development in Aylesbury should make a significant contribution to meeting the Aylesbury Transport Strategy.

To complement housing and employment provision, developments in the town centre will contribute to consolidating and enhancing its role as set out in policy D7.

The design and delivery of development within Aylesbury Garden Town should adhere to the following principles:

- a. To create distinctive, sustainable, high quality, successful new communities with the highest quality, planning, design and management of the built and public realm. This will ensure that new garden communities and development within the Garden Town is distinctive, enhancing local assets and establishing environments that promote health, happiness and well-being. Detailed design guidance will be set out within the overarching Aylesbury Garden Town Design Guidance SPD and individual site-specific supplementary planning documents (SPDs)
- b. Ensuring the right infrastructure is provided at the right time, ahead of or in tandem with the development that it supports, to address the impacts of new garden communities and to meet the needs of residents (in accordance with Policy S5 and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan). The Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Infrastructure Delivery SPD will set out in detail when infrastructure is required and how it will be delivered and funded
- c. Community and stakeholder engagement is embedded within the design and delivery of the Garden Town from the outset. The stakeholder and engagement strategy for the Garden Town will need to be taken into account and long-term community engagement planned for
- d. Development will be delivered to provide a truly balanced and inclusive community and meet the needs of local people, including the mix of dwellings sizes, tenures and types including provision for custom and self build and for an ageing population (in line with policies H5, H6 and H7); the Garden Town will also deliver housing for those most in need through delivery of a minimum of 25% affordable housing (in line with policy H1)
- e. Providing and promoting opportunities for employment for new and existing residents, both within and alongside new garden communities, to support and enhance the overall economic viability of Aylesbury Garden Town (inline with policies E1, E2, E3 and E4)
- f. Promote and encourage sustainable travel choices through the requirement of travel plans to increase walking, cycling and the promotion of public transport routes connecting new garden communities to the town and beyond. New development should be planned around a user hierarchy that places pedestrians and cyclists at the top. Consideration should also be given to delivering electric vehicle infrastructure in new development and disability discrimination requirements. Policies T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7 should be taken into account
- g. New garden communities should be designed to be easily accessible and create sociable, vibrant and walkable neighbourhoods with equality of access for all to a range of community service and facilities including health, education, retail, culture, community meeting spaces, multifunctional open space, sports and leisure facilities and well connected to public transport. Policies I2 and I3 should be taken into account. Site-specific supplementary planning documents (SPDs) will be developed as required to set out clear and detailed requirements for place-making
- h. Creation of distinctive environments which seek to achieve a minimum of 50% land within the proposed garden communities as local and strategic green infrastructure which should be designed as multifunctional, accessible, and maximise benefits such as wildlife, recreation and water management. This will include land required to mitigate the ecological and flood risk impacts of development. Management regimes should be developed in tandem with the detailed development of GI for

each of the garden communities. Policies I1, I2, I3, NE1, NE2, NE3, NE4 and NE5 should be taken into account. Site-specific SPDs will be developed as required to set out clear and detailed requirements for place-making

- i. Establishing opportunities for appropriate and sustainable governance and stewardship arrangement for community assets including green space, public realm, community and other relevant facilities. Such arrangements should be funded by developments and include community representation
- j. To preserve or enhance heritage assets including through mitigation as required.

South Aylesbury

- 4.30 'South Aylesbury' is allocated as a strategic site for Aylesbury and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town. The allocation comprises the following HELAA sites:
- Land south of Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMD004)
 - Land around Red House Farm, Lower Road (SMD005)
 - Land north of Stoke Mandeville adjacent Lower Road (SMD006)
 - Land south of Aylesbury adjacent to Wendover Road (SMD007)
 - Land between railway line and Wendover Road (SMD008)
 - Land between Marsh Lane, Princes Risborough Railway Line and Aylesbury (SMD009)
 - Land straddling railway line north of Stoke Mandeville (SMD016)
- 4.31 It also includes the remainder of land to the west up to the railway line, which has not been formally promoted to the Council but is included to contribute to delivering a comprehensive development scheme on this site. The site and its immediate surroundings are level with no significant topography. The site therefore has an open aspect. Views beyond to the east and west continue across open countryside. There are no flood risk areas identified in the site and drainage is achieved via a series of small ditches. The site is currently in agricultural use with no significant biodiversity value. There is currently no vehicular circulation into or across the site. One public right of way exists across the site and uses a level crossing to cross the railway line. The edges of the site are mainly a variety of residential rear boundaries. In addition, the north western edge is with Stoke Mandeville Hospital, with car parking and rear facades of the hospital buildings predominating. The southern edge adjoining Stoke Mandeville village is mixed residential rear boundaries and some existing green spaces. The site is also bounded by Lower Road to the west and Wendover Road to the east.
- 4.32 The sites are merged to enable a comprehensive, cohesive and co-ordinated approach to the development of the site as a whole. It offers benefits for infrastructure co-ordination and delivery, allowing the total infrastructure needs of the allocation as a whole to be considered and planned for, rather than a piecemeal approach that would flow from a site-by-site approach.
- 4.33 Given the large number of smaller sites that make up this allocation, an overall masterplan SPD will be essential to ensure a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to development, and to guide phasing of the site.
- 4.34 The site is to come forward in the later years of the plan, as it is dependent on the delivery of infrastructure related to the development of HS2. The Masterplan SPD will provide further guidance and information on phasing.
- 4.35 Parts of the overall site have individual planning applications which are at varying stages. SMD004 has an as-yet undetermined application for 125 dwellings (16/04608/AOP). SMD016 has outline planning permission for 117 dwellings.
- 4.36 Regard should be had to the layout and access arrangements for these sites as appropriate in the preparation of the Masterplan for this strategic site allocation to ensure a comprehensive approach to development.
- 4.37 A Master Plan SPD for the site will establish the site layout and disposition of land uses. The development will adhere to the following place-shaping principles:
- integration between the existing built-up area of Aylesbury and new development

- maintain the settings and individual identity of Stoke Mandeville
- connections to existing footpaths and cycleways and to public transport, enabling sustainable travel
- take account of long-distance views across the site to the Chilterns AONB
- respond positively to the best characteristics of the surrounding area
- provision of green corridors linking development with the surrounding communities and wider countryside.

4.38 The vision and objectives for the site are set out below:

- To create a new comprehensively planned garden community in an urban extension to the town which is derived from the field pattern and landscape features on the site.
- The design and layout of the site should take account of the proximity to lower density housing in Stoke Mandeville and the existing edge of Aylesbury.
- The site layout and design should also take account with key long-distance views to the Chiltern Hills.
- The scheme will also enable the delivery of a distributor road between Lower Road and Wendover Road to cross the railway line.
- Creating a high quality built and semi-natural environment, providing high quality housing for both the private and social sectors as well as provision of new community facilities.
- The site will be opened up to a range of open spaces, including the new linear park, and have been carefully designed to respect the identity and character of existing urban area.
- This mixed use development is in a highly accessible location that reinforces the town's infrastructure and provides homes, community facilities and recreational opportunities for its future residents and neighbours.

D-AGT1 South Aylesbury

Site Ref:	AGT1
Site Name:	South Aylesbury
Size (hectares)	Approximately 95 ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 dwellings • One primary school • Multi-functional green infrastructure • Link road between Lower Road and Wendover Road • Aylesbury South East Link Road (A413 to B4443 Lower Road) • Local centre • Cycling and walking links
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of land for around 1,000 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity b. Provision of 5 Gypsy and Traveller pitches c. Provision of a dual carriageway distributor road between Lower Road and Wendover Road to cross the railway line d. Provision of new access points into the sites e. Provision for public transport into the town and to surrounding areas f. Existing vegetation should be retained where practicable, including existing woodlands and hedgerows. Existing public rights of way need to be retained and integrated into the development within safe and secure environments as part of a wider network of sustainable routes, to directly and appropriately link the site with surrounding communities and facilities g. Proposals must retain and enhance existing habitats where practicable, including the creation of linkages with surrounding wildlife assets h. Provision and management of 50% green infrastructure to link to other new development areas and the wider countryside i. The development should be designed using a landscape-led approach including consideration of the long-distance views of the AONB j. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm 1 in 20, 100 and 1,000 year extents and 1 in 100 year plus climate change extents on the ordinary watercourse (see SFRA Level 2) k. Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity. A surface water drainage strategy should ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere. Opportunity to mitigate against potential surface water flooding of Stoke Mandeville Hospital l. Risk of overtopping or breach of the Aylesbury Arm (Grand Union Canal) should be modelled m. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3, and 3a plus climate change (subject to a detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space, with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1 n. Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes, with development located outside surface water flood areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o. Provision of buffer between the new development and Stoke Mandeville provision of land, buildings and car parking for a combined primary school, including playing field provision p. Provision of land, buildings and car parking for a new local centre, including community hall q. Provision of on-site health facilities and community buildings (including temporary buildings if necessary) r. Provision of and contribution to infrastructure as appropriate.
<p>Implementation Approach</p>	<p>Development of the South Aylesbury Strategic Site Allocation will come forward towards the latter end of the Plan period, and only once a Masterplan SPD for the allocation has been prepared and adopted by the Council. Proposals for development within the South Aylesbury Strategic Site Allocation will be expected to demonstrate how they positively contribute to the achievement of the SPD and the Aylesbury Garden Town Principles as set out in Policies D1 and D2. Any development on this site should be in accordance with the overarching policies and principles for the development of Aylesbury Garden Town.</p>

South west Aylesbury

- 4.39 'South west Aylesbury' is allocated as a strategic allocation for Aylesbury and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town.
- 4.40 The allocation comprises the following sites:
- Land between Oxford Road, Standalls Farm and Aylesbury – up to 1,382 dwellings
 - Land at Lower Road Aylesbury – already committed for 190 dwellings
 - Land between Marsh Lane, Princes Risborough Railway Line and Aylesbury – up to 168 dwellings.
- 4.41 One of the reasons for merging the sites is to enable a more comprehensive approach to development in this area, and to improve co-ordination and location of infrastructure and services. The site provides an opportunity for a sustainable extension integrated with, and supportive of, the existing community, bringing a wide range of benefits in a manner that makes the best use of existing resources and infrastructure.
- 4.42 The majority of the allocation is planned to come forward later in the Plan period especially due to the relationship to and dependence on the delivery of HS2. The site comprises agricultural land located to the south and south-west of the built-up area of Aylesbury. To the north-east lies existing residential development fronting Lower Road, Bucks CC Sports Club and playing fields and Booker Park School. Part of the site wraps around the existing commercial buildings of the Fountain Business Centre and Stoke Mandeville Auto Centre. To the west and south lies open countryside.
- 4.43 The site boundaries are defined by established hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees. There are existing public footpaths which cross the fields to the west and south of the site. Two listed buildings are associated with Hall End Farmhouse and Stoke Cottage. Hartwell House historic park and garden and Hartwell conservation area and numerous listed buildings are located due west of the site. The HS2 route forming the southern boundary to the site could be a significant constraint and will have a potential effect on the developable area and mitigation. A noise buffer will be required which will reduce the developable area of the site. Delivery of access to the site will need to take into account the differing levels between the realigned A410 and the underpass of the Aylesbury to Princes Risborough railway line. This needs to be fully considered through the preparation of the SPD. There is an area of flood risk zone to the north of the site, from the Stoke Brook and surface water and groundwater flood risk as set out in the SFRA Level 2. Overhead power lines bisect the site to the south-west. The areas of the site in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and HS2 buffer zone will only be suitable for green infrastructure, a strategic link road and footpaths. There are existing hedges and mature trees including black poplars and these features must be retained. Highways impacts on Marsh Lane and sustainable transport options into Aylesbury need to be addressed.
- 4.44 Current planning status:
- Land at Lower Road subject to planning application.
 - Remaining land at South west Aylesbury – application due December 2017.
- 4.45 At the site known as Lower Road all 190 dwellings will be delivered in years one to five of the Plan period. The remainder of the site will commence delivery within the end of the first 10 years of the Plan, with the majority delivered in 10-15 years. Careful consideration

needs to be given to the phasing and the impact of HS2 on this and co-ordination of the delivery of the whole site through the Masterplan and Delivery SPD.

- 4.46 The concept plan sets out the key components for the site: the strategic road links within the site are included, along with the route of HS2, linear park and area of flood mitigation. It sets out the location of the key land use elements of the site particularly employment; housing, schools and the green infrastructure.
- 4.47 The Masterplan SPD for the site will establish more detail with regard to the site layout and disposition of land uses. The development will adhere to the following place-shaping principles:
- Integration of new development with the existing build area of Aylesbury, and the surrounding countryside
 - Consideration of the impact of HS2 and flood risk on the site
 - Provide sustainable connections to existing urban area and to the countryside beyond through provision of cycleways, footpaths and access to public transport
 - Take account of long-distance views across the site to the Chilterns AONB
 - Respond positively to the best characteristics of the surrounding area
 - Provision of green corridors linking development with surrounding communities.
- 4.48 Infrastructure will be provided alongside development – details to be determined through site discussions.
- 4.49 The vision and objectives for the site are set out below:
- To create a new garden community derived from the field pattern and mature landscape features on the site.
 - The design and layout of the site should take account of the proximity to lower density housing in Stoke Mandeville and the existing edge of Aylesbury. The site layout and design should also take account of key long-distance views to the Chiltern Hills, and also the new hard boundary of the site with HS2 and the associated linear park alongside it.
 - The scheme will also enable the delivery of the South West Link Road, relieving traffic pressures in the town centre and enabling easier vehicular movement around Aylesbury.
 - The site will improve and mitigate existing flood risk, and provide flood alleviation to Stoke Brook, through diversion of the brook and appropriate complementary measures, such as attenuation lakes, which provide betterment to the existing community.
 - Creating a high quality built and semi-natural environment, providing high quality housing for both the private and social sectors as well as provision of new community facilities.
 - The site will be opened up to a range of open spaces, including the new linear park, and have been carefully designed to respect the identity and character of the existing urban area.
 - Further flood mitigation measures that will benefit the site and also cover part of the town will be provided, in addition to a sustainable urban drainage system to meet the needs of the development.
 - This mixed use development is in a highly accessible location that reinforces the town's infrastructure and provides homes, community facilities and recreational opportunities for its future residents and neighbours.

D-AGT2: South west Aylesbury

Site Ref:	AGT2
Site Name:	South west Aylesbury
Size (hectares)	Total site area: 112.66ha Land between Oxford Road, Standalls Farm and Aylesbury South: 94.1ha Land at Lower Road Aylesbury: 9.2ha Land between Marsh Lane, Princes Risborough Railway and Aylesbury: 11.6ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 1,550 dwellings • One primary school • Multi-functional green infrastructure (totalling 56.33ha) • Strategic flood defences and surface water attenuation • South West Link Road between Stoke Mandeville A4010 realignment and A418 Oxford Road single carriageway (safeguarded for future dualling)Junction improvements at A413 and A418 • Provision of a linear park • Buffer zone for HS2 and noise mitigation • Cycling and walking links
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council’s Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision for land for around 1,550 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity. b. Provision of five Gypsy and Traveller pitches c. Consideration must be given to the provision of a buffer and associated mitigation to reduce the impact on HS2 on the residents d. Provision of land, building and car parking for one primary school with a pre-school, funding to support for a children’s centre, upper school provision, grammar school provision, and expansion of existing special schools e. Existing vegetation should be retained where practicable, including woodlands and hedgerows. Existing public rights of way need to be retained and integrated into the development within safe and secure environments as part of a wider network of sustainable routes, to directly and appropriately link the site with surrounding communities and facilities. f. Proposals must retain and enhance existing habitats where practicable, including the creation of linkages with surrounding wildlife assets g. The development should be designed using a landscape-led approach including consideration of the long-distance views of the AONB h. Provision for public transport into the town and to surrounding areas i. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents. The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated j. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a plus climate change (subject to detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1

- k. Residual risk to the site should be investigated, for example overtopping or breach of the Aylesbury Vale Flood Alleviation Scheme storage areas, risk of overtopping or breach from the Aylesbury Arm (Grand Union Canal), impact of blockage of the A418 culvert on flood risk and deployment of the temporary barriers at the Willows
- l. Flood alleviation through measures identified in the SFRA Level 2 for investigation including through flood alleviation system benefitting the wider community and provision of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) will be required to reduce pressure on the existing drainage network
- m. Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity. A surface water drainage strategy should ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere
- n. A site drainage strategy should consider whether infiltration is feasible under all groundwater conditions and a site investigation carried out to identify likely groundwater levels. A potential detailed hydrogeological assessment may be required, subject to the outcomes of the site investigation. The site should be designed with consideration of potentially high groundwater levels, subject to the above. An assessment of modifications in the behaviour of the groundwater system underlying the site carried out due to the development and any proposed mitigation, together with assessment of off-site implications/impacts on groundwater flood risk, particularly to the communities of Walton Court, Southcourt and the Willows to the north. A drainage strategy should assess and detail the management of the above groundwater findings together with interactions with surface water and watercourses
- o. The impact of the blockage of the culvert under the railway should be modelled
- p. New major transport infrastructure such as Stoke Mandeville A4010 realignment, A413-A418 Link Road and HS2 should be designed so that the potential loss of floodplain and change of flow pathways resulting from their implementation do not have an adverse effect on flood risk. They should also be designed to ensure that they remain operational and safe for users in times of flood
- q. Provision and management of 50% green infrastructure to link to other new development areas and the wider countryside
- r. Provision of on-site health facilities and community buildings (including temporary buildings if necessary)
- s. Provision of and contribution to infrastructure as appropriate.

Implementation Approach

Development of the South west Aylesbury Strategic Site Allocation will come forward towards the latter end of the Plan period, and only once a Masterplan and Delivery SPD for the allocation has been prepared and adopted by the Council.

Proposals for development within the South west Aylesbury Strategic Site Allocation will be expected to demonstrate how they positively contribute to the achievement of the SPD and the Aylesbury Garden Town Principles as set out in Policy D1.

Aylesbury north of A41

- 4.50 'Aylesbury north of A41' is a strategic allocation on the eastern side of Aylesbury and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town.
- 4.51 The allocation comprises the following sites:
- Woodlands: allocated for 1,100 dwellings and 102,800 sqm of employment land alongside infrastructure. This site will form a key development area of employment and custom build housing to support the growth of the Garden Town
 - Manor Farm: allocated for 350 dwellings
 - Westonmead Farm: allocated for 60 dwellings
 - College Farm: allocated for 250 dwellings
- 4.52 Alongside the Woodlands site the allocation also includes sites at Weston Mead Farm, Manor Farm Broughton and College Farm. One of the reasons for merging the sites is to enable a more comprehensive approach to development in this area and to improve co-ordination and location of infrastructure and services. The site provides an opportunity for a sustainable extension integrated with, and supportive of, the existing community, bringing a wide range of benefits in a manner that makes the best use of existing resources and infrastructure. The site covers an extensive area of predominately flat greenfield land within agricultural land use sited to the east of Aylesbury. Although mainly agricultural, the eastern portion of the site adjoining College Road North is included within the Arla/Woodlands Enterprise Zone designation which also extends over an existing employment area centred on the Arla dairy.
- 4.53 The site is bounded to the south beyond residential dwellings located on the A41 Aston Clinton Road, and further along to the east, the A41 Aston Clinton bypass. To the north, the site is bounded by the Grand Union Canal which runs in an east-west direction. To the west is the eastern urban fringe of Aylesbury. To the east, the site is bounded by College Road North and the commercial developments along this road, most notably the Arla processing dairy, and College Farm. Residential properties located near to the site are situated along the A41 Aston Clinton Road, Weston Mead Farm to the south-west of the site and College Farm and The Red House to the east of the site off College Road North.
- 4.54 The tow path along the Grand Union Canal is a public right of way (PROW) which runs in an east-west direction. To the south of the site in a north-south direction is a PROW extending from Aston Clinton Aylesbury Road and College Road South up to College Road North. Beyond the site to the north is a further PROW extending in an east-west direction and to the west, extending from the A41 in a north-south direction, is a PROW across fields towards Broughton.
- 4.55 The site is within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3. Flood Zones 2 and 3 are located predominately to the west of the site. A network of drains conveys surface water run-off from the central area of the site to the north-west to Burcott Brook. The principal watercourse in the area is Bear Brook which lies to the west of the site flowing into Aylesbury. Burcott Brook also flows through the north-western part of the site and passes beneath the canal. Drayton Mead Brook is located to the east and drains the area in the vicinity of College Farm.
- 4.56 The Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal runs along the north of the site and has a number of listed and non-listed bridges along this stretch.

- 4.57 The site has a simple fabric of large, open fields bounded by hedgerows and ditches and drained by two watercourses: Bear Brook and Burcott Brook. Mature trees, including black poplar, are included in this fabric along with a small area of plantation woodland. The site also has long-distance view to the Chiltern Hills.
- 4.58 There are a number of existing overhead lines which run across the site as well as buried electrical cables within the A41 Woodlands roundabout. This roundabout also contains a medium pressure gas main; this is the only gas pipeline within the development site.
- 4.59 The area of the site known as Woodlands has a current planning application, 16/01040/AOP, as yet undetermined. It proposes up to 102,800 sqm of employment land, a strategic link road connecting with the ELR (N) and the A41 Aston Clinton Road, transport infrastructure, landscape, open space, flood mitigation and drainage, and up to 1,100 dwellings (including custom and self build units), and a 60-bed care home/extra care facility.
- 4.60 Development of this site will commence within the first five years of the Plan period, and will complete by the end of the Plan period.
- 4.61 Detail about phasing and implementation will be set out in the Masterplan SPD for the site.
- 4.62 The concept plan sets out the key components for the site: the strategic road links within the site are included identifying the area of flood mitigation. It sets out the location of the key land use elements of the site particularly employment; housing, schools and the green infrastructure.
- 4.63 The Masterplan SPD for the site will establish more detail with regard to the site layout and disposition of land uses. The development will adhere to the following place-shaping principles:
- Integration of new development with the existing build area of Aylesbury, and the surrounding countryside
 - Provision of employment to support the growth of the Garden Town
 - Provide sustainable connections to existing urban area and to the countryside beyond through provision of cycleways, footpaths and access to public transport
 - Take account of long-distance views across the site to the Chilterns AONB
 - Respond positively to the best characteristics of the surrounding area
 - Provision of green corridors linking development with surrounding communities.
- 4.64 Infrastructure will be provided alongside development – details to be determined through site discussions.
- 4.65 The vision and objectives for the site are set out below:
- A new garden community to the eastern edge of Aylesbury.
 - An opportunity to provide much-needed infrastructure and employment for the Garden Town.
 - This will provide a self-contained, employment-led, highly sustainable, community giving people who choose to live or work here easy access on foot or cycle to day-to-day facilities, all within an exceptional environment.
 - The development will also provide high-quality homes to diversify Aylesbury's housing offer, with custom/self build, organised around a strong local centre and set

within recreational space, sports facilities and green infrastructure networks which make up more than half of the development's total site area.

- It will deliver over 100,000sqm of high quality commercial development, a new sports village and a viable mix of around 1,660 private and affordable dwellings and associated physical and social infrastructure.
- Through delivery of the Eastern Link Road South (ELR(S)) the site will reduce congestion and improve the quality of the town centre environment.
- By developing landmark sporting facilities with associated athletes' accommodation, development will build upon the Paralympic sporting heritage of Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville.
- Green corridors for wildlife and people will link and extend the network of existing green infrastructure connecting and contributing to the Aylesbury linear park. The new community will capture the value of the Grand Union Canal by creating a new canal-side destination and bringing water into the design.

D-AGT3: Aylesbury north of A41

Site Ref:	AGT3
Site Name:	Aylesbury north of A41
Size (hectares)	Total site: 223.5ha Woodlands: 170ha Manor Farm: 29.1ha Westonmead Farm: 11.5ha College Farm: 12.9ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 102,800 sqm of employment land (B1 (25,600sqm), B2 (44,400 sqm) and B8 (32,800 sqm)) • Around 1,660 dwellings (including custom and self build units) • 60 residential extra care units (Use Class C2) • Mixed use local centre of around 4,000 sqm (Use Classes A1, A2, A5 and D1) • Strategic link road connecting with the ELR (N) and the A41 Aston Clinton Road • Strategic flood defences • Around 5,000 sqm hotel and conference centre (Use Class C1) • A local centre • Around 16ha for sports village and pitches • Athletes' accommodation • Around 2ha for a two-form entry primary school (D1) • Open space totalling 0.2ha play areas, 74.2ha informal open spaces, 16.7ha formal open spaces, 1.2ha allotments/community orchards, and 5.5ha woodland area • Landscape buffers and ecological mitigation • Flood mitigation and drainage including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) • Cycling and walking links
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision for land for around 1,660 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity. The development should be integrated with the existing build area of Aylesbury, and maintain the settings and individual identity of Aston Clinton, Broughton and the existing urban edge b. Provision of a distributor road between the ELR (N) and the A41 Aston Clinton Road and any related highway improvements c. Provision of land, building and car parking for one primary school with a pre-school, funding to support a children's centre, upper school provision, grammar school provision, and expansion of existing special schools d. Existing vegetation should be retained where practicable, including existing woodlands and hedgerows. Existing public rights of way need to be retained and integrated into the development within safe and secure environments as part of a wider network of sustainable routes, to directly and appropriately link the site with surrounding communities and facilities

- e. Proposals must retain and enhance existing habitats where practicable, including the creation of linkages with surrounding wildlife assets
- f. The development should be designed using a landscape-led approach including consideration of the long distance views of the AONB
- g. Provision for public transport into the town and to surrounding areas. Active travel links to be established to Broughton Lane, the Garden Community and the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal
- h. Town-wide flood defences through a flood alleviation system benefitting the wider community and provision of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be required to reduce pressure on the existing drainage network
- i. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents. The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated
- j. Reservoir flood risk to the site should be investigated, for example overtopping or breach of the Weston Turville Reservoir and also canal flood risk of overtopping or breach of the Aylesbury Arm (Grand Union Canal). The impact of blockage of the siphon under the canal or blockage of the culverted ordinary watercourse in the centre of the Woodlands part of the site should be considered. Mitigation for reservoir flood risk should be discussed with the Environment Agency
- k. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a plus climate change (subject to detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1
- l. New major transport infrastructure such as Eastern Link Road should be designed so that the potential loss of floodplain and change of flow pathways resulting from their implementation do not have an adverse effect on flood risk. They should also be designed to ensure that they remain operational and safe for users in times of flood
- m. Resilience measures will be required to ensure that development is safe if buildings are situated within Flood Zone 2
- n. A surface water drainage strategy should ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere
- o. Provision and management of 50% green infrastructure to link to other new development areas and the wider countryside. The site will also deliver a 16ha sports village and pitches
- p. Landscape buffers to Broughton, Eastern Link Road and ecological mitigation supporting Kingsbrook
- q. Development restricted to the southern half of the site and the built-up area of the former farm buildings
- r. Landscape buffers to existing development on the northern part of the site at Westonmead Farm to integrate into open space proposals included with the Woodlands development proposals
- s. Appropriate ecological mitigation
- t. Provision of on-site health facilities and community buildings (including temporary buildings if necessary)
- u. Provision of and contribution to infrastructure as appropriate

Implementation Approach Development of the Aylesbury north of the A41 strategic site allocation will come forward towards the latter end of the Plan period, in accordance with the

Masterplan and Delivery SPD for the allocation that has been prepared and adopted by the Council.

Proposals for development within this strategic site allocation will be expected to demonstrate how they positively contribute to the achievement of the SPD and the Aylesbury Garden Town Principles as set out in Policy D1.

Aylesbury south of A41

- 4.66 'Aylesbury south of A41' is a strategic allocation for Aylesbury and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town.
- 4.67 The allocation comprises the following sites:
- the first is the major development area known as Hampden Fields which allocates 3,000 homes and 46,800 sqm of employment. This site will form a vital urban extension to Aylesbury, integral to the town's Garden Town status
 - the second site known as 'Land adjacent to Aston Clinton Holiday Inn' will deliver 60 homes
 - the third known as 'Land at New Road Weston Turville' will deliver a further 51 homes.
- 4.68 One of the reasons for merging the sites is to enable a more comprehensive approach to development in this area, and to improve co-ordination and location of infrastructure and services. The site provides an opportunity for a sustainable extension integrated with, and supportive of, the existing community, bringing a wide range of benefits in a manner that makes the best use of existing resources and infrastructure. To the south of the site lies the village of Weston Turville, separated from the site by Weston Turville Golf Club and agricultural land. To the north are Bedgrove and Bedgrove Park, and to the east the A41 Aston Clinton Road. Immediately to the west is the Hampden Hall residential development and the south-western edge of the site runs parallel with Wendover Road abutting short sections of the road, housing and fields to the rear of housing.
- 4.69 Current land use is predominantly agricultural land (a mixture of Grade 3a and 3b quality), mostly arable fields but with some pasture fields in the northern part of the site. There is an historic field pattern that varies from east to west: fields are defined by hedgerows with occasional trees. The site also supports one small plantation in its southern part, one small copse of amenity woodland in its northern part and one field in its western part that comprises rough grassland, emerging woodland and a collection of fruit and other ornamental trees.
- 4.70 The site is dissected by the unclassified New Road which runs south-north between Weston Turville and the A41 Aston Clinton Road. There are two public footpaths within the site.
- 4.71 The watercourses of Bedgrove Brook and West End Ditch run through the site and Wendover Brook passes alongside the south-eastern site boundary. There are also a number of drainage ditches within the site.
- 4.72 The site is located outside of the settlement boundary of Aylesbury in open countryside. It has no other policy designations in the adopted Local Plan.
- 4.73 Currently this site is the subject of two planning applications:
- Hampden Fields outline planning application (under consideration) reference 16/00424/AOP
 - Land adjacent to Holiday Inn, planning application (under consideration) reference 16/03388/AOP.
- 4.74 The site will commence delivery within the end of the first five years, with the whole scheme being delivered by the end of the Plan period.

- 4.75 Careful consideration needs to be given to phasing and co-ordination of the delivery of the whole site through the Masterplan and Delivery SPD.
- 4.76 To ensure a comprehensive approach to development, consideration should be given to how the sites relate to each other and to ensure the sites take account of one another.
- 4.77 The concept plan sets out the key components for the site: the strategic road links within the site should be included, along with the location of the key land use elements of the site, particularly employment, housing, schools and the green infrastructure. The development will adhere to the following place-shaping principles:
- Integration of new development with the existing build area of Aylesbury, and maintain the settings and individual identity of Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville
 - Provide sustainable connections to existing urban area and to the countryside beyond through provision of cycleways, footpaths and access to public transport
 - Take account of long-distance views across the site to the Chilterns AONB
 - Respond positively to the best characteristics of the surrounding area
 - Provision of green corridors linking development with surrounding communities.
- 4.78 Infrastructure will be provided alongside development – details to be determined through site discussions.
- 4.79 The vision and objectives for the site are set out below:
- To create an urban extension to the town which is derived from the field pattern and mature landscape features on the site, the proximity to lower density housing in Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville, together with key long-distance views to the Chiltern Hills AONB
 - A mixed use development in a highly accessible location, that reinforces the town's infrastructure, and provides homes, community facilities and recreational and employment opportunities for its future residents and neighbours
 - Creating a high quality built and semi-natural environment, providing high quality housing for both the private and social sectors as well as provision of new community facilities including schools and a new local centre which will include a range of facilities for future residents and workers
 - Proposed employment development is provided in a strategic location which should be attractive to occupiers who seek an accessible, high quality location
 - The scheme will also enable the delivery of the Southern Link Road and provides space for a new park & ride off the Aston Clinton Road (A41), relieving traffic pressures in the town centre and enabling easier vehicular movement
 - The site will be opened up to a range of new parks and other open spaces, that have been carefully designed to respect the identity and character of Weston Turville
 - Town wide flood mitigation measures are proposed in addition to a sustainable urban drainage system to meet the needs of the development.

D-AGT4 Aylesbury south of A41

Site Ref:	AGT4
Site Name:	Aylesbury south of A41
Size (hectares)	Total site area: 225.5ha Hampden Fields: 218ha Land adjacent to Aston Clinton Holiday Inn: 5.79ha Land at New Road, Weston Turville: 1.7ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 3,111 dwellings • 60-bed care home/extra care facility • Land for a park & ride site • 6.90ha of employment land • Two primary schools • A mixed use local centre • Multi-functional green infrastructure (totalling 108.43ha) • Strategic flood defences and surface water attenuation • A dualled Southern Link Road between A413 Wendover Road and A41 Aston Clinton Road and a strategic link road between the Southern Link Road and Marroway • Cycling and walking links
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of land for around 3,111 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity. The development should be integrated with the existing build area of Aylesbury, and maintain the settings and individual identity of Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville b. Provision of land, building and car parking for two primary schools each with a pre-school, a children's centre on one of the primary school sites and funding to support upper school provision, grammar school provision, and expansion of existing special schools c. Existing vegetation should be retained where practicable, including existing woodlands and hedgerows. Existing public rights of way need to be retained and integrated into the development within safe and secure environments as part of a wider network of sustainable routes, to directly and appropriately link the site with surrounding communities and facilities d. Proposals must retain and enhance existing habitats where practicable, including the creation of linkages with surrounding wildlife assets. This includes the wildlife area within Bedgrove Park e. The development should be designed using a landscape-led approach including consideration of the long-distance views of the AONB f. Provision for public transport into the town and to surrounding areas g. Town-wide flood defences through a flood alleviation system benefitting the wider community and provision of sustainable drainage system (SuDS) will be required to reduce pressure on the existing drainage network h. Provision and management of 50% green infrastructure to link to other

- new development areas and the wider countryside
- i. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents. The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated
 - j. Residual risk to the site and reservoir flood risk to the site should be investigated, for example overtopping or breach of the Weston Turville Reservoir
 - k. The impact of blockage of structure(s) under Aston Clinton Road and on Bedgrove Road should also be modelled
 - l. Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity. A surface water drainage strategy should ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere
 - m. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a plus climate change (subject to detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1
 - n. New major transport infrastructure such as Eastern Link Road should be designed so that the potential loss of floodplain and change of flow pathways resulting from their implementation do not have an adverse effect on flood risk. They should also be designed to ensure that they remain operational and safe for users in times of flood
 - o. Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes, with development located outside of surface water flood risk areas
 - p. Provision of on-site health facilities and community buildings (including temporary buildings if necessary)
 - q. Provision of and contribution to infrastructure as appropriate.

Implementation Approach

Development at Hampden Fields and Land adjacent to the Holiday Inn should be brought forward in accordance with their outline planning consent and the Aylesbury Garden Town principles in Policy D1. A Masterplan SPD for the whole site allocation should be prepared and adopted to inform the submission of design codes and reserved matters for these sites, and prior to the submission of any planning applications for the New Road site.

Design should take account of the over-arching Garden Town principles (policy D1) and details within the Garden Town Design SPD to ensure a comprehensive development. The SPD for the overall site allocation here should be prepared to ensure a comprehensively planned development as well as demonstrating how the allocation links to and contributes to the delivery of the AGT overall.

Berryfields, Aylesbury

- 4.80 'Berryfields, Aylesbury' is identified as a strategic allocation for Aylesbury, and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town.
- 4.81 The Berryfields Major Development Area (MDA) is situated to the north-west of Aylesbury. The development includes 3,254 new dwellings, employment, a district centre, schools, transport infrastructure and open space and community facilities. The site is situated off the A41 to the north-west of Aylesbury.
- 4.82 The site was allocated within the 2004 Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) which allocated greenfield land beyond the existing urban edge of Aylesbury to accommodate growth of the town. The policy set out a sustainable strategy for the Berryfields site which identified development of a balanced, vibrant community, grouping a mix of uses together and providing for most daily needs in the locality.
- 4.83 Over half the housing on the site has been completed and reserved matters have been granted for the remainder of the housing at Berryfields. There are approximately 1,180 dwellings still to come forward. While some of the other planned requirements, including education, community and transport, are in place there has been limited progress on providing the local centre and employment areas.
- 4.84 The site comprises agricultural land. There are hedgerows and trees at some of the field boundaries. The site includes a number of dispersed farmhouses and agricultural buildings. A network of water courses divide the site, principally the River Thame that flows along the southern edge of the site. Three footpaths cross the site east of Berryfields Lane and run north towards Hardwick. A slight ridge exists towards the northern end of the site and there is a rise in ground levels from Berryfields Farm and Berryfields house. There are also two specific areas of archaeological interest to be retained.
- 4.85 2,070 dwellings and the western link road have already been developed, with 1,184 dwellings still to be built. There are extant planning permissions (outline consent under 03/02386/AOP, 07/03447/AOP and subsequent reserved matters) for the following:
- provision of land, buildings and car parking sufficient for a district centre (including 1,400 sqm net food retail floorspace), and other community/leisure facilities on a site as defined on the Policies Map
 - provision of land (approximately 9ha) for employment purposes on two sites as defined on the Policies Map
- 4.86 Provision of the district centre and employment allocation set out above should be within the first five years of the Plan period and be in accordance with the Masterplan for the site which will establish the concept plan outlining proposals for both employment allocation and district centre.
- 4.87 The vision and objectives for the site are outlined below:
- To create an efficient, attractive and sustainable environment in which to live, work and play, taking the form of development comprising distinctive linked / coalesced 'urban villages' reflecting local distinctiveness (with regards to pattern and form of development and building form and materials), set within a unifying planning and design framework.

- To achieve a diversity of layout and design which reflects the range of 'local distinctiveness'
- To recognise the proximity to the new railway station
- To retain the existing employment allocation providing opportunities to work locally and thus reduce the need to travel. Community facilities to come forward within a neighbourhood centre to provide local facilities to create a sustainable garden community.

4.88 Promoting healthy, vibrant communities remains a key element of planning policy and in this context the original sustainable concepts behind the allocation of Berryfields remain relevant through to the time the development is completed. It is proposed therefore to retain the original employment and local centre allocations in this Local Plan and remain committed to the original Berryfields concept.

D-AGT5: Berryfields

Site Ref:	AGT5
Site Name:	Berryfields
Size (hectares)	Total site area: 195ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	9ha of employment and a district centre
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">employment allocation of 9ha split on two sites with a range of employment uses and space for start-up units in high quality buildings. The proposed development will add variety to the portfolio of employment in Aylesburythe district centre includes the secondary school, combined school, recreational facilities, shopping, key services and community facilities, some limited employment opportunities and residential developmentthe district centre is located at the intersection of the principal road, pedestrian and cycle networks, and consideration should be given to design to ensure public transport and sustainable travel choices are maximisedincorporated within the district centre will be a series of related open spaces to contribute to the sense of place and quality of the centreadequate parking should be provided. Parking should be located close to the Western Link Road.
Implementation Approach	Design proposals for both the employment allocation and district centre should be in line with the Berryfields MDA Development Brief (2004) and design codes and the Aylesbury Garden Town development principles within policy D1 and subsequent supporting Garden Town Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

Kingsbrook, Aylesbury

- 4.89 'Kingsbrook, Aylesbury' is a major urban extension on the eastern side of Aylesbury on 306ha of land between Bierton and the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal.
- 4.90 Outline planning permission was granted in December 2013 for 2,450 homes, 10ha employment land, a neighbourhood centre, two primary schools, construction of the Eastern Link Road (northern part) and the Stocklake Link Road (rural section), green infrastructure including a major wetland park, associated community facilities and support infrastructure including an expanded electricity substation and flood defences. Land to the north of the development is also reserved as a site for a new secondary school should it be required as Aylesbury grows.
- 4.91 The housing development is based on the principle of creating three villages within the overall framework of the site. Reserved matters have been approved for two of the three villages, Oakfield Village and Orchard Green, comprising 1,353 dwellings of which some 300 are complete or under construction. Key elements of transport infrastructure including the Eastern Link Road and Stocklake Link are also well under way.
- 4.92 The site is located immediately to the east of Aylesbury. It extends from Oakfield Road in the west and to the south runs to the Grand Union Canal with a small area of the site extending to the other side of the canal towards Broughton. To the east is Aylesbury Golf Centre (driving range) as well as open countryside/agricultural fields. To the north lies the village of Bierton with the application site joining the A418 to the north-east. There is an existing substation towards the centre of the site which is excluded from the red edge but a series of overhead power cables that are within the site. The land prior to development was almost entirely in arable cultivation. Ground levels on-site vary from approximately 87m above ordnance datum (AOD) to 78m AOD.
- 4.93 Account should be taken of potential landscape visual impact from the Chilterns AONB; Ellesborough-Ivinghoe-Mentmore and Weedon were investigated in the process of considering the planning application.
- 4.94 There are settlements with different identities and settings to be reinforced – Bierton, Broughton, Hulcott and the edge of Aylesbury.
- 4.95 Significant remodelling of the flood zones on the site took place with mitigation measures as part of the outline planning application. The majority of the site is drained via Broughton Brook, an EA designated 'main river' watercourse which is a tributary of Stocklake Brook. The Stocklake Brook watercourse drains the northern catchment area of the site as well as the Broughton Brook catchment. The area immediately to the south of the Grand Union Canal (GUC) is part of the Aylesbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (AFAS) and drains into Bear Brook, which runs south of the site adjacent to the southern side of the GUC.
- 4.96 The site has numerous flora and fauna and a comprehensive scheme of ecological enhancements was required as part of the planning permission.
- 4.97 The only visible heritage assets within the site are the hedges, routeways, the faint traces of ridge and furrow in some fields and the canal and associated bridges. The majority of hedges and historic routeways across the site would be retained within the development. The Grand Union Canal runs to the south of the main areas of development and has a number of listed and non-listed bridges along this stretch.

4.98 As with the Berryfields site allocation, there is relatively little development left to require a formal policy allocation. However, with the design code, reserved matters for the remaining 'village' at Kingsbrook and the employment site yet to be submitted, the need to reserve the land for education, playing fields and allotments, an allocation in this plan will ensure that when that development comes forward, it does so in accordance with the outline planning permission and the policies in place at that time recognising Aylesbury's Garden Town status.

4.99 Outline planning permission (10/02649/AOP) was granted in December 2013. Two villages have since had approved reserve matters. The site is being delivered according to the following phasing:

Phase 1: Years one to seven: the first phase of development would see the commencement of construction of approximately 770 residential units within the western village. Access to phase 1 will primarily be achieved through delivery of the initial section of the Stockdale Link Road, from its junction with Douglas Road and Oakfield Road. The first phase will see construction of the Stockdale Link Road to the east, beyond its junction with Broughton Lane, thus the proposed junction arrangements for Broughton Lane and Burcott Lane are also to be delivered in phase 1. Also in Phase 1 the remainder of the Stocklake Link Road and the northern section of the Eastern Link Road, from its junction with the A418 to the Stocklake Link Road, will be constructed.

Phase 2: Years two to 10: the second phase of development would provide an additional 780 dwellings, the first primary school and, should it be required, the secondary school site.

Phase 3: Years five to 16: the final broad phase would deliver the final 900 residential units, the second primary school and the 10ha of employment land.

4.100 The concept plan sets out the key components for the site: the strategic road links within the site are included, along with the location of the key land use elements of the site particularly employment, housing, schools, flood mitigation, the wetland park and the green infrastructure.

4.101 The vision and objectives of the site are outlined below:

- The delivery of a well-designed, connected, safe and integrated urban extension to Aylesbury that will deliver essential market and affordable homes, jobs, community facilities and infrastructure of town- and county-wide significance whilst protecting and enhancing environmental assets. The delivery of infrastructure of town and county-wide importance underpins this vision, namely:
 - a. Construction of a substantial part of the Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, the complete construction of the rural section of the Stocklake Link Road and with contributions to secure the complete length of the Eastern Link Road (i.e. land from the Barratt-funded section adjacent to the Grand Union Canal to the A41 (Aston Clinton Road Major Development Area)
 - b. Traffic calming scheme to the village of Bierton to improve road safety and the quality of life for the existing residents
 - c. Improvements to the Aylesbury Town Centre flood alleviation scheme
 - d. Green infrastructure comprising 67% of the gross site area. The hierarchy and integrated network of green spaces will incorporate recreation and sports facilities, public open space, play areas, allotments and orchards, sustainable drainage, nature reserves and ecological enhancement areas, and

education/interpretation facilities as well as attractive pedestrian and cycle routes to the town centre

- e. New education facilities, including a new site for a new secondary school and two new primary schools.

D-AGT6: Kingsbrook

Site Ref: AGT6

Site Name: Kingsbrook

Size (hectares) 306.6ha

Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)

- 2,450 homes
- 10ha employment
- Two primary schools
- A neighbourhood centre
- Construction of the northern section of the Eastern Link Road and the rural section of the Stocklake Link road
- Green Infrastructure
- A major wetland park
- Flood alleviation scheme/sustainable drainage
- Community facilities
- Play areas
- Land for a secondary school, sports pitches and allotments
- Town-wide flood defences
- Health facilities
- Public art
- Improvements to the canal towpath

Site-specific Requirements

Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:

- a. Provision for land for around 2,450 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity
- b. Provision of land, building and car parking for two primary schools and land for a secondary school
- c. Existing vegetation should be retained where practicable, including existing woodlands and hedgerows. Existing public rights of way need to be retained and integrated into the development within safe and secure environments as part of a wider network of sustainable routes, to directly and appropriately link the site with surrounding communities and facilities
- d. Proposals must retain and enhance existing habitats where practicable, including the creation of linkages with surrounding wildlife assets. A new wetland park should be provided
- e. The development should be designed using a landscape-led approach including consideration of the long-distance views of the AONB
- f. Provision for public transport into the town and to surrounding areas
- g. A flood alleviation system benefitting the wider community and provision of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be required to reduce pressure on the existing drainage network
- h. Provision and management of 50% green infrastructure to link to other new development areas and the wider countryside
- i. Provision of on-site health facilities and community buildings (including temporary buildings if necessary)
- j. Provision of and contribution to infrastructure as appropriate.

Implementation Approach

Two villages already have reserved matters approved planning applications. Construction is already under way to develop the site in accordance with the planning permissions, the approved development brief and principles within Policy D1 and any subsequent supporting Garden Town.

A concept masterplan/SPD for the third village should be prepared and adopted to inform the submission of a design code and reserve matters for that village. Design should take account of the over-arching Garden Town principles (policy D1) and details within the Garden Town Design SPD to ensure comprehensive development. The SPD should demonstrate how the village links to and contributes to the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town as a whole.

Ardenham Lane, Aylesbury

4.102 The site is located approximately 400m north of Aylesbury town centre adjacent to the Royal Bucks Hospital. It is bounded by Ardenham Lane to the west, Oxford Road to the south, Bicester Road to the north and east. Immediately adjacent to the site are three roundabouts that provide access into the town centre from Oxford Road (A418), Bicester Road (A41) and Buckingham Road (A413). The site therefore is in a prominent location and should be designed with this in mind. The site comprises a number of uses including the Job centre+ located at Sunley House and other employment uses located at Ashton Court.

D-AYL032 Ardenham Lane, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL032
Size (hectares)	2ha
Allocated for	70 dwellings
Source	Change of use (COU) – prior approval not required in respect of transport and highway impact, contamination risk and flooding for the proposed change of use of a building from office to residential use comprising the creation of four one-bed flats, three studios and two one-bed houses (nine dwellings in total).
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-15 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council’s Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for approximately 70 flats based on Sunley House and although much of the site could be developed though permitted development rights and/or prior approval the densities should take account of the adjacent settlement character. The site should make provisions for a comprehensive scheme including those elements of the site that are currently being marketed. Sunley House is currently occupied by the Job Centre + on the ground floor and office accommodation above. This office building could be converted into residential under prior approval/change of use and could yield approximately 40 flats. Ashton Court could also be converted into residential under Prior Approval/Change of Use and could yield approximately 16 flats This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site allocation should be accessed via Ardenham Lane and be accompanied by a design and access statement. This will need to identify both service and refuse vehicle access to the site Any proposal will be designed in a way that conserves heritage assets therefore, only part of the site fronting Oxford Road is suitable for development to avoid adverse impacts to heritage assets

- e. Due to the importance of open space in flatted developments, a contribution towards the provision of open space and sports and recreational facilities in accordance with the Open Space, Sports needs assessment 2017 will be required
- f. An assessment of sewerage capacity and/or water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water.

Land at Thame Road, Aylesbury

4.103 The site is located to the south of the railway line and Aylesbury Station. It is bounded by Thames Road to the south, California Brook and a footpath to the east, playing field to the west and the Aylesbury College to the north. The site comprises underutilised land and is well screened from Thame Road by tall hedgerows.

D-AYL073 Land at Thame Road/Leach Road, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL073
Size (hectares)	0.6ha
Allocated for	18 dwellings
Source	Call for sites
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-5 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for around 18 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site allocation should be accessed via Thame Road and be accompanied by a design and access statement A transport assessment will be required to assess the developments impact on the highway and, where necessary, public transportation network Provide a footway and potentially a widened Thame Road (the access to the site) would need sufficient off-street parking so that parking was not encouraged on-street. Parking restrictions down Leach Road may have to be introduced as it is narrow due to displaced parking An arboricultural and ecological survey will be required to survey the age, health and potential growth of a tree/trees in the designated area as well as wildlife habitat potential to inform the development. The existing trees and hedgerows should be retained to maximise wildlife habitat potential and biodiversity net gain There is an identified water supply constraint which is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Thames Water to serve the level of growth on the site. An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water SFRA Level 2 - a site-specific flood risk assessment and surface water drainage strategy is required. Detailed modelling is required to confirm the extent of flood zones and climate change extents with climate change modelling undertaken using the relevant allowances for the type of development and level of risk. Residual risk to the site should be investigated. Development proposals must comply with the SFRA Level 2 'Guidance for site design and making development safe' criteria.

PO Sorting Office, Cambridge Street, Aylesbury

4.104 The site is located adjacent to the town centre and is bounded by the Upper Hundreds Way dual carriageway to the south, Cambridge Street to the west, housing to the north and car parking and a B&Q superstore to the east. The site comprises of a large two-storey 1960s office block that houses the Royal Mail and its associated car parking. The site also comprises a larger car park with a single unit site that is ancillary to the main Royal Mail building.

D-AYL052 PO Sorting Office, Cambridge Street, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL052
Size (hectares)	0.92ha
Allocated for	23 dwellings 5,000 sqm comparison retail
Source	HELAA – Suitable/Development Brief
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 6-15 years of VALP adoption.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council’s Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The site will make provision for around 23 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character. b. Any proposals will need to reflect the adjacent building heights and be appropriate in scale. All building should reflect a contemporary design to accord with the local distinctiveness c. The development shall be based on a design brief to be prepared for the site which will need to reflect the local distinctiveness of its specific locality within the district. The design brief will need to ensure that the proposed development meets the required design principles based on recognised good practice d. The development will need to provide for a mixed use scheme consisting primarily of retail with an element of residential e. This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town f. The site allocation should be accessed via Upper Hundreds Way and be accompanied by a design and access statement g. The Upper Hundreds Way roundabout will need to be modified to include a fourth arm to provide sufficient access to the site. The scheme design will need to be agreed by the highways authority and constructed at pre-commencement stages h. A transport statement will be required to assess the development’s impact on the highway and, where necessary, public transportation network i. Any proposals on this site should provide for an alternative ‘at-grade’ crossing adjacent to the existing subway between Britannia Street and Cambridge Street to provide a secondary access. This will allow

possible redevelopment of the land to the north-west of the Wilkinson's store on the adjacent side of Cambridge Street.

- j. The existing pedestrian crossing to the north of Hampden House should be relocated to the north-west to be directly opposite Railway Street.
- k. Water supply constraint likely to require infrastructure upgrade by Thames Water to serve the level of growth on the site. An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water
- l. The site has had previous activity that may suffer from contamination. The Council will expect an investigation to be undertaken and, if necessary, the submission of decontamination proposals with any planning application.

Land at junction of Buckingham Street and New Street, Aylesbury

4.105 The site is located approximately 400m north of Aylesbury town centre adjacent to the Royal Bucks Hospital. It is bounded by Buckingham Street to the south, New Street to the north and Fairfax House (VAHT) to the east. Immediately adjacent to the site are three roundabouts that provide access into the town centre from Oxford Road (A418), Bicester Road (A41) and Buckingham Road (A413), the site therefore is in a prominent location and should be designed with this in mind. The residential block of flats on the Oxford Road and Buckingham Street should be considered as a reference point for any proposal. The site comprises four shops with A3 uses, one being vacant that face Buckingham Street with parking and service yards at the rear.

D-AYL059 Land at junction of Buckingham Street and New Street, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL059
Size (hectares)	0.49ha
Allocated for	14 dwellings
Source	HELAA - Suitable
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 6-15 years of VALP adoption. The site has multiple occupants
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for around 14 dwellings notwithstanding any permitted development rights, at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character including the listed buildings nearby including Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital and Ardenham House. The western section of the site is the only part suitable for redevelopment. Fairfax House is not being allocated for housing as it is currently well occupied, housing the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT). This is a prominent entrance to the town and any proposal should be designed to accord with the design SPD and express an exemplary design This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The proximity of the site in the town centre means it can afford flexibility over existing parking standards and therefore any scheme on this site should be car free. The scheme would need to be supported by a design and access statement to demonstrate how well the site will provide for servicing and delivery arrangements A parking survey would need to be provided to ensure there would not be displaced parking The existing trees and hedgerows [and/or anything else] should be retained A heritage statement will need to be submitted as part of any planning application in order to fully assess the impact of the

- proposed development on the listed building and its setting
- g. An assessment of sewerage capacity and/or water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water
 - h. A sufficient surface water management plan to be provided.

Oaklands Hostel, Aylesbury

4.106 The site is located off Bicester Road approximately 400m north-east of the town centre. The site is bounded by Bicester Road to the north, residential to the east, Stocklake Park School to the south and The Weavers public house to the west. The site is vacant and was formerly a day centre.

D-AYL077 Oaklands Hostel, 3 Bierton Rd, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL077
Size (hectares)	0.44ha
Allocated for	13 dwellings
Source	HELAA suitable
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-5 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for around 13 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site allocation should be accessed via Bicester Road and be accompanied by a design and access statement Any scheme on this site should retain parking facilities and adhere to local parking standards An identified water supply constraint is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Thames Water to serve the level of growth on the site. An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water

Hampden House, Aylesbury

4.107 Hampden House is located in a prominent position on the edge of the town centre commanding a corner bounded by the A418 and two roundabouts, therefore any proposed development should be designed with this in mind. The A418 and A41 act as the inner ring road in this location. The High Street defines the site's southern boundary and Railway Street the western boundary and main access. The site comprises a 1960s four-storey office building with the QD department store on the ground floor and undercroft car parking.

D-AYL063 Hampden House, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL063
Size (hectares)	0.46ha
Allocated for	112 dwellings
Source	Application for conversion from B1 offices to 112 flats was withdrawn 14/02032/COUOR
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-5 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will comply with a development brief that will steer proposals to make provision for around 112 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character. The site should also retain its retail (A3) provision on the ground floor The development shall be based on a design brief to be prepared for the site which will need to reflect the local distinctiveness of its specific locality on this important edge-of-town centre site. The design brief will need to ensure that the proposed development meets the required design principles based on recognised good practice This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site allocation should be accessed via Railway Street and be accompanied by a design and access statement which will need to demonstrate impact of proposal in relation to parking on the existing town centre provisions Car parking will need to be retained to accommodate both residential and retail elements of any proposed development Opportunities to incorporate a green roof should be explored as part of a sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) strategy An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water.

Land north of Manor Hospital, Aylesbury

4.108 The site lies adjacent to a site that has consent for 50 residential units and forms the eastern side of a previous outline planning application for 83 residential units. It is bounded by Berton Road to the north, the consented application site for 50 to the west, HMP Aylesbury to the east and The Whiteleaf Centre to the south. The site encompasses the NHS Sue Nicholls Centre with associated car parking and scrub land.

D-AYL068 Land north of Manor Hospital, Berton Rd, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL068
Size (hectares)	1.7ha
Allocated for	39 dwellings
Source	16/02851/ADP – Granted - Approval of reserved matters of pursuant to outline permission 14/02689/AOP relating to appearance, layout and scale for the demolition of the existing housing at 1-6 Manor House Close (6 dwellings) and the construction of 50 (net 44) new dwellings together with associated amenity space, car parking, landscaping and the upgrading of the existing access point on to Berton Road.
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 6-15 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for 39 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character. Part of the site should be retained for hospital services. This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site allocation should be accessed via Berton Road and be accompanied by a design and access statement Any scheme would need to retain car parking and promote cycle route opportunities to the town centre The Old Manor House wall fronting Berton Road should be retained to preserve local distinctiveness and provide visual enclosure An identified water supply constraint is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Thames Water to serve the level of growth on the site. An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water.

Rabans Lane, Aylesbury

4.109 The site comprises a factory and ancillary office building on the edge of an industrial area of western Aylesbury and adjacent to the railway line between Aylesbury and Aylesbury Vale Parkway and bounded by woodland. Land on the opposite site of the railway line has been developed since the late 1970s for suburban housing. The site is in close proximity to the A41 Bicester Road, the employment areas of Rabans Lane Industrial Area and Broadfields Retail Park and Fairford Leys housing area.

D-AYL115 Rabans Lane, Aylesbury	
Site reference	AYL115
Size (hectares)	6.6ha
Allocated for	200 dwellings
Source	HELAA suitable
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-5 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for around 200 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent residential character north of the railway line. This site falls within the Aylesbury Garden Town designation and as such any proposals will need to accord with the design and delivery principles identified in Policy D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town The site should be accessed via Rabans Lane with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages to the existing gemstone routes through the site; alternative access options to be explored are Rabans Lane and Rabans Close The development must provide any transport improvements required including the provision of a footpath along the length of Rabans Lane A transport assessment will be required to assess the development's impact on the highway and where necessary public transportation network Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +-40% allowance for rainfall intensity. A surface water drainage strategy should ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere. An identified water supply constraint is likely to require infrastructure upgrade by Thames Water to serve the level of growth on the site. An assessment of sewerage capacity will be required in consultation with Thames Water Retain buffer of vegetation including enhancement of the deciduous woodland which is a priority habitat next to railway and to the adjacent TW site as well as providing a buffer between the adjoining employment areas and housing provision.

Salden Chase

- 4.110 In determining the housing figure for Aylesbury Vale, a crucial aspect of the Local Plan is to decide the strategic locations where development should be allocated. At the issues and options stages of the Local Plan two strategic allocations were considered on the edge of Milton Keynes/Bletchley.
- 4.111 The Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) v4 (January 2017) confirmed that the two strategic allocations known as Salden Chase (NLV001) and Shenley Park (WHA001) were both suitable or part suitable for housing and or economic development.
- 4.112 As a result of further assessment and taking account of the overall housing requirement for Aylesbury Vale, Salden Chase has been identified as the most appropriate strategic allocation to come forward at this stage.
- 4.113 The site currently comprises agricultural land. There are hedgerows and trees at some of the field boundaries. There are agricultural buildings on the site. There are adjoining buildings that are in residential use.
- 4.114 An oil pipeline crosses the middle of the site in a north-south direction; a 10m wide exclusion zone for the pipeline is incorporated into the layout of the proposed development. There are high voltage overhead power lines crossing the north-western part of the site; the power lines will be placed underground as part of the proposed development. An intermediate pressure gas main passes through the eastern part of the site in a north south direction; the gas main will fall within land set aside for the grid road reserve.
- 4.115 The site is crossed by an existing public right of way in the form of a bridleway.
- 4.116 The topography of the site includes a ridge towards the centre of the site with a gradual slope descending towards Newton Longville.
- 4.117 There is a resolution to approve an outline planning application for the site – 15/00314/AOP – with all matters reserved except for access for a mixed-use sustainable urban extension on land to the south west of Milton Keynes to provide up to 1,855 mixed tenure dwellings; an employment area (B1); a neighbourhood centre including retail (A1/A2/A3/A4/A5), community (D1/D2) and residential (C3) uses; a primary and a secondary school; a grid road reserve; multi-functional green space; a sustainable drainage system; and associated access, drainage and public transport infrastructure.
- 4.118 A masterplan supplementary planning document (SPD) for the site will establish the site layout and disposition of land uses. The development will adhere to the following place shaping principles:
- provide a long term defensible boundary to the western edge of Milton Keynes recognise that, whilst being located totally within Aylesbury Vale, the development will use some facilities in Milton Keynes, given its proximity. Milton Keynes also provides access point into the site
 - ensure the long term retention of Newton Longville and Whaddon as separate communities with unique identities, and protect them and other neighbouring communities, (including Mursley and Far Bletchley), from direct and indirect negative impacts generated by the development
 - be deliverable so as to maximise speed of delivery, enable faster delivery of key infrastructure whilst minimising disruption and delay

- provide a sustainable and strategic approach to flood mitigation and urban drainage, linked to multi-functional green infrastructure, to control surface water flows and flooding, (as set out in the Milton Keynes Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study)
- ensure green infrastructure and green open space is provided in the form of a liner park to the south of the site to minimise impacts to Howe Park Wood site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and that there are adequate green links to neighbouring Tattenhoe Park
- infrastructure will need to be provided and phased alongside development, the details of which will be agreed through developer contribution agreements.

4.119 The vision and objectives for this site are:

- To create an exemplar development, of regional significance, which will be a great place to live, work and grow. Built to a high sustainable design and construction standards, the development will provide a balanced mix of facilities to ensure that it meets the needs and aspirations of new and existing residents
- To create a sustainable community providing a mix of uses to ensure that housing development is accompanied by employment, infrastructure services and facilities
- To ensure that high quality walking, cycling and public transport links to and from Newton Longville, Bletchley and the city of Milton Keynes are an integral part of the development
- To take account of the delivery of EWR instead and not compromising – safeguarding against noise etc.
- To ensure that infrastructure, facilities and services are delivered in the right place at the right time, for example, provision of new education facilities, and well planned and laid out local centres to establish the heart of new communities.
- To ensure that the deciduous woodland priority habitat the north of the site is retained and that green infrastructure is an integral part of the design
- To ensure that strong place shaping, community safety and sustainability principles are embedded throughout, creating a socially diverse place with a mix of dwelling types and tenure mix including at least 30% affordable housing ‘pepper-potted’ throughout the site, and
- To be designed in a way to ensure that the new development relates to the wider site context including the relationship with Milton Keynes and Newton Longville and other surrounding villages.

D-NLV001 Salden Chase	
Site Ref:	NLV001
Site Name:	Salden Chase, Whaddon Road, Newton Longville
Size (hectares)	143.9ha
Allocated for (key development and land use requirements)	Resolution to approve - 15/00314/AOP – Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for a mixed-use sustainable urban extension on land to the south west of Milton Keynes to provide up to 1,855 mixed tenure dwellings; an employment area (B1); a neighbourhood centre including retail (A1/A2/A3/A4/A5), community (D1/D2) and residential (C3) uses; a primary and a secondary school; a grid road reserve; multi-functional green space; a sustainable drainage system; and associated access, drainage and public transport infrastructure.

Access into the site is a matter for consideration in this application and as submitted, there are three points of access proposed from the development onto the local highway network at the following locations: Whaddon Road, Buckingham Road and A421 Standing Way, all of which are within the control of Milton Keynes Council.

Highway Improvements by Condition(s)

- Buckingham Road Access signalised gyratory including Stage 1 Road Safety Audit
- Whaddon Road Access speed limit reduction and further detailed design

Highway Improvements by s106 agreement(s)

- A421 Standing Way left in only junction and further detailed design
- Signalisation of the priority junctions of the A421/ Warren Road and A421/Shucklow Hill/Little Horwood Road.
- In order to mitigate the potential impact in Whaddon a financial contribution is required towards road safety improvements on Coddimoor Lane and Stock Lane
- Newton Longville Traffic Calming Proposals. Currently this is an indicative scheme which may include enhanced gateway features on all roads leading into the village and raised junction tables and signing/lining

Internal Road Layout

- A new network of primary streets will form the principal circulation route for all vehicular traffic including a bus route. The route will connect with the existing highway network at the three access points. Plans should show that the primary street is to be at least 7.3m wide, with a footway/cycleway of 3m wide and will need to consider drop off provision, widened footways, crossing points, road signage and lining to provide for a serviced school site

Grid Road

- Whilst the site only requires a single carriageway road for access, a dual carriageway could be provided in the future. The land for the grid road will need to be adequately secured in the S106 Agreement for the future extension of Snelshall Street (V1) so that AVDC/BCC can develop and implement a scheme in the future

Public Transport Provision

- The enhancement of the existing bus service or provision of a new service to operate between the proposed development and Central Milton Keynes (CMK) via the existing rail station will be required and included within the Framework Travel Plan.

	<p>Public rights of way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of improvements to the surfacing of the local footpaths will be required within the site and be completed as part of the development and a financial contribution is to be secured as part of the Section 106 Agreement for those routes outside of the site. The improvements within the site include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ensure a Redway compliant Grid Road reserve to link with existing PROW ○ upgrade of footpath and resurface between Weasel Lane and the railway underpass; route to be dedicated as a public bridleway ○ resurface byway in Newton Longville Parish and in Mursley Parish between Dagnall House Buckingham Road to the adopted highway
<p>Site-specific Requirements</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Air Quality</p> <p>Noise Contamination</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Ecology Biodiversity</p> <p>Trees and hedgerows</p>	<p>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment In terms of the impact on the landscape, site proposals should use land efficiently and create a well-defined boundary between the settlement and countryside.</p> <p>Site proposals will be required to respect and complement the physical characteristics of the site and its surroundings, the building tradition of the locality, and the scale and context of the setting, the natural qualities and features of the area and the effect of the development on important public views and skylines.</p> <p>An air quality assessment will be required and its content and conclusions accepted prior to construction phases.</p> <p>An Environmental Management plan will be required via a condition and with detailed consideration of the layout at reserved matters stage. A condition can be attached in case any contamination is found.</p> <p>The significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting will need to be considered. When considering the impact on the significance, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The protection and enhancement of sites of archaeological importance needs to be considered.</p> <p>Proposals will need to quantify ecological impacts in a meaningful way to enable pre and post development comparison, sufficient to objectively assess net losses or gains and to provide for multifunctional habitats.</p> <p>An aboricultural survey has been undertaken for the site and has identified that trees of A and B category are to be retained and incorporated into any development. New structural and screen tree planting, hedge and shrub planting will be required as part of the future detailed scheme.</p>

Place-Making Framework	The site will comprise residential development; employment area; neighbourhood centre; land for a three form entry primary school with early years provision and four form entry secondary school; green infrastructure and associated drainage, highway and transport infrastructure and the proposed distribution of uses across the site are set in the parameters plan.
Community facilities and Green Infrastructure	The site will need to make provision for a comprehensive network of multifunctional open spaces and green corridors with both formal and areas of informal public open space. This will include 53.67ha of green open space and 1.18ha of allotment land, nine locally equipped areas of play (LEAPs) and also two neighbourhood equipped areas of play, which each include a multi use games area. In addition to the provision of LEAPs and NEAPs on site, youth shelter, a multi-use games area (MUGA), sports hall, changing pavilion, skateboard park, sports pitches, cricket wicket, tennis courts and a community centre will be required through a S106 Agreement.
Education	The site will need to makes provision for a three-form entry primary school, with early years pre-school facilities on 3ha of land and a secondary school on 5.2ha of land. Provision is also made for accessible recreation and community uses to serve the new residents, designed and located with the intention to be complementary to the delivery of the new schools.
Health Facilities	A contribution towards or delivery of a healthcare facilities either by way of site provision in an accessible location or direct funding to provide for a minimum 4GP with reserve to 6GP surgery will be required at reserved matters or detail stages.
Local Centre	The site will need to make provision for a neighbourhood centre on 0.67ha of land to include retail (A1/A2/A3/A5 and A5) and community facilities (D1 and D2).
Employment Area	The site will need to make provision for an employment area (B1) on 2.07ha of land.
Implementation Approach	An updated illustrated masterplan has been submitted in support of the planning application. The masterplan aims to encourage walking and cycling as realistic alternatives to that of the private car, through high quality infrastructure. The masterplan identifies 'alternative' Redway routes through the site which is considered a positive benefit and will need to be developed further as part of any future reserved matter applications. The details of the cycle and pedestrian infrastructure within the site will need to form and be considered as part of any future reserved matters application.

Concept Plan



Delivering growth at strategic settlements, larger and medium villages

Role of the Housing and Economic Development Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)

- 4.120 The allocations in the Local Plan are based on the Council's HELAA. This is a strategic assessment of the availability and suitability of land for development, providing a key component of the evidence base to inform the Local Plan. It establishes realistic assumptions about the number of homes and amount of economic development that sites could yield and the timeframe within which this might come forward. The HELAA is an important evidence source to inform plan-making, but does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for housing or economic development or whether planning permission should be granted. The allocation of a site for development can only be made in the Local Plan or through a neighbourhood plan.
- 4.121 As set out in the spatial strategy (S2), sites are allocated based on the capacity of a settlement to accommodate development, taking into account factors such as landscape, flooding and settlement form as well as site availability. Site-specific allocations for strategic settlements (other than Aylesbury), larger and medium villages are set out in the following sections.
- 4.122 Sites not allocated in this Plan or in a made Neighbourhood Plan will not normally be permitted, as the district's required level of growth is to be met in full by these allocations. The only exceptions to this are where the Council's monitoring of delivery across the district shows that the allocated sites are not being delivered at the expected rate, or where the proposals are for small-scale areas of land in accordance with Policy D2. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how the site can be delivered in a timely manner and meet all of the criteria in the Policy below.

D2 Proposals for non-allocated sites at strategic settlements, larger villages and medium villages

Development in strategic settlements, larger and medium villages that are not allocated in this plan or in a made neighbourhood plan will be restricted to small scale areas of land within the built-up areas of settlements. Subject to other policies in the Plan, permission will be granted for development comprising:

- a. infilling of small gaps in developed frontages in keeping with the scale and spacing of nearby dwellings and the character of the surroundings, or
- b. development that consolidates existing settlement patterns without harming important settlement characteristics, and does not comprise partial development of a larger site

Further development beyond allocated sites and small-scale development as set out in criteria a) or b) above will only be permitted where the Council's monitoring of housing delivery across the district shows that the allocated sites are not being delivered at the anticipated rate. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how the site can be delivered in a timely manner. The proposal must contribute to the sustainability of that settlement, be in accordance with all applicable policies in the Plan, and fulfil all of the following criteria:

- c. be located within or adjacent to the existing developed footprint of the village*
- d. not lead to coalescence with any neighbouring settlement

- e. be of a scale and in a location that is in keeping with the existing form of the settlement, and not adversely affect its character and appearance
- f. respect and retain natural boundaries and features such as trees, hedgerows, embankments and drainage ditches
- g. not have any adverse impact on environmental assets such as landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, waterways, open space and green infrastructure, and
- h. provide appropriate infrastructure provision such as waste water drainage and highways.

*The existing developed footprint is defined as the continuous built form of the village, and excludes individual buildings and groups of dispersed buildings. This includes former agricultural barns that have been converted, agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the village and gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land within the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where the land relates more to the surrounding countryside than to the built-up area of the village.

Delivering the allocated sites – at strategic settlements

- 4.123 This section deals with the strategic settlements of Buckingham, Haddenham, Winslow and Wendover (Aylesbury is covered in the previous sub-section and is considered to be a sub-regional strategic settlement). The strategic settlements are the most sustainable towns and villages in the district as they have the highest provision of services and facilities and are therefore the focus for the majority of the rest of the district's development. As set out in Policies S2 and S3, the strategic settlements (excluding Aylesbury) will provide a total of 5,730 new homes between 2013 and 2033. Those sites that already have planning permission (as at 2016/17) and homes already built in the period 2013-2017 are included in the total to be provided.
- 4.124 Buckingham, Haddenham and Winslow all have neighbourhood plans which have had a high level of community support, albeit the housing policies in the Haddenham neighbourhood plan have since been quashed. This Plan aims to reflect the need for housing delivery in the most sustainable locations whilst not undermining the aims of the neighbourhood plans, taking the quashed allocations, where possible, in the Haddenham neighbourhood plan as the community's preference for the location of development. This Plan allocates the reserve sites at Buckingham and Haddenham, and just one site beyond the neighbourhood plan's expectations/allocations, at Haddenham and Winslow, specifically north of Rosemary Lane at Haddenham (315 homes) and east of the B4033 at Winslow (585), and allocates two further sites at Buckingham, reflecting it being the second most sustainable settlement in the district, specifically Moreton Road at Buckingham (130 homes) and land off Osier Way, south of A421 and east of Gawcott Road (420 homes).
- 4.125 In terms of Wendover, approximately 1,000 homes will come forward during the Plan period at RAF Halton Camp after its closure in 2022. This is considered to be a realistic and somewhat conservative estimate, and the figure could increase as detailed masterplanning is developed.

Buckingham

- 4.126 Buckingham is a small market town located in the north of Buckinghamshire approximately 17 miles north-west of Aylesbury, 11 miles from Bicester and 12 miles south-west of Milton Keynes. Buckingham supports a population of approximately 12,000. The historic core of Buckingham is situated on raised ground and is largely contained within a sweeping bend of the River Great Ouse. The historic core of Buckingham was designated as a conservation area in 1971. Buckingham is the second largest town and a focal point for housing, employment, administrative and community facilities in northern Aylesbury Vale. The town is home to the University of Buckingham, the UK's first independent university.
- 4.127 Buckingham has a made neighbourhood plan (October 2015). It provides for 617 homes on new sites, 400 student units and 10 hectares of employment land south of the Wipac site on the A413.
- 4.128 The Water Cycle Study (2017) assessed the impact of growth on water cycle infrastructure in the village. The following policy is to ensure that growth takes place with any upgrades to the treatment works that may be needed.

D-BUC043 Land west of AVDLP allocation BU1 Moreton Road, Buckingham

Site reference	BUC043
Size (hectares)	14.9ha
Allocated for	130 homes sports pitches/recreation space and green infrastructure
Source	HELAA and planning application 14/02601/AOP
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan, made in October 2015. The land has no notation but is outside the settlement boundary
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2018 and 2023
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Provision of around 130 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identityThe site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA)An ecological management plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council, covering tree planting, hedge planting, pond creation, provision of 2ha of mitigatory grassland and ongoing management of the siteA tree protection plan is required for approval showing the height and position of protective fencingA hard and soft landscaping scheme is required to be submitted for approvalArchaeological assessment and evaluation is required to be submitted to the CouncilThe scheme layout has regard to the findings of an archaeological investigation and preserves in situ any remains of more than local importanceThe development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County CouncilA surface water drainage strategy will be required for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and an assessment submitted to the Council for approvalA foul water strategy is required to be submitted to and approved in writing by the CouncilAn assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Anglian Water. The water supply is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Anglian Water to serve the level of growth on the site. The Buckingham Wastewater Treatment Works needs upgrading and the delivery of the site will need to work with Anglian Water's asset management plan for delivering the needed upgrade. The surface water network capacity for the sewerage system also needs upgrading.

D-BUC051 West Buckingham, land bound by Brackley Road and the River Great Ouse

Site reference	BUC051
Size (hectares)	20ha
Allocated for	300 homes and green infrastructure, landscape buffer, riverside walk extension and flood alleviation scheme subject to feasibility.
Source	HELAA and neighbourhood plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan made in October 2015. The land is allocated as a reserve site for around 300 homes
Phasing	100 homes to be delivered 2018-23 and 200 homes from 2024-2033
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Provision of around 300 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identityThe development shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site because it is a large strategic site in a sensitive location on the edge of the settlementThe site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) to be submitted and agreed by the Council. A landscape mitigation scheme will be required on the southern boundaries of the site that reduces wider landscape and visual impactThe development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County Council. Access should be off Brackley Road and will require a transport assessment to demonstrate that access and impact are acceptable and achievable by all modes of transportNo housing development shall take place in Flood Zones 2 or 3An ecological management plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the Council and approved. The fields in the site north of the railway have a high ecological impact and a 20m buffer either side of the railway including existing woodland is requiredIn the green infrastructure along the southern site boundary adjacent the river, a feasibility study into provision of a riverside walk extension shall be investigated and if feasible, carried out. This would connect the site to the riverside walk extension identified in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan Policy CLH5The feasibility of a flood alleviation scheme to reduce risk to the site and the wider area from the Great Ouse, making use of the areas within the site allocated for green infrastructure, must be considered. Proposals should be agreed with the Council following consultation with the Environment Agency and Buckinghamshire County CouncilAt the planning application stage, a site-specific flood risk assessment and surface water drainage strategy will be required. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm the 1 in 20, 100 and 1,000 year extents and 1 in 100 year plus climate change extents on the ordinary watercourse through the centre of the siteAny development must have consideration for its impact on the

Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB drainage district and be aware of its byelaws. Residual risk to the site should be investigated, for example overtopping or breach of Stowe Octagon Lake and Stowe Park Lake and the impact of the blockage of the bridge under the disused railway should be modelled

- k. Other sources of flooding, particularly surface water flow routes, should be considered as part of a site-specific flood risk assessment. Development proposals must meet the 'Guidance for site design and making development safe' in the SFRA Level 2
- l. A site drainage strategy should consider whether infiltration is feasible under all groundwater conditions . A site-specific Flood Risk Assessment should carry out site investigations to identify likely groundwater levels and the site should be designed with consideration of potentially high groundwater levels
- m. An assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Anglian Water. The water supply is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Anglian Water to serve the level of growth on the site. The Buckingham Wastewater Treatment Works needs upgrading and the delivery of the site will need to work with Anglian Water's asset management plan for delivering the needed upgrade. The surface water network capacity for the sewerage system also needs upgrading.

D-BUC046 Land off Osier Way (south of A421 and east of Gawcott Road)	
Site reference	BUC046
Size (hectares)	25.8ha
Allocated for	420 homes and green infrastructure, landscape buffer
Source	HELAA
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan made in October 2015. The land has no notation but is outside the settlement boundary.
Phasing	100 homes to be delivered 2018-23 and 320 homes from 2024-2033
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of around 420 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity b. The development shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site because it is a large strategic site in a sensitive location on the edge of the settlement c. The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) to be submitted and agreed by the Council. A landscape mitigation scheme that reduces wider landscape and visual impact will be required on the southern boundaries of the site d. The development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County Council. The primary vehicular access should be off Gawcott Road. A transport assessment will be

required to demonstrate access and impact are acceptable and achievable by all modes of transport

- e. An ecological management plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the Council for approval. Wooded areas on the site have a high ecology impact and these would need to be retained along with the provision of 20m buffer either side of the stream and pond
- f. At the planning application stage, a site-specific flood risk assessment and surface water drainage strategy will be required. Any development must have consideration for its impact on the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB drainage district and be aware of its byelaws. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm the 1 in 20, 100 and 1,000 year extents and 1 in 100 year plus climate change extents on the ordinary watercourse through the centre of the site. Other sources of flooding, particularly surface water flow routes, should be considered as part of a site-specific flood risk assessment. Development proposals must meet the 'Guidance for site design and making development safe' in the SFRA Level 2
- g. Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flood routes e.g. from Gawcott Fields.
- h. An assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Anglian Water. The water supply is likely to require an infrastructure upgrade by Anglian Water to serve the level of growth on the site. The Buckingham Wastewater Treatment Works needs upgrading and the delivery of the site will need to work with Anglian Water's asset management plan for delivering the needed upgrade. The surface water network capacity for the sewerage system also needs upgrading.

Haddenham

4.129 Haddenham is a large village in the south-west of the district with a population of 4,502 (2011 Census). It is one of the most sustainable settlements in the district with good transport links, being served by Haddenham and Thame Parkway station which is on the railway line between London and Birmingham, as well as being adjacent to the A418 which links the village to the M40, the A40 and to Aylesbury which is approximately five miles away. Haddenham has a range of shops, public houses and other services, including a range of employment opportunities at Haddenham Business Park. It is also approximately two miles away from Thame which has a wider range of shops and services. Haddenham was once three hamlets, Church End, Fort End and Towns End, which have over time joined up through newer development. These historic cores remain with 121 listed buildings in the village. These areas are covered by a conservation area designation. Whilst being a large village, Haddenham still retains a rural character with village greens, ponds and other open space.

4.130 The Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan was made in September 2015. The housing chapter has since been quashed following a High Court order in March 2016, but the rest of the plan remains as part of the development plan.

D-HAD007 Land north of Rosemary Lane	
Site reference	HAD007
Size (hectares)	10ha
Allocated for	315 homes
Source	HELAA
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan made in September 2015. The land has no notation
Phasing	50 homes to be delivered 2017-22 and 265 homes from 2023-2033
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 315 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity, with lower density housing on the boundary with the adjacent countryside to the north-west The development shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site because it is a large strategic site in a sensitive location on the edge of the settlement and it will become the first part of Haddenham experienced when approaching from Churchway The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) to be submitted and agreed by the Council. A landscape mitigation scheme will be required on the north-western boundaries of the site that reduces wider landscape and visual impact The development will limit built form with no development beyond where the land rises to the north-west of the site, following a similar line of built form to that in the approved scheme on the adjacent airfield site The existing trees and hedgerows should be retained

- f. Landscape buffer to be provided between the existing dwellings and the new development, and on the new settlement boundary that will be created along the north-western edge of the development to provide a soft edge to the adjacent countryside
- g. The development will be designed in a way that conserves or enhances heritage assets and their settings, in particular the adjoining conservation area and the listed buildings adjacent to the site
- h. The site should be accessed via Churchway with the retention of the existing footpaths and further provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site and into the village including along Churchway, to the train station and with connections with the adjoining approved airfield development if appropriate and possible
- i. The development should be in compliance with the relevant policies set out in the Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan.

RAF Halton, Wendover

- 4.131 Wendover is situated on the northern edge of the Chilterns AONB and is one of the most sustainable settlements in the district due to the good provision of services and facilities. RAF Halton is located in the parish of Halton, which adjoins Wendover. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has confirmed that RAF Halton is to close in 2022 and because it is in reasonable walking and cycling distance of Wendover's services and facilities, it is appropriate that it be redeveloped for housing and other associated uses. The allocation is shown on the Policies Map.
- 4.132 Due to RAF Halton's proximity to Aylesbury and the good linkages between the two by rail and road, the development at RAF Halton should follow the same principles as Aylesbury Garden Town. As Halton Camp is not due to close until 2022, development of this site will not commence until later in the Plan period.
- 4.133 Due to the size of the site, it is expected that there will be further development beyond this plan period, and this will be part of the Local Plan review. Work is underway on behalf of the DIO in order to establish the broad land uses that might come forward. This will inform the masterplan supplementary planning document (SPD) for this site.
- 4.134 The site allocation lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt and there are a number of listed buildings on site. It is adjacent to the Chilterns AONB. The masterplan SPD for the site will identify how these are to be addressed. Any planning applications for the development of this site will need to have regard to and be in accordance with the masterplan SPD, and the policies for the delivery of Aylesbury Garden Town.
- 4.135 The site outline includes a number of listed barrack blocks, other heritage assets, many non-listed buildings and an existing road network. It excludes Halton House and its grounds, a number of open recreation areas, areas of woodland and the airfield and associated buildings. As set out in the NPPF, limited infilling or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed sites, whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), which would not have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it than the existing development is an exception to not allowing new housing development in the Green Belt. Therefore it is considered that redevelopment and/or refurbishment of existing buildings in the first phase of development would be appropriate and not require that the site be removed from the Green Belt at this stage. This is set out in policy S4 in this plan.
- 4.136 The proximity of the Chilterns AONB will need to be addressed in the design and layout of any development. The masterplan SPD for the site will establish the site layout and disposition of land uses.
- 4.137 The development of this site will adhere to the following place-shaping principles:
- In the first phases, development will be concentrated on those areas that are already built-up, through the redevelopment or remodelling of existing buildings
 - Provision of 50% green infrastructure, to reflect the high level of open space already present on the site including green corridors linking development with the surrounding countryside
 - Provision of links to and from Aylesbury Town and to the wider area including for walking and cycling
 - Respond positively to the best characteristics of the surrounding area.
- 4.138 The vision and objectives for the site are:

- To deliver a comprehensive redevelopment of this site, including provision of any new and or/improved infrastructure, services and facilities
- To successfully link this site with Halton and Wendover, whilst protecting the setting of Halton village and the Chilterns AONB and
- To link to the green infrastructure network.

D-HAL003 RAF Halton	
Site Ref:	HAL003
Site Name	RAF Halton
Size (hectares)	82ha
Allocated for	Around 1,000 homes during the Plan period and associated infrastructure, services and facilities including a primary school, new local centre, new access routes if needed and new green infrastructure
Planning History and Current Planning Status	No relevant planning history
Site-specific Requirements	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the plan, including the principles of development for Aylesbury Garden Town and the Masterplan SPD to be prepared for the site. In addition, proposals should comply with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of land for 1,000 dwellings during this plan period at a density that takes account of the existing curtilage of the buildings on the site, and that of the adjacent settlement character and identity if appropriate Be planned using a landscape-led approach, taking account of the character and setting of the Chilterns AONB Provision of junction improvements onto the B4009 Upper Icknield Way Provision for public transport into Wendover and to surrounding areas Establishment of and safeguarding for a network of cycling and walking links Provision of green infrastructure to link to other new development areas and the wider countryside Provision of land, buildings and car parking for a combined primary school including playing field provision Provision of land, buildings and car parking for a new local centre including community hall.
Phasing and Delivery Programme	<p>Development of this site will come forward towards the latter part of the plan period as the site will not be released until 2022.</p> <p>Detail about phasing and implementation will be set out in the masterplan SPD for the site.</p>
Implementation Approach	Development at RAF Halton will come forward towards the latter end of the Plan period, and only once a masterplan SPD for the allocation has been prepared and adopted by the Council. Proposals for development within the RAF Halton Strategic Site Allocation will be expected to demonstrate how they positively contribute to the achievement of the SPD and the Aylesbury Garden Town principles as set out in Policy D1.

Winslow

4.139 Winslow is a small historic market town situated on the A413 approximately nine miles north of Aylesbury and six miles south of Buckingham. The parish has a population of 4,407 (2011 Census). During the Plan period a station is to be provided at Winslow as part of the opening of the East West Rail line between Oxford and Bedford. It is considered one of the most sustainable settlements within Aylesbury Vale with a primary school, specialist school and secondary school which is soon to relocate to a new site, a wide range of shops and services, three public houses as well as a small amount of employment. It has a historic core covered by a conservation area with 81 listed buildings.

4.140 The Winslow Neighbourhood Plan was made in September 2014. It contains a number of policies to direct development, including the allocation of 455 new homes, 30 of which are extra care units.

D-WIN001 Land to east of B4033, Great Horwood Road	
Site reference	WIN001
Size (hectares)	20ha
Allocated for	585 homes and green infrastructure
Source	HELAA
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan made in September 2014. The land has no notation but is outside the settlement boundary
Phasing	50 homes to be delivered 2017-22 and 535 homes from 2023-2033
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 585 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The development shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site because it is a large strategic site in a sensitive location on the edge of the settlement and will create a new residential edge to the settlement. The design code should ensure local distinctiveness is reflected in the development, which is the aim of policy 5 in the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) to be submitted and agreed by the Council The development will limit built form beyond the watercourse, development will only be to the south of this nearest to the existing built-up area and the proposed railway station The existing trees, hedgerows and ponds should be retained and where possible integrated into the green infrastructure provision. There should be an ecological buffer provided along the watercourse to the north of the site A landscape buffer to be provided along the Great Horwood Road to protect the rural character of the village as well as on the new settlement edge that will be created along the north-eastern edge of the development to provide a transition to the adjacent countryside The site should be accessed via the Great Horwood Road with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site,

connecting into the new Winslow to Buckingham cycle path (in line with Policy 8 in the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan), and into the town, to the station and school. Development should also maximise opportunities to get multiple pedestrian and cycle linkages between the site and the existing built-up area to ensure the communities become integrated and to reduce the hard barrier of the railway line

- h. The development must provide improvements to the A413 and the junction with the Great Horwood Road. It should be provided with a bus service, in line with Policy 9 of the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan
- i. The development should be in compliance with the relevant policies set out in the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan
- j. All development within the Buckingham and River Ouzel Internal Drainage Board (IDB) area must observe the IDB Byelaws
- k. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents. The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling information for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated.
- l. The impact of blockage of structures on flood risk should also be modelled
- m. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a plus climate change (subject to detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1.

Delivering the allocated sites – at larger villages

- 4.141 Larger villages are the largest, most sustainable villages that have reasonable access to services and facilities. As set out in Policies S2 and S3, larger villages will provide a total of 1,963 new homes between 2013 and 2033. Those sites that already have planning permission (as at 2016/17) and homes already built in the period 2013-2017 are included in the total to be provided.
- 4.142 Recognising the need for the larger villages to accommodate growth in line with the sustainability of these settlements and their current size, sites that have been found suitable for housing in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) are allocated in this plan, apart from at Aston Clinton (because the village has high existing completions/commitments and no additional school capacity) and Stoke Mandeville (due to its proximity to the growth at Aylesbury Garden Town). In addition, where a neighbourhood plan has reached an advanced stage but is not yet made, sites proposed to be allocated in the neighbourhood plan for housing are allocated in this Plan.
- 4.143 Allocations are made at the following larger villages:
- Edlesborough (60)
 - Long Crendon (23)
 - Steeple Claydon (118)
 - Stone (10)
 - Waddesdon (75)
 - Whitchurch (22)
- 4.144 All other larger villages do not have any identified capacity for housing on suitable sites and therefore no allocations are made at these villages.
- 4.145 Development in the larger villages that is not allocated in the Local Plan or a neighbourhood plan will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that sites allocated are not coming forward at the rate anticipated. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how the site can be delivered in a timely manner, along with satisfying each of the criteria set out in policy D2 above.

Edlesborough

4.146 Edlesborough lies on the eastern edge of the district with a population of approximately 1,500. It is approximately 14 miles north east of Aylesbury, six miles south east of Leighton Buzzard and four miles south west of Dunstable. It is assessed as being a large village by the latest settlement hierarchy being situated on the A4146 with a primary school and a small number of shops and services. St Mary's Church stands at an elevated position at the south of the village and is a significant landmark.

4.147 The Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan is, at the time of writing, currently at examination. It allocates land for 71 dwellings in Edlesborough and a further reserve site for 40 dwellings , as well as policies to direct development and the designation of local green spaces.

D-EDL003 Land adjacent to Good Intent	
Site reference	EDL003
Size (hectares)	0.56ha
Allocated for	15 homes
Source	HELAA, Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan and planning application (17/02222/APP) pending consideration
Current neighbourhood plan status	Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan currently due to proceed to referendum. The site is allocated for 15 dwellings
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2017 and 2022
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy EP3 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any development must have consideration for its impact on the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB drainage district and be aware of its byelaws Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +- 40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes A site-specific flood risk assessment should carry out on-site investigation to identify likely groundwater levels and the site should be designed with consideration of potentially high groundwater levels. Infiltration drainage is unlikely to be feasible on this site and the risk of groundwater emergence should be considered when designing the above- or below-ground surface water drainage, and when designing foul sewers.

D-EDL020 29 The Green	
Site reference	EDL020
Size (hectares)	0.25ha
Allocated for	6 homes
Source	HELAA and Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan currently due to proceed to referendum. The site is allocated for six dwellings
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2017 and 2022
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy EP2 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any development must have consideration for its impact on the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB drainage district and be aware of its byelaws Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +- 40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes.

D-EDL021 Slicketts Lane	
Site reference	EDL021
Size (hectares)	4ha
Allocated for	40 homes and green infrastructure
Source	HELAA and Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan currently due to proceed to referendum. The site is allocated for 40 dwellings. The rest of the HELAA site EDL020 is allocated as a reserve site in Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan.
Phasing	30 homes to be delivered 2017-22 and 10 homes from 2023-2033
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy EP2 in the Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any development must have consideration for its impact on the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB drainage district and be aware of its byelaws Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +- 40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents. The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling

information for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated

e. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3 and 3a plus climate change (subject to detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1.

Long Crendon

4.148 Long Crendon is located approximately two miles north-west of Thame and nine miles south-west of Aylesbury. It is a hilltop village overlooking the Thame Valley to the south-east. The village is within an area of attractive landscape and part of the village is a designated conservation area.

D-LCD010 Land off Westfield Road, Long Crendon	
Site reference	LCD010 (forms part of the site)
Size (hectares)	0.89ha
Allocated for	13 homes
Source	Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan. The part of the site that was considered as part of the Council's HELAA was found to be unsuitable. However, as the neighbourhood plan has reached an advanced stage and has community support, the contents of it are reflected in this plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	The Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan has reached the referendum stage. It allocates this site for 13 homes (eight on land to the north of Westfield Road, and five on land south of Westfield Road)
Phasing	By 2023
Site criteria	Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy LC2 in the Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan.

D-LCD017 Land off Sandy Lane, Long Crendon	
Site reference	n/a – this site has not been previously promoted to the Council
Size (hectares)	0.51ha
Allocated for	10 homes
Source	Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan. The site has not been assessed by the Council. However, as the neighbourhood plan has reached an advanced stage and has community support, the contents of it are reflected in this plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	The Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan has reached the referendum stage. It allocates this site for 10 homes in two parcels of five homes each
Phasing	By 2023
Site criteria	Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. For site-specific criteria please refer to Policy LC3 in the Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan

Steeple Claydon

- 4.149 The village of Steeple Claydon sits around a flat hill, to the north-west of Aylesbury, located between the A421, A413 and A41. It is encircled by the villages of Middle Claydon and Calvert to the south, Twyford to the west and Hillesden and Padbury to the north. There are no other settlements in the parish itself. The 2011 Census recorded the parish population as 2,278. The parish has good provision of services and facilities. A neighbourhood plan is in the process of being prepared and was submitted to the Council in May 2017.
- 4.150 The water cycle study (2017) assessed the impact of growth on water cycle infrastructure in the village. The following policy is to ensure that growth takes place with any upgrades to the treatment works that may be needed. The HELAA included a consultation with Buckinghamshire County Council which identified the need for better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

D-SCD003 Land at Queen Catherine Road	
Site reference	SCD003
Size (hectares)	0.26ha
Allocated for	8 homes
Source	HELAA and the draft Neighbourhood Plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	Submission stage consultation. Allocated site Policy SC5 for up to eight new homes
Phasing	The site is anticipated to be delivered between 2018 and 2023.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around eight dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity Any proposal shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site given the site's visibility in this prominent edge-of-settlement location Any scheme shall have regard to the character of the surrounding development, particularly the larger plots to the immediate west of the site and opposite the site The site includes a small paddock hedge on two sides and a small amount of scrub which have biodiversity value and should be retained as part of a comprehensive soft landscaping and ecological enhancement scheme Any proposal shall be supported by an archaeological assessment to identify and protect any remains of more than local importance Any proposal needs to ensure satisfactory pedestrian walking and cycling access into the village. The scheme layout should retain and incorporate the public right of way (PROW) on its established route Any proposal must provide a satisfactory vehicular access in consultation with the highways authority Anglian Water has identified deficiencies in the surface water infrastructure capacity at the Steeple Claydon Sewerage Treatment Works. Any proposal will be required to ensure satisfactory capacity and mitigation has been agreed with the statutory provider in order to meet the needs of the development.

D-SCD008 Land at Molly's Folly/Molly's Field, west of Addison Road	
Site reference	SCD008
Size (hectares)	4.6ha
Allocated for	110 homes and green infrastructure, sustainable drainage scheme
Source	HELAA and the draft neighbourhood plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	Submission stage consultation. Allocated site Policy SC2 for up to 110 new homes, a convenience food retail scheme, medical services and green infrastructure
Phasing	The site is anticipated to be delivered between 2018 and 2023
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of around 110 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity b. Any proposal shall be based on a design code to be prepared for the site that takes account of, amongst other characteristics, the site's visibility in this prominent edge-of-settlement location as well as any statutory and non-statutory heritage assets c. The mature trees and hedgerows within and on the site boundary should be retained and protected as part of a landscape scheme. In addition, any proposal to be supported by a comprehensive soft landscape planting scheme including mature trees. Green infrastructure should be provided in the southern part of the site and take account of the sustainable drainage strategy required d. Any proposal must have full regard to preserving and enhancing designated heritage assets in West Street e. Any proposal needs to ensure satisfactory pedestrian walking and cycling access into the village. The scheme layout should retain and incorporate the public right of way (PROW) on its established route f. Any proposal must provide a satisfactory vehicular access in consultation with the highways authority g. Detailed modelling will be required to confirm flood zone and climate change extents (see 'Available modelled data'), and flood extents at lower return periods (below 100 year). The Environment Agency and lead local flood authority should be consulted to obtain the latest hydraulic modelling information for the site at the time of the flood risk assessment. They will advise as to whether existing detailed models need to be updated h. The development should be designed using a sequential approach. Flood Zones 2 and 3, and 3a plus climate change (subject to a detailed flood risk assessment) should be preserved as green space, with built development restricted to Flood Zone 1 i. A sustainable drainage strategy will be required for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and an assessment submitted to the Council for approval j. Anglian Water has identified deficiencies in the surface water infrastructure capacity at the Steeple Claydon Sewerage Treatment Works. Any proposal will be required to ensure satisfactory capacity and mitigation has been agreed with the statutory provider in order to meet the needs of the development.

Stone

- 4.151 Stone is located a few miles to the south-west of Aylesbury with close links to the Hartwell House estate which lies a mile to the north-east of the village. The historic core of the village is concentrated around St John the Baptist's Church, which is located to the south of the A418, close to where it forms a junction with Eythrope Road, Bishopstone Road and Church Way. The wider village of Stone extends for approximately a mile along the busy A418 which links Aylesbury to the north-east to Thame to the south-west. The village has many facilities including shops, a church, a school, public houses and restaurants. The conservation area is restricted to a handful of historic buildings centred around the Church and the junction of the A418, Eythrope Road, Bishopstone Road and Church Way. The village sits at the eastern end of a low sand and limestone ridge which overlooks the Thame Valley to the north and the Chiltern Hills to the south.
- 4.152 The water cycle study (2017) assessed the impact of growth on water cycle infrastructure in the village. The following policy is to ensure that growth takes place with any upgrades to the treatment works that may be needed. The HELAA included a consultation with Buckinghamshire County Council which identified the need for better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

D-STO008 Land south of Creslow Way, Stone	
Site reference	STO008
Size (hectares)	1.2ha
Allocated for	10 homes, green infrastructure
Source	HELAA
Current neighbourhood plan status	No neighbourhood plan
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2017 and 2022
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 10 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and inform preparation of a layout and landscape scheme to provide landscape mitigation enhancements and green infrastructure The scheme needs to retain the hedge and mature trees on the site The scheme layout has regard to the findings of an archaeological investigation and preserves in situ any remains of more than local importance Contribution to Haddenham to Aylesbury cycle route The development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County Council A surface water drainage strategy will be required (4% of the site is vulnerable to a 1 in 1,000 year surface water flood – SFRA Level 1) An assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water.

Waddesdon

4.153 The village of Waddesdon is located in the south of the Vale of Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. It lies approximately six miles north-west of Aylesbury. Waddesdon is primarily an area of undulating landscape rendered distinctive by the parkland landscapes located at Lodge Hill, Waddesdon and at Eythrope Park adjacent to the River Thame. A key feature within the area is a long ridge running south-west to north-east, called the Winchendon Ridge, which runs parallel to the course of the River Thame. At the end of the ridge is Waddesdon Hill and to the north-west, separated by a small valley, is Lodge Hill, on top of which is located Waddesdon Manor. Waddesdon is well served in village amenities including shops and other businesses. There is a Waddesdon Church of England Secondary School and also two nurseries and a primary school. Part of the village was designated as a conservation area in 1990 and this was reviewed in 2014.

4.154 The water cycle study (2017) assessed the impact of growth on water cycle infrastructure in the village. The following policy is to ensure that growth takes place with any upgrades to the treatment works that may be needed.

D-WAD006 Allotment site, A41	
Site reference	WAD006
Size (hectares)	11.4ha
Allocated for	75 homes and local green space (green infrastructure including allotments)
Source	HELAA and neighbourhood plan
Current neighbourhood plan status	A neighbourhood plan has been prepared and is due to proceed to referendum. The neighbourhood plan proposes to allocate part of the site for 75 homes and part of the site as a local green space
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2018 and 2023
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 75 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) A layout and landscape scheme shall provide for a significant landscape buffer of mature trees on the boundaries of the site, retain as much hedgerow and woodland on the northern boundary of the site as possible and have regard to the amenities of adjoining residential properties The existing allotments on the site being used will be replaced either by land within the local green space element of the site or an alternative site to be agreed by the Council and Waddesdon Parish Council An ecological impact assessment is carried out to evidence and propose a biodiversity mitigation strategy with the aim of the scheme delivering a net biodiversity gain for the loss of any value identified on the site There should be no detrimental impact on the setting of the historic park and garden to the south of the A41 The development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County Council. Pedestrian links to local facilities may need to be improved. Will require a transport

assessment to demonstrate the impact of development can be accommodated on the network

- h. The housing part of the site will provide a vehicular access route to the local green space/green infrastructure part of the site
- i. A surface water drainage strategy will be required (2% of the site is vulnerable to a 1 in 1,000 year surface water flood – SFRA Level 1)
- j. An assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water. Upgrades may be required and form part of the Thames Water Asset Management Plan.

Whitchurch

4.155 Whitchurch straddles the A413 Aylesbury to Buckingham road approximately five miles north of Aylesbury and 12 miles south of Buckingham. The settlement is predominately linear, mostly consisting of one street with minor roads heading off. Whitchurch is on a prominent ridge of the Brill-Wing Hills. There are long-distance views in all directions. The surrounding land is mainly pastoral with hedgerows and mature trees. There is grazing land towards the north and several blocks of broadleaved woodlands towards the west. Whitchurch is a historic settlement with buildings dating back to the 13th century. There are many fine examples of medieval buildings within the village.

D-WHI009 Holt's Field, Whitchurch	
Site reference	WHI009
Size (hectares)	0.8ha
Allocated for	22 homes
Description	The site is located to the north-east of Newman Close in Whitchurch. The site is bordered by residential dwellings to the south-east and south-west, and agricultural fields to the north-east and north-west
Source	HELAA – developer-promoted site Current planning application (as yet undetermined) 16/02244/AOP
Current neighbourhood plan status	No made neighbourhood plan
Phasing	The site should be delivered during 2018-2023
Site criteria	Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of around 22 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity b. The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach c. The site will be developed in accordance with the 'Defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' report (March 2016) d. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) e. Existing trees and hedgerows should be retained f. Landscape buffer to be provided on the north-eastern boundary to minimise impact on the surrounding area g. The site should be accessed via Newman Close with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site and into Whitchurch h. An assessment of sewerage capacity needs to be carried to identify the need for infrastructure upgrades and how and when these will be carried out.

Delivering the allocated sites – at medium villages

- 4.156 Medium villages are moderately well served with services and facilities and can therefore be considered to be reasonably sustainable villages. As set out in Policies S2 and S3, medium villages will provide a total of 1,095 new homes between 2013 and 2033. Those sites that already have planning permission (as at 2016/17) and homes already built in the period 2013-2017 are included in the total to be provided.
- 4.157 Recognising the need for the medium villages to make some contribution to meeting the housing needs of the district, but acknowledging that these villages are less sustainable than the larger villages as they have fewer amenities and public transport services, some development is allocated at medium villages. Sites that have been found suitable for housing in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) have been the starting point, but these have been subject to further detailed consideration based on specific local factors. HELAA suitable sites are allocated at medium villages apart from at: Bierton and Weston Turville due to their proximity to the growth at Aylesbury Garden Town; Great Horwood and Cheddington because they have made neighbourhood plans which allocate sites for housing; Marsworth, Brill, Padbury and Tingewick because the suitable HELAA sites are too uncertain due to lack of information about suitable access; and Stoke Hammond because of the high level of completions/commitments. Newton Longville and Maids Moreton have an excess of suitable HELAA sites beyond a reasonable amount for a medium village, and so the most sustainable site(s) has been selected at these locations.
- 4.158 Allocations are therefore made at the following medium villages:
- Cuddington (21)
 - Ickford (20)
 - Maids Moreton (170)
 - Marsh Gibbon (9)
 - Newton Longville (17)
 - Quainton (37)
- 4.159 Additional development in the medium villages that are not allocated either in the Local Plan or neighbourhood plan will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that sites allocated are not coming forward at the rate anticipated. Proposals will need to be accompanied by evidence demonstrating how the site can be delivered in a timely manner, along with satisfying the each of the criteria set out in Policy D4 above.

Cuddington

4.160 Cuddington is located six miles to the west of Aylesbury, to the north of the A418. The centre of the village is based around a series of narrow lanes, which has been designated as a conservation area. Most modern development is located to the south side of the village along Dadbrook and the Aylesbury Road.

D-CDN001 Dadbrook Farm	
Site reference	CDN001
Size (hectares)	0.59ha
Allocated for	6 dwellings
Source	Call for sites
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	1 – 5 years
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around six dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach The site will be developed in accordance with the 'Defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' report (March 2016) The development will limit built form towards the Aylesbury Road frontage The existing trees and hedgerows should be retained except where access vision splays are required The development will be designed in a way that respects the Cuddington conservation area The site should be accessed via Aylesbury Road with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages into the village.

D-CDN003 Dadbrook Farm	
Site reference	CDN003
Size (hectares)	0.57ha
Allocated for	15 dwellings
Source	Call for sites
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	1 – 5 years
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of 15 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach The site will be developed in accordance with the 'Defining the special

qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' report (March 2016)

- d. The development will limit built form to the north of the site, with no built form extending south and south-east of the fence line
- e. The existing trees and hedgerows should be retained
- f. The development will be designed in a way that conserves heritage assets
- g. The site should be accessed via Dadbrook with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site and into the village.

Ickford

4.161 Picturesque Ickford is close to the boundary with Oxfordshire, north of Tiddington and about four miles west of the market town of Thame. Ickford parish had a population of 680 people in the 2011 Census. The village has a number of amenities including St Nicholas Church from 1170, a village hall, play area, allotments, Ickford (primary) School, Village Stores and The Rising Sun pub/restaurant. A conservation area was designated in 1991. The older parts of the village are concentrated in four main areas, at Little Ickford, Church Road, Worminghall Road and around the Bridge Road/Sheldon Road junction. The latter half of the 20th century has seen these four pockets of development connected by modern infilling, particularly on the north side of Sheldon Road and also along the Worminghall and Bridge Roads.

4.162 The water cycle study (2017) assessed the impact of growth on water cycle infrastructure in the village. The following policy is to ensure that growth takes place with any upgrades to the treatment works that may be needed.

D-ICK004 Land off Turnfields	
Site reference	ICK004
Size (hectares)	1.4ha
Allocated for	20 homes
Source	HELAA
Current neighbourhood plan status	No neighbourhood plan
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2018 and 2023.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 20 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach. The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and inform preparation of a layout and landscape scheme to provide landscape mitigation enhancements The development must provide a satisfactory vehicular access, visibility and parking to be agreed with Buckinghamshire County Council following submission of a transport assessment and transport statement to the Council. Pedestrian links to local facilities may need to be improved An ecological management plan shall be submitted to the Council and approved as part of a planning application setting out the biodiversity value on the site and a mitigation strategy with the aim of the scheme delivering a net biodiversity gain for the loss of any value on the site An assessment of sewerage capacity and water resources and water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water. Upgrades may be required and form part of the Thames Water Asset Management Plan.

Maids Moreton

4.163 Maids Moreton is situated approximately a mile to the north-east of the centre of Buckingham which was the main market town and thus the outlet for agricultural produce and the source of professional services for surrounding settlements. Maids Moreton has always retained its independence and a strong sense of place despite the expansion of Buckingham reaching the edge of the village. The parish has a population of 847 (2011 Census). The village core contains a number of historic buildings, in particular a significant group of timber-framed buildings dating from the 17th century. There were a number of housing developments in the 20th century extending the original village core including the Pightle in 1922, the Leys in 1949, Church Close in 1953, Manor Park in 1965 and Glebe Close in 1982. The focus of the village is centred on the church of St Edmund, and its neighbours, The Old Rectory and Maids Moreton Hall. Maids Moreton also has a village hall, Maids Moreton (primary) School, The Wheatsheaf public house, The Vet Centre and a number of businesses at Vitalograph Business Park.

D-MMO006 Land east of Walnut Drive and west of Foscoote Road	
Site reference	MMO006
Size (hectares)	7.7ha
Allocated for	170 homes, green infrastructure and surface water drainage
Source	HELAA and planning application 16/00151/AOP (pending)
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood Area designated June 2016. No neighbourhood plan stages reached.
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2017 and 2022.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of 170 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity and the edge of countryside location The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) and a landscape scheme with green infrastructure to be approved by the Council A satisfactory vehicular access, parking, cycle and walking movement strategy needs to be proposed in a transport assessment and transport statement agreed by the Council setting out necessary highways improvements as required Ensure the public footpath (MMT/2/1) connecting the development with Maids Moreton's school, village hall, pub, bus stops and other services is in a suitable condition to safely and conveniently accommodate increased pedestrian and cycle traffic within a residential setting An updated assessment of wastewater treatment works capacity and surface water network capacity needs to be carried out, working with Anglian Water, to identify the need for infrastructure upgrades and how and when these will be carried out to inform site delivery. Furthermore, development shall not begin until a surface water drainage scheme for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and an assessment of the hydrological and hydro-geological context of the development, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning authority An ecological management plan shall be submitted to the Council

and approved as part of a planning application setting out the biodiversity value on the site and a mitigation strategy with the aim of the scheme delivering a net biodiversity gain for the loss of any value on the site

- g. No development shall take place until an applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority
- h. Outdoor playing space (OPS) and equipped play facilities should be provided on site. Both Appendix 2 of the AVDC Supplementary Planning Guidance for Sport & Leisure Facilities and Appendix 1 of its companion document the Ready Reckoner detail the level of provision required per settlement size. As the 2017 'Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale' audit shows there is a lack of a suitably sized central public open space as well as no neighbourhood equipped area of play (NEAP) in Maids Moreton, meaning there is a requirement to provide such facilities (in addition to a local equipped area of play (LEAP)) on site in order to make this proposal acceptable in recreation terms. This open green space will also provide an alternative to Foxcote Reservoir and Wood SSSI and help avoid recreational impacts on the designated site
- i. A good mix of affordable property types and sizes reflective of the overall housing mix whilst taking in to account the local needs of the district. There is currently a greater need for two bedroom 4 person and three bedroom five of six person houses, slightly less for one-bed two person and four-bed seven or eight person. Houses are generally preferred over flats
- j. A tenure mix of 75% rented and 25% shared ownership for the affordable dwellings would be required and two or three bed houses are preferred over flats for shared ownership
- k. Clusters of affordable housing must not exceed our 15 unit maximum for houses and 18 maximum for flats
- l. Affordable units should be built to National Affordable Housing Programme requirements and should not be distinguishable from market housing in terms of overall design details, build quality and materials. No more than 50% of the private units are to be completed until the affordable units have been completed
- m. The Council works in partnership with registered providers in the district and can supply details of these to support the delivery of the affordable homes.

Marsh Gibbon

4.164 Marsh Gibbon lies in the west of the district, four miles to the east of Bicester and 12 miles west of Aylesbury. It is considered a medium village in the settlement hierarchy, with the parish having a population of 969 (2011 Census) and some limited services including an infant school, a small village store and two public houses. The village has three historic core areas, one around The Greyhound Pub, one around Ware Pond and The Plough Inn and a further one around the church. These areas have linked with newer development over time and form one settlement but with some remaining open green areas. Large parts of the village are covered by a conservation area designation reflecting this historic environment.

4.165 Marsh Gibbon Parish Council prepared a neighbourhood plan which was made in 2015 and set out a number of policies to guide development including the designation of two Local Green Spaces. It did not make specific allocations for housing.

D-MGB003 Leopold Farm and area to the west	
Site reference	MGB003
Size (hectares)	0.59ha
Allocated for	9 dwellings
Source	HELAA and planning application (16/03380/AOP) approved subject to S106
Current neighbourhood plan status	Neighbourhood plan, made February 2015. The land has no notation in the neighbourhood plan
Phasing	The site is expected to be delivered between 2017 and 2022
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around nine dwellings with a density, form and layout that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity, in particular keeping the visual links between the village and the agricultural land behind the site The development will limit built form to the centre and east of the site, retaining open space and allowing for views to be retained in and out of the conservation area to the agricultural land behind the site, keeping the connection to the rural setting of the village The existing trees and hedgerows should be retained The development will be designed in a way that conserves heritage assets, in particular the setting of the listed building at Swan Farm and the setting of the conservation area opposite the site The site should be accessed via Castle Street with the provision of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site and improvements to the pedestrian footpath along Castle Street The development should be in compliance with the relevant policies set out in the Marsh Gibbon Neighbourhood Plan. Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water risk and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +- 40% allowance (February 2016) for rainfall intensity Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes.

Newton Longville

- 4.166 Newton Longville lies to the north-east of the district, two miles south-west of Bletchley, 16 miles to the north of Aylesbury, 10 miles east of Buckingham and seven miles north west of Leighton Buzzard. It is considered a medium village in the settlement hierarchy, with the parish having a population of 1,846 (2011 Census) and some limited services including a church, a nursery and junior school, a post office and small village store and two public houses.
- 4.167 The village is accessed from the south via Drayton Road/Newton Road, from the west via Whaddon Road, from the east via Stoke Road and from the north via Bletchley Road. Over the years the village has experienced infill development between Drayton Road and Whaddon Road.

D-NLV005 Land south of Whaddon Road and west of Lower Rd, Newton Longville	
Site reference	NLV005
Size (hectares)	0.3ha
Allocated for	17 dwellings
Source	HELAA suitable/planning application (17/01107/AOP) – outline application with access to be considered and all other matters reserved for a residential development of around 17 dwellings including a new access point off Whaddon Road
Current neighbourhood plan status	N/A
Phasing	Delivery within 1-5 years of VALP adoption
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The site will make provision for around 17 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character The site should be accessed via Whaddon Road and be accompanied by a design and access statement The site will need to provide for a footpath extension from the site access to Longueville Hall and access to Hammond Park A transport statement will be required to assess the developments impact on the highway and where necessary public transportation network An assessment of sewerage capacity and/or water supply will be required in consultation with Thames Water The development design and layout will be informed by a full detailed landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) Any proposed development should be expected to provide a buffer to address all boundaries.

Quainton

4.168 Quainton is located on the lower slopes of Quainton Hill and due to its elevated position, spectacular panoramic views can be gained from numerous vantage points throughout the village. The elevated position of Quainton also renders it visually prominent in views from the surrounding landscape. Parts of the parish were part of the ancient Bernwood Forest which covers a vast area into Oxfordshire and has significant biodiversity value. Quainton has a large village green, a medieval church, rectory, Baptist chapel, tower windmill and a mix of housing including timber-framed 17th century black and white thatched cottages, Georgian farmhouses, Victorian terraces and modern properties.

D-QUA001 Land south west of 62 Station Road, Quainton	
Site reference	QUA001
Size (hectares)	0.6ha
Allocated for	13 homes
Source	HELAA – developer-promoted site and planning application reference 15/04276 (as yet undetermined)
Current neighbourhood plan status	The Quainton Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2016, but it does not allocate sites for development
Phasing	The site is anticipated to be delivered between 2018 and 2023.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council's Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of around 13 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach The site should be accessed off Station Road The development must provide pedestrian and cycle routes to key destinations in the village including bus stops, the school and the village centre. Appropriate crossing points for key routes must be provided. Cycle parking at bus stops should be provided due to walking distance As 26% of the site is vulnerable to surface water flooding, as identified in the Level 2 SFRA carried out for this site. A site-specific flood risk assessment and surface water drainage strategy are required. to ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere and takes the opportunity to reduce flood risk for houses across Station Road Surface water modelling should be undertaken to define the level of surface water and the risk areas/flow paths. Climate change should be modelled using the +-40% allowance for rainfall intensity. Development proposals must comply with the SFRA Level 2 Guidance for site design and making development safe. Drainage designs should 'design for exceedance' and accommodate existing surface water flow routes water flow routes, with development located outside of surface water flood risk areas An ecological management plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the Council and approved. Development contributing to the connectivity of the Bernwood forest habitat and the conservation and maintenance of habitat for Bernwood species will be supported.

D-QUA0014-016 Land adjacent to Station Road, Quainton	
Site reference	QUA014 (QUA014, 015 and 016 combined)
Size (hectares)	1.25ha
Allocated for	24 homes
Source	HELAA – developer-promoted site. Part of the site has an undetermined planning application for a Certificate of Appropriate Alternative Development for residential (use class C3) purposes comprising 4 dwellings (16/03886/A17)
Current neighbourhood plan status	The Quainton Neighbourhood Plan was made in 2016, but it does not allocate sites for development
Phasing	The site is anticipated to be delivered between 2018 and 2023.
Site criteria	<p>Development proposals must be accompanied by the information required in the Council’s Local Validation List and comply with all other relevant policies in the Plan. In addition, proposals should comply with all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of around 24 dwellings at a density that takes account of the adjacent settlement character and identity b. The site will be designed using a landscape-led approach c. The site should be accessed off Station Road d. The development must provide pedestrian and cycle routes to key destinations in the village including bus stops, the school and the village centre. Appropriate crossing points for key routes must be provided. Cycle parking at bus stops should be provided due to walking distance. e. An ecological management plan (EMP) shall be submitted to the Council and approved. Development contributing to the connectivity of the Bernwood forest habitat and the conservation and maintenance of habitat for Bernwood species will be supported.

Delivering sites at smaller villages

- 4.169 Smaller villages have relatively poor access to services and facilities and are therefore only suited to accommodating small-scale development. As such, no specific allocations are made at smaller villages in this plan.
- 4.170 The housing requirement for smaller villages will be met through a combination of sites allocated in neighbourhood plans and sites coming forward as part of the development management process. At smaller villages particular emphasis is given to the role of local communities in identifying how best to meet their own development needs through neighbourhood plans as set out in more detail in Policy D2.
- 4.171 The HELAA has identified some suitable sites at smaller villages which indicates that there is a realistic prospect of some if not all of these sites coming forward during the Plan period. Therefore a windfall allowance is assumed, which includes an allowance for the smaller villages.

D3 Housing development at smaller villages

Where there is no made neighbourhood plan in place, new housing development at smaller villages will be supported where it contributes to the sustainability of that village and is in accordance with all applicable policies in the Local Plan, provided that the proposed development fulfils all of the following criteria:

- a. is located within the existing developed footprint of the village* or is substantially enclosed by existing built development
- b. would not lead to coalescence with any neighbouring settlement
- c. is of a small scale (normally five dwellings or fewer) (net) and in a location that is in keeping with the existing form of the settlement and would not adversely affect its character and appearance
- d. respects and retains natural boundaries and features such as trees, hedgerows, embankments and drainage ditches
- e. would not have any significant adverse impact on environmental assets such as landscape, historic environment, biodiversity, waterways, open space and green infrastructure, and
- f. can be served by existing infrastructure

**the existing developed footprint is defined as the continuous built form of the village, and excludes individual buildings and groups of dispersed buildings. This includes former agricultural barns that have been converted, agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the village and gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land within the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where the land relates more to the surrounding countryside than to the built-up area of the village*

Assessing proposals at other settlements

- 4.172 New housing development at other settlements will be very strictly controlled to ensure that new development is directed to the most sustainable locations in the district. The replacement of existing homes and the infilling of one or two homes in an otherwise built-up frontage will generally be acceptable, provided that the proposal is in accordance with all other relevant policies in the Local Plan.
- 4.173 Dwellings that come forward under this policy will count towards the windfall allowance set out in Policy S2.

D4 Housing at other settlements

In other settlements, permission for the construction of new homes will only be granted:

- a. in the exceptional circumstances of providing affordable housing to meet local housing needs established through a housing need survey, or housing necessary for the purposes of essential rural needs, or
- b. for infilling of small gaps in developed frontages with one or two homes in keeping with the scale and spacing of nearby homes, and for the replacement of existing homes in their original curtilage, where there would be no adverse effect on the character of the countryside or other planning interests, subject to other policies in the Local Plan.

The need for new employment land

- 4.174 Future employment requirements for the district have been assessed as part of the Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA, Opinion Research Services and Atkins, December 2015). The assessment used an economic forecast from Oxford Economics to predict the number of workers there will be by 2033. They assessed the amount of floor space required for each employment use to accommodate that number of workers. This was then converted into land area requirements for each employment use – the ‘demand’ calculation. The ‘supply’ was then assessed taking account of any existing employment allocations in either the old Local Plan or neighbourhood plans, sites with planning permission minus sites that have prior approval to be converted from offices to residential development.
- 4.175 An addendum to the Bucks HEDNA provides additional information, analysis and clarification (Atkins, June 2017). The addendum takes account of additional factors, including sensitivity testing employment density assumptions (how much floorspace is required per worker for different types of employment use), analysis of past employment floorspace completions and a property market report. As with the Buckinghamshire HEDNA, this identifies the supply-demand balance in terms of land requirements, noting an oversupply of employment land in Aylesbury Vale compared with estimated need. This amounts to a surplus of around 300,000 sqm of total B use class land in the district, mainly the result of unimplemented planning consents.
- 4.176 A property market review carried out by Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) presents a different picture to that presented by the HEDNA (Buckinghamshire Office and Industrial Floor Space Market Review, June 2017). Based on recent transactions, supply in the pipeline and analysis of market trends, the review notes there is weak demand in the office sector and an industrial sector that outperforms the office sector. With regard to warehousing, the review notes that the area is constrained compared to other locations.
- 4.177 When planning for future employment requirements it is important to consider employment land in the context of the wider Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA), which also includes Wycombe, Chiltern and South Buckinghamshire, none of which are able to meet employment floorspace requirements set out in the HEDNA. For the FEMA, the HEDNA Addendum analysis of supply and demand indicates a shortage of office and warehousing floorspace and a surplus of industrial land. This Plan recognises that Aylesbury Vale’s surplus of employment land can help make up for shortages elsewhere in the FEMA. However, it is considered unlikely that Aylesbury Vale could make up the entire shortfall of other authorities in the FEMA, in particular with regard to warehousing, given locational constraints.
- 4.178 The Council has examined the potential for reducing the level of employment provision in the district. This has focused on reviewing sites where it is considered employment use does not need to be protected in the long term. It should be noted that for the market to function efficiently and to allow effectively for churn, choice and flexibility, it will always be necessary for the supply of land and premises to be in excess of projected future demand.

Provision of new employment land

- 4.179 Continuing provision of land and premises suitable for employment uses is needed, of a type and scale appropriate to the characteristics of the local area. This should provide sufficient opportunities for employment needs to be met locally, reduce the need to travel to work, and promote economic growth and social inclusion. This will be achieved by the protection of suitable existing employment sites, (including enterprise zones), from other forms of

development, existing commitments and allocations. A flexible approach is required to allow employment development to come forward on other suitable sites where a specific requirement needs to be met. Re-use or replacement of an existing building in an urban or rural area will be supported provided this is well designed, appropriate to its context having regard to the scale of the proposal, location and impact on the surrounding area.

- 4.180 The general principle relating to employment land and premises is that fit-for-purpose B1, B2 and B8 key employment sites should be safeguarded to maintain a diverse range of business activities in the district. Surplus sites that are not fit for purpose should be considered for release to other uses. Any existing B1, B2 and B8 businesses affected by the loss of employment land should be relocated to alternative premises so viable businesses are not affected.

D5 Provision of employment land

Employment development will generally be supported in sustainable locations:

- a. through allocations in this plan
- b. through the intensification or extension of existing premises
- c. as part of a farm diversification scheme
- d. through the appropriate re-use or replacement of an existing building, or
- e. in a rural location where this is essential for that type of business.

Proposals for suitable live-work developments which will not diminish normal residential amenity, will be permitted in locations considered suitable for open market residential development. The subsequent conversion of such units to full residential use will not be permitted unless evidence can be submitted that there is no prospect of the unit being used for that purpose.

Employment land is allocated in the following locations:

Aston Clinton MDA¹⁴: 5,000 sqm B1

Kingsbrook: 10 hectares (estimated 40,000 sqm) B1/B2/B8 (see Policy D-AGT6)¹⁵

Berryfields: 9 hectares/36,000 sqm B1/B2/B8 (see Policy D-AGT5)¹⁶

Hampden Fields 3,650 sqm B1a, 14,600 sqm B1c, 3,650 sqm B2 and 7,300 sqm B8 (total 29,200 sqm (see Policy D-AGT4)¹⁷

Woodlands, College Road (part of Woodlands/Arla Enterprise Zone): 25,600 sqm B1b, 44,400 sqm B2 and 32,800 sqm B8 (total 102,800 sqm use) (see Policy D-AGT3)¹⁸

Salden Chase: 2.07 hectares (see Policy D-NLV001)

¹⁴ Outline consent approved subject to S106 (15/03806/AOP)

¹⁵ Outline consent granted 05 Dec 2013 (13/06249/AOP)

¹⁶ Outline consent granted 14 Oct 2008 (07/00052/ADP)

¹⁷ Application awaiting decision 16/00424/AOP

¹⁸ Application awaiting decision 16/01040/AOP

Town, village and local centres to support new and existing communities

- 4.181 Town, village and local centres across the district are crucial in supporting the growth of sustainable communities by being a focal point for local communities in terms of services, retail, leisure and employment. It is therefore important to retain a hierarchy of centres and a 'town centre first' approach for those areas, in order to support the growth and distribution proposed in the VALP's strategy and help retain local distinctiveness across the district.
- 4.182 Changes in the way that people shop mean that the role of town, village and local centres is evolving. Growth in internet shopping and other factors mean the focus of town and local centres in future is likely to be more diverse than the traditional retail role. The VALP provides a flexible approach to be able to accommodate potential changes in the role of town and local centres during the Plan period. The strategy and policy approach seeks to ensure town and local centres will flourish and prosper, providing a mix of uses.
- 4.183 Within the district Aylesbury town centre is the largest centre, followed by Buckingham town centre, and on a smaller scale the centres at Wendover, Winslow and Haddenham. Aylesbury and Buckingham are both operating as the main town centres in the district, offering a range of social, cultural, leisure and employment functions for a wide catchment area. However, they are competing with nearby larger centres at Milton Keynes, Bicester, Oxford, and to a lesser extent High Wycombe, Hemel Hempstead, and Luton. Aylesbury has a number of local centres that provide an important local shopping role that should be maintained.
- 4.184 Aylesbury will remain the principal retail and service centre in the district recognising its role as a potential Garden Town, but the town centre needs continued investment and revitalisation. There has been significant investment in the transport infrastructure and cultural offer at Aylesbury in recent years including development of the Waterside Theatre, Waterside North and the surrounding area. Policy D7 sets out a strategy for growth and revitalisation of Aylesbury town centre. The policy sets out further details about how the vision will be implemented and allocates a site in the town centre for redevelopment.
- 4.185 Buckingham town centre also needs to build on its programme of regeneration to maximise the benefits continuing growth can bring, and to support the level of jobs and homes growth proposed for the northern part of the district. Growth of the university campus is likely to play a role in this. Some of these issues are addressed in the made Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out policies to revitalise and grow Buckingham town centre.
- 4.186 To support economic, retail and leisure activity in centres within the other strategic settlements of Winslow, Wendover and Haddenham, the Council will encourage a mix of uses as well as resisting the loss of essential provision. The policy seeks to create a positive framework to support economic growth and diversity in town and local centres with a mix of uses which can include retail, leisure, services and employment.
- 4.187 Similar to the approach for supporting employment growth, the strategy for town, village and local centres seeks flexibility to support opportunities for sustainable growth. This approach also recognises that a variety of uses, as well as retail, need to be encouraged to support local, village and town centres, particularly at strategic centres. This will enable them to compete with centres outside the district, make them more sustainable and support their renaissance.
- 4.188 Community services and local facilities continue to be important in local and village centres. The strategy seeks to resist the loss of essential facilities and businesses such as local shops, pubs and post offices and wider community services so that communities continue to thrive and do not stagnate or go into decline. Policy I3 covers this in more detail. The Council will support communities in preparing neighbourhood plans to help address these issues.
- 4.189 New local centres are to be provided within major development areas which will be key to supporting sustainable development.

- 4.190 Town centres also have an important contribution towards meeting the requirement for housing. Residential development in the right location adds to the vitality and viability of the town centre and helps reduce the need to travel as people can live close to work and local services. However, this must not lead to the loss of locations required for uses directly related to the town centre and its shopping and leisure functions, and should be of an appropriate scale.
- 4.191 Town centres are suitable locations for residential development of an appropriate scale and form in order to contribute to the mix of uses and create a vibrant centre. This should comprise a mix of tenures and sizes of units including affordable housing (in line with Policy H2).
- 4.192 Aylesbury Vale Retail Study 2015 identifies the need for growth of retail (convenience or comparison) beyond that which is already committed in allocations or planning permissions. Aylesbury Town Centre Retail Capacity Update (December 2016) provides updated figures for Aylesbury Town Centre convenience floorspace capacity and district-wide comparison floorspace capacity. The update takes account of an increase in the catchment area and growth in the resident population which results in increased expenditure availability and advises that the 2029 and 2033 capacity figures be reviewed in five years time. In light of these studies indicative targets for retail floor space provision are as follows:

Convenience floor space capacity	2019	2024	2029	2033
Aylesbury town centre ¹⁹	-	2,970	5,260 m ²	6,980m ²
Buckingham	-	-	-	-
Haddenham	-	-	-	-
Wendover	-	8 m ²	20 m ²	29 m ²
Winslow	222 m ²	262 m ²	299 m ²	328 m ²

Comparison floor space Capacity	2019	2024	2029	2033
Aylesbury Vale total	5,966 m ²	14,364 m ²	22,587 m ²	29,289 m ²

- 4.193 Aylesbury Town Centre Retail Capacity Update (December 2016) reflects the most up-to-date information on the amount of retail growth that the district could accommodate over the Plan period. Floorspace requirements have increased reflecting additional expenditure available and hence capacity. The update recognises Aylesbury’s enhanced role as a potential new Garden Town delivering the majority of the district’s growth. Policies and allocations in this Plan provide for future retail provision to come forward over the Plan period. Further retail provision is also expected to come forward through neighbourhood plans.²⁰
- 4.194 The policy below suggests the amount of comparison and convenience retail provision that might be provided over the Plan period. The relative balance between comparison and convenience floorspace is indicative only and there may be scope for flexibility on this.
- 4.195 For convenience retail, the Plan allocates sufficient sites to meet nearly all the expected requirement in Aylesbury for the whole plan period (6,893sqm out of 6,980sqm). At Winslow, the Council will explore whether there is scope for including new retail as part of the development of a new station. At Wendover, the amount of additional retail capacity is too

¹⁹ This takes account of the pipeline/commitment at Gatehouse Quarter of 2,806sqm. If this development does not come forward there may be a requirement for the equivalent floorspace to come forward earlier in the Plan period.
²⁰ For example, Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy (October 2015) EE2 allocates land for retail, office and mixed development.

small (29sqm) to make specific provision for. For comparison retail, Local Plan site allocations have the potential to meet requirements up until 2030 (25,604 sqm out of 29,289 sqm). Provision at Buckingham through the neighbourhood plan, should this come forward, will contribute towards the district wide requirement. In the longer term, a potential further extension of Waterside North to include Hale Leys Shopping Centre may offer scope to develop additional retail floorspace.

D6 Town, village and local centres to support new and existing communities

The strategy for town, village and local centres builds on the vision and strategic objectives set out in the VALP. Growth and expansion of town and local centres should be consistent with the existing hierarchy of centres within the district.

The Council will promote the sustainable growth and regeneration of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow. Within defined town centres, development proposals for retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community and residential development will be supported (subject to compliance with other policies in the VALP) where they:

- a. retain or enhance the town centre's historic character and appearance, vitality and viability
- b. sustain or enhance diverse town centre uses and customer choice, incorporating residential accommodation above ground floor level where possible, and
- c. are readily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.

Proposals for town centre uses should be sited within the town or local centres. Proposals for such uses outside town or local centres are to be considered against Policy E5.

Proposals for development in and around town, local or village centres, including proposals for changes of use, should support the aspirations for regeneration of those centres including those subject to neighbourhood plans by improving the range and quality of retail, public realm, leisure, employment and training opportunities.

New local centres will be provided within major development areas.

In local and village centres, proposals for services and local community facilities will be supported, which are of an appropriate scale and do not compromise the character of the area and the functionality of the centre. These should ensure that any change of use from A1 maintains the general vitality and viability of the centre and does not seriously diminish the provision of local shopping facilities.

Local and village centres will be encouraged to grow and loss of essential facilities and businesses such as local shops, pubs and post offices will not be supported.

Retail Allocations	Comparison Sq m	Convenience Sq m
Woodlands, College Rd: A1: 2,000 sqm (assume 40% comparison) and A5: 1,000 sqm See Policy AGT3	800	1,200
Berryfields MDA A1: 1,400sqm (assume 35% comparison) See Policy AGT5	490	910

Hampden Fields (See Policy AGT4): around 1,200 sqm (GFA) Foodstore (Class A1), 900sqm (other local shops) - A1 600sqm restaurants and cafes - A3 600sqm Public House/Letting Rooms - A4 400sqm Professional Services - A2	1,050	1,050
Aston Clinton MDA A1/A2/A3 500sqm (35% comparison)	70	130
Town Centre Redevelopment Area		
Civic Quarter A1: 97sqm,	34	63
Royal Mail Sorting Office (100% comparison)	5,000	0
Waterside North Phase 2 and 3; 220,000sqft (20,438 sqm) of which 30,000 sqft (2,790 sqm) A3/4/5. 17,700 sqm A1 (80% comparison)	14,160	3,540
Telecom building, New Street, Aylesbury (potential allocation)	(4,000)	0
Total Floorspace (sqm)	25,604	6,893

Aylesbury town centre

- 4.196 Aylesbury is the county town of Buckinghamshire and has long been the focus of new development in the district and will continue to be the main location for growth in its role as a Garden Town. Investment and development both inside and beyond the town centre boundary will be necessary to meet the needs of the growing population of the Garden Town. Part of the vision for Aylesbury Garden Town is that by 2033, Aylesbury will have a thriving and revitalised town centre. It will have an enhanced environment, with shops, leisure facilities, open space, homes, businesses and services, built and designed to high standards, bringing renewal to the town and enhancing the attraction of the historic core.
- 4.197 Aylesbury is fortunate in having successfully retained its historic centre whilst accommodating significant modern developments. A major part of its attraction is the proximity of the “Old Town”, centred around St. Mary’s Church, to the main shopping area. Within the shopping area a number of historic buildings and frontages add to its distinctiveness and character.
- 4.198 Recent years have seen significant local authority investment in the town with the development of Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Waitrose, Travelodge, a university campus and new parking. Further regeneration is planned as part of The Exchange scheme. The town is reasonably well represented by national retailers and has a major department store. The owners of the two shopping centres continue to invest in improving the interior environment and Friars Square, the larger centre has been particularly successful in attracting new brands and strengthening the town’s fashion offer. However, in order to compete successfully within the sub-region, Aylesbury needs to overcome the current challenges it faces.

The challenges

- 4.199 Increase in economic and political uncertainty – Nationally consumers have proved remarkably resilient since the Brexit vote and, despite the unprecedented backdrop, consumer spending has generally remained robust. However, with the prospect of rising inflation, the increasing reliance on consumer debt to support spending, and the lack of detail about the impact of Brexit, there is concern about consumer confidence and how this will affect spending patterns.

The outlook for retailers is also challenging. With rising costs, but consumer confidence uncertain, retailers are having to consider how much they can pass on to consumers. Retailers are likely to hold back on capital expenditure and employment particularly in towns of Aylesbury’s size which are still working to establish themselves as a destination in their own right. This inevitably means that future aspirations for the town centre need to recognise that phased development within a vision framework will be the favoured approach.

- 4.200 Attractiveness and identity – like all town centres, there are areas of Aylesbury which haven’t been improved for some time and consequently reflect negatively on the town. This affects both visitors’ perception and those of potential new investors. The Aylesbury Town Centre Plan makes clear that future plans need to pay equal attention to these areas as well as the opportunities for new development.
- 4.201 A growing population – with Aylesbury remaining the main focus and a significant area for housing and employment growth in the district, further infrastructure including outer link roads to help reduce town centre congestion, as well as retail within and beyond the town centre, will need to continue to develop, simply to meet the needs of a growing and working population. However, timescales for new infrastructure can be long and Aylesbury will need to work hard to retain its consumer base.
- 4.202 Protecting existing investment – the success of existing assets and investments, whether private or public, depend on the whole visitor experience. Plans to deliver new shops, catering outlets and public realm improvements to support, for example, Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, have not

come forward as quickly as originally anticipated, largely due to the economic downturn and developers holding back on capital expenditure.

- 4.203 Competition and changing expectations – as well as people's changing expectations of their town centres, other growing trends are posing a threat to the traditional high street:
- 4.204 Out of town retailing – key retailers moving out of Aylesbury's town centre when their leases come up for renewal to capitalise on more modern units tailored to their requirements, and often cheaper rents and business rates, could have a major impact.
- 4.205 Competition from major supermarkets – that have made themselves more appealing to people with busy lifestyles by broadening their non-food retail offer and raising their game in sectors such as fashion by using leading designers.
- 4.206 Omnichannel shopping – this continues to be the single biggest impact on the shape of town centre retailing. The speed at which retailing has shifted online is putting strain on traditional business models, many of which are no longer fit for purpose. Many retailers are responding by rationalising their portfolio but also by developing a seamless omnichannel offer which includes a convenient click and collect offer for the consumer, and an opportunity for the retailer to capture secondary purchases through the collect visit.
- 4.207 Consumers making fewer, shorter trips to towns – preferring to make longer trips, less frequently, to bigger regional centres which offer the total day experience. Here shopping can be combined with a variety of leisure activities, whether dining or visiting the cinema. A two-hour drive is not considered unreasonable by today's consumers. The exception to this is food shopping, where the main shop trip size is getting smaller and the top-up trip size is getting bigger. This change is a result of the competition and people wanting to shop around from the big four supermarkets and the increase in the number of small convenience stores.
- 4.208 Leisure time is becoming more important – to people leading busy lives and as people make use of digital technology to make their purchases. This has resulted in a notable shift in consumerism towards the pursuit of experience over material goods. Shopping will no longer be the primary reason to visit a town centre. The opportunity to socialise in Aylesbury town centre will be key to its future success.
- 4.209 The proposed East-West Rail route – could attract visitors from the villages in between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. However, it will also make it easier and more attractive for them to go to MK from Winslow (a new station is due to open in the early 2020s) if Aylesbury does not succeed in improving its offer.
- 4.210 The rising popularity and enhancement – of other competing centres such as High Wycombe and Bicester town.

Failure to capitalise on our catchment

- 4.211 Aylesbury has a large potential catchment of 259,000 people within a 25 minute drive time²¹. Three-quarters of this catchment – well above the national average have a high quality lifestyle profile and are in the top three Acorn groups - affluent achievers, rising prosperity, and comfortable communities. The majority of Aylesbury's catchment are consumers with good levels of disposable income seeking good quality products and good quality shopping/leisure experiences. It's also a high spending catchment over-indexing vs GB average on almost all categories. Yet the town is failing to capitalise fully on its catchment profile because, while some are visiting the town centre for employment reasons or to use services such as banks, they

²¹ Aylesbury Town Centre Retail Capacity Update, December 2016

are not necessarily visiting in the numbers that could be achieved in terms of retail and other activities. Of those who are visiting, an insufficient number are spending their money in the town. So, unless Aylesbury improves its offer to give its catchment market what it is increasingly looking for, current leakage to neighbouring towns will continue.

Guiding principles and strategic aims for future development

4.212 In seeking to enhance Aylesbury's role as county town and sub-regional shopping centre, the Council has developed and approved the Aylesbury Town Centre Plan (2014) which was prepared working closely with Aylesbury Town Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and other key stakeholders ranging from local community organisations to owners of the shopping centres and independent operators. The Town Centre Plan sets out seven guiding principles for the future development of Aylesbury town centre:

Principle 1: Positioning the town centre correctly by providing a complementary, credible experience to nearby centres such as Milton Keynes and Watford and being a 'best in class' sub-regional centre.

Principle 2: Being different, rather than a clone, but basing the town's unique selling point on reality. Aylesbury needs to distinguish itself from other town centres in the area, but in a way that is credible.

Principle 3: Offering what the 'market' is looking for to capitalise on our enviable catchment. Whilst there has been significant investment in the town centre in recent years by both the public and private sector, Aylesbury's retail offer is currently weighted towards the lower/mass market consumer, with a limited choice in terms of product categories, ranges and brands for the mid/upper market, discerning consumer.

When asked what would make people visit Aylesbury Town Centre more often, 'better quality shops' was the most common answer, followed by 'more independents, better department stores and more high street brands'²². An independent food and beverage assessment carried out by Coverpoint in 2014 also concludes that the town centre food and beverage sector needs more choice across all categories, but particularly in the family dining and mid-higher quality categories. This research was used to inform phase one of The Exchange scheme. However, with the continued growth in the food and beverage market, coupled with the housing growth planned for the Aylesbury area and the development of a residential community in the heart of the town itself, there is still significant unmet demand.

Principle 4: Encouraging social interaction. Whilst the retail experience is changing largely as a result of omnichannel retailing, visitors will still value a physical town centre outlet, particularly if it offers them opportunities to browse and spend time in an attractive environment and meet their friends and family. They will see the town centre as a place not just for shopping or business, but for social interaction in its widest sense and as a place in which to meet, relax and spend their leisure time. New improvement schemes need to recognise this by delivering, integrated mixed uses including housing and quality public space throughout the town to help connect the different areas.

Principle 5: Build community spirit. Social interaction is about inclusiveness and using space and facilities to help build a sense of togetherness as one community. We should aim to create a town which shows its community spirit through welcoming events and activities.

²² Postcode Plus Survey. July 2016

Principle 6: Take a connected, ‘whole town’ approach. The success of one area of the town should not be compromised by development in another and we must take a strategic approach to work such as green infrastructure and signage.

Principle 7: Appeal to all our different town centre users. We must make sure we’re appealing to the whole of our potential catchment including families, young professionals, students, college and university leavers who are looking for their first jobs, empty nesters and older people.

4.213 The following strategic aims flow from the guiding principles, our vision for Aylesbury and the studies and strategies which arose from the recommendations from the previous Aylesbury Town Centre Masterplan work carried out by ARUP. They are cross-cutting, which means they have implications for the whole of the town, but the action plans in the Town Centre Plan show how they will apply to specific areas.

4.214 The strategic aims are grouped under two main headings, economic regeneration and physical regeneration:

Economic regeneration

4.215 Provide a more balanced and attractive leisure, retail and food and beverage offer and circuit, which:

- helps transform the day, evening and weekend economy in Aylesbury and puts it on the map as a destination of choice
- matches the needs of all ages and communities and brings them together
- matches the needs of consumers from within our catchment (and beyond), business investors and operators, and
- builds on the legacy of London 2012.

Physical regeneration

4.216 Create a high quality, connected and sustainable built, natural and transport environment which appeals to, and matches the needs of, all consumers and business investors within our catchment market and supports our leisure, retail and housing aspirations.

The vision

4.217 To enable Aylesbury to compete and succeed in the future we need to continue our work to reinvigorate the town centre. The Aylesbury Town Centre Plan contains the following vision for the town:

- To be a high profile, sub-regional centre for entertainment and the arts, which has added a distinctive edge to its market town heritage
- To be a distinctive, ‘best in class’, modern market town, which is attractive, safe, sustainable and accessible
- To provide a quality, day and evening environment in terms of leisure, retail and food and drink, which attracts and brings together people of all ages and communities from within its enviable catchment
(Aylesbury Town Centre Plan, 2014)

4.218 There are a number of uses and activities that should be accommodated in the town centre including shopping, leisure, entertainment, employment, housing, worship and tourism. It is an objective of this Plan to accommodate these sometimes competing uses in a way which most benefits the whole of the town centre.

4.219 The Aylesbury Town Centre Plan reflects the advice in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) regarding town centres, which states that policies should support their viability and vitality and promote competitive town centres that provide customer choice and a diverse retail offer.

4.220 Action plans for areas in the Town Centre Plan are summarised below:

Area	Action Plan main aim	How VALP will help achieve
Market Square, Walton Street and Friars Square	Make more of the area's presence as a key retail, catering and leisure hub	Town centre policies to support proposals for retail and other main town centre uses, provided they are in accordance with the vision and aims for the town centre
Kingsbury (including George Street and Pebble Lane)	Create a more attractive environment for residents, visitors and businesses and improve it as the gateway to the Old Town	Town centre policies to support public realm improvements and improving the quality of the town centre
Aylesbury Old Town (the historic quarter)	Preserve and enhance this residential area as a key part of the town's heritage and culture offer and improve its links with the rest of the town centre, in keeping with its conservation area status	Heritage assets policy to ensure these are properly considered when assessing development proposals
Gateway South (railway and bus stations)	Improve the railway and bus stations as key arrival points and improve their connection with the rest of the town centre	Allocation of area for comprehensive redevelopment (as shown on the policies map) including co-locating the bus and railway stations to create a public transport interchange
Upper and middle High street	Create a more attractive retail environment (especially in middle High Street), improve connections between upper High Street and Exchange Street, ensure both upper and middle High Street are part of the retail circuit and flow with the rest of the town centre	Town centre policies to support public realm improvements and improving the quality of the town centre, including improvements for pedestrian access
Cambridge Street, Buckingham Street and New Street	Cambridge Street: Improve the quality and attractiveness of the whole area, the continuity of active frontages along Cambridge Street and the appeal of Cambridge Street to independent shops. Buckingham Street and New Street: Improve the physical environment, reduce	Town centre policies to support proposals for retail, public realm improvements and improving the quality of the town centre, including improvements for pedestrian access

	dominance of the car and integrate the area more fully into the rest of the town centre and the retail circuit	
Vale Park and the Grand Union canal (to Circus Fields)	Capitalise on two of the town's key assets and connect them with the rest of the town centre and the wider countryside.	One of the key elements of the Aylesbury Garden Town vision is that the town will have an accessible, sustainable and well managed green infrastructure network including improved linkages from the town to new communities and to the surrounding countryside
Waterside South (from Walton Street junction to Upper Hundreds including Exchange Street and lower High Street)	Break down the concrete barrier of the inner ring road and improve links and accessibility from the rest of the town centre to Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Aqua Vale Leisure Centre, Vale Park and the retail parks	Part of the site has already been redeveloped. The plan allocates an increased area for mixed-use redevelopment on a site between the Exchange Street car park and the Royal Mail sorting office
Waterside North	Develop the site in phases to enhance the retail, food and beverage and housing offer in the town centre, strengthen links and help rejuvenate neighbouring areas such as Market Square, Walton Street and middle High Street	Development underway. General policies to support appropriate development in the town centre

A place to shop

4.221 In accordance with the NPPF, the principles of the settlement hierarchy, and recognising Aylesbury's role as a Garden Town, new shopping development should be concentrated at Aylesbury, and this development should be concentrated within or at the edge of the town centre. Aylesbury's town centre embraces a multitude of uses and activities including shops, homes, jobs, pubs and clubs, restaurants, leisure, sports and community facilities. The town centre is defined on the Policies Map and includes the area within the inner relief road, along with areas to the south which include Morrison's and the railway station, to the south-east including Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Waitrose, and Vale Park and Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre to the east, and to the north-east including Aylesbury Shopping Park, B&Q and the Royal Mail sorting office. The town centre boundary is as identified in the Aylesbury Vale Retail Study 2015 Annex F and is shown on the Policies Map. Proposals for development within this area will be considered having regard to their town centre location.

New floor space requirements

Comparison goods

4.222 As the population grows with the expansion of the town (and wider district), there is a need for the town's shopping facilities to expand and improve in order to maintain Aylesbury's role as the main retail focus in Aylesbury Vale and as a sub-regional centre in the county. The Aylesbury Town Centre Retail Capacity Update was carried out in 2016. This concludes that

22,587sqm of comparison floor space²³ will be required by 2024, increasing to 29,289sqm by 2033.

- 4.223 New comparison retailing will be focused at Aylesbury as the main focus for shopping in the district, recognising its role as a Garden Town. This figure is not seen as a prescriptive target, but rather as an indicative guide to the amount of floor space that will be required in the Plan period.
- 4.224 It is essential to locate comparison shopping in such a way as to extend range and choice. The first priority is therefore to accommodate the additional floor space within the retail core of the town centre. The additional floor space will primarily be delivered by allocating a new site within the town centre for a mixed-use redevelopment.
- 4.225 Waterside North, a town centre site adjacent to Exchange Street, has been identified for a number of years as the location for the next phases of development and is currently under construction. The Phase one scheme will see the construction on part of the site, of up to four restaurants, with 47 apartments on three floors above and a new public square. It is due to be completed in 2018.
- 4.226 The provision of the additional retail floor space is expected to be included in future phases of development which will extend the site beyond Waterside North to the Royal Mail sorting office. This area is shown on the policies map. In addition to retail, these development phases should provide a mix of main town centre uses (and an element of residential) and fulfil the vision and strategic aims for the town centre as set out above. This should include an element of car parking to redress any shortfall from the loss of existing car parks as a result the next phase of town centre regeneration.
- 4.227 An Aylesbury parking strategy, due to be commissioned shortly, will set out the Council's aims regarding parking in the town, identify the amount the town centre needs and conclude where this should be located and in what form.
- 4.228 Within the town centre, the Council will view positively proposals for retail and other main town centre uses provided they contribute positively to improving the quality of the town centre and delivering the vision and aims set out above. The 2015 Retail Study concludes that qualitative improvements and investment will be needed to retain Aylesbury's credibility as a sub-regional centre and ensure that it can increasingly be seen as a place for social interaction. In particular, the development or redevelopment of smaller sites can lead to qualitative improvements in shopping facilities and can readily be accommodated within and enhance the town centre. Other proposals for town centre comparison goods shopping will be assessed against policy D6.

Convenience stores

- 4.229 Aylesbury is well served by convenience stores²⁴, and the Retail Capacity Study Update 2016 concludes that convenience floorspace capacity in the short term (up to and beyond 2019) is sufficient to accommodate the known pipeline commitments plus some headroom. By 2024 the capacity floorspace moves to 2,970sqm rising to 5,260sqm by 2029 and 6,980sqm by 2033. Within the town centre, a scheme for external enhancements and an extension to the existing Sainsbury's store fronting Buckingham Street has been approved subject to a Section 106 planning obligation agreement. This is linked to the development of the larger, new Sainsbury's store which is proposed at Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury.

²³ Comparison goods are defined in full in the glossary, but include items such as clothing and electrical items

²⁴ Convenience stores are defined in full in the glossary but include items such as food, beverages and newspapers

Aylesbury transport hub

- 4.230 As part of the overall vision for the town and to ensure that the town remains accessible, an area known as the Aylesbury transport hub is allocated for comprehensive mixed use redevelopment, including co-locating the bus and railway stations to create a new public transport interchange. New residential units will be provided, along with public realm improvements, connectivity improvements to the rest of the town, new open space and other main town centre uses including a hotel.

D7 Town centre redevelopment

The starting point for identifying sites in the town centre is the Aylesbury Town Centre Plan (2014). The Policies Map identifies a site between the Exchange Street car park and the Royal Mail sorting office (including Hampden House and Upper Hundreds car park) for mixed-use redevelopment based principally on retail uses with an element of residential and other town centre uses at an appropriate scale and location. The redevelopment scheme(s) must make adequate provision for car parking in accordance with the Council's car parking strategy. Development proposals must contribute positively to meeting the vision and strategic aims for the town centre. Details of retail floorspace provision are set out in Policy D6.

Aylesbury town centre and the primary shopping frontages are defined on the Policies Map (see Policy E2). Informed by the aims and objectives of the Aylesbury Town Centre Plan, and the evidence in the retail studies identifying a continuing need to improve and invest in Aylesbury town centre, qualitative redevelopment in the town centre will be supported and encouraged.

The policies map also identifies an area for the Aylesbury transport hub. This area is allocated for comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including co-locating the bus and railway stations to create a new public transport interchange, provision of new residential units, public realm improvements, connectivity improvements to the rest of the town, new open space and other main town centre uses including a new hotel and the relocation of the superstore. Friarage Road may need to be rerouted to accommodate the new development.

D8 Aylesbury town centre

Elsewhere in the town centre, proposals for retail and other main town centre uses will be supported to reflect Aylesbury's status as Garden Town and the opportunities this will bring. Proposals should contribute positively to improving the quality of the town centre and delivering the vision and strategic aims for the town centre set out above and in accordance with the latest published town centre plan. Proposals should have particular regard to enhancements to the built environment, improvements for pedestrian access and environmental enhancements to the public realm.

A place to live

- 4.231 Residential uses in Aylesbury town centre are mainly concentrated in the 'Old Town' area around St. Mary's Church, extending along Church Street and Parsons Fee to Castle Street and Rickfords Hill and north from the church along Nelson Terrace, Granville Street and Ripon Street, and to the south-west of the town in the Friarscroft area.
- 4.232 It is important to ensure that the residential role of the town centre is not lost to ensure that Aylesbury continues and enhances its role as a vibrant and thriving town providing opportunities for social interaction. Providing more housing within and close to the town centre will help meet this aim. More housing in the town centre is sustainable; it will provide greater choice, a better balance of uses, accommodation for those who wish to be less reliant on the car, and increased activity outside peak periods. It will help provide a more attractive and safer

town centre environment and add positively to the quality of the centre's urban fabric. A number of sites within Aylesbury town centre are identified as being suitable or part-suitable for housing development in the Housing and Economic Development Land Availability Assessment, and three of these are to be allocated for housing. These sites are identified on the Policies Map. Two further sites in the town centre are identified as part-suitable for housing (Royal Mail sorting office and Hampden House). These form part of the site for town centre redevelopment identified above and are covered by policy D7.

- 4.233 Due to the change in permitted development rights, the Council has seen an increase in the number of offices that have been converted to flats. It is anticipated that the recent increase in residential development in Aylesbury town centre will continue, not only by the conversion of employment to residential, but also the use of the upper floors above shops, which can be particularly suitable for conversion to flats.

D9 Housing in Aylesbury town centre

The Council will support proposals for residential development in Aylesbury town centre that are consistent with the above vision and aims, in the following locations:

- a. use of upper floors above shops
- b. conversion of vacant or underused employment buildings
- c. as subsidiary parts of (re)development and other mixed use developments provided that this is of an appropriate scale and is in accordance with other policies in this Plan

A place of leisure and entertainment

- 4.234 Aylesbury town centre (which includes Vale Park, the canal basin and Aqua Vale Swimming and Fitness Centre) provides the focus for much of the town's leisure needs, and also serves a much wider catchment. The town centre also provides entertainment facilities such as the Waterside Theatre, a cinema complex, parks, restaurants, bars and nightclubs. The Council recognises the essential role of such facilities in the town centre and will resist proposals that would result in the erosion of community facilities and services as set out in policy I3.

Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites

- 4.235 This policy sets out a criteria-based approach to assess potential allocations and any applications for new sites or for expanding current sites within the district. This is required to ensure that Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation is provided in suitable locations. It is important to identify sites that are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally; have access to services, facilities and potential sources of employment; and which will promote inclusive communities but which will not be out of scale with or dominate nearby settled communities. When considering whether a proposed Gypsy and Traveller site would dominate settled communities, regard will be given to existing Gypsy and Traveller sites outside the district boundary but still in close proximity to the settled community. As set out in the national planning guidance there is no presumption that a temporary grant of planning permission should be made permanent.
- 4.236 Good practice guidance²⁵ has previously advised that an average family pitch must be capable of accommodating an amenity building, a static and touring caravan, drying space for clothes, a lockable shed, parking space for two vehicles and a small garden.
- 4.237 The Government's Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS) identifies a definition distinction that Gypsies and Travellers who no longer lead a nomadic lifestyle are treated as non-travelling Gypsies and Travellers for the purposes of the planning system and their needs must therefore be met by the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). However the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010 protects their cultural choice to live in mobile accommodation and therefore there is a need to plan for this type of accommodation within the Plan.

D10 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites

Proposals for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites or Gypsy and Traveller park home sites will be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is an identified need, taking into account existing local provision and the availability of alternative sites, and the following criteria have been met:

- a. It has reasonable access to existing local services and facilities (including shops, schools, healthcare and public transport). Sites should either be within or close to existing sustainable settlements or with good access to classified roads and/or public transport
- b. Have safe and convenient vehicular access without giving rise to adverse impacts on highway safety
- c. Be able to achieve a reasonable level of visual and acoustic privacy for both people living on the site and those living nearby
- d. Not have a significantly adverse impact on environmental assets such as the countryside, landscapes, the historic environment, biodiversity, watercourses (including an ecological buffer zone), open space and green infrastructure
- e. The size and scale of the site and the number of caravans stationed is appropriate to the size and density of the local settled community, and does not dominate the nearest settled community
- f. The site should not be located where there is a risk of flooding or be affected by environmental hazards that may affect residents' health or welfare
- g. The site must be capable of being adequately serviced by drinking water, utilities and sewerage disposal facilities

²⁵ Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites – Good Practice Guide, CLG, 2008; revoked 2015

- h. Sites should remain small in scale – no more normally than 15 pitches on any one site
- i. Sites should be suitably designed and the layout include enough space to accommodate the proposed number of caravans, landscaping, vehicles and ancillary work areas as appropriate.

In the case of Travelling Showpeople, proposals will be also be assessed, taking into account the needs for mixed use yards and the nature and scale of the Showpeople's business in terms of land required for storage and/or the exercising of animals.

Sites in the Green Belt will not be permitted unless other locations have been considered and only then where very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

5 Housing

Affordable housing on open market sites

- 5.1 At the time of writing the National Planning Policy Framework's Glossary defines affordable housing as 'social rented, affordable rented²⁶ and intermediate housing²⁷, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. The definition explicitly excludes 'low cost market' housing.
- 5.2 The Housing and Planning Act 2016 introduced starter homes into legislation. They are expected to be added to the definition of affordable housing, will cost 20% less than market value for first time buyers and regulations to control their provision were expected. However the Government has since produced a Housing White Paper (HWP)(February 2017) which has suggested a different approach to their provision and revisions to the definition of affordable housing. This means that the policy and supporting evidence will probably need to be altered from that set out below before the Plan is adopted.
- 5.3 Paragraph 159 of the NPPF requires Local Planning authorities to have a clear understanding of housing needs in their area via an assessment to identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need. It also states that if Housing Market Areas cross boundaries such assessments should be prepared cooperatively between relevant councils. The Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) has therefore been prepared for the four district councils in Buckinghamshire based on relevant Government guidance. The final revision of the HEDNA published in December 2016 identifies a need for Aylesbury Vale district to accommodate 4,200 affordable homes in the Plan period.
- 5.4 As a result of meeting housing need from adjacent councils which cannot meet their need in their own areas, Aylesbury Vale will also need to deliver a suitable proportion of affordable housing to address transferred affordable housing need within the overall unmet need. Such provision will need to recognise that the requirement in policy H1 below has been subject to viability appraisal based on the situation in Aylesbury Vale and the provision will need to match the requirement set out in the policy and not necessarily what would be required on site within the adjacent council areas.
- 5.5 The majority of affordable housing in the district is achieved by requiring developers to provide affordable homes as part of open market housing developments (through Section 106 agreements). To enable the Council to meet the identified need, it will seek to secure 25% affordable housing on qualifying development sites. The HEDNA identifies an affordable housing need of 4,200 dwellings during the Plan period. This equates to 21.3% of Aylesbury Vale's overall housing need, but to achieve the required number of affordable homes an allowance must be made for the developments which will be below the 11-house threshold and will not deliver affordable housing. Based on a viability assessment of the potential to deliver affordable housing on new developments, it is considered that a rate of 25% will deliver the required total of affordable housing and still allow landowners and developers to secure the competitive returns referred to in paragraph 173 of the NPPF. Allowing for 25% affordable homes to be provided on the entire housing figure (i.e. including the unmet need element referenced above) a total of 6,850 additional affordable homes must be provided in the district in the Plan period.

²⁶ Affordable rented housing is normally let at less than 80% of market rent.

²⁷ Intermediate housing is provided at a cost below market levels and includes rented and shared ownership/shared equity homes.

- 5.6 Policy H1 states that affordable housing will be sought on developments of 11 or more dwellings or, to prevent the development of sites with large houses at very low densities simply to avoid the threshold, sites of 0.3 hectares or larger. This reflects the recently introduced Government threshold of 10 dwellings or fewer under which Section 106 planning obligations for affordable housing should not be sought. Where the affordable housing policy would result in a requirement that more than half of an affordable home should be provided, the calculation will be rounded upwards and where it would be less than 0.5 a financial contribution of equivalent value may be sought.
- 5.7 Applicants seeking a lower percentage of affordable housing than sought by the policy must demonstrate why it is not economically viable to provide the required level. Open book calculations will need to be provided by the applicant and then verified at their expense by an independent consultant chosen by the Council who will then give it their consideration. Applicants will need to demonstrate that the viability assessment in place to support the Local Plan does not address the factors that they consider make the proposed development of the site unviable. Where development is demonstrated to be unviable, further negotiations will take place including consideration of the mix and type of social housing proposed, to test whether there is a better and more viable arrangement.
- 5.8 Affordable housing should be provided on the application site as this offers the best prospect of ensuring a mixed and balanced community. To achieve this it will be important to avoid the affordable dwellings being overly concentrated in only a few areas of a development. Affordable homes will therefore be expected to be integrated throughout the development site. Methods for achieving this will be set out in the forthcoming Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.9 Exceptionally, off-site provision or financial contributions in lieu of affordable housing may be considered by the Council where it can be demonstrated by an applicant that on-site provision cannot be achieved. The mechanism for how this can be demonstrated will be outlined in the forthcoming Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.10 The type, size, tenure and location of the affordable homes will be negotiated on a site-by-site basis, with reference to the stipulations of Policy H6 and the content of the HEDNA. The availability of any affordable housing subsidy and identified needs in the locality at the time of the proposal will be considered, based on the most up-to-date evidence on housing need and any available evidence regarding local market conditions. For example, a proportion of affordable dwellings may be required to be suitable or easily adaptable for occupation by the elderly or people with disabilities to accord with Policy H6. External factors such as subsequent changes in legislation, regulations or Government policy that affect the requirement of certain types of affordable homes, such as the changes suggested by the HWP, will also need to be considered. Further details will be provided in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.11 Alternative housing delivery methods that may include affordable housing, such as Community Land Trusts and Community Right to Build, will be considered in line with national policy and in accordance with Policy H1 Affordable Housing.
- 5.12 The allocation of affordable housing will be made in accordance with the Council's relevant allocations policy. Affordable homes are to remain affordable in perpetuity or, if this restriction is lifted, the subsidy should be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision within the district.
- 5.13 Further details of the Council's approach to affordable housing and the implementation of this policy will be provided in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

H1 Affordable housing

Residential developments of 11 or more dwellings gross or sites of 0.3ha or more will be required to provide a minimum of 25% affordable homes on site. In addition:

- a. The type, size, tenure and location of affordable housing will be agreed with the Council, taking account of the Council's most up-to-date evidence on housing need and any available evidence regarding local market conditions.
- b. Where an applicant advises that a proposal is unviable in the light of the above policy requirement, other policy requirements, specific site characteristics and other financial factors, an open book financial appraisal of the development should be provided by the applicant which will then be independently assessed at the expense of the applicant*.
- c. Exceptionally affordable housing provision may be provided off-site or a financial contribution made in lieu of such provision. This will need to be justified as an exception to normal policy as part of the planning application.
- d. Where a site forms part of a larger site of a size which is capable of being developed, the affordable housing requirements will be applied on a cumulative basis.
- e. The affordable homes will be expected to be integrated throughout the development site in accordance with the adopted Supplementary Planning Document.

Further details regarding the implementation of this policy will be provided in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

*the independent consultant who will assess the financial appraisal will be chosen by the Council.

Affordable housing on rural exception sites

- 5.14 The largely rural nature of the district coupled with high house prices means the provision of affordable housing in rural areas to meet local needs is important. It helps to create and maintain sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. The need for more affordable homes in villages tends to be particularly acute as opportunities for delivery are more limited. This is mainly due to the limited availability of land suitable for residential development.
- 5.15 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines rural exception sites as small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing, and seeks to address the needs of the local community. Such sites often provide fewer than 12 dwellings in locations within or immediately adjacent to the relevant settlement.
- 5.16 This policy applies to those areas designated as 'rural areas' in Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 625; The Housing (Right to Acquire and Enfranchise) (Designated Rural Areas in the South East) Order 1997, in accordance with national guidance. The statutory instrument lists the areas (parishes by list and part parishes by map) where there is an exemption from 'right to acquire' on social rented properties. This assures that properties built on rural exception sites within these designated areas remain affordable in perpetuity.
- 5.17 The Council expects exception schemes to be supported by the local parish council, and actively encourages parishes which are aware of a need for affordable housing to work with the Rural Housing Enabler or equivalent to undertake a local housing needs survey. Occupation of rural exception housing should be restricted to people with a local residential or employment connection to the parish and/or surrounding parishes where the development is proposed. A detailed description of the approach to establishing a local connection will be set out in the forthcoming Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 5.18 It is expected that rural exception sites will generally deliver 100% affordable housing. In some cases however, as recognised in paragraph 54 of the NPPF, some 'market housing' may be appropriate on sites where it can be demonstrated that the market housing is necessary to cross-subsidise the delivery of significant additional affordable housing within the scheme. On the basis of the NPPF text it is considered that 'some' cannot mean more than 50% of the houses within an exception site being market housing. In order for the Council to establish if market housing is required, and if so the quantity, the applicant will be expected to provide an open book financial appraisal of the development. This will then be independently assessed at the expense of the developer to demonstrate the viability of the revised scheme.

H2 Rural exception sites

In rural areas, small-scale developments for affordable housing may be permitted, provided that the proposal meets the following criteria:

- a. the number, mix, and design of dwellings is appropriate to meet local housing needs established through a housing need survey
- b. it is located on a site within or adjoining the existing developed footprint of the village*
- c. developments must be appropriate in scale, design and character to the locality, and
- d. dwellings permitted in accordance with this policy will be reserved in perpetuity for those in affordable local need with a valid local connection by planning obligation or conditions

Cross-subsidy

Where an independently assessed open book viability assessment can demonstrate that 100% affordable housing cannot be delivered on an exception site, the Council may agree to a proportion of some market homes within the site, if they meet the above criteria as well as the criteria below:

- e. the viability assessment must show that the scale of the market housing component is essential for the delivery of the rural exception affordable housing scheme and that it is based on rural exception site land values and must not include any profit, and
- f. the majority of the development must be for rural exception affordable housing.

*the existing developed footprint is defined as 'the continuous built form of the village, and excludes individual buildings and groups of dispersed buildings, agricultural buildings and associated land on the edge of the village and gardens, paddocks and other undeveloped land within the curtilage of buildings on the edge of the settlement where the land relates more to the surrounding countryside than to the built-up area of the village'.

Rural workers dwellings

- 5.19 National policy (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 55) states that ‘Local Planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside, unless there are special circumstances such as the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside’.
- 5.20 The following policy sets out the Council’s approach to the provision of dwellings for agricultural, forestry and other full-time workers in the countryside where there is an essential need for them to live at or near their place of work.
- 5.21 A new permanent occupational dwelling will only be permitted:
- for a full-time (rather than part-time) occupational worker
 - if it can be justified on a functional and financial basis
 - if the identified accommodation need cannot be met in any other way, and
 - if it is of an appropriate size, design and is well-sited.
- 5.22 The Council may permit temporary agricultural, forestry operations or other rural-based enterprises workers’ dwellings where the need for a permanent dwelling cannot currently be proved.
- 5.23 The Council will control the occupancy of any occupational dwelling by condition or planning obligation. It will seek to secure such dwellings to support the rural economy unless it can be shown that an essential need on or within the vicinity of the site no longer exists.

Definition of a rural worker

- 5.24 The definition of a rural worker is not limited to someone employed in agriculture or forestry. It can include for example, those employed in equestrian or other rural-based enterprises, water-based businesses, etc. The definition does not apply to someone whose business or occupation is carried out in a wide locality in the rural area, for example a tradesperson who does not require fixed premises.

The need for a full-time worker

- 5.25 The provision of a dwelling for occupational purposes in the countryside is an exception to normal planning policy. Consequently, the Council will not permit such a dwelling unless available evidence clearly demonstrates that the scale and nature of an existing or intended enterprise is sufficient to require one or more full-time workers to live at or near to the place of work. Reference to full-time shall be construed as including a person who is employed to solely or mainly work in the relevant occupation. The Council will not permit a permanent occupational dwelling for a part-time worker.
- 5.26 In considering whether the need is essential in any particular case, the Council will consider the requirements of the enterprise concerned and not the personal preferences or circumstance of any of the individuals involved.

Functional need and financial test

- 5.27 The Council will seek functional and financial justification for all occupational dwellings in the countryside. The particular assessments applied can be different depending on whether the application is for a dwelling for an agricultural, forestry or other essential rural worker and whether the application is for temporary or permanent accommodation.

Functional need for a permanent dwelling

- 5.28 The assessment of 'functional need' establishes whether the proposed dwelling is essential to enable one or more workers to be readily available at most times to ensure the proper functioning of the existing enterprise, provided that such a requirement cannot be reasonably dealt with by any other means. For agricultural workers, such a requirement might arise, for example, if workers are needed to be on hand day and night, such as in case animals or agricultural processes require essential care at short notice.
- 5.29 By itself the protection of livestock from theft or injury by intruders will not be sufficient to justify the need for a new agricultural dwelling. Requirements arising from food processing or agricultural contracting, as opposed to agriculture, also cannot be used to justify an agricultural dwelling, nor can agricultural needs justify the provision of isolated new dwellings as retirement homes for farmers.
- 5.30 It is unlikely that an essential functional need for a dwelling for a forestry worker could be justified given the nature of forestry due to its limited scale in the district, and having regard to conventional methods of forestry management (which can involve the use of a seasonal or peripatetic workforce). Special circumstances, such as the need to service the intensive nursery production of trees, may however do so.
- 5.31 There may also be instances where special justification exists for new isolated dwellings associated with other rural-based enterprises. The essential need for a rural worker's dwelling should be justified in relation to the activities and operations of the business, not the personal preferences or circumstances of the individuals involved, or for security reasons. In these cases, the enterprise itself, including any development necessary for the operation of the enterprise, must be acceptable in planning terms and permitted in that rural location, regardless of the consideration of any proposed associated dwelling.

Financial test for permanent dwellings

- 5.32 Permanent accommodation cannot be justified on agricultural, forestry or business grounds unless the business enterprise is economically viable. A financial test is necessary to establish whether this is the case.
- 5.33 To justify a new permanent dwelling as sustainable development, the rural business enterprise must be well established. When an application is submitted, it will need to be demonstrated that the enterprise to which the application relates:
- has been established for a continuous period of at least the previous three years and in the case of an enterprise consisting of more than one activity, the three years shall apply to the latest activity relating to the application
 - has been profitable for at least one of those three years, and
 - is financially sound on that date and has a clear prospect of remaining so.
- 5.34 A proposal should be supported by a business plan and accounts prepared by a suitably qualified person, and be accompanied by evidence of how the maintenance or growth of the enterprise will be funded. Applying the financial test can also help to establish the size and design of the dwelling the farming, forestry or rural business unit can sustain. In applying this test, the Council will take a realistic approach to the level of profitability, taking account the nature of the enterprise concerned.

Meeting need in other ways

- 5.35 Applicants will need to show that the identified needs could not be met in ways other than through a new permanent dwelling. For example, applicants will need to demonstrate why agricultural, forestry or other essential rural workers could not live in nearby towns or villages, or make use of accommodation already existing on the farm, area of forestry or business unit. Where applicable, the Council will take into account the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Schedule 2 Part 3 Class Q for agricultural buildings to dwellings.
- 5.36 The Council will investigate if it believes genuine need may not exist. For example, the Council may look into the history of an agricultural holding, area of forestry or rural business to establish the recent pattern of use of land and buildings. This may include whether any dwellings, or buildings suitable for conversion to dwellings, have recently been separated from the farmland, area of forestry or rural business concerned. Such activity may indicate a lack of a genuine need and in such circumstances an occupational dwelling will not be permitted.

Dwelling size

- 5.37 Agricultural, forestry or other occupational dwellings should be commensurate in size to the established functional requirement. In determining the appropriate size of a dwelling, the Council will consider the requirements of the enterprise rather than those of the owner or occupier. New dwellings must be of the minimum size commensurate with the established functional requirement and reflective of the enterprise's financial projections unless robustly justified. The Council will not permit dwellings that are:
- unusually large in relation to the agricultural, forestry or rural business needs of the unit, with net useable floor space not normally larger than 180sqm for the initial dwelling and 120sqm for each dwelling thereafter, excluding garaging but including associated offices such as a farm office, or
 - unusually expensive to construct in relation to the income the unit can sustain in the long-term.

Siting of the dwelling

- 5.38 Agricultural, forestry or other occupational dwellings should be sited so the worker is conveniently located to undertake activities required to meet the established functional need. New agricultural or forestry dwellings must be well related to existing farm or forestry buildings, or other dwellings, where these exist on or adjacent to the unit for which the functional need has been established. Occupational dwellings associated with a rural business should be located on the site of the rural business and well related to existing buildings, or other dwellings, where these exist on the site for which the functional need has been established.

Temporary rural workers' dwellings

- 5.39 The Council may permit a temporary dwelling for a full-time rural worker if it can be demonstrated that it is essential to support new farming, forestry or rural-based enterprise, whether on a newly created agricultural unit or an established one. The Council will assess the functional need and apply a financial test to any proposal for a temporary dwelling.
- 5.40 The functional need for temporary accommodation will need to be justified in the same way as the need for a permanent occupational dwelling, except that need will have to be demonstrated in relation to the new enterprise. Clear evidence of a firm intention and ability to develop the enterprise, such as significant investment in new buildings and equipment, will have to be available. The Council will also require evidence that the functional need could not be fulfilled in any other way.

- 5.41 In the case of assessing financial need, the Council will require the available evidence to demonstrate that the proposed enterprise has been planned on a sound financial basis with a reasonable prospect of delivering a sustainable profit before or by the expiry of the temporary period that the proposal seeks to secure.
- 5.42 The temporary dwelling should take the form of a caravan, a wooden structure or other temporary accommodation which can be easily dismantled. This is because any temporary permission will be granted for a specified period that will usually be for no longer than three years. Conditions will be imposed requiring its removal at the end of that period. Strong and clear justification will be required to support any proposals that a temporary period should be extended.
- 5.43 The Council will not normally give temporary permission in a location where a permanent dwelling would not be permitted, or grant successive extensions to a temporary permission over a period of more than three years. If permission for a permanent dwelling is subsequently sought, the merits of the proposal will be assessed against the criteria in this policy relating to permanent occupational dwellings in the countryside.

Occupancy and other conditions

- 5.44 Where a dwelling for a farm, forestry or essential rural worker has been permitted, the Council wishes to ensure that the dwelling is kept available for meeting this need for as long as it exists. The Council may control the occupancy of dwellings for farm, forestry or essential rural workers by condition or S106 agreement.
- 5.45 Where a dwelling for a farm, forestry or essential rural worker is proposed, the Council will also usually seek to impose, as part of any permission, conditions removing permitted development rights to ensure the continued viability of the property for its intended use. Permitted development rights allow certain developments, such as extensions, within the curtilage of a dwelling house that could result in an occupational dwelling increasing to a size either not justified by the identified functional requirement of the unit, or becoming too expensive for any future potential occupier to buy or rent.

Removal of occupancy conditions

- 5.46 The removal of an agricultural or forestry occupancy condition will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it has outlived its usefulness. In such cases the Council would expect evidence to demonstrate why the dwelling is no longer required in connection with the related enterprise. The Council will also expect it to be evidenced that the dwelling has been:
- made publicly available without any unreasonable restriction and with amenity land proportionate to its size, and
 - suitably advertised and marketed at a price reflecting its condition and the existence of the occupancy restriction for a continuous period of at least 12 months or an appropriate period as agreed with the LPA immediately prior to the date that an application is submitted.
- 5.47 The Council would not expect an occupational dwelling for an essential rural worker to be severed from the business unit to which it is tied, unless the business fails. In particular the Council would be unlikely to support any subsequent application to remove an occupational condition on such a severed dwelling or any future application for a new dwelling relating to the business. Even if the business to which the dwelling relates fails, the Council would expect every reasonable effort to be made to retain the occupational dwelling. The Council would apply the same principles as it would to a proposal to remove an agricultural or forestry condition.
- 5.48 Proposals for the removal of an agricultural or forestry occupancy condition will be considered on the basis of an up-to-date assessment of the demand for farm or forestry dwellings in the

locality and not just on the particular farm or forestry holding. When considering proposals to remove the occupancy condition for an essential rural worker, the Council will need to be convinced that the dwelling is no longer needed for the continuing rural enterprise or, in the event that the enterprise fails, is not needed for any proposed new use with planning permission or to meet a wider need in the locality for an occupational dwelling for an agricultural, forestry or essential rural worker.

Information and appraisals

- 5.49 Applicants must provide sufficient information to enable the Council to determine any application for an occupational dwelling or the removal of an occupancy condition. The Council may also seek the advice of agricultural or other consultants to give a technical appraisal of the case being put forward.

H3 Rural workers dwellings

Permanent rural workers' dwellings

A new permanent dwelling for an agricultural, forestry or rural worker will only be permitted if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The need relates to a full-time worker and does not relate to a part-time requirement
- b. There is an essential existing functional need for a worker to live at, or in the immediate vicinity of, their place of work
- c. The economic viability of the enterprise to which the proposed dwelling relates can be demonstrated by satisfying the 'financial test' applied by the Council
- d. The functional need could not be fulfilled by any other means
- e. It is of the minimum size and an appropriate design commensurate with the established functional requirement and reflective of the enterprise's financial projections unless robustly justified
- f. It is sited so as to meet the identified functional need and is related to existing farm, forestry or rural business buildings, or other dwellings
- g. Suitable accommodation, including that which might have been converted, has not been sold separately from the land within the last five years
- h. Planning permission will be granted subject to a planning condition or S106 protecting its continued use by agricultural, forestry and other rural workers
- i. Permitted Development Rights may be removed in order to ensure that a dwelling is not subsequently extended to a size which exceeds its functional requirement.

Temporary rural workers' dwellings

A new temporary dwelling for an agricultural, forestry or rural worker will only be permitted if all of the following criteria are met:

- j. The need relates to a full-time worker and does not relate to a part-time requirement
- k. It is essential to support a new rural business activity for which there is a clearly established functional need for the worker to live on or in the vicinity of the holding

- l. The future economic viability of the enterprise to which the proposed dwelling relates can be demonstrated by a sound business plan
- m. The functional need could not be fulfilled by any other means
- n. It takes the form of a caravan, a wooden structure, or other temporary accommodation of the minimum size required to support the proposed new rural business activity
- o. Suitable accommodation, including that which might have been converted, has not been sold separately from the land within the last five years.

Removal of occupancy conditions

An agricultural, forestry or rural worker occupancy condition will only be lifted if it can be demonstrated that both of the following criteria are met:

- p. A suitable sustained attempt has been made to advertise and market the dwelling for sale or rent at a price that reflects the occupancy restriction for a continuous period of at least 12 months or an appropriate period as agreed with the LPA and
- q. The rural worker dwelling no longer serves a need in connection with the holding to which it relates, and there is no agricultural, forestry or rural worker occupational need elsewhere that it could reasonably service, nor is it likely that any such needs will arise in the foreseeable future.

Replacement dwellings in the countryside

- 5.50 In the countryside outside the Green Belt, the replacement of existing dwellings will generally be acceptable. Whilst accepting the principle of the erection of replacement dwellings, it is important to take into account the overall effect of the proposed replacement. The effects of the proposed replacement should be compared with the impact of the existing dwelling. If the dwelling allowed exceeds the original size, the Council may impose a condition withdrawing future permitted development rights. For the purpose of the comparison the term 'dwelling' will not include any detached garaging or domestic outbuildings.

H4 Replacement dwellings in the countryside

The replacement of dwellings within the countryside on a one-for-one basis will normally be supported provided that the replacement dwelling is not significantly greater in size than the one it replaces, does not cause significant harm to the site or its surroundings and accords with the design principles set out in policy BE2.

Self/custom build housing

- 5.51 The affordability of housing in the district is a continuing challenge, and delivering housing that is affordable to local families is a priority for the Council. The Council considers that custom and self build housing can play an important part in solving the housing challenge, by complementing the mainstream housing built by large house builders and housing associations.
- 5.52 The Community Infrastructure Levy regulations define self/custom build housing as ‘a dwelling built by or commissioned by someone to be occupied by them as their sole or main residence for at least three years.’ Because the VALP allocates mainly larger housing sites, without this policy it is likely that custom builders would struggle to compete for sites.
- 5.53 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 50) expects local authorities to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities. Local authorities must also plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community, such as, but not limited to, families with children, older people, people with disabilities, service families and people wishing to build their own homes.

H5 Self/custom build housing

The plan will expect developments proposing 100 dwellings and above (including partial development(s) of a wider site and the cumulative need for provision) to provide a percentage of serviced plots for sale to self/custom builders. These numbers will be determined on a site-by-site basis dependent on evidence of demand and viability, and subject to a legal agreement.

Housing mix

- 5.54 A variety of housing types and sizes is necessary to meet the needs of the local population to enable households to more easily find housing which suits their needs and that they can afford. During consultations many residents commented that the proportion of larger houses in new developments was too large and more smaller units should be available.
- 5.55 The Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (2016) provides conclusions on the required mix of market and affordable housing need by house type and size for the VALP period. These conclusions take into account projected changes in the population and estimates future demand. The majority of the housing need is for houses, with a need for some flats identified. The proportions are however a guide rather than a requirement as they may need to be varied on the basis of specific circumstances or evidence. Any variation in the proportions will need to be fully justified and variations should not take place to simply accord with a developer's preferences.
- 5.56 The HEDNA's conclusions regarding house sizes and types are set out below:

Market Housing		
Flats	1 bedroom	4%
	2 bedrooms	4%
Houses	2 bedrooms	13%
	3 bedrooms	52%
	4 bedrooms	21%
	5+ bedrooms	6.5%
Affordable Housing		
Flats	1 bedroom	9%
	2 bedrooms	6%
Houses	2 bedrooms	38%
	3 bedrooms	38%
	4 bedrooms	9%

**NB percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding*

Housing for older people

- 5.57 As set out in the NPPF plans should aim for a mix of housing to meet the needs of different groups in the community including the elderly (paragraph 50). The demographic projections in the HEDNA's housing needs assessment show that the population of Buckinghamshire is likely to increase by between 64,700 and 73,700 people over the 20-year period 2013-2033. The number of people aged 75 or over is projected to increase by around 35,000, around half the total growth. Those that do move home are therefore likely to need accessible housing that can meet the needs of older people. Specialist provision for older people is split into the following categories:
- mainstream (including adapted and wheelchair homes)
 - specialised housing (including extra care and sheltered housing)
 - care homes (including both registered nursing and registered care homes)
- 5.58 The HEDNA identifies the following demand for housing for older people:

Change in population aged 75+ over Plan period	+13,978	
Demand for older person housing		
Extra care	Owned	420

	Rented	210
Sheltered 'plus' or 'enhanced' sheltered	Owned	140
	Rented	140
Dementia		80
Leasehold Schemes for the Elderly (LSE)		1,680
TOTAL		2,670
<i>Percentage of overall Objectively Assessed Need (OAN)</i>		12.5%

- 5.59 It is important to note that the objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for the district does not include the projected increase of the institutional population (including people in residential care homes and nursing homes, use class C2). For the district, it is projected that the institutional population aged 75+ will increase by 1,160 people.
- 5.60 Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) has prepared a document entitled 'Housing for Older Citizens in Buckinghamshire' on the basis of population forecasts. This sets out how housing for older people should be delivered, but will need to be interpreted to ensure that its provisions meet the content of the HEDNA. We will continue working with BCC as this document and their strategy evolve, to ensure that the Plan reflects their expectations and objectives.
- 5.61 The Plan will expect all larger developments in strategic settlements (Aylesbury, Buckingham, Haddenham, Wendover and Winslow) to provide an element of self-contained extra care dwellings as part of the overall housing mix, or an equivalent amount in an alternative location if this is agreed to be more appropriate. This will be based on the BCC document's expectations and requirements. It is considered that the 'larger' residential schemes referred to in the policy will be for more than 300 houses.

Households with specific needs

- 5.62 Paragraph 50 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says that Local Planning authorities should plan for the needs of people with disabilities and Planning Practice Guidance refers households with specific needs. The need for housing to meet these needs is considered further in the Buckinghamshire HEDNA. The Government's reform of health and adult social care is underpinned by the principle of sustaining people at home for as long as possible. This was reflected in recent changes to the building regulations relating to adaptations and wheelchair accessible homes. This introduced three categories of dwellings:
- category 1: visitable dwellings – mandatory, broadly about accessibility to all properties
 - category 2: accessible and adaptable dwellings – optional, similar to lifetime homes, and
 - category 3: wheelchair user dwellings – optional, equivalent to wheelchair accessible standard
- 5.63 The Buckinghamshire HEDNA identifies the proportion of dwellings in new developments that should comply with categories two and three above, based on the likely future need for housing for older and disabled people (including wheelchair user dwellings).
- 5.64 The demographic projections from the HEDNA show that the population of Buckinghamshire is likely to increase by between 64,700 and 73,700 over the period 2013-2033. The number of people aged 65 or over is projected to increase by around 53,000, around three-quarters of the overall growth. This includes an extra 18,000 people aged 85 or over, around a quarter of the total increase. Most of these people will already live in the area and many will not move from their current homes, but those that do move are likely to need accessible housing. Given this context, the HEDNA supports the need for all dwellings to meet category two requirements. The Government identifies that currently around 3.3% of households have at least one wheelchair user, although the rate is higher for households living in affordable housing (7.1%). These proportions are expected to increase over the period to 2033 in the context of the larger

number of older people projected to be living in the area. The HEDNA therefore supports the need for 10% of market housing and 15% of affordable housing to meet category three requirements.

- 5.65 Implementation of the optional categories is dependent on there being evidence of need. The increasing proportion of older households in the population is deemed to be sufficient to justify the requirement for category 2 dwellings. This approach has been commonly used in other local plans. Evidence for wheelchair-using households is not available below the national level as the information is not collected in the Census. With the lack of alternative evidence it is considered reasonable to use the national figure to justify the requirement for category three dwellings. When pursuing the opportunities for the provision of extra care, specialist housing for older people and other supported housing for those with specific living needs, regard should be given to the design of the environment to promote inclusivity, i.e. 'lifetime neighbourhoods'.

H6 Housing mix

New residential development should provide a mix of housing types and sizes to meet current and future housing needs. The housing mix will be agreed taking into account the Council's most up-to-date evidence on housing need and any evidence available regarding local market conditions.

Larger residential development schemes proposing 100 dwellings and above in strategic settlements will be expected to provide an element of self-contained extra care dwellings as part of the overall mix, or an equivalent amount in an alternative location if this is agreed to be more appropriate.

In all residential development schemes, opportunities for the provision of extra care, specialist housing for older people and other supported housing for those with specific living needs will be encouraged in suitable locations, taking account of viability.

All new residential development should meet Category 2 (Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings) of Approved Document M: Volume 1, 10% of market housing should meet Category 3 of Approved Document M: Volume 1, and 15% of affordable housing should meet Category 3.

Dwelling sizes

- 5.66 As set out in the NPPF the Government attaches great importance the design of the built environment and considers that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development (paragraph 56). The NPPF's core planning principles say that planning should seek to secure a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of buildings. Homes should therefore be designed and built to ensure that there is sufficient space for normal use of the dwelling including activity, privacy, circulation and storage space.
- 5.67 Following concern about the size of homes currently being built, the Government has introduced Technical Housing Standards (March 2015) which set out requirements for the gross internal floor area of new homes dependent on the number of people expected to live there, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home (notably bedrooms), storage requirements and floor to ceiling heights. The implementation of the new space standards is dependent on viability testing and evidence of need. Currently there is no evidence that space provision in new dwellings in Aylesbury Vale is below that set out in the standards.
- 5.68 Nevertheless it is considered that a policy should be included to require new housing developments to provide sufficient space to meet the needs of expected occupiers. Further information about the Council's expectations will be provided within a design SPD. The provision of space within new dwellings will be kept under review and should evidence emerge to justify the implementation of the Government's space standards the need for a policy to implement them will be considered in any review of the Plan.
- 5.69 Applicants will need to provide a schedule of floor areas for each type of dwelling unit proposed.

H7 Dwelling sizes

New dwellings and extensions to existing dwellings will be required to provide sufficient internal space for normal residential activities commensurate in size with the expected occupancy of the dwelling.

6 Economy

Employment

- 6.1 The vision for the Plan in relation to employment is to ensure the availability of a diverse and flexible range of employment opportunities for new and existing businesses, which match the expectations for employment growth in the district. To support this, there is a need to maintain a flexible supply of employment land and premises. This includes making the best use of existing employment land and premises by retaining the most suitable sites and encouraging their refurbishment and renovation where necessary. For the avoidance of doubt, this section relates to land uses that fall within the B classes of the Use Classes Order: B1a/b (offices), B1c/B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage/distribution). Such employment sites are land or premises that are currently in a relevant employment use, or, if currently vacant, were previously in a relevant employment use or are allocated in this Plan for employment purposes. Other uses do generate employment, such as retail, education, tourism and sui generis types of development. These may have different impacts and needs to the above employment uses and, as such, are generally covered by separate policies in the Plan.
- 6.2 Economic development can have a significant impact on the quality and character of an area, particularly in rural or residential locations. Development should not, either on its own or cumulatively, (in combination with other established or proposed developments in the vicinity), significantly adversely affect the area's landscape, heritage and built environment, or the amenities of residents. The potential increase in vehicle movements generated by employment development and the impact on the highway network must also be acceptable.
- 6.3 Existing employment sites and premises often provide valuable opportunities for jobs close to where people live, and benefit the local and wider economy. However there is increasing pressure for change of use from employment to non-employment uses, such as housing, due to the short-term economic benefits such changes of use can bring. The resultant loss of employment use can impact negatively on local access to employment and the economic competitiveness of the district which could ultimately undermine economic growth.
- 6.4 The Council is therefore committed to ensuring we do everything we can to support sustainable economic growth. Where there are recognised viability issues preventing the delivery of sites, the Council will work with developers to understand and seek to address potential barriers.

Protection of key employment sites

- 6.5 Key employment sites are the larger employment sites in the district that contribute significantly to the employment land supply for B class uses. Their loss to non-employment uses would have significant impacts on the ability of the district to achieve the expected level of employment growth. These sites are therefore safeguarded for B class uses and other employment uses which would achieve economic enhancement without detrimental impact to the site or wider area.
- 6.6 The Aylesbury Vale Employment Land Review Update (2012) identified 16 key employment sites in the district. This included both B1/B2/B8 sites and other employment sites. The Council has reviewed the key employment sites to account for changes in circumstances since 2012, and concluded that the following key employment sites need to be protected for B1/B2/B8 developments. In November 2015, three key employment sites achieved enterprise zone (EZ) status: Silverstone, Westcott Venture Park and Arla/Woodlands. These sites constitute the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone, with the aim of supporting and encouraging economic growth across Buckinghamshire.

Table 9 Key employment sites

Site
1 Haddenham Business Park
2 Triangle Business Park, Stoke Mandeville
3 Westcott Venture Park EZ
4 Long Crendon Business Park
5 Gatehouse Industrial Area, Aylesbury
6 Rabans Lane/Coldharbour Industrial Area, Aylesbury
7 Pitstone Green Business Park
8 Halton Brook Business Park, Aston Clinton
9 Network 421, Gawcott near Buckingham
10 Buckingham Industrial Park, Buckingham
11 Silverstone Park EZ
12 Arla/Woodlands EZ

E1 Protection of key employment sites

Key employment sites will be protected through the following criteria:

- a. Within key employment sites (listed above and identified on the Policies Map) applications for B1 (light industrial), B2 (general industrial), B8 (storage and distribution) will be permitted. Other similar uses will be permitted subject to proposals not having a significant adverse impact on surrounding land uses.
- b. The use of key employment sites for employment purposes other than B1, B2 and B8 may be appropriate, if it can be proven that the use provides on-site support facilities, or demonstrates similar economic enhancement to B1/B2/B8 uses. Such development will not prejudice the efficient and effective use of the remainder of the employment area.
- c. Main town centre uses will not be supported, except as an ancillary facility to service a key employment site. Exceptionally, uses which have trade links with employment uses or are un-neighbourly in character, (such as car showrooms, tyre and exhaust centres, or trade counters), may be permitted on employment sites which have good access to a range of transport options.
- d. Other uses that do not provide direct, on-going local employment opportunities will not be permitted.

Other employment sites

- 6.7 Other employment sites, such as Aylesbury town centre and Stoke Mandeville Hospital are also valued for the job opportunities that they provide. A more flexible approach will be taken for these to facilitate a broad range of economic development, which is vital for the future sustainability and development of the area's economy. The policy set out below also recognises that some existing employment sites may be causing significant environmental or amenity problems that cannot be overcome. In some circumstances, there may not be a need for that site to remain in employment use, if there are sufficient alternatives available in the local area. In some cases, the size, location and characteristics of a site may mean that more intensive, mixed use development could provide greater benefit to the community in terms of addressing local needs, rather than if the site was retained solely in employment use.
- 6.8 Where there is no reasonable prospect of an employment site being used for employment purposes, alternative uses may be considered. Where an application is made for an alternative use other than employment, the following information will be sought:
- a description of any problems caused by the employment use, together with any evidence, the measures considered to try and mitigate these issues, and an explanation of why these problems could not be overcome
 - any other reasons why the site is thought unsuitable for employment uses
 - details of how the property has been marketed, including for sale or rent, over what period and for what price (and how the asking price was calculated), what use(s) it was marketed for, where it was advertised, and whether there have been any offers received, and
 - what other suitable, viable, alternative sites are available locally for employment uses, (this should include an assessment of existing sites and premises, in addition to land allocated by the Local Plan and where appropriate neighbourhood plans).
- 6.9 Proposals will have to provide evidence that employment use (B1, B2 and B8) of the site is no longer viable through relevant marketing information, and feasibility or viability studies. The following information will be required:
- copy of sales particulars including any subsequent amendments made
 - details of the original price paid, date of purchase and the new guide price
 - schedule of advertisements carried out, with copies of the advertisements and details of where and when the advertisements were placed, along with an estimate of the expenditure incurred from advertising
 - the confirmed number of sales particulars distributed, along with a breakdown of where the enquiries resulted from, for example from the For Sale/To Let board, advertisements and websites
 - websites used to promote the property/site together with details of links to other relevant sites, number of hits and if the Council's Sites and Premises service has been used and on what date it was registered
 - details of the number of viewings including who and when;
 - resulting offers and comments on the offers
 - details of the period when a "For Sale/To Let" board was displayed, or, if not, the reasons behind the decision
 - timetable of events from the initial appointment of the agents to current date
 - details of agency/joint agency appointed including contact details
 - date property/site brought to the market, and
 - copies of accounts for the last five years.
- 6.10 The above information needs to show that the property/site has been actively marketed for a period of at least two years at a value that reflects its existing use. Where there is evidence that a

business has been allowed to run down, an independent viability assessment may be required. Where a mixed use scheme is proposed, the Council would wish to be satisfied that the amount of non-business, general industrial and storage/distribution use (B1, B2, B8) is the minimum required to make the scheme viable.

E2 Other employment sites

Outside key employment sites, the redevelopment and/or reuse of employment sites to an alternative employment use will normally be permitted provided all of the following criteria apply:

- a. Where it will not prejudice the efficient and effective use of the remainder of the employment area
- b. The site has been marketed as an employment site for an employment use suitable to the site and location at a suitable price, by appropriate means for at least two years with no viable interest, and
- c. There is a substantial over-supply of suitable alternative employment sites in the local area.

Provision of ancillary facilities for employees in business, industrial and warehousing developments

- 6.11 Employees often require good access to a range of facilities, including food and drink, open space, leisure, recreation and child care. The absence of such facilities in an employment area can increase travel demand and make areas less attractive to employers and staff. However, it is important that ancillary uses support employment uses on the site and do not undermine the availability or suitability of land for other business or compete with town or village centre locations.
- 6.12 In existing employment areas, change of use of existing premises will be considered for complementary facilities provided these are suitably located and would not compromise surrounding employment uses. Where new employment areas are proposed, the need for such facilities should be considered as part of the overall development scheme.
- 6.13 In all cases, only facilities of an appropriate nature and scale to meet the needs of employees will be permitted. Appropriate leisure facilities may include fitness centres/clubs and indoor sports facilities, which cannot be accommodated within the town centre or on an edge-of-centre site.

E3 Ancillary uses on employment land

Proposals for uses other than B1, B2 and B8 business uses on employment land will be permitted if the following criteria are satisfied:

- a. the proposal is primarily designed to provide for users of the employment site
- b. the use is ancillary to the main business or employment function of the wider site, and
- c. the use, either alone or combined with other existing or proposed uses, would not adversely affect the vitality and viability of any town centre or shopping centre (including local centres) or the social and community vitality of a nearby village.

In connection with any planning permission, conditions may be imposed to limit the scale of the operation and to restrict the range of activities proposed or goods sold, where necessary, to ensure that the above criteria are met.

Working at home

- 6.14 Using your home as a place of work has a number of sustainability benefits including a reduction in journeys to work. Improvements in technology also mean that an office can be accommodated easily into a home. Making your home your place of work does not generally need planning permission if it remains ancillary to the residential use of the property. Even if it does not, it may be acceptable if there are no serious impacts on residential amenity or the character of the surrounding area arising from the change of use from home to business.

E4 Working at home

Partial use of a residential property for business use will be permitted where there are no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity and it would not have an adverse effect on the character of an area, whilst making appropriate provision for access, parking and noise attenuation arising from the business activity.

Development outside town centres

Edge and out-of-town centre sites

- 6.15 The Council's preference is for retail development to take place within a town centre. Larger scale retail development may be accommodated at an edge or out-of-centre location, provided it does not harm the vitality or viability of the town centre. All potential out-of-town retail development will be required to consider the sequential test set out in national policy (NPPF paragraphs 24-27).
- 6.16 Where the type of goods sold and the particular retail format cannot reasonably be accommodated within an existing town centre, the first choice for alternative development sites should be edge-of-centre i.e. sites which directly adjoin, or can be reasonably related to, the existing town centre.
- 6.17 If such sites cannot meet the demand for additional floor space, then out-of-centre development can be considered for retailing such as superstores. This type of development may be acceptable on a peripheral site away from the town centre, providing it does not adversely affect the vitality and viability of the existing town centre, taking into account the cumulative effects of existing and proposed development.
- 6.18 The Council has commissioned retail evidence to determine an appropriate local threshold based on an analysis of past retail planning applications. This work also draws on evidence regarding existing floorspace characteristics, retail trends and the health of existing centres (Aylesbury Vale Retail Impact Thresholds report, GL Hearn, June 2017). The report notes that recent trends in the convenience market have been towards smaller 'discounter' supermarkets. These include local convenience stores and medium supermarkets operated principally by the discounters and higher end operators. In terms of recent comparison trends these have seen the rationalisation of larger bulky goods warehousing, with some comparison stores moving out of centres to occupy this floorspace. At the same time national retailers are typically consolidating their portfolios but into larger shop units in higher order centres. From the evidence available, it is clear that within Aylesbury Vale schemes of less than 2,500 sqm, the NPPF default threshold for assessing impact, have the potential to cause harm either individually or cumulatively, by diverting trade away from the town centre.
- 6.19 Aylesbury Vale Retail Impact Thresholds report recommends that the Plan sets a local floor space threshold of 400 sqm (gross) above which an impact assessment will be required to accompany proposals for main town centre uses²⁸ outside town centres. The impact assessment should comply with NPPF requirements in paragraph 26 by considering the impact of proposals on existing and planned investment in a town centre and the impact on town centre vitality and viability. The Council will expect any impact assessment to be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposal and expected impact and will work proactively with applicants when scoping and agreeing the level of supporting retail information required.
- 6.20 Development outside town centres should be accessible to the community by foot, car, public transport and cycling. In addition, sufficient car parking should be provided on site and developments should not add to traffic generation on the surrounding roads and in the town centre. Sites proposed for such development should not be required for other uses such as employment uses or housing.

²⁸ Main town centre uses include retail development, leisure, entertainment facilities, some sport and recreation facilities, offices and arts culture and tourism development. The NPPF sets out the full definition.

E5 Development outside town centres

A sequential test will be applied to planning applications for main town centre uses that are not in an existing centre²⁹. Town centre uses should be located in town centres, then edge-of-centre locations. Only when suitable sites are not available will out-of-town centre sites be considered. In terms of edge and out-of-town centre proposals, preference will be given to accessible sites that are well connected to the town centre.

Proposals outside defined town centres for non-food retail and food retailing, including extensions, will be granted subject to compliance with all the following criteria:

- a. The proposal does not have a significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the defined town centres, either as an individual development or cumulatively with similar existing or proposed developments
- b. The proposed retail development on out-of-centre sites will need to demonstrate that no suitable site can be found, firstly within the existing town or local centre or, secondly, on the edge of the centre. Any assessment of suitability should consider factors such as viability and availability
- c. Proposals over the floor space threshold of 400 sqm are accompanied by a full assessment of the potential impact on town centres and nearby centres
- d. Proposals less than the above floor space threshold are accompanied by a retail assessment report if appropriate
- e. The type of goods sold and the form of shopping unit proposed could not be conveniently accommodated within the existing shopping centre, or where suitable sites and premises are not available, within the centre or edge-of-centre sites
- f. The type of goods sold and the facilities provided complement those provided in the existing retail centre
- g. Servicing and customer traffic can be safely and conveniently accommodated by the surrounding road network and does not add to traffic generation in the town centre
- h. The proposal is easily accessible by the highway network and public transport and includes provision for access by cycle and on foot, and
- i. The design of the buildings will not detract from the character or appearance of the site and/or surrounding area.

²⁹ As defined in the Glossary

Shop and business frontages

- 6.21 The vitality of town centres depends on their attraction as a destination for a mix of uses including shopping and business, but also as a place in which to meet, relax and spend leisure time. Retail is an important part of the overall mix of uses in the town centre, however the traditional role as the main focus for retail activity has been challenged by out-of-town retail outlets and the change in people's shopping habits. In addition, increased mobility means that people are prepared to travel further afield to shop in larger centres. In this very competitive environment, it is important that town centres continue to develop and enhance their retail offer in order to retain existing market share and attract new trade.

Primary shopping frontages

- 6.22 Primary shopping frontages are those which include a high proportion of retail units. Aylesbury Vale Retail Study 2015 defines these for Aylesbury (as shown on the Policies Map) and Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan defines these for Buckingham. Recognising the importance of the retail role of primary shopping frontages, and of having a mix of uses within town centres, the Council will seek to ensure that A1 (shops) continue to predominate, while allowing some provision of A3 (restaurants and cafes) and A2 uses, provided the overall mix of uses is considered acceptable³⁰. Residential development will be encouraged in the primary shopping frontages above ground floor level.

Secondary shopping frontages

- 6.23 A number of outer shopping streets in Aylesbury have been defined as secondary shopping frontages (as shown on the Policies Map). Similarly, Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan also defines secondary shopping frontages. These provide greater opportunities for a diversity of uses. Again, recognising the value of a mix of uses within the town centre including the secondary frontages, non-retail uses such as offices, hotels and medical practitioners may be permitted, providing that they contribute positively to the vitality and viability of the town centre. Residential development will be encouraged in the secondary shopping frontages above ground floor level.
- 6.24 Outside defined primary and secondary shopping frontages, consideration of change of use from retail to other uses will be assessed against policies I3 and D6.

E6 Shop and business frontages

Primary shopping frontages

Within the primary shopping frontages in the town centres (as shown on the Policies Map)³¹ at ground floor level, A2 and A3 uses will be permitted where they adjoin an A1 use, subject to achieving a good mix of retail uses overall provided the proposal:

- a. either cumulatively or individually is considered to contribute positively to the vitality and viability of the area*
- b. would not result in the loss of an A1 use on a visually prominent site.

³⁰ Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015) Policy EE4 – restricts the introduction of new non-retail uses (Classes A2, A3, A4 and A5) to 35% of the sum total of the primary retail frontages.

³¹ Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015) defines these for Buckingham.

Consideration will be given to the size of the shop unit, the width of the shop frontage and surrounding uses.

The window and entrance should relate well to the design of the building and to the street scene and its setting. Regard should be given to Aylesbury Vale Shop Front Design Guide in the design of business and shop frontages.

Residential development will be encouraged within the primary shopping frontage above ground floor level.

*This should take account of the mix of uses in the primary frontage, what is there currently and what development is committed, location, prominence and length of frontage of the premises, nature of the use proposed, including the level of pedestrian activity associated with it, and the number of ground floor vacancies in the area.

Secondary shopping frontages

Within defined secondary shopping frontages, (as shown on the Policies Map)³², the development, improvement or expansion of retail and appropriate non-retail uses and/or change of use of retail premises to appropriate non-retail uses will be permitted provided the proposal:

- c. either cumulatively or individually, is considered to contribute positively to the vitality and viability of the area⁺
- d. would not result in more than three non-A1 uses in a row, and
- e. would not result in the loss of an A1 use on a visually prominent site.

A window and entrance should be provided or retained which relates well to the design of the building and to the street scene and its setting. Regard should be given to Aylesbury Vale Shop Front Design Guide in the design of business and shop frontages.

Residential development will be encouraged within the secondary shopping frontage above ground floor level.

⁺This should take account of the mix of uses in the secondary frontage, what is there currently and what development is committed, location, prominence and length of frontage of the premises, nature of the use proposed, including the level of pedestrian activity associated with it, and the number of ground floor vacancies in the area.

³²Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015) defines these for Buckingham.

Tourism development

- 6.25 Tourism plays an important role in generating income for local residents. Buckinghamshire is a popular tourist destination, providing leisure and recreation activities for its own residents and those visiting the special landscape areas, such as the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Despite a number of small scale attractions and places to stay across the Vale, tourism is less developed than within other parts of the county.
- 6.26 Tourism and leisure development is generally welcomed, providing employment and a means of supplementing rural incomes. However, it can have negative impacts on the surrounding area if located insensitively, is out of scale with its context, or if it fails to take proper account of local character and appearance. Policy E7 seeks to locate most development within or close to defined settlements, where local shops and facilities are most accessible and stand to benefit the most. Sustainable development will be approved in accordance with Policy S1.
- 6.27 Applications for tourism and leisure development in the countryside will need to be justified by the applicant. The Council will require a marketing strategy and business plan to be submitted to explain how the development will achieve a high quality tourism product that meets demand. Proposals must demonstrate that their benefits outweigh harm, and that they do not cause an unacceptable impact to traffic on the local road network. Tourism and leisure development should benefit local businesses, the environment, communities and visitors in the long term. The Council will seek the right form of development in the right location, with evidence that the need is not already being met by existing provision.
- 6.28 The Council wants to encourage visitors to the district whilst recognising that a balance needs to be maintained with regards to preserving the high quality environmental, historic, and cultural assets of the district. The re-use of existing buildings limits harm to the environment and may help farm diversification schemes.
- 6.29 Evidence supporting a countryside location should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the tourism proposal being considered. For instance, the conversion of a barn to tourist accommodation is permissible in principle under Policy C1 and is often dependent on an agricultural character which would not be found in a nearby town or village. Larger tourism attractions such as museums, outdoor activity centre or hotels may have a significant impact on the countryside and the local road network, so in these cases more comprehensive supporting evidence will be required.
- 6.30 Seasonal structures related to tourism such as marquees can provide additional support to the local economy. Proposals of this type should be temporary in nature and not have an adverse impact on the landscape.

E7 Tourism development

The Council will promote a growing, sustainable tourism sector, and support proposals. Proposals for new or expanded tourism, visitor or leisure facilities will be supported within or adjacent to settlements. Elsewhere, the nature of the proposed development must justify a countryside location and minimise environmental impacts, and avoid unacceptable traffic impact on the local road network. Development proposals will be supported where they meet all the following criteria:

- a. Respect the character, appearance and historic significance of the location
- b. Involve conversion or replacement of existing buildings
- c. Any extension or new building(s) forms part of an existing tourist facility
- d. In the case of seasonal structures these are temporary in nature and do not have an adverse impact on the landscape, and
- e. Demonstrate that the need is not met by existing provision within nearby settlements.

Tourist accommodation

- 6.31 To continue to be vibrant and competitive the tourism sector needs good quality built and temporary tourist accommodation to cater for the range of visitors and reflect visitor needs.
- For the purposes of this Plan, built tourist accommodation refers to permanent tourist accommodation such as hotels, guesthouses, B&Bs and holiday lets (residential homes restricted to holiday use). It excludes more temporary and mobile units such as caravans (even though these may remain in situ for many years) and second homes.
 - Where built tourist accommodation is permitted in a location where open market housing would normally be refused, the Council will restrict its occupation to ensure it remains in use as tourist accommodation.
- 6.32 The most appropriate locations for large new hotels and guest houses are within the town centres, as tourist attractions are concentrated in these locations and public transport provision is greater. However visitors also come to enjoy the many attractive rural areas, and smaller scale serviced accommodation and self-catering accommodation will also be appropriate within other settlements for those businesses targeting tourists who are seeking such an experience.
- 6.33 Permanent built tourist accommodation is likely to be occupied all year round. If allowed in locations away from existing settlements this could lead to a significant level of development in the countryside, weakening patterns of sustainable development. There may be cases where built holiday accommodation may be justified in a more rural location through conversion of existing buildings. Such developments will increase the stock and variety of accommodation the area has to offer, can bring back into use buildings that may otherwise be left vacant, help maintain historic buildings and have a positive impact on the surrounding area.
- 6.34 It would also be unduly restrictive to limit the development of existing accommodation in the countryside. In order to support existing businesses, the expansion of built tourist accommodation and sites will be allowed where this improves the quality of the accommodation on offer and the appearance of the site, provided that there is no significant harm, and development would be consistent with the other policies of this Plan.
- 6.35 The information required in support of applications is likely to vary greatly depending on the nature of the proposal, its scale and location. Proposals for accommodation in less accessible locations should normally include information on the long-term viability of the enterprise, a clear justification of why such a location is needed, and the benefits to the local economy. As a town centre use, hotels should also comply with Policy E2. Where the impact of a new out-of-centre hotel would undermine the viability and contribution of more central hotels, or prejudice the potential to secure further hotel development on a more central site, development should be refused.
- 6.36 Tourist accommodation provides critical support to tourist attractions and facilities and contributes to the economy through its support of retail, food and drink and travel services. It is therefore important to ensure that the loss of stock is carefully considered, particularly with regard to the hotels and larger guesthouses in the area. As a guide this means those that have at least six guest bedrooms. However it is also important to recognise that changes in the market will mean that some types of built tourist accommodation may become less attractive to visitors. If the offer cannot be improved, falling profits would result in poorly maintained and ultimately failing accommodation, neither of which is a desirable outcome. A flexible approach will be needed in assessing to what extent the loss of such facilities should be resisted. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that real effort has been made to retain the tourist accommodation. Evidence submitted should typically include:
- reasons why there is no longer a market for the premises in its tourist function

- details of how the property has been marketed, the length of time that the marketing was active and any changes during this period, the sale asking price, the level of interest generated and any offers received
 - in the case of a reduction in size, the economic impact on the ongoing viability of the business.
- 6.37 Should the district reach the situation where there is no need for further tourist accommodation, either overall or in a more specific location, an application for new or expanded tourist accommodation will require a viability study.
- 6.38 Proposals for both static and touring caravan sites as well as those for chalets and camping will be judged against the criterion specified in Policy E8. In certain circumstances restrictions will be applied through the imposition of planning conditions to avoid the continual residential use of a site. This reflects the need to preserve the supply of visitor accommodation in order to respond to demand, and equally that such sites may not be in a location considered sustainable for occupation as primary residences. Similarly, conditions may also be imposed to restrict seasonal occupancy of sites where considered necessary to safeguard landscape character through, for example, the winter months.
- 6.39 In addition to the need to obtain planning permission, caravan, camping and chalet operators must obtain a site licence. The site licence, issued by Environmental Health, covers such matters as the number and standard of spacing of the caravans, and hygiene.

E8 Tourist accommodation

Tourist accommodation in strategic settlements and large or medium villages, including new build, extensions or additions to existing facilities, will be supported where:

- a. The proposal is located within designated town centre of strategic settlements or in large or medium village centres that are sustainable and accessible by a choice of transport modes, or
- b. Where a sequential test has been applied to a proposal on the edge or outside town centres and it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that there is no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the surrounding town centres, and is accessible by a choice of transport modes.

Tourist accommodation in smaller villages, other settlements or in the countryside outside the Green Belt will be supported where:

- c. It would involve the conversion of existing buildings in accordance with policy C1
- d. It would be sustainable and accessible by a choice of transport modes
- e. The applicant has satisfactorily demonstrated that the facilities are required to support a particular rural tourist facility or countryside attraction
- f. It would support sustainable tourism or leisure developments and benefit the economy of the and enhance community facilities, and
- g. The scale, design and use of the proposal is compatible with its wider landscape, surrounding environment or townscape setting and would not detract from the character or appearance of the area.

Proposals that would result in the permanent loss or reduction in size of tourist accommodation will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that their tourist function is no longer viable and the site has been marketed for a minimum period of 12 months at a price commensurate with its use.

For proposals involving the provision of new camping and touring caravan sites or the expansion of existing sites, as well as other considerations set out in this plan, particular attention will be given to ensuring that:

- h. The location, access and scale of facilities can be satisfactorily accommodated within the landscape character of the area, and where appropriate, is supplemented with additional landscaping
- i. The site is well served by public transport or walking or cycling networks
- j. The proposal does not cause significant highway problems
- k. Facilities and buildings associated with the proposal are constructed of appropriate materials, are of a scale appropriate to the locality and are landscaped effectively to minimise any visual impact, and
- l. Essential facilities such as toilets, showers and wash facilities are adequately provided for.

In granting permission, the Council will impose conditions to control the use and occupation of holiday accommodation.

Agricultural development

Agricultural buildings

- 6.40 The Council recognises the need to support modern farming practices and a prosperous rural economy. However the trend towards larger agricultural buildings which have a more industrial appearance can have a significantly adverse impact on the local character and also result in more traditional farm buildings falling into disrepair. New agricultural buildings (up to 465 sqm) can be allowed under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). However, where this is controlled under the planning system, applicants will be encouraged to locate development where it would not impact on the openness and attractive character of the countryside, for example by re-using existing buildings or locating new ones close to existing buildings, or on areas of existing hardstanding. The impact on residential amenity, including that arising from farm traffic movements, will also be a consideration. Proposals should refer to the AVDC Design Guide for New Buildings in the Countryside.
- 6.41 In cases where the Council considers the building too large in relation to the holding, the Council may require evidence to support the need for the building, such as stocking rates and storage requirements.

E9 Agricultural development

The development of new agricultural buildings or extensions of existing buildings will be permitted where all the following criteria are met:

- a. The development is necessary for the purposes of agriculture on the unit or locally where facilities are to be shared
- b. The size is commensurate with the needs of the holding
- c. There are no existing buildings on the unit which are capable of re-use, and
- d. The use of the building would not unreasonably harm any aspect of the amenity of nearby residents.

The scale, siting, design, external appearance and construction of the buildings and any associated hardstandings or parking should be:

- e. Appropriate for the proposed use, and
- f. Sited close to existing buildings and designed in order to minimise adverse impact on the landscape character, residential amenity and reflect the operational requirements of the holding.

Silverstone Circuit

- 6.42 Silverstone Circuit was established as a racing circuit in 1948 and the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) have been custodians and stewards of the circuit since 1952. It is the home of British Formula 1 and contains several racing circuits that are also used for different classes of motorsport including Touring Cars, Formula 3000, MotoGP, Superbikes and will also be host to Rallycross from 2018. It is a motor sports venue of global significance and international importance and, as an iconic destination, it attracts visitors from across the world, setting it apart from other destinations in the Vale. The Circuit also lies at the heart of the British motorsport industry where the motorsport business cluster referred to as the Silverstone Technology Cluster has grown and established and as a whole, making a valuable and significant contribution to the local and national economy.
- 6.43 The Circuit straddles the boundary between Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire with the northern part coming under the jurisdiction of South Northamptonshire District Council (SNC) and the southern part coming under the jurisdiction of Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC). A development brief published in 2009 was a joint document prepared by SNC and AVDC and supported by the BRDC which covered the overall site owned by BRDC at the time (approximately 314 hectares) and which proposed guidance on the future development of the Circuit. This masterplan document proposes a number of uses including employment and education, exhibition space, brand centres, hotels and function and conference facilities which will all add to the attraction of the Circuit as a venue for recreation and leisure focused on motorsport. The fundamental objectives of the brief are as follows:
- The improvement of track-related facilities to modern grand prix standards and the promotion of Silverstone as the home of British motorsport and racing, as well as the development of the whole land portfolio.
 - Enhance and strengthen Silverstone Circuit as the centre of automotive and high technology excellence for the UK.
 - Creation of opportunities for the development of employment and sustainable economic growth by attracting businesses, education and active outdoor tourism of the highest quality on a local and regional basis.
 - Providing an attractive venue for leisure and hotel activities to create development that is sustainable both in terms of its construction and operation.
 - Creation of a development which integrates well into its local environment and provides an attractive countryside setting to locate and develop high value enterprises. This includes both cultural and physical landscape.
 - Developing sustainable transport and innovative access proposals.
- 6.44 An outline planning application was subsequently approved on the overall site by both authorities in August 2012, reflecting the objectives of the design brief, for a mixed use development which included offices, workshop and distribution facilities, an education campus including on site student accommodation, three hotels, ancillary spectator facilities including a welcome centre and Museum of Motor Sport and non-retail promotional automotive display space as well as leisure and event spaces including outdoor activity areas and permanent outdoor stage.
- 6.45 In 2013, developer MEPC acquired a 999-year lease on land outside the Circuit to develop a business park. Full planning permission has initially been granted for 14 employment units (Class B1c/B2/B8) on this land which have been constructed. Outline planning permission was granted on the remainder of MEPC land (49ha) for 157,000sqm of employment floor space (B1a, B1c, B2 and B8), hotel floorspace providing 250 bedrooms, education uses and promotional automotive display space. Part of this land has also been designated as an enterprise zone and is a key employment site to be protected under Policy E1.

- 6.46 Land now referred to as Silverstone Circuit relates to the 214ha site currently owned by BRDC. It is already much more than just the motor racing circuit as it contains the new pits and paddock building, known as The Wing and used also as a conference, exhibition and media centre, which opened in 2011, and the University Technical College which opened in 2013 (in SNC part) which is a centre for excellence for young people wishing to gain entrance into the field of high performance engineering, as well as a staging facility for other events including music.
- 6.47 Building on the principles established in the development brief and in the 2012 outline consent, Silverstone Circuit is now concentrating on expanding further to maximise its wider economic role and confirming Silverstone as a world-class motorsport destination and a leading business, education, leisure and entertainment venue with a brand that is synonymous with excellence and innovation. The recent success of the approved Silverstone Heritage Experience in December 2016 (a £22 million development supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund) is a catalyst for the family entertainment and leisure business and a focal point for activity.
- 6.48 At the time of drafting, an outline planning application for a mixed use development comprising education, including on-site student accommodation, one hotel, brand centre facilities supporting motorsport activities, sports and leisure/adrenaline facility and family entertainment centre and other motorsport activity was being considered.
- 6.49 Policy E10 provides a framework for the development of Silverstone Circuit and is consistent with the Silverstone Circuit Development Brief (Feb 2009) and the outline planning permission (2012) and subsequent outline applications. The brief, applications and the policy below takes a holistic view of the Circuit's development and therefore it should be noted that some of the development elements set out in the policy fall under the jurisdiction of South Northamptonshire Council.

E10 Silverstone Circuit

The Council will continue to support the Circuit as an international venue and destination for world-class motorsport and a leading business, education, leisure and entertainment venue and will make provision for:

Motor sports

Improvement of track-related facilities to modern grand prix standards and the promotion of Silverstone as the home of British motorsport and racing. Development of facilities and ancillary office accommodation supporting motorsport activities. AVDC seeks to enhance and strengthen Silverstone Circuit as the centre of automotive and high technology excellence for the UK.

Business and technology park

The creation of opportunities for the development of employment and sustainable economic growth by attracting businesses in line with Policy E1 and Chapter 6 of VALP.

Education

The continued use of the site for Silverstone University Technical College as a key resource of regional significance for secondary education (GCSE and A-Level equivalent) and a centre for excellence in the specialist fields of high performance engineering and business and technical events management and on site accommodation for students attending the UTC.

Leisure and tourism

Providing an attractive venue for leisure, entertainment, recreation and hotel activities to create development that is sustainable both in terms of its construction and operation. The nature of the leisure and tourism uses will be linked to and be complementary to any of the above uses on the Circuit site.

All proposals should have particular regard to all the following criteria:

- a. The need to avoid serious additional disturbance to those who live in the area
- b. The need to promote sustainable transport links and strengthen connections between the circuit and the towns
- c. The need to protect the rural and visual character of the countryside adjacent to the Circuit with particular attention to the Stowe Area of Attractive Landscape, and
- d. The archaeological significance of Luffield Priory.

7 Transport

Sustainable transport vision

- 7.1 Creating development that is accessible by different modes of transport, especially walking and cycling and the use of public transport is essential to promoting sustainable development as it reduces car dependency. An important policy tool to achieve this is a people-orientated transport hierarchy i.e. prioritising walking and providing access for people with mobility impairment, cycling, public transport, cars (for occupiers on site and visitors), powered two-wheelers, and commercial vehicles. A modal hierarchy will be used to ensure that, if not all modes can be satisfactorily accommodated, those towards the top of the hierarchy are considered first and given greater priority. Sustainable transport management will be based on promoting modes which minimise environmental impact and promote social inclusion. It is important that developments are well located in relation to existing walking, cycling and public transport networks, and where appropriate provide enhanced facilities, as this will ensure that there is the maximum potential to use these modes as attractive alternatives to cars.
- 7.2 The spatial vision for Aylesbury Vale identified at the beginning of the Local Plan includes making provision for transportation improvements for both new and existing communities across the entire district. This will include sustainable links across Aylesbury Garden Town itself and sustainable connections between Aylesbury and the other settlements included in the settlement hierarchy as well as the wider Thames Valley, Oxford-Cambridge arc regions. The creation of an improved highway network will allow for more pedestrian and cycle friendly town centres in Aylesbury and Buckingham which will provide for increased modal choice to further transportation choices such as rail and bus. At a local level new development will contribute towards and help deliver localised sustainable transportation improvements to villages for pedestrian, cycle and public transportation uses.
- 7.3 The transport vision will be underpinned by transportation mitigation identified and assessed through traffic modelling across the district and in Aylesbury and Buckingham. The main aim of these studies is to assess the status quo (development that has been implemented or has been consented) against future demands (the development strategy) to see what the impacts are with and without a set of highway and public transport mitigation measures. A brief description of these traffic models and their purposes are identified below.

Buckinghamshire County-wide Traffic Model Phase 3

- 7.4 Jacobs were commissioned to assess the transport impact of the Local Plan proposals for the districts within Buckinghamshire, comprising Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe. Following two phases of modelling, including previous draft development strategies which identified a new settlement at either Winslow or Haddenham, a third phase of modelling focused on producing the revised Local Plan development scenario. In addition a set of mitigation schemes were tested in order to try and mitigate any impacts arising from the Local Plan development in terms of increased congestion and travel time. The model also considered traffic flows on strategic routes outside of the county. The Phase 3 version of the county-wide model can be found on the Council's website³³.

Aylesbury Transport Strategy

- 7.5 In early 2016 Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) commissioned AECOM to develop a transport strategy for Aylesbury in order to support and accommodate future planned growth and the upcoming release of the Plan. This is known as the Aylesbury Transport Strategy (ATS), which will be a plan for transport in Aylesbury, setting out the improvements needed to support the planned growth of the town between 2016 - 2033. The VALP identifies Aylesbury as playing a substantial and critical role in delivering growth for the district and the rest of

³³ <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

Buckinghamshire. The town has been awarded Government backing as a Garden Town and will be a focus for developing the ATS and prioritising investment in multi-modal transport infrastructure. The strategy is also intended to address current issues on the transport network and therefore represents the opportunity for a single coordinated approach to planning improvements and upgrades to the transport network and will form a key transport policy document for both BCC and AVDC. The focus of the strategy is Aylesbury town centre and its immediate urban area, however the growth and travel patterns were considered in a much wider context, including most of the Aylesbury Vale area. A list of mitigation schemes can be found in the Aylesbury Transport Strategy which is on the Council's website³⁴.

Aylesbury Garden Town

7.6 The ATS will be used to justify the interventions required to facilitate growth in the Aylesbury Garden Town. The growth will be planned in a way which minimises the need to travel by private car, with more and more people choosing to walk, cycle or use public transport. Traffic growth will be managed to control congestion and provide opportunities to significantly maximise infrastructure improvements including:

- increased public transport, building on the success of the Aylesbury Rainbow bus routes
- increased walking and cycling facilities, building on the success of the Aylesbury Gemstone cycleways
- improving road infrastructure linking new developments to the town, which will create a series of link roads around the town
- enhancements to the regional rail infrastructure linking us to neighbouring growth areas

Buckingham Transport Strategy

7.7 AECOM has been commissioned by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) to develop a transport strategy for Buckingham that supports future planned growth in the town up to 2033. The focus of this strategy is the town of Buckingham, but also recognises that the town will be affected in coming years by proposed growth in a wider area around the town.

7.8 The growth aspirations in the Plan are likely to have an impact on transport requirements in Buckingham; any may therefore necessitate a number of improvements in/around the town. The aim of the Buckingham Transport Strategy (BTS) is to consider these growth aspirations holistically and propose measures that address their impacts as a whole, rather than the impact of each individual development.

7.9 In addition to accommodating these future growth aspirations, the BTS should also address existing known transport issues in the town.

7.10 The BTS is expected to provide a guiding transport policy for Buckingham, to prioritise transport schemes for the area, and to promote a coordinated approach towards transport investment. A list of mitigation schemes can be found in the Buckingham Transport Strategy which is on the Council's website³⁵.

³⁴ <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

³⁵ <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/supporting-evidence>

T1 Delivering the sustainable transport vision

Development proposals should be consistent with and contribute to the implementation of the transport policies and objectives set out in the Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP). The Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and, where appropriate, Highways England, will work together to achieve the objectives and implement the proposals in the LTP, with particular emphasis on encouraging modal shift with greater use of more sustainable forms of transport and improving the safety of all road users.

The Council will aim to ensure that development proposals will deliver the improvements identified in the transport studies that underpin the Local Transport Plan to ensure new housing and employment development identified in the Local Plan period does not create a significant negative impact on the highway and public transportation network.

The Council will assist in delivering the pedestrian, cycle, public transportation and public realm improvements identified in Aylesbury town centre through the Aylesbury Garden Town initiative and Aylesbury Transport Strategy as well as the proposed improvements to the transportation network in Buckingham through the Buckingham Transport Strategy to help create sustainable, healthy and thriving communities.

Supporting and protecting transport schemes

- 7.11 The Plan will ensure that land needed to facilitate protected transport schemes, including both local and national projects, is protected from development that would prejudice their implementation.
- 7.12 Planning applications will be assessed as to whether the implementation of a protected transport scheme would be prejudiced by a development proposal, the nature of the proposal, the programming of the transport scheme, and the extent to which implementation of the scheme would be compromised by the carrying out of the proposed development.
- 7.13 There are three national infrastructure projects which directly impact on the district. These comprise a new high speed rail route, High Speed 2 (HS2), an upgrade to the existing partially disused rail corridor running through the heart of the district - East West Rail (EWR), and an upgrade of the A421 corridor through the district as part of the Government's proposal for an Oxford to Cambridge expressway. The route has not been confirmed yet, however it is intended to improve east-west connectivity through Buckinghamshire.

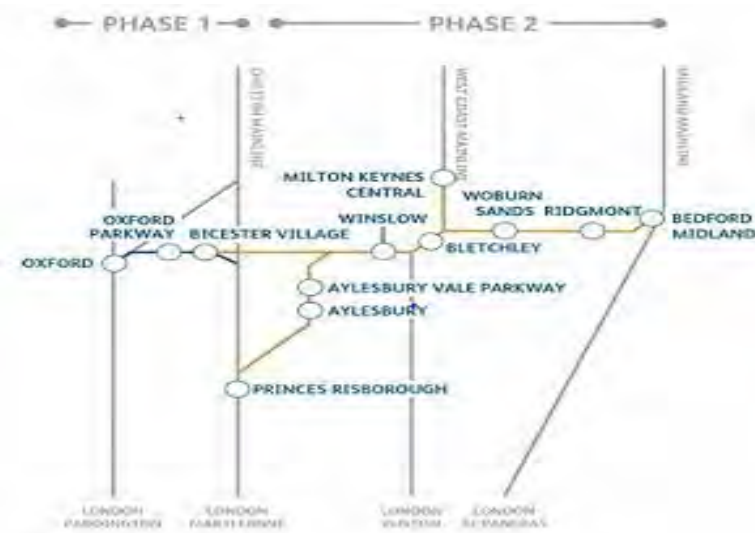
High Speed 2 (HS2)

- 7.14 In December 2010 the Government announced a preferred route option for the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham, known as High Speed 2 (HS2). The preferred route runs through the western part of the district, entering at Wendover in the south past the western edge of Aylesbury, and proposes a major infrastructure maintenance depot located at Calvert/Steeple Claydon, then continues northwards to exit the district at Turweston. The Council and many other groups petitioned the Government to achieve the best possible mitigation of the significant impacts that HS2 will have on the environment and local communities in the district. Work on cycle route design and how it interacts with the HS2 will be completed to maximise benefits and connectivity between communities and the countryside.
- 7.15 The Secretary of State has issued a safeguarding directive for the route and this will be shown on the final proposals map. The safeguarding directive requires the notification to HS2 of any

planning application which affects the safeguarded line. The High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Act 2017 received Royal Assent in February 2017 and preparatory work for delivery of the line has commenced.

East West Rail

- 7.16 The East West Rail (EWR) project aims to provide a new east-west orbital route between the east of England and south-central England using primarily existing infrastructure. The EWR project will provide connectivity to Reading, Didcot, Oxford, Bicester, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Cambridge, Norwich and Ipswich and supports sustainable growth across the corridor. The Council is one of a consortium of local authorities in England’s economic heartland working with Network Rail and the Department for Transport, influencing and supporting the early implementation of this key infrastructure project.
- 7.17 The East West Rail western section (Phase 2) involves the upgrade and reconstruction of sections of line linking Bedford to Bicester and Milton Keynes, via Winslow, and Calvert Junction to Princes Risborough via Aylesbury. This will allow passenger and freight services to run between Bedford and Bicester and between Milton Keynes and London via Aylesbury. This second phase of East West Rail will extend the Chiltern Line northwards, beyond Aylesbury, to link up with East West Rail, with a new station in Winslow.



- 7.18 East West Rail Phase 1 Bicester to Oxford is in operation and preparation for Phase 2, Bicester - Aylesbury - Milton Keynes is well advanced. Train services could start operating in the early 2020s, subject to securing the necessary approvals (planning permission for the new station at Winslow was granted in June 2017).

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

- 7.19 The Road Investment Strategy 2015 (Department for Transport) announced a new strategic study that will investigate the case for linking existing roads, which would create a high-quality link between Oxford and Cambridge. This will enable future growth in Aylesbury Vale to benefit from direct connections to the strategic road network. The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Strategic Study: stage 3 report published in November 2016 identified three options to complete the ‘missing link’ between the M1 and the M40:

- a northern option, roughly following the existing A421 to the south of Bicester and via Buckingham to the east of Milton Keynes
- a central option, following the east-west rail corridor; and
- a southern option via Aylesbury, linking to the M1 south of Milton Keynes.

- 7.20 Subject to information forthcoming, any line for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway may need to be included as a safeguarded line in the VALP as it progresses through to adoption. Implications of the route for growth in Aylesbury Vale will be taken into account in an early review of the Plan.

T2 Protected Transport Schemes

Planning permission will not be granted for development that would prejudice the implementation of existing or protected transport schemes including the implementation of the East West Rail project including new stations and twin tracking to the south of Aylesbury.

The Council will continue to work with High Speed 2 Ltd with the aim of influencing the design and construction of the route through Aylesbury Vale to minimise adverse impacts and maximise any benefits that arise from the proposal. Subject to being within the provisions of the Act, the implementation of HS2 will also be expected to:

- a. deliver high-quality design to protect local communities and the environment
- b. prevent or reduce prejudicial effects on road safety or on the free flow of traffic and to preserve sites of archaeological or historic interest or nature conservation value
- c. ensure that community and other benefits are fully realised.

T3 Supporting transport schemes

The Council will actively support key transport proposals including those identified in both the Aylesbury Transport Strategy and Buckingham Transport Strategy.

The route for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has yet to be agreed. The scheme is supported by the Council and once the agreed route is confirmed and further information is made available the scheme route will be protected in any review to the VALP.

Delivering transport in new development

- 7.21 New development will be required to evidence that there is sufficient capacity in the transport network to accommodate the increase in demand to travel as a result of the development. Where a new development is likely to have significant transport implications (see relevant DfT guidance for thresholds), a transport assessment and travel plan will be required and submitted in support of the planning application for the development.
- 7.22 The sustainability of new development is based on the ability of proposals to be accessible by a choice of means of transport to existing services such as: employment provision, education, retail, healthcare, and leisure facilities. Accessibility issues are particularly important for those without access to a car. At the local level this should include encouraging walking for trips under two miles, and encouraging cycling for trips within a five-mile radius. To achieve this, car dominance should be reduced, as supported by both the Manual for Streets and the Local Transport Plan 4 while not impeding access for emergency vehicles and public transport. Opportunities to reduce traffic speeds and introduce level surface street designs for example may help to encourage more walking and cycling and create safer streets.
- 7.23 National guidelines stipulate that upon completion developments should be within a 400m threshold of a bus stop or 800m of a railway station with at least a half-hourly peak hour service provision in order to ensure public transport use is a realistic alternative to the car.

- 7.24 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires planning decisions to take account of whether safe and suitable access to a development site can be achieved for all people. Developments should be located and designed, to create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflict between general traffic and; emergency service vehicles, public transport, cyclists and pedestrians. Suitable and safe highway measures must be provided to mitigate the impact of development and enhance the use of the local road network for all users.

T4 Delivering transport in new development

Transport and new development will only be permitted if the necessary mitigation is provided against any unacceptable transport impacts which arise directly from that development. This will be achieved, as appropriate, through:

- a. The submission of a transport statement or assessment and the implementation of measures arising from it
- b. Ensuring that the scale of traffic generated by the proposal is appropriate for the function and standard of the roads serving the area
- c. The implementation of necessary works to the highway
- d. Contributions towards local public transport services and support for community transport initiatives
- e. The provision of new, and the improvement of existing, pedestrian and cycle routes
- f. The provision of a travel plan to promote sustainable travel patterns for work and education related trips.

Vehicle parking

- 7.25 Car parking and its location has an impact upon the quality of the environment – how it looks, how it functions – and on safety. The availability and convenience of parking at the destination can have a real effect on the choices people make regarding travel. Policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) seek to manage the demand for car travel and encourage the use of more sustainable forms of travel, particularly public transport, walking and cycling, but whilst much of Aylesbury is well served by public transport and is easily accessible by walking or cycling, the same does not apply across the remainder of the district.
- 7.26 Car parking remains a significant issue for residents and house buyers; many feel that designs for new developments should accommodate anticipated levels of parking. Attempts to curb car ownership solely through restricting parking are considered unrealistic, and had little impact on the number of cars a household would require and acquire. Experience from recent residential developments and those presently being constructed has been that rather than encouraging a shift away from car ownership, restrictive parking standards have simply intensified the demand for any available on-street parking. Restrictions on parking will therefore focus on ensuring that destination parking is not provided beyond the respective standard.
- 7.27 Therefore, vehicle parking must be designed into new development schemes to include accommodation for on-plot parking and on-street parking; rear parking courts are discouraged as experience of new residential developments within the district shows that these are not used due to location and/or a lack of security, leading to anti-social parking the street. Parking courts to the front of dwellings are considered acceptable as they allow for the parking area to be overlooked.
- 7.28 Research has also shown that most residents use garages for domestic storage rather than for vehicle storage, which subsequently reduces the available off-street parking for individual dwellings. It is therefore proposed that these structures, unless of a minimum internal size as included within the design SPD, will no longer be allocated as parking spaces within new developments.
- 7.29 Vehicle parking standards including cycle and motorcycle parking, based on Trip Rate Information Computer System data (TRICS), together with standards for non residential uses proposed within the district, are included within the design SPD.

T5 Vehicle Parking

Development must provide an appropriate level of parking, taking into account:

- a. The accessibility of the site, including the availability of public transport, and
- b. The type, mix and use of development

Garages/integral garages/car ports will not be included within the allocation of parking spaces unless they meet a minimum internal size as set out in the design SPD.

Design must enable and encourage the maximum use of sustainable modes of transport, including provision for cyclists and low-emission vehicles. Within Aylesbury, Buckingham, Haddenham, Wendover, and Winslow infrastructure for electric vehicles should be built into new major development schemes where local centres are proposed.

Vehicle parking standards will be set out in the design SPD.

Footpaths and cycle routes

- 7.30 Footpaths and cycle routes provide an opportunity to minimise and reduce the need to travel by car, maximise sustainable transport use, and decrease air pollution. These activities can also help to increase the health and quality of life of users. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that planning policies should aim to achieve places which promote accessible environments containing clear and legible pedestrian routes. It also states that developments should be designed to give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements.
- 7.31 The VALP encourages sustainable modes of travel including provision for public transport, cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways. It also aims to maintain and develop a network of recreational routes that will allow easy access to cycle, bridleway and footpath routes. These are important tourism and recreation facilities, both in their own right and as a means of linking other attractions and local communities.

T6 Footpaths and cycle routes

For development which will have implications for the footpath and cycle route networks all the following criteria will apply:

- a. The delivery of a strategic cycle network and improvements to the footpaths will be supported in accordance with any county-wide or local cycle strategies
- b. The Council will protect existing cycle routes from adverse effects of new development. In dealing with planning applications the Council will seek new or improved cycle access and facilities, including cycle storage, and will use planning conditions or legal agreements to secure such arrangement.
- c. The Council will safeguard existing pedestrian routes from adverse effects of new development. Development proposals must provide for direct, convenient and safe pedestrian movement and routes, connected where appropriate to the existing pedestrian network and alongside strategic routes. In deciding planning applications the Council will use planning conditions or legal agreements to secure the provision of new footpaths and the improvement of existing routes.
- d. The Council will ensure that networks of pedestrian and cycle routes are provided to give easy access into and through new developments and to adjacent areas, and also to public transport services.

Electric vehicle infrastructure

- 7.32 Electric vehicles offer a way of reducing the pollution impacts associated with traffic. Air quality in areas of high traffic movements, such as town centres, will particularly be improved as the use of electric vehicle increases and technology becomes increasingly efficient in terms of cost and charging duration.
- 7.33 The NPPF encourages the inclusion of facilities for charging plug-in vehicles (paragraph 35) which was rare when it was written in 2012. Figures published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show that sales of electric cars have expanded dramatically since then. While only around 500 electric cars were registered per month during the first half of 2014, this has risen to an average of more than 3,200 per month. With this growth predicted to continue there is now a market justification for including charging facilities in new developments. The recent Government announcement that diesel and petrol cars will be phased out by 2040 will further increase the pressure for such facilities in the longer term.
- 7.34 It is important to ensure that new electric vehicle charging facilities are accessible in new developments, but it is recognised that current electric car sales are only 1.7% of new car sales.. It is nevertheless important that electric vehicle charging infrastructure supports this growing mode of transport, encouraging continued growth and supporting existing and future users of electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are a broadly sustainable mode of travel that is increasing market penetration and the requirement for new development can be increased whenever the design SPD is reviewed (which will include parking standards).
- 7.35 It is anticipated that within the life of the Local Plan other technologies will emerge for the fuelling of vehicles. These might include hydrogen, fuel cells, compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquified natural gas (LNG) as well as hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO). Such developments will need to be addressed within a review of the Plan.

T7 Electric vehicle infrastructure

To maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport:

- a. New developments of 10 dwellings / totalling 760 sqm floorspace or more will be required to provide electric charging points, at the rate set out in the design SPD
- b. Fast charge electric vehicle charging points must be provided at long stay locations such as employment sites and railway station/long stay car parks. Rapid charge points should, where practicable, be sited at short stay locations such as service stations, large retail and leisure developments, particularly where these are located on the strategic road network. Charging points should be provided at a minimum rate of one charging point for every 25 parking spaces, except at petrol stations where one space should be provided at each petrol station
- c. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points should, wherever possible, be coupled with renewable energy installations such as solar panels or urban wind to enhance the sustainability of the provision.

8 Built Environment

Heritage assets

- 8.1 The historic environment is an asset of great cultural, social, economic and environmental value. It contributes significantly to our quality of life and to the character of the district, representing a non-renewable resource that once lost is gone forever. Heritage assets are defined as those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest, over and above their functional utility. Significance can be made up of many different aspects of an asset's interest, and may be harmed by development directly affecting the physical fabric of the asset or within the setting of the asset.
- 8.2 There are many different types of heritage asset; some are formally designated, others are non-designated. The Council's aim is to protect and enhance the district's heritage assets through the identification of those of local significance and through ensuring that development is managed in a way that sustains or enhances their significance and setting. The effect of a planning application on the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining any application. The LPA will require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage asset affected including any contribution made by their setting. As a minimum the Historic Environment Record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise.
- 8.3 In weighing up applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Designated heritage assets

- 8.4 Designated heritage assets are a World Heritage site, scheduled monument, listed building, registered park and garden, registered battlefield, or conservation area. Designated heritage assets are protected by statute, as set out in relevant legislation, as well as by policy contained within the NPPF.

Listed buildings

- 8.5 Listed buildings are buildings or structures which are included on the national List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. They are nationally designated heritage assets. Buildings are listed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, based on recommendations from Historic England. Anyone can nominate a building for listing via the Historic England website. Any building or structure may be added to the list, as long as it meets the agreed criteria for listing for that type of asset. These agreed criteria are drawn up by Historic England, and are available from its website.
- 8.6 There are over 3,000 listed buildings, bridges, statues and other structures in the district. Over 200 of these listed buildings are recorded as Grades I or II* with the remainder being recorded as Grade II. Most of the buildings in Aylesbury Vale were listed between 1970 and 1990 as the result of programme of parish-wide building surveys. A number of new buildings have been added to the lists since then as a result of requests for individual listings. Others, including 20th century concrete structures and war memorials have been added to the list as a result of Historic England's thematic listing programme.
- 8.7 The special interest of a listed building may be adversely affected by alterations or extensions to its physical fabric, or by development within the curtilage or development within the setting. The objective of listing buildings is to ensure their protection for future generations to enjoy. In addition to the normal planning application process, listed building consent is required for all works that would affect a building's special interest.
- 8.8 The requirement for listed building consent ensures that checks and balances are in place to prevent harm to the structure and interest of a listed building. This protection applies to the

whole of a listed building or structure, and to other ancillary structures that sit within the curtilage of the listed building that were in existence before 1 July 1948 and in the curtilage of the building or structure at the time of listing. The need for consent extends to all works, both external and internal.

- 8.9 Listed building consent is required for any works that affect the character of the building including alterations, extensions, and demolition. It is a criminal offence to carry out unauthorised works to a listed building. If unauthorised work has taken place to a listed building an enforcement notice may be served requiring the work either to be remedied or reversed. In determining applications relating to listed buildings, the Council has a statutory duty to have a 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. The Council is also required under NPPF to consider whether the proposal will cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset. If harm is likely to be caused, this must be weighed in the wider planning balance.

Conservation areas

- 8.10 Conservation areas are areas of special historic or architectural interest, the special character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation areas are locally designated heritage assets. Conservation areas are designated by Aylesbury Vale District Council, according to strategy set out in the AVDC Conservation Areas Supplementary Planning Document (adopted March 2011).
- 8.11 Conservation areas can include groups of listed or non-listed buildings, historic village greens and open spaces, important trees, unusual distinctive historic field patterns closely associated with a historic settlement (where these have a district-wide significance), historic parkland, linear features such as canals and railways, well-preserved archaeological remains and/or surviving historic street patterns. When defining a conservation area it is the special architectural or historic interest of the whole area, rather than the merits of individual buildings and features, that is important. Interest may be characterised by uniformity of architectural style or variety.
- 8.12 Most of the district's 120 conservation areas were designated originally in the 1980s and 1990s, (while some date from the 1960s) and roughly half have been reviewed in the last 10 years. The Council continues to review designations to ensure that they are up to date and that conservation area boundaries are appropriately defined. Any development, be it construction, demolition, alteration, extension, or change of use, has the potential to impact upon the character or appearance of a conservation area. Whilst positive change should be welcomed as an important part of the organic growth of a settlement, there is always a risk that development may harm an area's special interest.
- 8.13 Similarly, development immediately adjacent to, or within the setting of, a conservation area can greatly influence the character and appearance of the area. Development that does not reflect the traditional form, layout and scale of buildings within the conservation area can have an adverse effect. Conservation area designation is intended to recognise and define that which is special about a place, and therefore what the character and appearance of the area it is that is desirable to preserve or enhance.
- 8.14 Within a conservation area the amount of development which may be taken without planning permission is reduced. The increased requirement to seek permission for development is intended to ensure that the correct checks and balances are in place to prevent harm to the significance of the heritage asset. In determining applications relating to conservation areas, the Council has a statutory duty to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the conservation area. The Council is also required

under NPPF to consider whether the proposal will cause harm to the significance of the heritage asset. If harm is likely to be caused, this must be weighed in the wider planning balance.

Registered historic parks and gardens

- 8.15 Registered historic parks and gardens are sites which have been assessed to be of particular significance, in terms of the special historic interest. They are nationally designated heritage assets. Historic England has been enabled by Government to compile a register of historic parks and gardens. Anyone can nominate a park or garden for inclusion on the register via the Historic England website. The register includes gardens, grounds and other planned landscapes and open spaces. The register focuses on the interest of the designed landscape, rather than on planting or botanical species. The majority of sites registered are the grounds of historic private houses, but public parks and cemeteries can also be included.
- 8.16 Within the district there are nine parks and gardens of special historic interest included in the national register. They are graded in a similar way to listed buildings. Development within or affecting the setting of a historic parks and garden can affect the significance of the asset. The purpose of registering historic parks and gardens is to celebrate designed landscapes of note and to define the elements that make it important or distinctive, and to ensure appropriate protection. The inclusion of a historic park or garden in the register carries obligations on the Local Planning authority to consult Historic England and the Garden History Society on all applications for development likely to affect the area of special interest. In considering the impact of a proposal the Council will have regard to the special character of the park or garden and public views within, into or from it. The Council will also consider the impact of development upon the significance of the heritage asset.

Scheduled monuments

- 8.17 Scheduled monuments are sites of national archaeological importance. They are nationally designated heritage assets. Scheduling of sites as ancient monuments is the oldest form of heritage protection, and started in 1882. The primary purpose of scheduling a monument is to preserve it for the future and to protect it from damage, destruction, or any unnecessary interference. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport designates scheduled monuments, based on recommendations from Historic England. Sites from all periods are eligible for inclusion on the schedule as long as they meet the criteria adopted by Historic England for scheduling of that asset type.
- 8.18 There are 61 sites in the district that are included in the statutory schedule of ancient monuments. A list of sites is maintained by Historic England, and is available on their website³⁶. Development which affects the physical remains of a scheduled monument, or which affects their setting, may harm the significance of the heritage asset. Scheduling is intended to identify those sites which would particularly benefit from close management, primarily by Historic England.
- 8.19 The consent of the Secretary of State is required for any proposals that may affect the special interest of a scheduled monument. This scheduled monument consent can cover any works affecting a scheduled monument either above or below ground, including groundworks, demolition, destruction, damage, removal, repair, alteration, addition, flooding or tipping operations. Consent may even be required to enter a scheduled monument with digging machinery. Where an application for planning permission affects a scheduled monument, the Council will consult with Historic England, and will take advice as to the likely impact of that development upon the significance of the heritage asset.

³⁶ <https://historicengland.org.uk>

Non-designated heritage assets

- 8.20 A non-designated heritage asset can be a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 8.21 Significance is the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest that can be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Every effort will be taken to identify non-designated heritage assets as early as possible in the planning process.
- 8.22 The criteria for defining significance (below) will be used by the Council as Local Planning authority to establish if any potential non-designated heritage asset that is a building or structure meets the definition in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This will be done at an early stage in the process, as advised by the National Planning Practice Guidance. Development proposals affecting an identified non-designated heritage asset will be subject to the requirements of the NPPF at Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment and including paragraphs 131 and 135.

Non-designated buildings and structures

- 8.23 Within the AVDC Conservation Area Appraisals a number of buildings are identified as 'Buildings of Local Note'. These buildings, as well as forming part of the designated conservation area are also considered to be non-designated heritage assets in their own right. From time to time other non-designated heritage asset buildings may be identified through the planning process.
- 8.24 Where applications affect the significance of these assets, the likely harm that will be caused is weighed in the planning balance, and weight is placed on the conservation of these assets. Where it is not practicable to retain a building which is considered to be a non-designated heritage asset, the Council will expect to see a full appraisal of the significance of the building and the reasons why it is not practicably repairable or reusable submitted as part of the planning application. In addition the Council may require a full record of the building to be made prior to demolition.

Archaeological remains

- 8.25 There are a number of known and identified sites of archaeological importance, known as Archaeological Notification Areas listed on the County Historic Environment Record system. From time to time other sites of archaeological interest may become apparent as a result of the planning process. The Council is committed to protect these sites from development that would damage or endanger them and will afford protection to archaeological remains in accordance with their archaeological importance.
- 8.26 Applications for development of sites containing or likely to contain archaeological remains will require an archaeological field evaluation. It is recommended that prospective developers consult the Council at pre-application stage in this respect. The Council will expect proposals for sites containing important archaeological remains to be preserved, where possible, in situ, i.e. preservation undisturbed in the monument's existing location and setting. Where preservation in situ is not justified, the Council will seek preservation by record. This involves digging the site, exposing and removing whatever archaeological remains are found and making a record of the findings. The developer will be required to make satisfactory arrangements for the excavation and recording of the archaeological remains and the publication of the results. This will be achieved by the imposition of suitable conditions and/or agreement between the Council and the developer.

Defining significance

- 8.27 An understanding of the significance of any heritage asset, whether designated or non-designated, lies at the heart of all decision making. Without understanding the significance of an asset it may not be possible to make an accurate assessment of the impact that a development will have on that significance. The significance of a heritage asset is based on its key heritage values. These values are defined by Historic England as the historic, evidential, aesthetic and communal values. By understanding the heritage values of an asset it is possible to assess the archaeological or architectural interest of a building, structure or site. Finally, the setting of an asset can contribute a great deal to its significance, by virtue of its positive impact on understanding the heritage values and interest of the asset as a whole. The definitions of heritage values and interest below have been prepared with specific reference to Historic England's Conservation Principles – Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment and Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing.

Evidential

- 8.28 Evidential value is the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. This can include land use, the hierarchy of places, historic building techniques, fashion and trends in architectural design. The setting of places, for example the rural hinterland of the Vale's villages, can contribute to this value as it shows historic linkages between places and economic functions.

Historic

- 8.29 Historic value lies in the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present and is often illustrative or associative. The links between places and people or events in history feeds into this value, and the tangible way in which modern day settlements have been affected by historic events (such as the setting up of a mediaeval market square) is key to understanding the development of a place.

Aesthetic

- 8.30 The intellectual and sensory impact of a place creates its aesthetic value. This may be as simple as the appreciation of a historic house and garden for its beauty, or the less formal glimpsed views around an historic settlement.

Communal

- 8.31 The collective experience or memory of a place and the meaning that it holds for people who relate to it form the communal value of an asset. In terms of publicly accessible places and spaces this is often fairly easy to define, but is harder to interpret for areas that are not easily visible to communities. Neighbourhood plans and associated documents offer a good opportunity to try to define the communal value of a place or heritage asset.

Archaeological interest

- 8.32 Archaeological interest refers to an above-ground archaeological site or historic building recorded in the Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record. Identification of archaeological interest will be made in conjunction with the Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service. Sub-surface archaeological interest is considered and advised on separately by the service.

Architectural interest

- 8.33 The architectural interest of a building or structure may be aesthetic, based on the intrinsic design value derived from local styles, materials, workmanship or any other distinctive local

characteristic. It may be in part derived from the local context of a place, or an association with a known architect or designer of regional or national note.

- 8.34 The integrity of a building or structure may add to its interest – a degree of intactness and lack of harmful external alteration may make a building more significant. Equally, the ongoing organic development and growth of a building over centuries may be what gives it its value and interest.
- 8.35 If a building sits as a landmark, by virtue of its design, age, innovation, construction, position, use or communal associations contributes, within the local scene or as a valuable member of a group of buildings this may also add to its interest.

Setting

- 8.36 The setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings within which the asset may be experienced. It is not fixed and may evolve over time. Elements within a setting may be positive, negative or neutral, and so the ability to appreciate setting may be harmed or improved by development within the setting of an asset. Setting must not be confused with curtilage, to avoid confusion with residential curtilage for permitted development rights as this may differ.

Curtilage

- 8.37 Curtilage in heritage terms, refers to an area around a building and, with listed structures, the extent of curtilage is defined by consideration of ownership, both past and present, functional association and layout. The setting of a historic asset will include, but generally be more extensive than, its curtilage

Heritage at Risk

- 8.38 Investing in historic buildings can have a direct impact on the quality of life of residents. Many buildings at risk have a rich historic legacy and contribute to local identity. The repair and refurbishment of declining and/or derelict historic buildings can often be a catalyst in encouraging confidence and investment in an area.
- 8.39 Wherever practicable the Council will support endeavours to repair and reuse heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance and to provide long-term viable uses for buildings and structures that are vacant and at risk. The Council will continue to feed into national projects to record Heritage at Risk, such as the Historic England Heritage Counts surveys, and will support local communities who wish to partake in these projects. The Council will continue to work with Historic England to identify options for known Heritage Assets at Risk within the district.

BE1 Heritage assets

The historic environment, unique in its character, quality and diversity across the Vale is important and will be preserved or enhanced. All development, including new buildings, alterations, extensions, changes of use and demolitions, should seek to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, including their setting, and seek enhancement wherever possible.

Proposals for development shall contribute to heritage values and local distinctiveness. Where a development proposal is likely to affect a designated heritage asset and or its setting, the significance of the heritage asset and the impact of the proposal must be fully assessed and supported in the submission of an application. Heritage statements and/or archaeological evaluations will be required for any proposals related to or impacting on a heritage asset and/or known possible archaeological site.

Proposals which affect the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be properly considered, weighing the direct and indirect impacts upon the asset and its setting. There will be a presumption in favour of retaining heritage assets wherever practical, including archaeological remains in situ, unless it can be demonstrated that the harm will be outweighed by the benefits of the development.

The Council will:

- a. Support development proposals that do not cause harm to, or which better reveal the significance of heritage assets
- b. Require development proposals that cause substantial harm to, or loss of a designated heritage asset and its significance, including its setting, to provide a thorough heritage assessment setting out a clear and convincing justification as to why that harm is considered acceptable. Where that case cannot be demonstrated proposals will not be supported unless the harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss and accord with the requirements of national guidance, and
- c. Require development proposals that cause less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset to weigh the level of harm against the public benefits that may be gained by the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

Developments affecting a heritage asset should achieve a high quality design in accordance with adopted SPD and the Council will encourage modern, innovative design which respects and complements the heritage context in terms of scale, massing, design, detailing and use.

Design of new development

- 8.40 Good design of the built environment and landscape as part of new development is a key priority in preserving and enhancing the quality of the built environment in Aylesbury Vale. A design-led approach is required that respects the vernacular character of towns and villages, and where development in the countryside is necessary or appropriate, new development respects the existing character and visual amenity of rural landscapes and buildings.
- 8.41 The character of settlements differs across the district, particularly in the building materials used in vernacular buildings, reflecting the changing geology and geography. Local building traditions determine this local distinctiveness through their siting and the use of local materials and building styles. It is vital that new development reflects the scale and characteristics of its surroundings and adds to the built quality of the area.
- 8.42 The key to the Council's approach towards the design of new development is a focus on local distinctiveness. This refers to the unique quality of buildings, landscape and topography in a locality that defines its character. Within the district there is a wide variety of landscape character types, from the nationally recognised natural beauty of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), to the locally important pattern of fields, hedgerows and streams in other parts of the district. Similarly, there is a wide range of settlements with distinctive characteristics such as the narrow roads and high walls of Haddenham and Chearsley, to the wide main street and limestone houses of Thornborough. Designs or layouts that may be entirely acceptable in one part of the district may not be appropriate elsewhere.
- 8.43 The Council wishes to conserve and enhance these distinctions between areas of the district and neighbouring districts and to reinforce a sense of place by requiring development to be appropriate to its context. This will be especially important in areas recognised for their landscape or townscape quality, i.e. the designated special landscape areas and conservation areas.
- 8.44 The historic environment can be an important component of local distinctiveness. Development that respects the historic characteristics of its surroundings will be encouraged. Modern developments should look towards the same qualities in order to be appropriate to their setting. That is not to suggest that previous styles should be reproduced or to discourage innovation in building styles but rather to ensure that development respects existing architectural styles. The Council wishes to encourage development that has an individual identity that either complements or forms an attractive contrast with its surroundings.
- 8.45 A supplementary planning document (SPD) will be prepared setting out detailed guidance relating to design of new development.

BE2 Design of new development

All new development proposals shall follow the guidance set out within the Council's design SPD and shall respect and complement:

- a. The physical characteristics of the site and its surroundings including the scale and context of the site and its setting
- b. The local distinctiveness and vernacular character of the locality, in terms of ordering, form, proportions, architectural detailing and materials
- c. The natural qualities and features of the area, and
- d. The effect on important public views and skylines.

Protection of the amenity of residents

- 8.46 It is a central theme of planning that good neighbourliness and fairness are among the most important factors against which development proposals should be measured. While planning decisions should always be made on balance in the public interest, this should not be at the expense of unreasonable harm to peoples' peaceful enjoyment of their property. Most development will have some impact on its neighbours, but it is important to ensure that this impact is reasonable in relation to the benefits of the development.
- 8.47 Amenity can be harmed in a number of ways, for example by privacy, noise, light pollution, fumes or odours, excessive or speeding traffic, loss of light, and/or the overbearing nature of a new structure which would impact on the character of outlook. Aylesbury Vale is a valued place in which to live, and the Council aims to protect this aspect of its residential environment.

BE3 Protection of the amenity of residents

Planning permission will not be granted where the proposed development would unreasonably harm any aspect of the amenity of existing residents and achieve a satisfactory level of amenity for future residents. Where planning permission is granted, the Council will use conditions or planning obligations to ensure that any potential adverse impacts on neighbours are eliminated or appropriately controlled.

Density of new development

- 8.48 Land is a finite resource and it is Government policy to make best use of what is available by promoting sustainable housing developments. Central to this policy is the need to use land efficiently taking into account level of demand, availability of suitable land, future level and capacity of infrastructure, services and facilities, provision of open space, impacts on climate change, accessibility and public transport, characteristics of the area, and proposed mixes of use.

BE4 Density of new development

Proposed densities of developments should reflect those of their surroundings, and will be determined on a site-by-site basis. Where large scale developments are proposed, particularly towards the edge of settlements, higher density areas should be located towards the centre of the sites whilst the rural edge should be a lower density.

9 Natural Environment

Protected sites

- 9.1 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are hugely important to AVDC as these are sites of national importance for flora, fauna, geological and physiographical (landform) features. They are statutorily protected from harm under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Proposed development that has an adverse effect on a SSSI, whether individually or in combination with other developments, will not normally be permitted.
- 9.2 There are a significant number of sites of ancient woodland in the district across many parishes. Notable are woods at Whitfield, Sheephouse, Balmore, Foxcote, Stratford, Doddershall, Broadway/Thrift, Tittershall, Boarstall, Work/Shabbington/Oakley, Hell's Coppice and Salden. Ancient woodland will be accorded the same level of importance as SSSIs, as it comprises a number of woodland habitats that are a national priority for improvement under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Ancient woodland and trees are irreplaceable. As such, the opportunities for mitigation under criterion (b) of the policy are extremely limited, and planning permission is likely to be refused for development that would result in the loss or harm of ancient woodland or trees. Where the Council becomes aware of ancient trees not previously identified and under threat from development, a tree preservation order will be likely to be imposed.
- 9.3 Local geological sites, being of regional significance, are also accorded a high degree of importance. The district has 14 such sites, and in terms of size the most significant are Brill Hill, College Lake, the Ridgeway Complex, Ivinghoe Beacon to Inchcombe Hill and Wendover Woods. Any development proposal that adversely impacts upon one of these sites would need to be extremely well justified.
- 9.4 Local nature reserves are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. There are local nature reserves at Buckingham (Buckingham Sand Pit, Coombs Quarry) and at Haddenham (Snakemoor). Development proposals adversely affecting a local nature reserve will be considered on a case-by-case basis, according to the amount of information available about the site and its significance, relative to the type, scale and benefits of the development being proposed and any mitigation. Any mitigation strategy will need to include co-operation with the nature reserve managers.
- 9.5 Where significant adverse impacts are likely on protected sites, planning permission is likely to be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances where the advantages to the protected site and the local community clearly outweigh the significant adverse impacts. In that case, the Council will consider the wider implications of any adverse impact to a protected site, such as its role in providing a vital wildlife corridor, mitigating flood risk or ensuring good water quality in a catchment.

NE1 Protected sites

Development proposals that would lead to an individual or cumulative significant adverse impact on SSSIs, or irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland or ancient trees the Council will be refused unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated and that the impacts to the site are clearly outweighed by the benefits of the development.

Sufficient information must be provided for the Council to assess the significance of the impact against the importance of the protected site and the species which depend upon it. This will include the area around the protected site. Planning permission will be granted only where:

- a. the benefits of the development at this site clearly outweigh any adverse impacts on the protected site and the ecosystem services it provides
- b. development has followed a mitigation hierarchy of avoid, then mitigate if avoidance cannot be achieved - then compensate/offset if mitigation cannot be achieved. Avoidance

will require the applicant to demonstrate that the development could not be located in an alternative, less harmful location.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

- 9.6 The VALP seeks to conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity through the protection and improvement of the terrestrial and water environments and fauna and flora, relative to their importance. The district geodiversity will also be protected, commensurate with the value and importance the site has.
- 9.7 The Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011-26 was agreed by a consortium of stakeholders including AVDC. It seeks to ensure that high quality green infrastructure (GI) is delivered which is accessible, attractive, and which conserves and enhances the district's special natural and historic environment, its wildlife and its landscape. GI offers the opportunity to engage with the community to build a strong sense of place, and to achieve cohesion between new and existing settlements. GI has an important role in providing a wide range of formal and informal health and recreational benefits at little or no cost to its users, by delivering economically sustainable GI. Strategic Principle 3 of the strategy is that GI should maintain and enhance biodiversity and ensure that development and its implementation results in a net gain of biodiversity as identified in biodiversity action plan habitats and species plans.
- 9.8 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), including the 2009 update Forward to 2020, identifies the key principles and goals that planning decisions must take into account. The BAP's aim is to retain, protect and where possible enhance biodiversity now and in the future. For biodiversity in Aylesbury Vale district to be supported sustainably, it needs to be meaningfully integrated into land management beyond protected sites and sites managed for wildlife. Biodiversity opportunity areas are the key areas in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes for the restoration and creation of priority habitat. They are the most important areas for biodiversity in the district and represent a targeted landscape scale approach to conserving biodiversity, and the basis for an ecological network and biodiversity improvement areas as defined in the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan Forward to 2020.
- 9.9 The district supports a rich variety of natural habitats and species. Many of these are of regional and national significance. Part of the district south of Pitstone is in the internationally designated Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Council expects that the planning system should contribute to the conservation and enhancement of these, and to the ecological systems that support them. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), development policies will seek to maximise the benefits of planning decisions to biodiversity, within the context of sustainable development.
- 9.10 Local wildlife sites (LWS) and biological notification sites (BNS) are non-statutory designated sites that occur within Buckinghamshire. There are over 200 LWSs in the district and 186 BNSs. There are also many non-designated sites that conform to the definition of priority habitat, as defined by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006. These are of varying degree of importance for nature conservation and receive varying degrees of protection as set out in the Act.
- 9.11 The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Record Centre (BMERC) holds records of all known sites of nature conservation value in Buckinghamshire. There are also many known sites of critical importance to species of national and international importance, such as bat roosts. Records of these are held by BMERC and/or specialist recording groups.
- 9.12 Local geological sites, being of regional significance, are also accorded a high degree of importance. The district has 14 such sites, and in terms of size the most significant are Brill Hill, College Lake, the Ridgeway Complex, Ivinghoe Beacon to Inchcombe Hill and Wendover Woods. Any development proposal that adversely impacts upon one of these sites would need to be extremely well justified.
- 9.13 The Council will consider planning applications for development affecting any of these sites against criteria weighted according to their ecological status and protection within a local,

national and international status. Their local context is particularly important. Therefore, a particular habitat or species may be nationally frequent but extremely rare locally, or nationally scarce and locally frequent. Examples of this include native black poplar, water vole, otter or Bechsteins bat. Development affecting any of these sites or species is expected to result in appropriate mitigation and where possible a net gain to their area or populations.

- 9.14 Many species are entirely dependant on human habitation for their reproductive success. Modern housing standards virtually eliminate opportunities for these species. Consequently where appropriate, features for biodiversity within development will be expected. Simple inexpensive measures can result in significant gains and these are listed in Appendix 2 of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment report Vision and Principles for the Improvement of Green Infrastructure in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes (September 2016). These measures, if required, are expected to be permanent in order to deliver meaningful ecological gain and protection. Therefore these features will be expected to be built into suitable structures rather than provided as vulnerable, isolated and temporary boxes.
- 9.15 Developments will also be expected to include a variety of forms of biodiversity within built development, such as street trees, wildflower rich verges and swales, living roofs and walls, hedgerows, and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) designed to enrich biodiversity.
- 9.16 Bat populations are particularly sensitive to development that severs or disturbs movement corridors. Where appropriate, flight corridors should be identified and protected or enhanced to ensure the ecological functionality of bat populations. Examples of suitable measures include green bridges, underpasses or tunnels that are situated on the exact traditional routes of bat populations and free from disturbance. Appropriate lighting schemes are also important to ensure bat movement corridors remain dark.
- 9.17 In order to achieve criterion (a) of the policy below, a supplementary planning document (SPD) will be prepared, working with the other Buckinghamshire councils, on a mechanism to achieve 'no net loss and net gain'. The SPD will consider the possibilities of adopting a biometrics calculator to quantify gains and losses and consider the threshold of development this should apply to, how the system will be managed and monitored.

NE2 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment will be achieved by the following:

- a. On greenfield sites, a net gain in biodiversity will be sought and on other sites no net loss and a net gain where possible in biodiversity will be sought by protecting, managing, enhancing and extending existing resources, and by creating new resources. These gains must be measurable using best practice in biodiversity and green infrastructure accounting and in accordance with any methodology set out in a future Supplementary Planning Document
- b. If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or as a last resort, compensated for, then development will not be permitted. Mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures must be secured and should be maintained in perpetuity
- c. Internationally important sites and species will be protected. Avoidance of likely significant adverse effects should be the first option. Development likely to affect the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC international site will be subject to assessment under the Habitat Regulations and will not be permitted unless adverse effects can be fully mitigated
- d. Development on or likely to have an adverse effect on sites of nationally important sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest will not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where:

- i. the benefits of the development at the site significantly and demonstrably outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and
 - ii. the loss can be mitigated and compensation can be provided to achieve a net gain in biodiversity/geodiversity.
- e. Development which would result in damage to or loss of a site of biodiversity or geological value of regional or local importance including habitats of principal importance or the habitats of species of principal importance will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances where the need for, and benefits of the development significantly and demonstrably outweigh the harm it would cause to the site, and the loss can be mitigated and compensation provided to achieve a net gain in biodiversity/geodiversity
- f. The Council will, where appropriate, expect ecological surveys for planning applications to be undertaken by a suitably qualified person and consistent with nationally accepted standards (BS 42020:Biodiversity – Code of Practice for planning and development) as replaced
- g. When there is a reasonable likelihood of the presence of protected or priority species or their habitats, development will not be permitted until it has been demonstrated that the proposed development will not result in a negative impact on these species or their habitats
- h. Development proposals will be expected to promote site permeability for wildlife and avoid the fragmentation of wildlife corridors, incorporating features to encourage biodiversity, and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value on site. Existing ecological networks should be identified and maintained to avoid habitat fragmentation, and ecological corridors including water courses should form an essential component of green infrastructure provision in association with new development to ensure habitat connectivity
- i. Planning conditions/obligations will be used to secure no net loss and net gains in biodiversity where possible by helping deliver Bucks and MK Biodiversity Action Plan targets in the biodiversity opportunity areas. On greenfield sites, the Council is seeking to achieve a net gain in biodiversity. Where development is proposed within or adjacent to a biodiversity opportunity area biodiversity surveys and a report will be required to identify constraints and opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. Development which would prevent the aims of a biodiversity opportunity area being achieved will not be permitted. Where there is potential for development, the design and layout of the development, planning conditions or obligations will be used to secure biodiversity enhancement to help achieve the aims of the biodiversity opportunity area. A monitoring and management plan will be required for biodiversity features on site to ensure their long-term suitable management (secured through planning condition or Section 106 agreement).

River and stream corridors

- 9.18 The river network of Aylesbury Vale has considerable ecological and amenity value and the Local Plan should include policy to ensure the protection and enhancement of its watercourses (see Forward to 2020 Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan, 2014).
- 9.19 A watercourse advice note for Aylesbury Vale is in the process of being produced by a partnership of organisations including, amongst others, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency. The advice note will guide planning applications in line with the following policy.

NE3 River and stream corridors

Development proposals must not have an adverse impact on the functions and setting of any watercourse and its associated corridor. They should conserve and enhance the biodiversity, landscape and consider the recreational value of the watercourse and its corridor through good design. Opportunities for de-culverting of watercourses should be actively pursued. Planning permission will only be granted for proposals which do not involve the culverting of watercourses and which do not prejudice future opportunities for de-culverting. Development proposals adjacent to or containing a watercourse shall provide or retain a 10m ecological buffer (unless existing physical constraints prevent) from the top of the river bank and the development, and include a long-term landscape and ecological management plan for this buffer.

Landscape

Nationally important landscape

- 9.20 The Chilterns were designated as a nationally important landscape in 1965 by the Government in recognition that the Chilterns countryside is amongst the finest in England and Wales. The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) forms part of a continuous landscape from Central Bedfordshire to South Oxfordshire and encompasses the landscape in the vicinity of Wendover and Pitstone/Edlesborough within Aylesbury Vale. The main purpose of designation is to conserve beauty which includes protecting flora, fauna and geological features as well as the overall landscape.
- 9.21 AVDC, as a member of the Chilterns Conservation Board, endorses the Chilterns Conservation Board Management Plan 2014-19. The management plan sets a comprehensive vision for the management of the AONB (beyond just town planning) and provides a policy framework for achieving it. Specific policies and guidelines produced by the shadow Chilterns Conservation Board may, if appropriate (such as the Chilterns Building Design Guide), be adopted by AVDC, or as a group of councils, as supplementary planning documents.
- 9.22 AVDC engaged Land Use Consultants (LUC) in early 2015 to advise on the policy approach for landscape in VALP and they recommended having a specific policy on development in the AONB and how its national significance requires a different approach to assessing proposals affecting other landscapes.
- 9.23 A considerable extent of the southeast of the district around Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville Weston Turville, Wendover, Aston Clinton, and south of Cheddington has views from public vantage points to the Chilterns AONB and its setting. There is no defined boundary to the 'setting' for the purposes of the VALP – a judgement will need to be made at the time a planning application is made.
- 9.24 A two-tiered approach to this policy is proposed as major developments are likely to have more wide-ranging impacts on the AONB.
- 9.25 Most of the AONB is also Green Belt and therefore Policy S4 applies.

NE4 The Chilterns AONB and setting

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally designated landscape and as such permission for major developments will be refused unless exceptional circumstances prevail as defined by national planning policy.

Proposals for any major development affecting the AONB must demonstrate they:

- a. conserve and enhance, in accordance with criteria f-m below, the Chiltern AONB's special qualities, distinctive character, tranquillity and remoteness in accordance with national planning policy and the overall purpose of the AONB designation
- b. are appropriate to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area or is desirable for its understanding and enjoyment
- c. within the AONB areas, meet the aims of the statutory Chilterns AONB Management Plan³⁷, making practical and financial contributions as appropriate;
- d. within the AONB area, have had regard to the Chilterns Building Design Guide and technical notes by being of high quality design which respects the natural beauty of the

³⁷ Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-2019 A Framework for Action, or any future replacement, <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/conservation-board/management-plan.html>

Chilterns, its traditional built character and reinforces the sense of place and local character, and

- e. avoids adverse impacts from individual proposals (including their cumulative effects), unless these can be satisfactorily mitigated.

In the case of major developments, actions to conserve and enhance the AONB shall be informed by landscape and visual impact assessment, having considered all relevant landscape character assessments, and shall focus upon:

- f. the Chilterns AONB's special qualities which include the steep chalk escarpment with areas of flower-rich downland, broadleaved woodlands (especially beech), commons, tranquil valleys, the network of ancient routes, villages with their brick and flint houses, chalk streams and a rich historic environment of hillforts and chalk figures
- g. the scope for enhancing and restoring those parts of the landscape which are degraded or subject to existing intrusive developments, utilities or infrastructure
- h. locally distinctive patterns and species composition of natural features such as chalk downland, trees, hedgerows, woodland, field boundaries, rivers and chalk streams
- i. the locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings, including the transition between man-made and natural landscapes at the edge of settlements;
- j. visually sensitive skylines, geological and topographical features
- k. landscapes of cultural, historic and heritage value
- l. important views and visual amenity from public vantage points, including key views from the steep north-west facing chalk escarpment overlooking the low clay vale, and foreground views back to the AONB, and
- m. tranquillity, remoteness and the need to avoid intrusion from light pollution, noise, and transport.

Any other (non-major) development can also have an impact on the AONB and its setting and will be required to meet criteria a., d. and e. above.

Landscape character and locally important landscape

- 9.26 All the landscape in the district is considered to have character and particular distinctive features to be conserved, positive characteristics to be enhanced and detracting features to be mitigated or removed. The 2008 landscape character assessment (LCA) is the primary evidence base which divides the entire landscape (beyond towns and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) into landscape character areas and landscape character types. The assessment sets out landscape conservation guidelines for each landscape character area. Therefore all the landscape in the district is considered to have innate 'value' as referred to in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF)³⁸. That said, of the locally significant landscape, the areas of attractive landscape (AALs) are of the greatest significance followed by the local landscape areas (LLAs).
- 9.27 In early 2015, AVDC engaged the consultants Land Use Consultants (LUC) to review the 2008 LCA, update it in light of major developments since 2008, and consider its conformity with the NPPF. The evidence base was considered to be a valid basis to develop a policy approach and a specific policy approach was recommended to note landscape character across the district and special qualities and differences between character areas and character types.
- 9.28 Areas of attractive landscape (AALs) were first designated in the Buckinghamshire County Structure Plan 1979 and in successive plans through to the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) (2004). Local landscape areas (LLAs) were designated by AVDC in the 1990s and carried forward into AVDLP in 2004. Neither of these designations are seeking to resist development in principle, unless regard has not been given to distinctive features and key characteristics of the AALs and LLAs.
- 9.29 LUC carried out a criteria-based assessment of all AALs and LLAs, applying a nationally-accepted methodology to what influences landscape value. This evidence base 'defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' has been published as a final report following stakeholder engagement in August 2015 and public engagement in October-December 2015. The study concludes at paragraph 4.2:
- 9.30 'Most of the areas of attractive landscape (AALs) have stronger special qualities and are relatively higher in landscape value in comparison to the local landscape areas (LLAs), which are generally smaller scale locally valued features. The LLAs generally do not contain so many nationally significant natural or cultural designations, and they are typically less memorable or distinctive than the AALs. It may therefore be useful to retain the hierarchy of AALs and LLAs in order to distinguish the most valued landscapes from those that are not so greatly valued although still considered worthy of designation.'
- 9.31 AVDC has accepted the recommendations of LUC on which AALs and LLAs have the greater value (following criteria based assessment of each sub area) and together with the support for locally designated landscapes received in response to the VALP Issues and Options consultation, designate new AALs and LLAs.
- 9.32 AVDC intends to review the 2008 LCA to take place relatively early in the VALP plan period. The LUC study of 2015 did not include primary on-site fieldwork.

³⁸ paragraph 109.

NE5 Landscape character and locally important landscape

To ensure that the district's landscape character is maintained, development must have regard to the 2008 LCA (as amended 2015 and any future review). Development must recognise the individual character and distinctiveness of particular landscape character areas set out in the assessment, their sensitivity to change and contribution to a sense of place. Development should consider the role of the landscape character area and meet all of the following criteria:

- a. be grouped where possible with existing buildings to minimise impact on visual amenity
- b. be located to avoid the loss of important on-site views and off-site views towards important landscape features
- c. reflect local character and distinctiveness in terms of settlement form and field pattern, topography and ecological value
- d. Carefully consider spacing, height, scale, plot shape and size, elevations, roofline and pitch, overall colour palette, texture and boundary treatment (walls, hedges, fences and gates)
- e. minimise the impact of lighting to avoid blurring the distinction between urban and rural areas, and in areas which are intrinsically dark and to avoid light pollution to the night sky
- f. ensure that the buildings and any outdoor storage and parking areas are not visually prominent in the landscape
- g. not generate an unacceptable level and/or frequency of noise in areas relatively undisturbed by noise and valued for their recreational or amenity value

The first stage in mitigating impact is to avoid the identified harmful impact. Where it is accepted there will be harm to the landscape character, specific on-site mitigation will be required and, as a last resort, compensation will be required as part of a planning application. Applicants must consider the enhancement opportunities identified in the LCA and how they apply to a specific site.

The Policies Map defines areas of attractive landscape (AALs) and local landscape areas (LLAs) which have particular landscape features and qualities considered appropriate for particular conservation and enhancement opportunities. Of the two categories, the areas of attractive landscape have the greater significance. Development in AALs and LLAs should have particular regard to the character identified in the report 'Defining the special qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District' (Final Report, 2016) and the LCA (2008). Development that adversely affects this character will not be permitted unless appropriate mitigation can be secured. Where permission is granted, the Council will require conditions to best ensure the mitigation of any harm caused to the landscape.

Pollution, noise, contaminated land and air quality

Pollution

- 9.33 The Council will ensure that no development creates or triggers unacceptable levels of pollution and land instability that could impact on human health, property and the wider environment, including environmental designations. Consideration must be given to adopting environmental best practice measures in all cases.

Light, noise and odour pollution

- 9.34 Although appropriate lighting may help to enhance community safety and reduce the fear of crime, caution must be taken to ensure that lighting only illuminates the intended areas or structures and does not negatively impact surrounding areas.
- 9.35 Consideration will be given to the impact of the proposed lighting on the natural environment and the effect on wildlife. Lighting within and around any development is expected to respect the ecological functionality of wildlife movement corridors. Certain species of invertebrate and mammal are highly sensitive to inappropriate lighting. In these circumstances, surveys are expected to determine where these wildlife movement corridors are and measures put forward that demonstrate how these will be protected and enhanced.
- 9.36 Similarly, the effects of noise on amenity can be limited by separating noise-sensitive development such as homes, schools and hospitals from major noise sources. In cases where separation is not possible, the impact of noisy development and vibration on ambient noise levels should be assessed, for example by an environmental assessment, using the best available techniques and relevant technology and design guidance. This assessment will be relative to the scale of development being considered. Inconvenience can also be caused to local residents by late night opening, odours from cooking bars, restaurants and similar facilities.
- 9.37 It is important to stress that in addition to development proposals potentially having pollution impacts that require mitigation, applicants need to consider the impact of existing sources of pollution on proposed development (for example, proposals for residential development adjacent to railway lines, and associated noise and vibration impacts). As such, necessary supporting survey information will be required as appropriate.

Air quality

- 9.38 There are considerable health benefits related to the improvement of air quality through the reduction of air pollution in the district. The Council's annual status report has identified that road traffic is the main source of air pollution in the district. These are mostly in roads with a high flow of buses and/or HGVs, and junctions. The pollutants of greatest concern in the district are nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter, although other pollutants such as carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide can also impact on health at high concentrations.
- 9.39 All development proposals which may cause significant impact on air quality directly or indirectly within air quality management areas (AQMAs³⁹) will need to submit an air quality impact assessment to the Council. This needs to demonstrate how the proposal would impact on local air quality, whether the proposed use is appropriate, and how it would avoid, reduce and mitigate local pollutant emissions. Where appropriate, planning conditions or Section 106 agreements will be sought to minimise harmful air quality impacts arising from development.

³⁹ <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/air-quality-management-areas>

- 9.40 Nitrogen oxides from both industrial and vehicle emission can have a significantly detrimental effect on wildlife habitat. Therefore any large development needs to be carefully assessed through monitoring and air quality impact assessments prior to planning application determination.

Contaminated land

- 9.41 Presence of contamination may affect or restrict the use of land, but equally development may address the issue for the benefit of the wider community, and bring the land back into beneficial use. In determining whether land contamination is an issue when assessing a planning application, the Council will consider a range of information sources including its database of past industrial and commercial land uses, information provided by developers and third parties, statutory guidance, historic maps, and the Council's contaminated land strategy.
- 9.42 In April 2000, Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990 came into force, introducing a new regime for the regulation of contaminated land in England. The main purpose of Part IIA is to provide a system for the identification of land that is posing unacceptable risks to health or the environment, and for securing remediation where unacceptable risks cannot be controlled by other means.
- 9.43 Although most developments are rural in nature, there is development built on previously developed land, some of which may formerly have been employment land of an industrial or commercial nature, and may therefore be affected by contamination and require further investigation. The term 'contaminated land' describes land polluted by, for example heavy metals and hydrocarbons, all of which may harm soils, fauna, flora, water resources and construction components.
- 9.44 Redeveloping such land provides an opportunity to remediate the site of any contamination, so that any threat to health, the environment and the structure itself is removed. The assessment and remediation of contaminated land is complex, with each site being judged specifically to make it fit for end use. When carrying out an assessment, interested parties should take into account guidance set out in the Council's Technical Guide for Planning Applicants and Developers. This document provides a guide for developers on how to deal with land contamination and what information should accompany a planning application for the development of affected sites. It should also be read in conjunction with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination (CLR11) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 9.45 It is essential that a contaminated land assessment is carried out by a competent person and in accordance with BS10175 (2011) Code of Practice for the Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites. Where there is evidence of contamination, remedial measures will need to be specified to ensure the development will not pose a risk to human health, and where appropriate, improve the wider environment.
- 9.46 Consideration should also be given to the protection of groundwater from areas of contamination, in particular where source protection zones (SPZs) are present. Reference should be made to the Environment Agency's Groundwater Protection: Principals and Practice (GP3) document.

NE6 Pollution, air quality and contaminated land

Noise pollution

Significant noise-generating development will be required to minimise the impact of noise on the occupiers of proposed buildings, neighbouring properties and the surrounding environment. Applicants may be required to submit a noise impact study or to assess the effect of an existing noise source upon the proposed development, prior to the determination of a planning application.

Developments likely to generate more significant levels of noise will be permitted only where appropriate noise attenuation measures are incorporated which would reduce the impact on the surrounding land uses, existing or proposed, to acceptable levels in accordance with Government guidance.

Where necessary, planning conditions will be imposed and / or a planning obligation sought in order to specify and secure acceptable noise limits, hours of operation and attenuation measures. Planning permission for noise-sensitive development, such as housing, schools and hospitals, will not be granted if its users would be affected adversely by noise from existing uses (or programmed development) that generate significant levels of noise.

Light pollution

In developments where external lighting is required, planning permission will only be granted where all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The lighting scheme proposed is the minimum required for the security and to achieve working activities which are safe
- b. Light spill and potential glare and the impact on the night sky is minimised through the control of light direction and levels, particularly in residential and commercial areas, areas of wildlife interest or the visual character of historic buildings and rural landscape character
- c. The choice and positioning of the light fittings, columns and cables minimise their daytime appearance and impact on the streetscape, and
- d. In considering development involving potentially adverse lighting impacts to wildlife, the Council will expect surveys to identify wildlife corridors and ensure that these corridors are protected, and enhanced where possible.

Air quality

Developments requiring planning permission that may have an adverse impact on air quality will be required to prove through a submitted air quality impact assessment that:

- e. The effect of the proposal would exceed the National Air Quality Strategy Standards (as replaced) or
- f. The surrounding area would not be materially affected by existing and continuous poor air quality.

Potentially polluting developments will be required to assess their air quality impact with detailed air dispersion modelling and appropriate monitoring. Air quality impact assessments are also required for development proposals that would generate an increase in air pollution

and are likely to have a significantly adverse impact on biodiversity. Required mitigation will be secured through a planning condition or Section 106 agreement.

Contaminated land

Development on or near land that is or may be affected by contamination will only be permitted where:

- g. an appropriate contaminated Land Assessment has been carried out as part of the application to identify any risks to human health, the natural environment or water quality
- h. where contamination is found which would pose an unacceptable risk to people's health, the natural environment or water quality, the Council will impose a condition, if appropriate, to ensure the applicant undertakes a desktop study, and if required, an intrusive site investigation, remedial measures and a validation report to ensure that the site is suitable for the proposed use and that the development can safely proceed.

Remediation works will usually be carried out prior to first occupation or use of any part of the development. Required remediation methods will be secured through a planning condition.

Local green spaces

- 9.47 The designation 'local green space' was introduced 2011 by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is the identification of locally important land for special protection, ruling out development other than in exceptional cases, meaning managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. Local green space is designated when a local or neighbourhood plan is prepared or reviewed and should complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and services. The majority of the neighbourhood plans that have been made or are in the process of being prepared in the district have identified their own local green spaces, taking up the opportunity given for communities to protect local green areas of special importance.
- 9.48 The NPPF sets out strict requirements that the area must meet in order for the designation to apply, which would not be the case for most green areas or open space. It requires that the designation is only used:
- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
 - where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife
 - where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land
- 9.49 The main land uses for local green spaces are wide ranging, from allotments and village greens to agricultural fields. They are not always publicly assessable and can be privately owned. Whether public accessibility can be improved will depend on what the landowner will permit on their land.
- 9.50 When working out volume increase calculations for the replacement of existing buildings, the term 'existing building' means as it was first built or stood on 1 July 1948 (if it was built before that date) excluding sheds and outbuildings.

NE7 Local green space

Where land is identified as local green space on the policies map of a made neighbourhood plan, national policy will be applied. This means that new development will not be permitted other than in very special circumstances.

Within local green spaces, small-scale development within the following categories will only be supported providing that its provision does not conflict with the demonstrably special significance of the local green space and preserves the purpose of its designation. Such development should be:

- a. For the purposes of agriculture or forestry, the enjoyment of tranquillity and richness of wildlife, appropriate facilities for outdoor sport and recreational facilities or cemeteries
- b. The replacement of existing buildings in the local green space by new buildings that are not significantly larger in volume, normally by no more than 25-30%.

Measures to improve public access to local green spaces will be encouraged.

Best and most versatile agricultural land

- 9.51 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴⁰ encourages Local Planning authorities to support economic development in rural areas. The NPPF⁴¹ sets out that poorer quality agricultural land should be prioritised for development over higher grades. The Council's approach to site allocations as advised by the Housing and Economic Development Land Availability Assessment (2016) follows this advice. However a Local Plan policy approach is needed to safeguard any other agricultural land sites that come forward over the VALP period that could affect the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- 9.52 Agriculture still forms a significant economic sector in the district in terms of land use, and a significant proportion of farmland in the district is classified as the 'best and most versatile' (i.e. grades 1, 2 and 3a). Large areas of highest quality land will be afforded greatest protection. Conversely, a lot of the farmland that does not fall into these categories is sensitive for other reasons – in areas of flood risk, important landscapes and in and adjoining areas of biodiversity importance.

NE8 Best and most versatile agricultural land

Subject to the development allocations set out in the VALP, the Council will seek to protect the best and most versatile farmland for the longer term. Where development involving best and more versatile agricultural land is proposed, those areas on site should be preferentially used as green open space and built structures avoided. Where development would result in the loss of best and more versatile agricultural land, planning consent will not be granted unless:

- a. There are no otherwise suitable sites of poorer agricultural quality that can accommodate the development, and
- b. The benefits of the proposed development outweighs the harm resulting from the significant loss of agricultural land.

⁴⁰ paragraph 28

⁴¹ paragraph 112

Trees, hedgerows and woodlands

- 9.53 Trees, woodlands and hedges make an vital contribution to the beauty, diversity and distinctiveness of our rural landscapes and the beauty and liveability of our urban landscapes. Tree and woodland canopies create shelter and shade, intercept rainfall and airborne pollutants, and regulate the movement of water through river catchments – reducing soil erosion and the leaching of pollutants into surface and ground waters. Woodland ecosystems are a key component of the district's biodiversity, providing habitats for both rare and common species. Trees and woodlands take many years to mature – ancient woodlands and veteran trees in particular are irreplaceable.
- 9.54 Ancient woodlands play a critical role in resilience to climate change. Connected woodland allows the movement of species in response to climate change. Woodlands can uptake rainfall faster and better than all other forms of vegetation providing mitigation for increased and extreme rainfall. They provide storage of carbon dioxide as they grow, removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, many areas of ancient woodland are too small and fragmented to provide these essential services. Development must provide buffers to ancient woodland and should provide additional planting to join up fragmented areas of woodland to produce resilient woodlands capable of mitigating climate change.
- 9.55 Mature trees, woodlands and hedges are sensitive to the impacts of development, both directly through their removal or indirectly through the impacts of construction. Due to the contribution they can make to the quality of development, and the length of time and the cost taken to replace mature features, they should be retained and protected wherever possible. Surveys and assessments carried out in accordance with recognised standards should be used to inform the design process and minimise impacts. The Council will expect the treatment of trees on potential development sites to demonstrably follow the principles of the 'mitigation hierarchy' as set out in the NPPF.
- 9.56 Where tree loss is unavoidable, they should be replaced with suitable new planting, either within the site or in the locality if this is more appropriate. Replacement planting should, as a minimum, be of commensurate value to that which is lost. Development can make a positive contribution to the tree and hedgerow resource in the locality through new planting or the restoration and improved management of existing features. New plantings should endeavour to link up fragmented areas of existing woodland.
- 9.57 Black poplars (*Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*) are a rare species of tree. The district has a high proportion of the British population. Black poplars are important features in the landscape of the district and also support a wide variety of wildlife (see Policy NE2 on biodiversity). The loss of Black poplars should be avoided where ever possible. Where Black Poplar tree removal is unavoidable replacement plantings should achieve a net gain.
- 9.58 Tree surveys required through the policy need to be carried out at a sufficiently early stage to inform the design of the development, with the aim of maximising benefits from retained trees, highlighting opportunities, and ensuring a harmonious relationship between the built and natural environments (See Policy BE2 on design).
- 9.59 A supplementary planning document (SPD) will be prepared with more information and guidance on the importance of trees, policy and legal context, considerations when incorporating trees into development. The SPD may be combined into one covering design, landscape, biodiversity and the wider natural environment.

NE9 Trees, hedgerows and woodlands

Development should seek to enhance and expand the district's tree and woodland resource, including native black poplars.

Where trees within or adjacent to a site could be affected by development, a full tree survey and arboricultural impact assessment to BS 5837 (as replaced) will be required as part of the planning application. The implementation of any protective measures it identifies will be secured by the use of planning conditions.

Development that would result in the unacceptable loss of, or damage to, or threaten the continued well-being of any trees, hedgerows, community orchards, veteran trees or woodland which make an important contribution to the character and amenities of the area will be resisted. Where the loss of trees is considered acceptable, adequate replacement provision will be required that use species that are in sympathy with the character of the existing tree species in the locality and the site.

Where species-rich native hedgerow (as commonly found on agricultural land) loss is unavoidable the developer needs to compensate for this by planting native species-rich hedgerow. This should result in a net gain of native hedgerow on the development site.

Developers should aspire to retaining a 10m (with a minimum of 5m) natural buffer around retained and planted native hedgerows (100m with a minimum 25 m natural buffer around woodlands) for the benefit of wildlife, incorporating a dark corridor with no lighting.

Within the buffer, native trees may be planted along with other ecology features to secure net gains in biodiversity and/or landscape mitigation unless the achievement of this would be contrary with other policies in the plan.

10 Countryside

Conversion of rural buildings

- 10.1 In support of the transition to a low carbon future, national policy (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 17) indicates that planning should encourage the re-use of existing resources, including existing buildings.
- 10.2 National policy recognises that the conversion of existing buildings can help to promote a strong rural economy, as can the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses and sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments.
- 10.3 Local Planning authorities should avoid new isolated homes in the countryside unless there are special circumstances, such as where the development would re-use a redundant or disused building and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting.
- 10.4 Stimulating economic growth and supporting the recovery of the local economy is one of the Council's corporate priorities. In support of this priority, and in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Policy C1 encourages the re-use of existing rural buildings for a variety of uses.
- 10.5 The policy is primarily aimed at redundant, disused or underused building. It sets out:
 - the characteristics existing buildings should have to make them acceptable for re-use,
 - the Council's approach to different types of use, and
 - how the Council will assess the acceptability of any scheme for re-use.
- 10.6 Proposals should refer to the AVDC Designs Guides for Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings and Conversion of Listed Historic Farm Buildings.

Permitted development rights

- 10.7 A number of permitted development rights apply to existing buildings in the countryside and these rights may change over the VALP period. Development (including change of use) allowed under such rights cannot be controlled by the policies in the VALP.

Characteristics of the existing building

Permanency

- 10.8 The Council only permits the re-use of existing permanent buildings under this policy. This ensures that it is not used to establish a permanent use on a site where only a temporary consent exists or where a permanent use has lapsed as a result of dereliction. However, exceptionally, the Council may permit the re-use of a derelict building if the applicant can demonstrate that dereliction was the result of severe accidental damage or accidental destruction, for example, by fire, in the past two years.

Status

- 10.9 The re-use of buildings in the countryside may involve redundant or disused buildings. An existing building does not need to be empty before a scheme for conversion or diversification would be considered. However, the Council wishes to ensure that any existing use or activities could be accommodated either on or off site, without the need for an additional building to fulfil the function of the building being converted.
- 10.10 Buildings need to be soundly constructed to merit retention and re-use. Buildings should clearly be capable of conversion and not constitute a fresh build. Derelict buildings are clearly no longer of sound construction but some other buildings are also not suitable for re-use. These include buildings constructed with temporary or short-life materials and those built without proper foundations.

Location

- 10.11 The Council supports the re-use of buildings in the countryside, particularly those close to towns and villages, as a means of supporting sustainable growth. The re-use of buildings in the countryside, such as those that are located well away from the public highway in locations not served by utilities such as sewerage, water and electricity, will generally not be allowed.
- 10.12 However, there are some businesses that already exist in the countryside, so development may be permitted where the re-use of a building could support an existing business. Diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses and sustainable rural tourism and leisure development are supported to promote a strong rural economy.

Merits

- 10.13 The countryside has many buildings of historic or architectural importance and buildings which contribute to local character. Some buildings enhance the countryside and the Council will actively encourage their retention and re-use.
- 10.14 However, national policy has widened the types of building suitable for re-use with changes to agricultural permitted development rights through The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Schedule 2 Part 3 Classes Q, R and S.
- 10.15 For existing agricultural buildings over 500sqm, the Council may not permit its retention and re-use if it considers that the existing building has a harmful impact on its surrounding or the wider landscape. Often, the removal of disused agricultural buildings is preferable to retention as it can bring about an environmental improvement. This is most likely to be the case with a modern building, whose retention and re-use is unlikely to be acceptable if it is large in scale, clad with unattractive materials such as profiled steel or asbestos sheeting, or has a very utilitarian appearance.
- 10.16 Buildings proposed for residential re-use, should readily lend themselves to residential conversion in terms of scale, height, depth and number and location of existing openings. The area of land cultivated and maintained as a garden ('domestic curtilage') should be restricted to that necessary to provide immediate amenity space without detracting from the countryside setting. Permitted development rights may be restricted.

Assessing the acceptability of the proposed scheme for re-use

- 10.17 All schemes for the re-use of existing buildings in the countryside should be designed with their rural location in mind and any potential impacts that the re-use might have on the surrounding area.
- 10.18 Larger scale schemes are more likely to have an impact on the rural roads, the amenity of local residents and the landscape setting. Such impacts will be considered against the relevant policies elsewhere in the VALP.
- 10.19 Applicants should be realistic about the uses to which an existing building in the countryside might be put. Existing buildings should be large enough to accommodate the intended re-use but applicants should also be aware that a building's design and construction may limit the type of use that can be accommodated. Any scheme should enable conversion without the need for complete or substantial reconstruction. The Council may require a structural survey for buildings outside the built-up area of settlements to confirm the level of reconstruction required.
- 10.20 Since the existing building should be large enough to accommodate the intended re-use, there should be no need for significant extensions.

- 10.21 Many existing buildings in the countryside have a well-defined 'curtilage', or an established site area which may be defined on the ground or legally, for example in a certificate of lawful use or development. Any activities associated with the re-use of a building should take place within that curtilage or site area. Where it is necessary to define a curtilage or operational site area as part of the scheme for re-use, this should be the minimum required to meet the operational needs of the intended re-use and not harm the character of the countryside.
- 10.22 Where a scheme for the re-use of a building is permitted, the use should be capable of being accommodated to a large extent within the building itself. Incidental external ancillary uses such as essential operational parking are likely to be acceptable, provided that they are the minimum necessary to meet the needs of the development. Other ancillary uses, such as the outdoor storage of goods or materials are unlikely to be acceptable. In all cases, the use, layout and design of any outdoor areas should ensure that the development is not visually intrusive in the landscape.

Extensions

- 10.23 Proposals to convert traditional buildings should normally be contained within the confines of the existing building shell. Proposals which rely on substantial alteration or extension in order to make them work will not be permitted.
- 10.24 Within settlements, an extension may be acceptable if it is designed with sensitivity for the host building and does not conflict with any other planning requirements. An extension should enhance the character and appearance of its immediate surroundings, and where possible, make a positive contribution in the wider area.
- 10.25 Where permission is granted for the conversion of a traditional rural building, the Council will consider the impact of the use of permitted development rights available at the time. The Council may restrict or remove them if it is necessary to preserve the appearance of the building, or the amenity of users of neighbouring properties.

Extensions to existing conversions

- 10.26 Proposals to alter or extend previously converted buildings will be assessed in the same way as proposals to alter or extend buildings as part of a conversion scheme. Buyers of converted traditional rural buildings should be aware of any restriction or removal of permitted development rights.

C1 Conversion of rural buildings

Building Characteristics

The re-use of an existing building that is of permanent and substantial construction and generally in keeping with the rural surroundings in the countryside will be permitted provided that all the following assessment criteria are met:

- a. Conversion works should not involve major reconstruction or significant extensions and should respect the character of the building and its setting
- b. Where the building is suitable for modern agricultural practice it would not give rise to a future need for another building to fulfil the function of the building being re-used
- c. The long-term retention of a building that is by reason of its location, size, condition and appearance is harmful to the character of the countryside is not encouraged
- d. The redundant or disused status of the building has been demonstrated and the re-use of the building would enhance the immediate setting
- e. The existing building is inherently suitable, in terms of its size, design and construction for the intended re-use, and the proposed scheme enables the intended re-use to be achieved without the need for complete or substantial reconstruction

- f. The proposed re-use is of a scale that would not have an adverse impact on its surroundings or the viability of existing facilities or services in nearby settlements
- g. Any extension to the existing building included in the proposed scheme is modest in scale, ancillary in nature, subordinate to the main building and necessary to meet the essential functional requirements of the intended re-use
- h. Any extension to the existing barn conversion is modest in scale, ancillary in nature, subordinate to the main building and in keeping with the rural character
- i. Where the existing building is of designated or non-designated heritage assets or contributes to local character, the proposed scheme would retain significant historical features and not adversely affect the character and appearance of the building or its setting
- j. Where any curtilage is required it should not be excessive in size and should relate well to the existing building and landscape
- k. The proposed scheme would not give rise to ancillary uses that could not be accommodated within the site and does not include, or would not give rise to, ancillary uses within the site, such as open storage, that would be visually intrusive, and
- l. Conversion works should not adversely impact upon wildlife using the structure. If impacts to nesting sites are unavoidable mitigation will be required (see Policy NE2).

Equestrian development

10.27 National policy (National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 28) indicates that Local Planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity, by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development. Local Plans should:

- support the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business and enterprise in rural areas
- promote the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses, and
- support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments that benefit businesses in rural areas, communities and visitors, which respect the character of the countryside.

10.28 In the Vale, the riding and keeping of horses are popular leisure pursuits and equestrian businesses can contribute to the rural economy. However, both of these activities have the potential to adversely affect environmental quality and the rural character of the district.

10.29 This policy sets out the Council's approach to equestrian activities in the countryside, which seeks to promote a strong rural economy whilst also protecting environmental quality and other rural character. The policy and supporting text cover both the keeping of horses for private recreational purposes and commercial enterprises including:

- the types of equestrian activities and developments that are likely to require planning permission
- the general issues that apply to all equestrian development, such as site suitability and management, horse exercising and highways
- the Council's approach to different types of development (mainly field shelters and private stables, commercial recreation and leisure developments, and commercial training and breeding businesses), and
- ancillary uses (such as riding arenas and occupational dwellings).

10.30 In the policy and supporting text, the term 'equine' means any domestic horse, pony, donkey and hybrids (including mules) and where the word 'horse' is used the reference applies to all equines.

The need for planning permission

10.31 Developments which normally require planning permission include:

- the use of land or a building to keep horses for recreational purposes
- the erection of a building to shelter horses or their provisions
- the erection of a building in which to exercise horses
- the setting out of a riding arena or exercise arena or to create other hard surfaces for a similar purpose
- the putting up of lights to illuminate a riding arena or other area
- any residential development associated with the keeping of horses, including the stationing of a mobile home or caravan in a field, and
- the laying out or surfacing of a vehicular access in connection with the keeping of horses.

10.32 Commercial establishments, such as riding schools, livery stables, racing stables and stud farms (and extensions to existing premises) also require consent.

10.33 Planning permission is not usually required to graze horses which is considered to be an agricultural use, but is required for the keeping of horses for recreational or commercial

purposes. The distinction between 'grazing' and 'the keeping of' horses is not always clear but the Council will assume that horses are being 'kept' (rather than 'grazed') if:

- the animals are being fed by imported food rather than off the land
- the land is being used (wholly or in part) as a recreational or exercise area, or
- the stocking density is too high to support the horses by grazing alone. As a general rule, each horse requires about 0.5-1 hectares (or 1.25 to 2.5 acres) of grazing of a suitable quality if no supplementary feeding is being provided.

10.34 Even where grazing is the primary use, any building (such as a field shelter) or other structure associated with the keeping of horses is likely to require permission.

10.35 Proposals should refer to the AVDC Design Guide for New Buildings in the Countryside.

General issues related to all equestrian development

Site suitability and site management

10.36 Any land associated with any equestrian development should be inherently suitable for keeping horses. It should be managed to maintain environmental quality, countryside character, the amenity of local residents and the welfare of the horses themselves.

10.37 A site where the ground is wet and boggy or where poisonous plants such as ragwort are present is unlikely to be suitable for keeping horses unless these issues can be fully addressed through pasture management. Where it is proposed to keep horses close to residential properties they should not be able to gain access to garden waste (including lawn clippings) or garden plants that may be toxic (such as yew and laburnum). There should be sufficient land to support the number of horses proposed without causing problems such as overgrazing.

10.38 Horses require regular supervision and, as a minimum, should be visited at least once a day. Consideration therefore needs to be given to the site management regime, which will vary according to the size and nature of the development. However, in all cases consideration should be given to basic operational requirements. For instance, field shelters or stables for private recreational use, should be reasonably close to the site access, with the water supply for the horses close to the buildings.

10.39 Any arrangements for the storage and disposal of manure should not cause amenity problems for neighbours (for example, through smell or flies), or adversely affect environmental quality through pollution. The Council will have regard to the advice of environmental health officers and the Environment Agency on issues of this nature when making planning decisions.

Exercising horses

10.40 Where it is proposed to exercise horses primarily on-site, any exercise area should be separate from the area where the horses are kept or grazed. Where it is intended to exercise horses off-site, the routes or sites that will be used for exercise, such as nearby bridleways or areas of open land, should be safely accessible from the proposed development. Where there is likely to be a need for riding on public roads, the Council will have regard to any highway safety issues. The Council will also seek to ensure that routes and sites can be used for exercise without contributing to soil erosion (especially on well-used bridleways), harming vegetation or having a detrimental impact on wildlife interests, particularly in respects to designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). There may also be opportunities to enhance the biodiversity benefits of pasture.

Impact on the highway network

- 10.41 A site where horses are kept is likely to require access by towed horseboxes, horse-carrying lorries, or other large vehicles with limited manoeuvrability. The vehicular access to such a site should be capable of safely accommodating such vehicles. The routes to the site should be capable of accommodating the type and volume of traffic likely to be generated, without harming the character of the route itself or impacting the local roads, including the safety of horses and riders and traffic using the highway.

Types of equestrian development

Private recreation and leisure use

- 10.42 The keeping of horses for private recreation and leisure use are popular pastimes in the Vale, and for many owners shelters and stables are necessary for their horses' welfare.
- 10.43 Field shelters or stables will be permitted where they are intended to be used by horses currently present on a site or the horses it is intended to graze or keep on a site for private recreational use, provided that they are suitably designed and located. The need for a field shelter or stable for private recreational use may cease after a period of time. With this in mind, such structures should be built, as far as possible, so that they can be removed when they are no longer needed. The Council may use conditions or seek an agreement to require the removal of such structures in the event that the equestrian use ceases. Such structures will not generally be suitable for re-use under Policy C1.
- 10.44 Shelters and stables should normally be built of wood or other similar lightweight material, although a concrete base may be acceptable where this is required for the safety and comfort of the horses (in line with the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids, DEFRA December 2009). New stables of stone, brick or block work will not generally be permitted for private use although the conversion of existing building to stables for private recreational use may be acceptable under Policy C1.

Commercial recreation, leisure, training and breeding developments

- 10.45 Commercial recreation or leisure equestrian developments (such as livery stables and riding schools), and commercial training or breeding equestrian developments (such as racing stables and stud farms) may be acceptable uses in the countryside. Small-scale businesses, such as riding schools, may provide a useful form of farm diversification, but the Council may also permit larger-scale enterprises as they can help to diversify the wider rural economy. The Council may therefore require an application to be supported by a business plan that shows the proposed enterprise has a sound financial basis.
- 10.46 Due to their scale, such enterprises can be difficult to accommodate within existing buildings, though existing buildings or group of buildings should form the basis for a development of this nature. The Council may permit new building or an additional element of new building where there is an essential need, and there is no suitable alternative existing building available. Where an element of new build is permitted, it should be sensitively designed to integrate with the existing buildings. Elements of new building that are disproportionate in scale to, or out of character with, the existing buildings are unlikely to be acceptable.

Viability and change of use of commercial premises

- 10.47 Since commercial equestrian developments may be permitted in the countryside as an exception to the general policy of restraint, the Council will wish to be satisfied that any such enterprise is likely to be viable before allowing it. Such proposals should, therefore, be supported by a business plan that shows the proposed enterprise has a sound financial basis. In the event that a commercial equestrian business fails, the owner or occupier will need to

produce evidence that the business is not viable, or cannot be made viable before a change of use may be permitted. Any change of use will be assessed against the criteria outline in Policy C1.

Ancillary development

Riding arenas and other exercise facilities

- 10.48 A riding arena (or manège) or other exercise facilities (such as horse exercisers) may be permitted in association with a commercial equestrian development or private recreation and leisure use. The Council will expect an applicant or private individual to be able to explain why an arena or other facility is required, and to be able to justify its intended size and scale. Siting and scale will be key issues in the design. An arena and other exercise facilities should be sited close to the buildings where the related enterprise is located, to limit the impact of the development on the landscape. Other key design issues include hard landscaping, including fencing and surfacing, landscape planting, drainage and the potential impacts on the amenity of nearby residents. Given the rural nature of the district, floodlighting will only be permitted where it is reasonably necessary and at an appropriate level for the use and where there are no harmful impacts on residential amenities.
- 10.49 Approvals for riding arenas or other exercise facilities for private recreation or leisure use will be subject to conditions to prevent them from being used commercially. An arena (or other facility) used for commercial purposes has a far greater neighbouring amenity impact than one used solely for private recreation and leisure purposes.

Occupational dwellings

- 10.50 The Council may permit occupational dwellings related to commercial equestrian enterprises, but will not permit such dwellings to enable people to live close to horses that are kept for private recreation or leisure use. Application for such occupational dwelling will be determined in accordance with Policy H3.

C2 Equestrian development

General criteria

When considering proposals for horse-related development the Council will have particular regard to:

- a. The site being suitable for the keeping of horses and capable of supporting the number of animals proposed, having taken account of the arrangements for site management
- b. Adequate provision made for the exercising of horses without causing harm to rights of way, other equestrian routes, or other areas such as open land, that will be used for exercise
- c. Vehicular access to the site and the road network in the vicinity are capable of accommodating horse-related transport in a safe manner
- d. The impact on land of high agricultural or ecological value, or the fragmentation of farm units and the effect on the viability of farm units
- e. The environmental effects of the development in terms of noise, smell, light pollution or other disturbances
- f. The cumulative impacts of equestrian developments in the locality on the character of the countryside, appearance of the surrounding area, maintenance of the open nature and rural character of the land or on highway safety, and

- g. The scale, construction and appearance of the proposed development including the entrance and boundary treatment should be designed to minimise adverse impact on the landscape character and residential amenity.

Private recreation and leisure uses

In the case of a new field shelter or stable used for private recreation or leisure use:

- h. It will be for the exclusive use of the horses that are grazed or kept on site
- i. It should be of a scale that reflects the number of horses to be kept or grazed on site
- j. It should be built of material that is capable of being easily removed if the equestrian use ceases, and
- k. It should be sited, where possible, adjacent to existing buildings or natural features such as trees or hedgerows, be of a design and constructed of such materials as are appropriate to the locality and proposed use, and be landscaped or screened so as to minimise any visual intrusion.

Commercial recreation, leisure, training or breeding uses

In the case of commercial recreation, leisure, training or breeding enterprises, developments should re-use an existing building or group of buildings in the countryside. An element of new building or buildings may also be permitted alongside the re-use of an existing buildings (or group of buildings), provided that:

- l. it can be demonstrated that no other building or group of buildings is available that is capable to accommodating the proposed equestrian use,
- m. the element of new building is the minimum required to accommodate the proposed equestrian use (over and above the requirement to re-use the existing building or group of buildings), and
- n. any new buildings and ancillary facilities would be erected to integrate with the existing building (or group of buildings).

Failure of a commercial enterprise

The change of use of an existing equestrian commercial site to another use (other than agriculture or forestry) will not be permitted, unless it can be demonstrated that the existing use is not, or cannot be made, viable.

Ancillary development

In the case of a riding arena or other exercise facility:

- o. it is of a size and scale appropriate to the existing commercial enterprise, or the number of privately kept horses that will use the facility, and
- p. it is located close to other buildings on the site and is not visually intrusive in the landscape.

Renewable energy

10.51 Low carbon and renewable energy is defined as:

‘energy for heating and cooling as well as generating electricity, provided through renewable sources that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment (e.g. wind, water, solar, biomass and geothermal heat), or through low carbon technologies which generate significantly less carbon emissions than compared to conventional use of fossil fuels’. Low carbon includes energy efficiency (Fabric First principles in new build) and a range of different sectors (transport, construction, etc. as well as energy generation).

10.52 The European Union Renewable Energy Directive (Directive 2009/28/EC) sets an overall target for 20% of the energy consumed in the European Union to come from renewable sources by 2020. This overall target is divided by country. The UK's target is 15% by 2020.

10.53 The Climate Change Act (2008) established a legal requirement for the UK to achieve an 80% cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with a 34% cut by 2020. The Planning and Energy Act (2008) allows Local Planning authorities' policies to impose reasonable requirements for a proportion of energy used in developments to be from renewable and low carbon sources in the locality of the development. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) recognises the key role planning plays in supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, the NPPF states in paragraph 97 that Local Planning authorities should:

- have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources
- design policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts, and
- identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

10.54 In June 2015, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy developments. It made clear that planning permission should only be granted if:

- the site has been identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local Plan or neighbourhood plan
- that the planning impacts identified by the affected local community have been fully addressed, and
- the proposal has the local community's backing.

10.55 Local authorities in Buckinghamshire in partnership with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (the NEP) have led on the development of the Buckinghamshire Energy Strategy. The strategy establishes a long-term framework for delivering a shared vision for energy in Buckinghamshire, with the aims of improving energy efficiency of both domestic and commercial premises as well as delivering greater local generation with the benefits this produces being received by the community. The strategy action plans will set out short to medium term actions and targets and an identified route to delivery.

10.56 VALP aims to mitigate the impact of climate change by minimising greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change by managing and reducing risks – particularly flood risk. Where possible, the Council will encourage the adaptation of older buildings to include improved energy and water efficiency and retrofitted renewable energy

systems. It will also aim to reduce waste, increase recycling, support the recovery of value and energy from waste, and protect water quality within the VALP area.

10.57 VALP also seeks to ensure that all development schemes achieve greater efficiency in the use of natural resources, including measures to minimise energy use, improve water efficiency and promote waste minimisation and recycling. This will involve consideration of building design, new material and construction technologies, sustainable urban drainage scheme and water capture, layout and orientation, the use of sustainable (including re-used) materials, and planning a scheme's resilience in terms of the future implications of climate change. Developments should minimise construction waste and encourage reuse and recycling wherever possible.

10.58 Applications for renewable energy schemes (in particular those designed to meet and match generation to local consumption and installed alongside appropriately sized storage technologies) will be considered in light of the wider environmental, social and economic benefits. The Council will expect developments for energy generation to address potential adverse impacts, especially in relation to visual impact, through careful location, design and landscaping following the design principles set out in the VALP.

Carbon reduction and resource use

10.59 Building-related energy consumption is also a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The need to achieve higher levels of energy efficiency (such as high quality lighting, heating controls, insulation, draught proofing etc. alongside locally-produced clean, low carbon and renewable energy), is an important aspect of sustainable construction in new developments. However, sustainable construction for new and refurbished buildings incorporates more than just aspects of energy use. It also relates to other environmental impacts that buildings and inhabitants cause, for example, on water drainage and usage, waste generation and the use of unsustainable materials (in construction). Improved design of buildings can also lead to benefits in terms of, increased available income, reduced fuel poverty, ecology and quality of life for residents. Various standards for the efficient construction of new dwelling have been removed and are now covered by building regulations.

Off-site renewable energy

10.60 National policy promotes increasing energy efficiency, minimising energy consumption and developing renewable energy sources. The VALP supports development that promotes these objectives. An important element in this is to ensure that the Council embraces effective energy efficiency and the use of both on and off-site renewable energy in all new developments, helping to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and their effect on climate change. Proposals should normally be accompanied by a landscape assessment appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposal and its setting. The Council supports renewable and low carbon energy provision wherever any adverse impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. Given the significantly low available capacity in Aylesbury East⁴², where such developments are large scale (over 5MW), they will only be considered by the Council where evidence of a robust feasibility has been conducted for energy storage. The potential local environmental, economic and community benefits of renewable energy schemes will be a key consideration in determining planning applications.

⁴² Aylesbury East includes the Kingsbrook development

C3 Renewable Energy

Planning applications involving renewable energy development will be encouraged provided that there is no unacceptable adverse impact, including cumulative impact, on the following issues:

- a. landscape and biodiversity including designations, protected habitats and species
- b. visual impacts on local landscapes
- c. the historic environment including designated and non designated assets and their settings
- d. the Green Belt, particularly visual impacts on openness
- e. aviation activities
- f. highways and access issues, and
- g. residential amenity.

In seeking to achieve carbon emissions reductions, the Council will promote an 'energy hierarchy'. An energy hierarchy identifies the order in which energy issues should be addressed and is illustrated as follows:

- h. reducing energy use, in particular by the use of sustainable design and construction measures
- i. supplying energy efficiently and giving priority to decentralised energy supply
- j. making use of renewable energy
- k. making use of allowable solutions, and
- l. an energy statement will be encouraged for proposals for major residential developments (over 10 dwellings), and all non-residential development, to demonstrate how the energy hierarchy has been applied.

With continually improving standards through building regulations, new buildings carry reduced need for heating and loads are based on winter heat and all year-round hot water demands. A feasibility assessment for district heating (DH) and cooling utilising technologies such as combined heat and power (CHP), including biomass CHP or other low carbon technology, will be encouraged for:

- m. all residential developments of 100 dwellings or more
- n. all residential developments in off-gas areas for 50 dwellings or more, and
- o. all applications for non-domestic developments above 1000sqm floorspace.

Where feasibility assessments demonstrate that decentralised energy systems are deliverable and viable and can secure 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources, such systems will be required as part of the development.

Planning permission will normally be granted for off-site renewable energy (for example, but not confined, to wind, solar, biomass and energy crops, anaerobic digestion and landfill gas), where it has been demonstrated that all the following criteria have been met:

- p. There is no significant adverse effect on landscape or townscape character, ecology and wildlife, heritage assets whether designated or not, areas or features of historical significance or amenity value
- q. there is no significant adverse impact on local amenity, health and quality of life as a result of noise, emissions to atmosphere, electronic interference or outlook through unacceptable visual intrusion, and
- r. there is no adverse impact on highway safety. Where development is granted, mitigation measures will be required as appropriate to minimise any environmental impacts. When

considering the social and economic benefits, the Council will encourage community participation/ownership of a renewable energy scheme.

Aylesbury Vale is located within an area of water stress and as such the Council will seek a higher level of water efficiency than required in the Building Regulations, with developments achieving a limit of 110 litres/person/day.

Protection of public rights of way

- 10.61 Walking, cycling and horse riding have a valuable role in recreational and leisure trips, and in meeting local access needs. There is considerable potential to make horse riding, cycling and walking more attractive alternatives for short journeys, providing a healthy alternative option to the car. Such routes can also provide wildlife corridors and form part of a green infrastructure network. The Council will therefore support the provision of multi-user routes (those that can be used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders) and better integrate paths with the wider highway network and also with public transport and parking facilities.
- 10.62 Public rights of way are protected in law and comprise four types: footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic (BOAT). Buckinghamshire County Council has responsibility for Public rights of way, and publishes a rights of way improvement plan. It also promotes routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders in order to encourage sustainable access to the countryside. In recognition of the health benefits of walking, cycling and horse riding, AVDC also promotes a number of circular walks and rides.
- 10.63 Protection and enhancement of open space, sport and recreation sites, and sites of importance to nature conservation will assist in maintaining the green infrastructure network. Green corridors consist of canals, river corridors and hedgerows, together with public rights of way. These can provide areas for walking, cycling and horse riding and also provide opportunities for wildlife migration, which on a strategic scale can help to address the impact of climate change on biodiversity. Development proposals will be expected to retain and enhance existing green corridors, and maximise the opportunity to form new links between existing open spaces.

C4 Protection of public rights of way

The Council will enhance and protect public rights of way to ensure the integrity and connectivity of this resource is maintained.

The protection and conservation of public rights of way needs to be reconciled with the benefits of new development, to maximise the opportunity to form links from the development to the wider public rights of way network, public transport, recreational facilities and green infrastructure. Planning permission will not normally be granted where the proposed development would cause unacceptable harm to the safe and efficient operation of public rights of way.

11 Detailed Infrastructure

Green infrastructure

- 11.1 Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of high quality multi-functional green spaces in both urban and rural areas as well as associated features such as trees, hedgerows, ponds, waterways, green roofs and green walls. It is designed, developed and managed to meet the environmental, social and economic needs of communities and wildlife. The term includes open green spaces such as parks and gardens, country parks, allotments, cemeteries, green corridors (potentially including cycleways and rights of way), village greens and trees. It also includes informal amenity green spaces and accessible countryside such as river and canal corridors, woodland, natural grassland, wetlands, lakes and nature reserves.
- 11.2 Well-planned multi-functional green infrastructure is an important component of achieving sustainable communities. Green infrastructure helps to deliver conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, create a sense of place and appreciation of valuable landscapes and cultural heritage, increase recreational opportunities and support healthy living, improve water resources and flood management as part of environmentally sustainable design. It also positively contributes to; combating climate change through adaptation and mitigation of impacts and production of food, natural fibre and fuel. It helps deliver NHS initiatives around improving people's health and tackling obesity. The district's high quality green infrastructure is a vital asset and an important element in ensuring that the district is somewhere people choose to live and locate their businesses. Policy I1 below will be used to ensure a green infrastructure network is provided across the district with enhancements to replace existing green infrastructure deficiencies.
- 11.3 The character of the district is defined by a wide variety of green infrastructure assets such as the Grand Union Canal (including its arms) and reservoirs, former royal hunting forests such as Whaddon Chase and Bernwood Forest, the valleys of the River Great Ouse and the River Thame, the urban fringe Aylesbury and Buckingham riverside walks, and the Chilterns AONB including Wendover Woods which is the largest area of publicly accessible green space in the district. These features should be recognised, enhanced and connected where possible, such as improving pedestrian and cycle links to existing natural trails in the Chilterns AONB.
- 11.4 The Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy⁴³ was undertaken in 2011 and covers the period 2011-2026, giving more detail following on from the 2009 Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy⁴⁴. These strategies identify a deficiency in green infrastructure in the district. 69% of dwellings in the district meet none of Natural England's Accessible Natural Green space standards (ANGst). Two priority areas were also identified in the district, North Aylesbury Vale and Aylesbury Environs. The detailed deficiencies in these areas are set out in the Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy. Following this work, a Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2013)⁴⁵ was produced which sets out two specific proposals in Aylesbury Vale, Aylesbury linear park and Whaddon Chase. Part of the Aylesbury Linear Park proposals are delivered through Berryfields Major Development Area (MDA) which is currently under construction, the approved MDA site to the east of Aylesbury (Kingsbrook) will also provide approximately 100ha of wetlands park. Further development sites around Aylesbury should deliver green infrastructure in line with the delivery plan.
- 11.5 The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (the NEP), which include the local planning authorities on the board, has produced a Vision and Principles for the

⁴³ http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Aylesbury-Vale-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-2011.pdf

⁴⁴ http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/CD-ENV-010-Buckinghamshire-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-Bucks-CC-April-2009-.pdf

⁴⁵ https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/1521901/5326-Bucks-GI-Delivery-Plan-FINAL-ISSUE_2013_08_07_low_res.pdf

Improvement of Green Infrastructure in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes (2016)⁴⁶ document which updated this part of the Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. Further work is intended to be undertaken by AVDC to update the rest of the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Aylesbury Vale to be in line with future needs and used to deliver strategic green infrastructure. Further work will be undertaken on what potential there is to remedy existing deficiencies in accordance with the ANGst standards. Currently the Sport and Leisure Facilities SPG and Companion Document: Ready Reckoner is used to provide details on what developments should provide. The detail in these will be updated.

- 11.6 Development proposals, particularly on larger sites, can offer the opportunity to improve the green infrastructure network (as demonstrated through the Berryfields and Aylesbury East MDAs), Policy I1 looks to achieve this. Green infrastructure will be delivered through development proposals and will be obligated either on site or off site through the CIL regime, S106 contributions or conditions to the planning permission as appropriate. HS2 mitigation works will also deliver some green infrastructure. All green infrastructure proposals should include details of management and maintenance to ensure these areas are permanently protected.
- 11.7 Policy T6 ensures development connects to existing pedestrian and cycle networks and provides new facilities, Policy NE2 secures biodiversity enhancements and Policy I2 sets out what is required in terms of sport and recreation provision. Development proposals will be expected to identify, retain and enhance existing green infrastructure assets, including corridors and ensure new links are provided between existing green spaces. Local green space designations, which are a fairly new concept, will mean protection for those areas, as outlined in Policy NE6. Green infrastructure should ensure permeability for wildlife through development and provide sufficient beneficial habitat to support target species, independent of its connective function. The incorporation of sustainable drainage systems can contribute to green infrastructure provision as well as helping alleviate flooding and bringing biodiversity benefits. New landscaping areas are important and will be required in larger development schemes to assimilate development into the landscape and assist in the transition between the urban and rural boundary. The size and location of green infrastructure is expected to be suitable for the function it is intended to fulfil.
- 11.8 There are areas of the green infrastructure network in the district which are not in the Council's ownership or control, so partnership working is required to plan, provide and manage the network to achieve the objectives of the policy.

Principles for Aylesbury Vale

- 11.9 The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership sets out the nine principles below that should be followed to achieve its Green Infrastructure Vision by 2030 of a well-designed, well-connected multi-functional network of green spaces across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The vision states that specific landscape and green infrastructure features and benefits are identified in advance of development, and are protected, enhanced, connected, extended and extended to provide multiple benefits into the long term for the growing population of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. To achieve this, the principles should be applied at all scales, from strategic, county-and district-levels through to individual developments, and look across immediate planning, development and administrative boundaries so that green infrastructure and its upkeep is sufficiently planned for, and well-designed for, so that the benefits from green infrastructure for can be maximised and maintained into the long-term. The principles are:

⁴⁶ <http://www.bucksmknepe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/NEP-GI-Vision-and-Principles-FINAL.pdf>

1. Green infrastructure is as important and necessary as grey (man-made, constructed) infrastructure and social infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire's economy, environment and society
2. Green infrastructure, its value and benefits are considered and planned for early and strategically at all spatial scales of development
3. Green infrastructure across Buckinghamshire should be planned to provide a range of benefits, or 'ecosystem services'
4. (Related to 3, above) green infrastructure creation and improvement is planned to contribute to the delivery of objectives and targets, good practice actions and activities for Buckinghamshire's environment, health and economy
5. Green infrastructure is managed into the long-term
6. Connected networks of green infrastructure are necessary – at both the landscape and local scale – to maximise the benefits
7. Green infrastructure creation and improvement is coordinated with activities cross-border
8. Green infrastructure improvement and provision is prioritised in locations where it can deliver most benefits
9. It is linked and relevant to, informed by and co-ordinated with, other policy areas, strategies, activities and reviews

11.10 The Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy states that accessible natural greenspace standards (ANGst) is a national benchmark. ANGst emphasises the importance of communities in towns and cities having easy access to different sizes of natural and semi-natural greenspaces close to where they live. The standards can be divided into quantitative standards (sizes of green space provision) and accessibility standards (representing the zone of influence of a provision and the distance people are prepared to travel).

I1 Green infrastructure

The Council will work with partners to ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is identified, planned, delivered, enhanced and managed in a strategic way as an integral part of supporting sustainable communities and sustainable growth. The Council will implement the most up-to-date green infrastructure strategies. Green infrastructure networks whether existing or potential are expected to be a key part of site masterplanning as required in the VALP.

AVDC seeks to realise the potential of green infrastructure to assist communities with mitigating and adapting to climate change as well as meeting health initiatives. It seeks to deliver high quality, multi-functional, accessible, and connected open spaces that are integral to new and existing development. It will do this at a landscape, district and local scale, looking beyond boundaries, to maximise opportunities arising from green infrastructure.

As part of this, development proposals must demonstrate that the green infrastructure network would be maintained and, where appropriate, enhanced within the site and beyond development boundaries where possible as follows:

- a. Biodiversity mitigation, where warranted, should result in a net gain in biodiversity on greenfield sites and on other sites no net loss and a net gain where possible (linked with Policy NE2). Where possible green infrastructure is expected to positively contribute to the conservation, restoration, re-creation and enhancement of networks of biodiversity on a landscape scale
- b. Flood and water resource should be managed and where possible improved (linked with Policy I4)
- c. Green corridors and public rights of way to link with the wider green infrastructure network, providing walking, cycling and other exercise opportunities and avoiding habitat or linear network fragmentation

- d. New green infrastructure should demonstrate a range of types of green space such as the creation of living roofs and walls, native woodland, local nature reserves and community forests where possible
- e. Public open space within housing developments may include, but is not limited to: children's play areas, informal green space, wildlife areas and recreation areas, street trees, community orchards, woodland and parkland, in appropriate proportions, with safe and convenient access for people of all abilities
- f. Formal sports areas as part of housing developments including playing pitches and pavilions should be provided where appropriate in addition to, and separate from, public open space areas
- g. Where appropriate a landscaping scheme should be provided which deals positively with the transition between development and any adjoining open land and link to existing Green infrastructure and Green Infrastructure features
- h. Protect, create, and improve recreation, play, and local food cultivation opportunities for communities
- i. Secure details of on-going management and maintenance of green infrastructure assets for at least 30 years past completion and during this time secure a mechanism to manage sites into perpetuity, and
- j. Protect and enhance the integrity, multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of the green infrastructure network.

Green infrastructure and habitat creation should be monitored to ensure that it develops in accordance with its stated intention. If it is not achieving satisfactory condition within stipulated timeframes, remedial measures will be required. Mechanisms to achieve this should be put forward in development proposals.

Development proposals must demonstrate that green infrastructure is maintained and where possible enhanced to the accessibility and quantitative standards as set out in the Assessment of Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs for Aylesbury Vale (2017) or replacement documents.

Sport and recreation

- 11.11 Participation in sport and recreation activities has many physical and health benefits while promoting community cohesion. Facilities that allow for this participation help deliver NHS initiatives around improving peoples health and tackling obesity. Aylesbury Vale has a wide range of sports and recreation facilities which provide for a variety of recreational sporting needs. There are important leisure centres in Aylesbury and Buckingham. Stoke Mandeville receives global recognition as the birthplace of the Paralympic Games and Stoke Mandeville Stadium provides a venue for community participation alongside disabled athletes from across the world. Building on this the ambition is for the Vale to become a national leader in accessibility for disabled people to sport and recreation facilities. Within the Vale there is also Silverstone racing circuit which has established itself as a premier motor sport venue.
- 11.12 Policy I1 on green infrastructure provides guidance on the provision of open space which includes parks, recreation grounds and amenity spaces. There is a cross over between this and facilities which fall under the category of sports and recreation. Where appropriate open spaces provided as part of new developments should include access to formal and informal recreational areas, including sports, playing pitches and children’s play areas.
- 11.13 A number of bodies are responsible for delivering and managing sport and recreation facilities, including Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, town and parish councils, Sport England, developers, and private sports clubs and associations. Therefore effective partnership working is required to maintain and enhance the provision in the district.
- 11.14 A large part of Aylesbury Vale has a rural nature, which can mean that access to sport and recreation facilities can be difficult, however current provision across the district is generally sufficient. New housing development are likely to create additional need for sport and recreation facilities. The 2017 Assessment of Leisure and Cultural Facilities for Aylesbury Vale⁴⁷ identifies the existing provision of sports and recreation facilities, and identifies deficiencies and opportunities for future provision. Chapter 5 of the assessment sets out what the need for new provision is based on the draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan levels of growth. As the levels of growth proposed in the VALP are now lower overall and the distribution different, these needs should be amended according to the recommended standards set out in Chapter 6. The minimum threshold for provision is intended as a guide to developers; however the composition of provision will be dependent on the proposal and location of the site.
- 11.15 Currently, the ‘Sport and Leisure Facilities SPG Companion Document: Ready Reckoner’ is used to provide details on what developments should provide. The detail in this will be updated to reflect the latest information and support the growth set out in this Plan.

12 Sports and recreation

The council will encourage partnership working to ensure that sufficient quantity and quality of, and convenient access to, sport and recreation provision is secured through the following measures:

- a. To protect existing sites and facilities, planning permission will not normally be granted where this would result in the loss of sport and recreational facilities. When dealing with applications which involve this the Council will consider its recreational and amenity value, existing provision compared to need in the local area and if equivalent or better quantity and quality replacement provision are provided.

⁴⁷ http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/page_downloads/Assessment-of-Leisure-and-Cultural-Facilities-for-Aylesbury-Vale-Study-.pdf

- b. Proposals for new facilities or those that expand/enhance existing provision to address existing deficiencies will be supported subject to compliance with other relevant planning policies. Facilities should be easily accessible by public transport and with safe pedestrian and cycle access for people of all abilities.
- c. Proposals for new development should include sufficient sport and recreation provision commensurate to the need generated by the proposals. Housing schemes designed for family occupation should where necessary make suitable provision for equipped play areas for children's use, located safely and with due regard for residential amenity. Consideration should be given to the ongoing management and maintenance of facilities and their cost and viability. Where new facilities are provided they will be encouraged to go beyond the current accessibility standards.

Where on-site provision is not achievable, a financial contribution will be sought for improvement of provision as close as possible elsewhere. If development proposals are considered to be unviable when complying with the above requirements, open book financial analysis of proposed developments will be expected.

Community facilities

- 11.16 The National Planning Policy Framework promotes healthy inclusive communities where residents have opportunities to meet through safe and accessible environments. Community facilities and services include public halls, schools, shops, post offices, public houses, places of worship, libraries, museums, crèches, day centres and doctors surgeries. They make a vital contribution to the social and economic life of the community, particularly in rural areas, and are especially important for elderly and disabled people and for those who do not have easy access to private or public transport.
- 11.17 The Council will refuse proposals that would result in the erosion of community facilities and services, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there is no long-term requirement for their retention. In the case of a commercial venture, the applicant will need to satisfy the Council that the existing use is no longer commercially viable and, prove that a genuine attempt has been made to market the enterprise as a going concern.
- 11.18 Similarly, new development creates an additional need for community facilities. The type of facilities needed depends on existing facilities in the locality, and the type of development proposed.
- 11.19 An asset of community value (ACV) is land or property of importance to a local community which is subject to additional protection from development under the Localism Act 2011. Voluntary and community organisations can nominate an asset to be included on their local authority's register of assets of community value. ACV status is a material consideration when dealing with planning applications that affect an asset.

13 Community facilities and assets of community value

The Council will resist proposals for the change of use of community buildings and facilities for which there is a demonstrable local need. In considering applications for alternative development or uses, the Council will consider the viability of the existing use, that the site/use has been marketed for a minimum period of 12 months at a price commensurate with its use together with proof there has been no viable interest, marketing of the building or facility at a price commensurate with its use, the presence of alternative local facilities and the community benefits of the proposed use. Where permission includes converting the use of a building, conditions will be imposed to ensure later resumption of a community use is not excluded.

In considering applications for residential development, the Council will consider the need for new community facilities arising from the proposal. Conditions will be imposed on permissions, or planning obligations sought in order to secure appropriate community facilities, or financial contributions towards community facilities, reasonably related to the scale and kind of development proposed.

Flooding

- 11.20 Climate change is expected to increase instances of extreme weather, causing: greater flooding, coastal erosion, crop failures/agricultural decline, species and habitats decline, human health risks from extreme temperatures, more limited drinking water resources, heavy rainfall and more frequent and severe storms, increased average sea levels and warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. The 2009 UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) set out projections of climate change. These include increases in summer mean temperatures, particularly in southern England, decreases in summer precipitation, again particularly in southern England, and increases in winter precipitation in southern England. Climate change allowances are set out in National Planning Practice Guidance for use in assessing flood risk. These set a range of allowances for peak river flows for areas which rise every 30 years. For example in the South East in the 2080s peak river flows will be between 35% to 105% higher than they are now.
- 11.21 Changes as small as a 2°C global temperature rise will have serious impacts: rising sea levels, extreme events such as droughts and heavy rainfall, leading to disruption to natural and man-made habitats. Communities across the UK may struggle to cope with the effects of warmer summers and wetter winters. As a consequence of climate change, parts of the district will be at increased risk from groundwater, fluvial and/or tidal flooding. It might not be possible to maintain hard defences in the long term. Development therefore need to be strongly restricted in areas at risk to flooding, whilst ensuring that existing towns and villages are protected by sustainable means that make space for water in suitable areas.
- 11.22 Inevitably, there are serious concerns amongst residents about the impacts of flooding, both in respect of current properties at risk but also the long-term management of the area. These issues are therefore key factors in determining the scale and location of development. Development should protect and enhance the natural environment by directing development away from sensitive areas that cannot accommodate change. Any development in the district must therefore have regard to flood and erosion risk, by way of location-specific measures such as additional flood alleviation, to protect people, properties and vulnerable habitats from flooding.
- 11.23 It is important that inappropriate development is avoided in areas currently at risk from flooding, or likely to be at risk as a result of climate change, or in areas where development is likely to increase flooding elsewhere. Development will generally be directed away from areas where there is likely to be significant risk of flooding. Where development is needed and harm cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation to offset any adverse impact will be required. Any risk must be assessed using the Environment Agency flood maps and the Council's strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA). The Plan takes a sequential risk-based approach to ensure that development does not take place in areas at high risk of flooding, when appropriate areas of lower risk are reasonably available.

Strategic flood risk assessment

- 11.24 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans should be supported by a strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA), which identifies areas that may flood taking into account all potential sources of flooding. It is used to inform planning policies and assist Local Planning authorities in directing new development to areas of lower flood risk, and ensure that new development helps to manage flood risk. A new SFRA has been prepared to support this Plan. Stage 1 of the SFRA assesses flood risk from all forms of flooding and gauges the impact (including cumulative impact) that land use changes and development will have on flood risk and the opportunities to reduce flood risk to existing communities and developments. Any areas of significant risk where development may occur are then subject to a more detailed Stage 2 assessment where required including the new climate change allowances. The SFRA has provided the basis for a sequential test of locations selected for development in Flood

Zones 2 and 3. It also sets out measures that need to be taken into account when planning for new development in relation to flooding in these locations.

- 11.25 Site-specific flood risk assessment (FRAs) will be required in accordance with the NPPF and NPPG (National Planning Policy Guidelines). An FRA should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the development, and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account. Fluvial (river) flood events up to and including the 1 in 100 year event with an allowance for climate change should be considered. For major developments in Flood Zone 1, the FRA should identify opportunities to reduce the probability and consequences of flooding. The FRA should also prioritise the use of sustainable drainage systems.
- 11.26 We will work actively with the Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) as local lead flood authority, other operating authorities and relevant stakeholders to ensure that best use is made of their expertise. We will ensure that spatial planning supports existing flood risk management policies and plans, management plans and emergency planning.

Flood risk

- 11.27 Flooding occurs adjacent to rivers and other watercourses, but it can also occur elsewhere, such as groundwater flooding, or where buildings or other structures affect the natural drainage of the land. Flooding also occurs from surface water, canals and reservoirs. Some areas are at risk from fluvial flooding, or have the potential to exacerbate flooding elsewhere through surface water runoff and overland flow. The Council wishes to avoid danger to life and damage to property wherever flood risk may exist. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 assigns BCC with responsibility for managing flood risk as lead local flood authority. The probability of flooding can be reduced through the management of land, river systems and flood defences, and the impact reduced through influencing the type of development located in flood risk areas.
- 11.28 Through the Local Plan the Council will manage and reduce flood risk in the district by undertaking a strategic flood risk assessment, together with a sequential approach to development, locating vulnerable developments in areas at lower risk of flooding. Development proposals will be assessed through flood risk assessments where appropriate, a sequential approach to site appraisal and where necessary the exceptions test as set out in the NPPF and NPPG. Tables within the NPPG set out the relative vulnerabilities of types of development to flooding relative to the flood zones. Development will only be permitted in areas of flood risk when there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower flood risk and the benefits of the development outweigh the risks from flooding. Defended areas should be sequentially tested as though the defences are not there.
- 11.29 In addition to safeguarding floodplains from development, opportunities will be sought to restore natural river flows and floodplains, increasing their amenity and biodiversity value. Building over or culverting of watercourses should be avoided, and the removal of existing culverts will be encouraged. The Council is in the process of bringing in a watercourse advice note covering watercourse corridors for biodiversity, recreational and amenity benefits. Existing flood defences will be protected from damaging development, and where development is considered appropriate in areas protected by such defences it must allow for the maintenance and management of the defences and be designed to be resilient to flooding. Site-specific flood risk assessments will be required to accompany development proposals in the following situations:
- all development proposals located in Flood Zones 2 or 3
 - development proposals of 1ha or more located in Flood Zone 1
 - development sites located in an area known to have experienced flooding problems, and

- development sites located within 9m of any watercourses (8m in the Environment Agency's Anglian Region⁴⁸)

11.30 Flood risk assessments should assess all sources of flood risk and demonstrate that:

- there will be no increase in surface water discharge rates or volumes during storm events up to and including the 1 in 100 year storm event, with an allowance for climate change (the design storm event)
- developments will not flood from surface water up to and including the design storm event, or any surface water flooding beyond the 1 in 30 year storm event, up to and including the design storm event will be safely contained on site.

11.31 Development should be safe and remain operational (where necessary). Proposals should demonstrate that surface water will be managed effectively on site and that the development will not increase flood risk elsewhere, including sewer flooding. Applications will also be assessed against the Environment Agency's standing advice on flood risk. Account will also need to be taken of the Buckinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) produced by BCC and the catchment flood management plans published by the Environment Agency for the Thames and Ouse catchments. Wherever a watercourse will be altered or diverted as a result of development land drainage consent will be required under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

14 Flooding

Management of flood risk

In order to minimise the impacts of and from all forms of flood risk the following is required:

- a. Site-specific flood risk assessments (FRAs), informed by the latest version of the SFRA, where the development proposal is over 1ha in size and is in Flood Zone 1, or the development proposal includes land in Flood Zones 2 and 3 (as defined by the latest Environment Agency mapping). A site-specific FRA will also be required where a development proposal affects land in Flood Zone 1 where evidence, in particular the SFRA, indicates there are records of historic flooding or other sources of flooding, e.g. due to critical drainage problems, including from ordinary watercourses
- b. Other than sites allocated in the VALP, all development proposals must clearly demonstrate that the flood risk sequential test and sequential approach, as set out in the latest version of the SFRA, has been passed, and
- c. If the sequential test has been satisfied, development proposals, other than those allocated in this Plan, must also satisfy the exception test in all applicable situations as set out in the latest version of the SFRA.

Flood risk assessments

All development proposals must adhere to the advice in the latest version of the SFRA and will:

⁴⁸ north of a line from Marsh Gibbon-Whitchurch-Wingrave-Dagnall – p.35 of the Water Cycle Strategy Phase 1 (2017)

- d. provide level-for-level floodplain compensation and volume-for-volume compensation unless a justified reason has been submitted and agreed which may justify other forms of compensation
- e. ensure no increase in flood risk on site or harm to third parties
- f. explore opportunities to reduce flood risk overall, including financial contributions from the developer where appropriate
- g. ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts
- h. ensure development is appropriately flood resistant, resilient and safe
- i. take into account all sources and forms of flooding
- j. ensure safe access and exits are available for development in accordance with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidance⁴⁹. Access to “safe refuges” or “dry islands” are unlikely to be considered safe as this will further burden the Emergency Service in times of flood
- k. provide an assessment of residual flood risk
- l. provide satisfactory Evacuation Management Plans, where necessary, including consultation with the Emergency Services and Emergency Planners

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

- m. Ensure development layouts are informed by drainage strategies incorporating SuDS
- n. All development will be required to design and use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) for the management of surface water run-off, as part of the submitted planning application. All development should adopt exemplar source control SuDS techniques to reduce the risk of flooding due to post-development runoff. SuDS design should follow current best practice (CIRIA Manual 2015 or as replaced) and Buckinghamshire County Council guidance on runoff rates and volumes to deliver wider environmental benefits
- o. Where site-specific FRAs are required in association with development proposals, they should be used to determine how SuDS can be used on particular sites and to design appropriate systems
- p. In considering SuDS solutions, the need to protect groundwater quality must be taken into account, especially where infiltration techniques are proposed in considering a response to the presence of any contaminated land. The Environment Agency need to be consulted where infiltration is proposed in contaminated land. SuDS should seek to reduce flood risk, reduce pollution and provide landscape and wildlife benefits. Opportunities will be sought to enhance natural river flows and floodplains, increasing their amenity and biodiversity value and a watercourse advice note is being prepared for further guidance
- q. Applicants will be required to provide a management plan to maintain SuDS in new developments, and a contribution will be required for maintenance of the scheme/SuDS
- r. Onsite attenuation options should be tested to ensure that changing the timing of peak flows does not exacerbate flooding downstream, and
- s. Only in exceptional circumstances will surface water connections to the combined or surface water system be permitted. Applicants will need to demonstrate in consultation with the sewerage undertaker that there is no feasible alternative and that there will be no detriment to existing users.

⁴⁹ DEFRA ‘Flood Risks to People Methodology’ (FD2321/TR1 (2006) and ‘Framework and Guidance for Assessing and Managing Flood Risk for New Development’ (FD2320/TR2’ (2005) (As replaced)

Applicants will be required to liaise with the lead local flood authority, Internal Drainage Boards, and the Environment Agency on any known flood issues, and identify issues from the outset via discussions with statutory bodies.

Climate change

- t. Climate change modelling should be undertaken using the relevant allowances (February 2016) for the type of development and level of risk
- u. Safe access and egress should be demonstrated in the 1 in 100 plus climate change event, and
- v. Compensation flood storage would need to be provided for any land-raising within the 1 in 100 plus appropriate climate change flood event

Water resources

- 11.32 Water resources need to be safeguarded from the potentially negative impacts of development. The Council will therefore require sustainable construction, sustainable flood risk management and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce the impact of development on the natural environment and water resources. This will assist in contributing to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive which seeks to protect and enhance the quality of water bodies, and indicates that development should not result in any deterioration in the status of surface water bodies. Some development can remediate contaminated land which may be having an adverse impact on controlled water and human health.
- 11.33 The Council will seek to maintain water quality, ensure adequate water resources and promote sustainability in water use. Water quality will be maintained and enhanced by avoiding adverse effects of development on the water environment. Development proposals will not be permitted which would adversely affect the water quality of surface or underground water bodies (including rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) as a result of attributable factors. Development will only be permitted where adequate water resources exist, or can be provided without detriment to existing uses. Where appropriate, phasing of development will be used to enable the relevant water infrastructure to be put in place.
- 11.34 Aylesbury Vale, which has parts of both the Anglian and Thames Water supply regions is in an area of 'water stress' This means it has poor overall water quality and quantity of water resources hindering the achievement of the Good status under the Water Framework Directive (the UK is bound as a member state to achieve 'Good status'). The Water Cycle Study 2017 has assessed all water resources and supply in the district and recommended VALP policy measures to address this.
- 11.35 The Water Cycle Study 2017 includes an assessment by Anglian and Thames Water of the capacity available to serve the housing growth in VALP, the infrastructure upgrades needed and where constraints exist to serve infrastructure enhancements. The site allocation policies in this Plan and infrastructure delivery plan will set out where wastewater treatment work capacity needs headroom capacity boosting.
- 11.36 Thames Water previously identified the possible need for a major new storage reservoir partly in the district to the west of Chinnor. Most of the site is in South Oxfordshire and Wycombe districts. The purpose of the reservoir is to address long-term water resource management in the Thames Valley. Thames Water has completed and published the latest Fine Screening Report (April 2017) as part of Water Resource Management Plan 2019 (WRMP19). This Fine Screening Report confirms that the Chinnor reservoir site is no longer a preferred option to be included in the draft WRMP19 and has been screened out. Therefore, the Chinnor reservoir site does not need to be safeguarded in Local Plans.

15 Water resources

The Council will seek to improve water quality, ensure adequate water resources, promote sustainability in water use and ensure wastewater collection and treatment has sufficient capacity.

The baseline position on water resources, quality and supply infrastructure, wastewater collection and treatment work capacity is set out in the Aylesbury Vale Water Cycle Study 2017. Consultation will be required with either Anglian or Thames Water (whichever is appropriate) at the time a planning application is submitted (and evidence of this must be provided) to understand if the baseline position on water resources and wastewater has changed. Development proposals must meet all the following criteria:

Water quality

- a. Water quality will be maintained and enhanced by avoiding adverse effects of development on the water environment. Development proposals will not be permitted which would adversely affect the water quality of surface or underground water bodies (including rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs, source protection zones and groundwater aquifers) as a result of directly attributable factors.

Water resource availability

- b. Development will only be permitted where adequate water resources exist, or can be provided without detriment to existing uses. New homes should be built to not exceed the water consumption standard of 110 litres per person per day .

Wastewater treatment

- c. Planning applications must take into account the capacity available at wastewater treatment works. At the Aylesbury, Buckingham, Great Horwood, Ivinghoe and Whaddon Wastewater Treatment Works, any application for an increased flow permit should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment to quantify whether the additional flow poses an increase in flood risk.

Planning obligations

- d. Where appropriate, phasing of development will be used to enable the relevant water infrastructure to be put in place and planning obligations will be used to secure contributions to capacity improvements required as a result of development.

Telecommunications

- 11.37 Telecommunications is the general term for the transfer of information over varying distances using technologies such as telephone, television, mobile phones and the internet. High quality communications infrastructure includes the recent advances in broadband and wireless technologies.
- 11.38 High quality telecommunications are becoming increasingly important for economic growth – attracting new business and allowing existing businesses to remain competitive. Telecommunications also have social benefits – increasing social inclusion through better access to services that are web-based. Superfast broadband can also encourage homeworking and reduce car journeys. Focus on developing networks in urban areas has however led to rural areas being relatively disadvantaged.
- 11.39 Broadband networks are being developed with the Government’s vision for the UK to have the best superfast broadband network in Europe. The Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Growth Deal includes commitments to extend superfast broadband across Buckinghamshire to areas of high business population, and to stimulate growth in Buckinghamshire electronics and telecommunications sectors through early access to 5G technologies.
- 11.40 The VALP recognises the importance of delivering superfast broadband to rural areas, and development should facilitate where possible the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems to ensure people have a choice of providers and services. At the same time the Council is keen to minimise any adverse impact on the character of the locality and the environment. Nevertheless the Government has given permitted development rights to some telecommunications development and they cannot be addressed by policies in this Plan.
- 11.41 A key element of the VALP is that new development should be co-ordinated with the telecommunications infrastructure it requires, and take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Delivery of infrastructure will be dependent upon maximising the contribution from the development process, whilst recognising that a contribution from both the public and private sector will be necessary. This includes the Government’s role in providing the necessary investment to achieve sustainable growth, including appropriate revenue support to those agencies required to manage or serve such development.

Determining applications

- 11.42 In determining all applications for telecommunications installations, the Council is required to consider its decisions in the light of site-specific issues, such as siting, design, effect on the street scene and highway safety. The Council is also required to make its decisions in accordance with nationally established policy. National planning policy is included in Section 5 of the NPPF, and provides guidance on planning for telecommunications development - including radio masts, towers and antennas of all kinds.
- 11.43 In undertaking installations, the telecommunications operators have to comply with the requirements of Part 16 of Schedule 2 of the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 2015 which gives deemed planning permission subject to exclusions and conditions. Changes to telecommunication permitted development rights came into effect in November 2016. Amongst other changes the revisions permit taller new or replacement masts with heights dependant on whether an area is protected or not without the need for a planning application..

Strategic policy

- 11.44 The VALP will encourage and facilitate improved access to high speed broadband and new communications technologies across the district. The VALP recognises the importance of delivering superfast broadband to rural areas. Development should facilitate where possible the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems to ensure people have a choice of

providers and services. The Council expects high quality communications infrastructure to be incorporated into the design of all new housing and commercial development in the district, ensuring the future-proofing of telecommunications, enabling them to be easily provided and/or upgraded in the future. The Council will therefore expect developers to explore the option of providing on-site infrastructure, including ducting to industry standards in any new residential, employment or commercial development for efficient connection to existing networks. If such measures cannot be delivered, the developer will need to submit evidence to justify the reasons why this is the case, whether it be for viability or technical reasons.

I6 Telecommunications

Telecommunications development will be permitted where:

- a. It is provided as part of high quality communications infrastructure in new housing and commercial development providing it is future-proofed to industry standards
- b. Developers have explored the option of providing on-site infrastructure, including ducting to industry standards in any new residential, employment or commercial development for efficient connection to existing networks. If such measures cannot be delivered, the developer will need to submit evidence to justify the reasons why this is the case, whether it be for viability or technical reasons
- c. It is sited and designed to minimise visual impact and does not have a detrimental visual impact on the character or appearance of the building or the area to which it relates
- d. It has been adequately demonstrated that the use of alternative sites involving mast sharing and other buildings or structures that provide a less visual impact have been considered, together with any technical considerations and limitations
- e. It can be clearly demonstrated that the benefits of high masts and large telecommunication structures within the Green Belt, designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other areas of landscape importance, areas of ecological interest, conservation areas, listed buildings or other designated heritage assets including within their settings outweighs the harm, and all reasonable alternatives to avoid or mitigate impacts have been considered
- f. Proposals are, where necessary, to be supported by an appropriate landscaping scheme and appropriate means of camouflage, and
- g. Where mechanisms, such as conditions or planning obligations, will ensure the removal of equipment when it is no longer required.

12 Glossary

Term	Definition
Affordable Housing	Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision. Homes that do not meet the above definition of affordable housing, such as low-cost market housing, are not currently considered as affordable housing for planning purposes.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	A landscape where the distinctive character and natural beauty is so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it. Aylesbury Vale district includes part of the Chilterns AONB. The AONB is managed by the Chilterns Conservation Board.
Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP)	The spatial development plan for Aylesbury Vale used to determine planning applications. Adopted by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) in February 2004, only some of the policies have been saved for use in planning decisions. The AVDLP will be replaced by the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and neighbourhood plans.
Black or Ethnic Minority (BME)	A socio-economic grouping used with other such groups in housing and economic analysis including from the latest Census data. Utilised within background studies informing the Plan.
Biodiversity	A collective term for plants, animals, micro-organisms and bacteria which, together, interact in a complex way to create living ecosystems.
Brownfield Register	A register of locally identified brownfield sites (previously developed land) suitable for housing which is in the process of being implemented
Climate Change	The lasting and significant change in weather patterns generally agreed to be caused as a result of higher global temperatures brought about by greenhouse gas emissions over periods ranging from decades to hundreds of years, impacting on river and sea levels and the rate of flows on watercourses.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	A charge on new buildings and extensions to help pay for supporting infrastructure. This new charge replaces the Section 106 tariff, but Section 106 agreements will still be used for the specific impacts of a development (such as a new access road) and for affordable housing. Unlike Section 106, CIL is non-negotiable and collection is purely an administrative process. The levy and what it covers is set out in a charging schedule that is consulted on prior to submission to Government and a public examination prior to adoption by the Council.

Term	Definition
Conservation Area	A locally designated area (by AVDC for conservation areas in the Vale) of special architectural interest, where the character or appearance is desirable to preserve or enhance. AVDC carries out occasional reviews of the special interest through character appraisals and management plans.
Council Monitoring Reports	Monitoring reports are published regularly usually covering a financial year. The first purpose of the reports is to review the progress of planning policy documents, secondly to assess the effectiveness of existing planning policies and identify whether any policies are not being implemented, or should be amended or replaced. The second of these tasks is achieved by reporting against a number of indicators. Housing land supply is monitored more frequently and AVDC publishes regular five-year land supply position statements.
Community Facilities	Multi-purpose community buildings such as community centres, village halls, church halls, indoor and outdoor sports facilities available for public and community use and public open space including green infrastructure
Cultural Facilities	Purpose-built arts and entertainment venues such as cinemas, theatres and arts centres
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)	The Department of Communities and Local Government sets national planning policy in England, as well as determining what local government does, how well it is working and how it is funded.
Development Plan	The statutory development plan for determining planning applications and appeals in the district. This currently comprises the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2004 saved policies and any made neighbourhood plans. Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) will replace AVDLP on adoption in summer 2017.
Duty to Co-operate	The 'duty to co-operate' is a legal requirement on the Council in the VALP plan preparation process. The duty concerns the Council and neighbouring district/borough councils, county councils and other identified public bodies. The Council is required to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the duty has been undertaken appropriately for the Plan.

Term	Definition
East-West Rail	A new railway network, partly using existing track that will connect Reading and Oxford across to East Anglia via Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge. In the shorter term, the East West Rail Consortium's priority is to deliver the western section of the route comprising Reading to Milton Keynes and Bedford via Oxford and also Milton Keynes to Aylesbury. There will be a new station at Winslow due to be built on the line between the Aylesbury spur/Bicester and Bletchley. This is planned to be open by March 2019.
Economic Development	Any development for the following Use Classes A1 (Shops), A2 (Financial and Professional Services), A3 (Restaurants and Cafés), A4 (Drinking Establishments), A5 (Hot Food Takeaways), B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage and Distribution), C1 (Hotels), D1 (Non-residential institutions), D2 (Assembly and Leisure) and Sui Generis uses (other than Houses in Multiple Occupation and Hostels). The term 'economic development' land is mainly used in the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) study.
Extra Care Housing	Housing which offers self-contained accommodation together with communal facilities and where care, as well as support services, are provided on site.
Flood Zones	Areas of land assessed as being of low risk (Flood Zone 1), medium (Flood Zone 2), high (Flood Zone 3a) and the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b) where no development should take place. The Environment Agency identifies where the flood zones are and reviews them quarterly. AVDC must carry out a strategic flood risk assessment to support VALP that will look at all forms of flooding and the impact of flood defences. Guidance on planning and flood risk is set out in the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance.
Green Belt	A policy designation for controlling urban growth to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another, assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment, preserve the setting and special character of historic towns, and assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land. Within the Green Belt, guidance for which is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, land is to be kept permanently open and only used for agriculture open space, forestry and outdoor recreation and limited infilling of villages and previously development land.
Green Infrastructure	A planned network of high quality multi-functional green space and interconnecting links in, urban and rural areas with environmental features designed in delivering a wide range of environmental social and economic quality-of-life benefits for local communities. AVDC has published a Green Infrastructure Strategy and has contributed to a Buckinghamshire Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Term	Definition
Greenfield land	Land which has not been previously developed.
Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Needs Assessment	The Government requires each local planning authority to set pitch targets for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for Travelling Showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of Travellers in their area. The four district authorities in Buckinghamshire have worked collaboratively to bring forward a traveller accommodation needs assessment in conjunction with Opinion Research Services (ORS).
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (Appropriate Assessment)	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC on the 'conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora for plans' that may have an impact of European (Natura 2000) Sites. The sites relevant to Aylesbury Vale are two Special Areas of Conservation. HRA is the assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a Natura 2000 Site. Its purpose is to consider the impacts of a land-use plan against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
Heritage Assets	A collective term for either designated or non-designated assets. Designated assets are listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields and conservation areas.
High Speed 2 Rail (HS2)	The Government's proposed high speed railway line from London to Birmingham (phase 1 due to open in 2026) and the north of England (phase 2), cutting through the district from the southeast near Wendover and Aylesbury to northwest near Turweston. The Council is working with Buckinghamshire County Council and other partner organisations to minimise its impact if it does go ahead.
Historic Environment	A collective term to encompass people's interaction with heritage assets which include buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of their heritage interest.
Historic Parks and Gardens	The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England provides a listing and classification system for historic parks and gardens similar to that used for listed buildings . The register is managed by Historic England under the provisions of the National Heritage Act 1983 . Over 1,600 sites are listed, ranging from the grounds of large stately homes to small domestic gardens, as well as other designed landscapes such as town squares, public parks and cemeteries.

Term	Definition
Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)	The national housing and regeneration agency for England. The agency contributes to economic growth by helping communities to realise their aspirations for prosperity and to deliver high-quality housing that people can afford. The HCA provides investment for new affordable housing and to improve existing social housing, as well as for regenerating land.
5 Year Housing Land Supply	The supply of specific deliverable housing sites on which housing completions are expected. The five-year housing land supply is the number of dwellings expected to be completed in the next five years, compared to the Local Plan target for the next five years (this is normally expressed in terms of the number of years worth of supply).
Housing Market Area (HMA)	The best-fit Housing Market Area (HMA) has been defined as Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern Council areas following work by Opinion Research Services (ORS). The HMA is the basic area for determining housing need through the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment
Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)	A key component of the evidence base to support the delivery of sufficient land for housing and employment to meet the community's need for more homes. The HELAA is an assessment to identify land for housing and assess the deliverability and developability of sites. These assessments are required by the National Planning Policy Framework.
Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)	A Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) is a study required by Government of Local Planning authorities to inform Local Plans in terms of housing targets, housing need, demand, migration and commuting patterns and the development of planning and housing policy as well as the future quantity of land or floorspace required for economic development needs. For Aylesbury Vale the HEDNA has been undertaken by Opinion Research Services (ORS) for the Central Bucks HMA.
Housing trajectory	A table (optionally accompanied by a graph) included in the Local Plan which sets out information on past and projected annual housing completions in comparison to the Local Plan target. The trajectory is a tool for analysing and illustrating whether or not housing delivery is on track.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	The IDP's role will be to identify all items of infrastructure needed to ensure the delivery of the growth targets and policies contained in the VALP. This ensures that an appropriate supply of essential infrastructure is provided alongside new homes, workplaces and other forms of development up to 2033.
Listed building	A listed building is a building that has been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

Term	Definition
Live Work Space	Property that is specifically designed for dual use, combining both residential and employment space. It is regarded as sui generis ('in a class of its own')[1] but for ease of enforcement the work element will be regarded as a separate A2 or B1 activity and will be conditioned as such. (B2 may be considered where no other residential property is affected but B8 will not, given its low employment density.) Live/Work is distinct from conventional 'home working' which usually comprises a residential unit with ancillary and often temporary or informal work areas. Such businesses do not normally require planning permission. Live/Work is a distinctive and formal division of residential and workspace floorspace which does require planning permission.
Local Green Space	Areas of green space of importance to local communities which are designated as such and protected preventing their future development unless under very special circumstances
Localism Act	An Act of Parliament which is the primary legislative basis for local authority planning powers which came into force following gaining Royal Assent in November 2011. The Act made provision for new regulations to be made including on plan making (came into force in April 2012) and a basis for the review of existing planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework was published in March 2012).
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	The detailed timetable and project plan of all development plan documents and supplementary planning documents that are to be produced over a set period – normally three years.
Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	A voluntary partnership between local authorities and businesses formed in 2011 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within its local area. They carry out some of the functions previously carried out by the regional development agencies which were abolished in March 2012. The two LEPs that involve AVDC are the South East Midlands LEP (covering Aylesbury Vale, Central Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes Council, South Northamptonshire District and other Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire districts) and the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP (covering all of Buckinghamshire).
Local Geological Site	Local sites are non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation that complement nationally and internationally designated geological and wildlife sites (previously Regionally Important Geological Sites).
Local Nature Reserve	Local nature reserves are for both people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally for both people and wildlife.

Term	Definition
Local Nature Partnership (LNP)	A body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it. There is one LNP covering Aylesbury Vale; this is called the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership, established in 2012, including the Delivery Group.
Local Plan	The statutory development plan for determining planning applications and appeals for the district. This is currently any made neighbourhood plans and the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) 2004 saved policies until AVDLP is replaced by the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.
Local Wildlife Site	Previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or County Wildlife Sites, these are areas of land with significant wildlife value. They are typically an area of ancient woodland, a flower-rich hay meadow or a village pond.
Market Housing	Private housing for rent or for sale, where the price is set in the open market.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the Government's statement of national planning policy and all Local Plans must be in general conformity with it and this is tested at a Local Plan Examination. The NPPF was published on 27 March 2012 and replaced numerous planning policy guidance documents, statements and circulars. It was accompanied by Technical Guidance to the NPPF on flood risk, on minerals and waste and a planning policy statement on Traveller sites.
Neighbourhood Plan	A type of planning policy document that after 'making' can be used (alongside the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan/ Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan) to determine planning applications. The plans are prepared by a parish/town council or designated neighbourhood forum for a particular neighbourhood area (made under the Localism Act 2011) and have to be in general conformity with the district plan, undergo Examination and a Referendum. A neighbourhood plan should support strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan and plan positively to support local development. A neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory development plan once it has been made (brought into legal force) by the local planning authority.
Office for National Statistics (ONS)	The UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistical institute of the UK.

Term	Definition
Planning in Principle (PIP)	The Homes and Planning Act 2016 requires local authorities to keep a register of brownfield land within its area capable of being granted 'planning permission in principle' (PIP) for housing. Proposals include extending PIP for sites identified in local and neighbourhood plans providing permission in respect of matters relating to location, uses and the amount of development on particular sites.
Planning Practice Guidance	Practical guidance that supplements policy in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Government launched the Planning Practice Guidance on 6 March 2014, replacing a raft of separate detailed best practice guidance covering many areas of town planning issues.
Primary and Secondary Shopping Frontages	Cover specified rows of ground floor units within identified town centres and seek to retain activity-generating uses including a high proportion of retail uses which may include food, drinks, clothing and household goods. Secondary frontages provide greater opportunities for diversity of uses within the frontages such as restaurants. The defined frontages from AVDLP have been reviewed in the Aylesbury Vale Retail Study, 2015.
Primary Shopping Area	An area defined in a Local Plan where retail development is concentrated (generally comprising the primary and those secondary frontages which are adjoining and closely related to the primary shopping frontage).
Previously-Developed (Brownfield) Land	Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.
Registered Providers of affordable housing	A registered provider of social housing as defined in Chapter 3 of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 who is registered with the Homes and Communities Agency and has not been removed from the register.

Term	Definition
Rural Exception Sites	Small sites used for affordable housing in perpetuity where sites would not normally be used for housing. Rural exception sites seek to address the needs of the local community by accommodating households who are either current residents or have an existing family or employment connection. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the local authority's discretion, for example where essential to enable the delivery of affordable units without grant funding.
Self Build and Custom Housing Register	The Homes and Planning Act 2016 requires local authorities to keep a register of people seeking to acquire land to build or commission their own homes and to grant sufficient suitable development permissions of serviced plots to meet demand.
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	Nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.
Sensitive Landscapes	'Sensitive landscapes' is a term used in an evidence base prepared by Jacobs for the Council in 2008 called the 'Areas of Sensitive Landscapes' study. All landscapes in the district were surveyed. Six factors were used to determine what made an area sensitive. These were: scenic quality, rarity, representativeness (locally and regionally) and tranquillity. The Government uses the term 'valued' landscape as meaning important local landscapes that contribute to the quality of the natural and local environment. The valued landscapes for the district are the AVDLP designated Areas of Attractive Landscape and Local Landscape Areas. These have had a review and criteria based assessment by LUC in 2015.
Settlement Hierarchy	A way of identifying and arranging the largest settlements into an order for the purposes of distributing the VALP housing and employment land growth to towns and villages around the district based upon their population and sustainability criteria.
Site Allocations	Designations of land use, types and levels of development and other details identified in a Local Plan. There are existing site allocations in the Adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan 2004 and several made neighbourhood plans. Future allocations will be made in VALP or in further made neighbourhood plans.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A national designation indicating one of the country's very best wildlife and/or geological sites. SSSIs include some of the most spectacular and beautiful habitats: wetlands teeming with wading birds, winding chalk rivers, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote upland peat bogs.




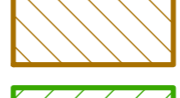


Term	Definition
Special Areas of Conservation	An area which has been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. SACs provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity. The two SACs relevant to the VALP are the Chiltern Beechwoods and Aston Rowant. The impact of the VALP proposals on these will be considered in the Appropriate Assessment/Habitats Regulations Assessment.
Starter Homes	The Housing and Planning Act 2016 requires local authorities to ensure starter homes are built and sold to young first time buyers below 40 years of age at a minimum 20% discount below open market value. Regulations will consider the requirement for 20% of such homes on sites of a certain size.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	A study and final report identifying all types of flood risk in the district and the considerations that development should adhere to including avoiding building in higher areas of flood risk and incorporating mitigation measures including sustainable drainage systems. A new SFRA will be prepared to support the growth identified in VALP.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	More detailed planning guidance to supplement what is in Development Plan Documents. SPDs cannot make new policy; there must be 'policy hook' to a policy or proposal in a Development Plan Document.
Sustainability Appraisal	An evaluation of the social, environmental and economic effects of policies and proposals in the VALP. The purpose is to ensure that the Local Plan documents are produced in accordance with the Government's definition of sustainable development included in the NPPF. Sustainability Appraisals are carried out in line with Government Guidance to meet the terms of Strategic Environmental Assessment which are required under an EU Directive.
Sustainable Construction	An approach to construction that reduces the environmental impact of a building over its entire lifetime, while optimising its economic viability and the comfort and safety of its occupants. A building designed and constructed in a sustainable way minimises the use of water, raw materials, energy and land over the whole life cycle of the building.
Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP)	The new planning policy document for the district covering the period 2013-2033 which will replace the adopted Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan 2004. VALP is referred to as the 'Local Plan' in the VALP Issues and Options consultation document, October 2015.
Water Cycle	A term used for the assessment of the impact of development on wastewater treatment work capacity, surface water management, wastewater networks, water quality and water supplies.

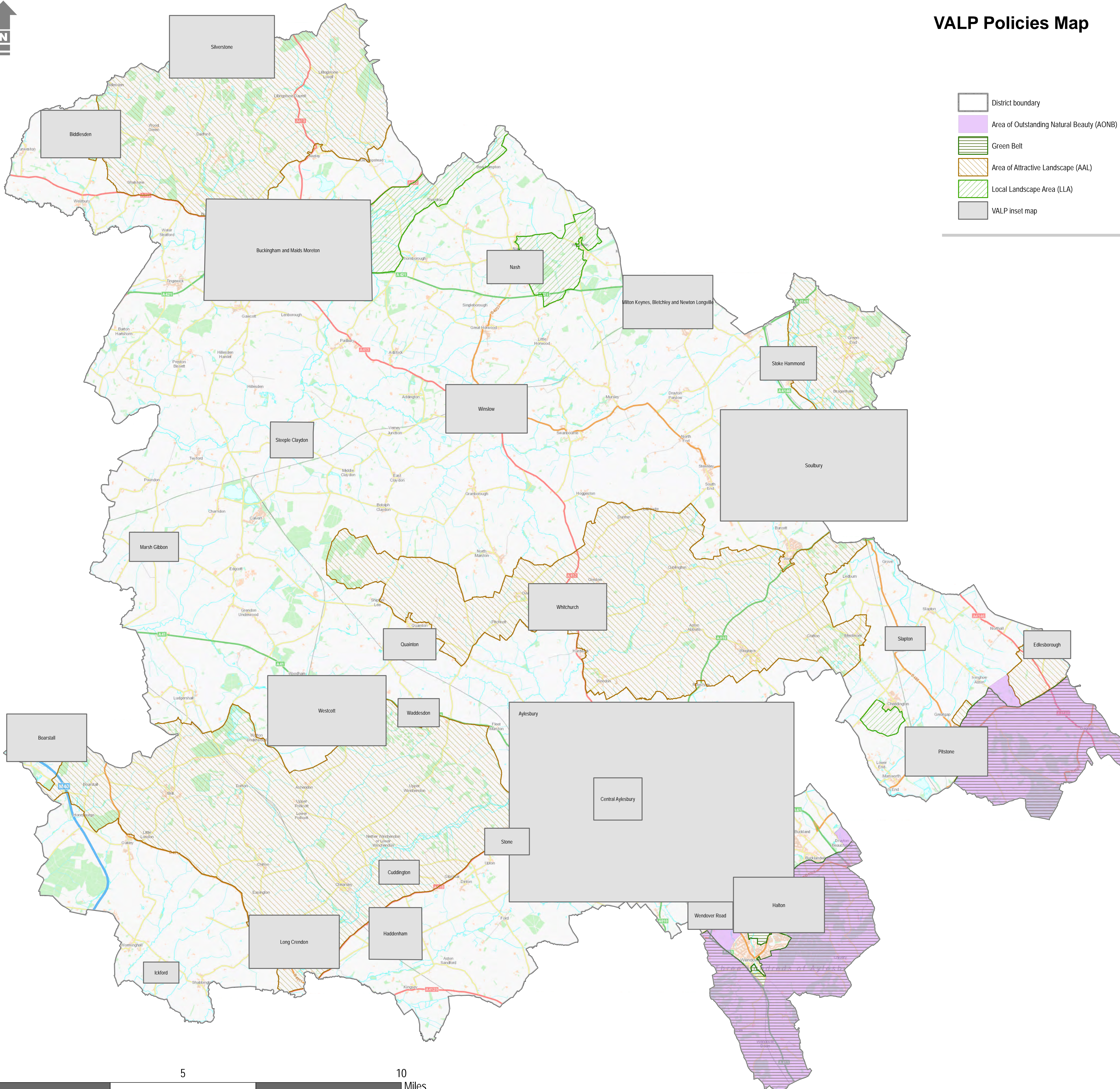
Term	Definition
Windfall Sites	Sites which have not been specifically identified as available in the Local Plan process. They normally comprise previously-developed sites that have unexpectedly become available for new development.

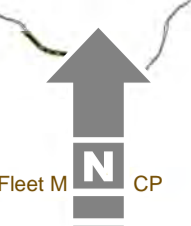
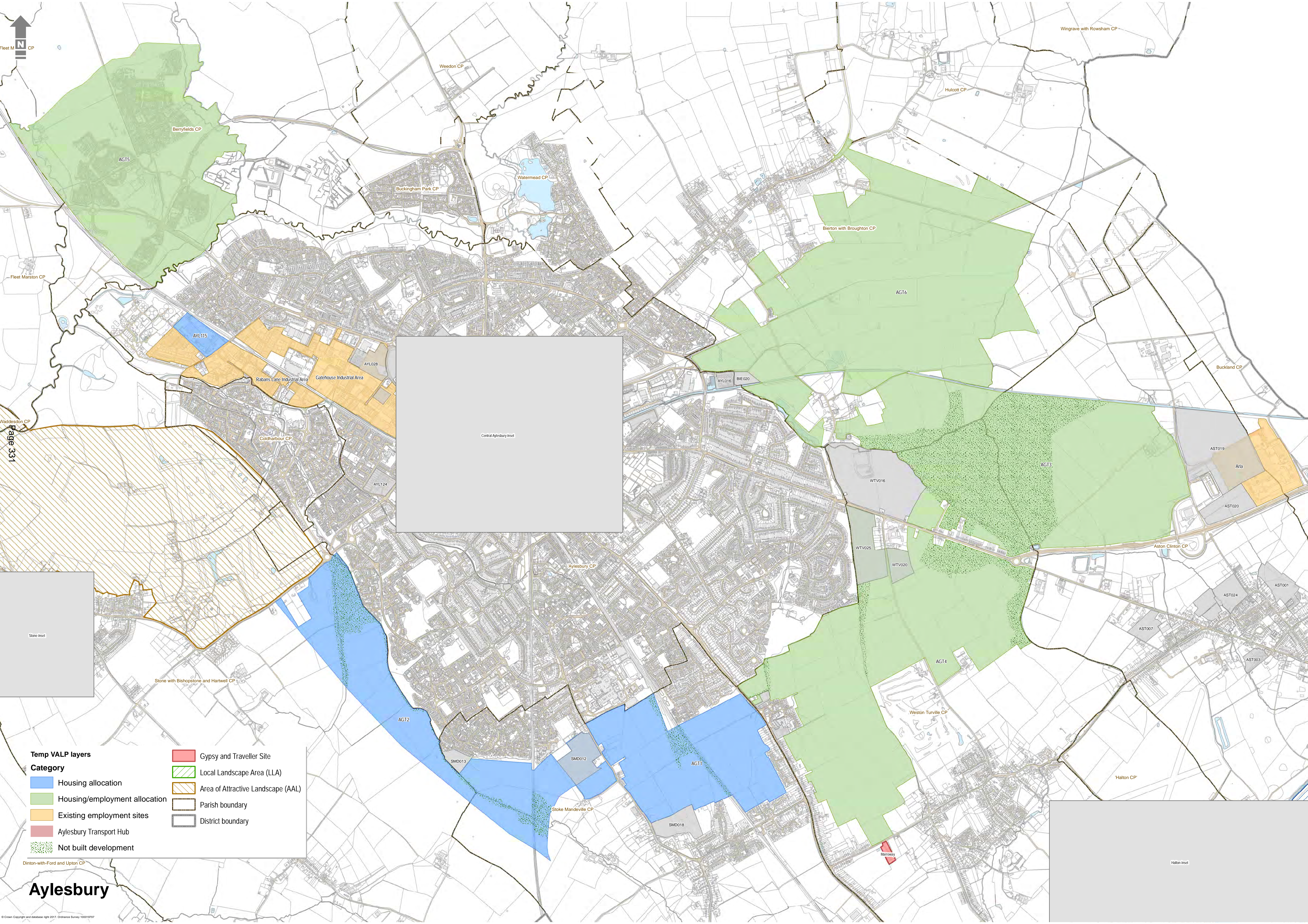
13 Policies Maps



VALP Policies Map











-  District boundary
-  Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
-  Green Belt
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
-  Local Landscape Area (LLA)
-  VALP inset map





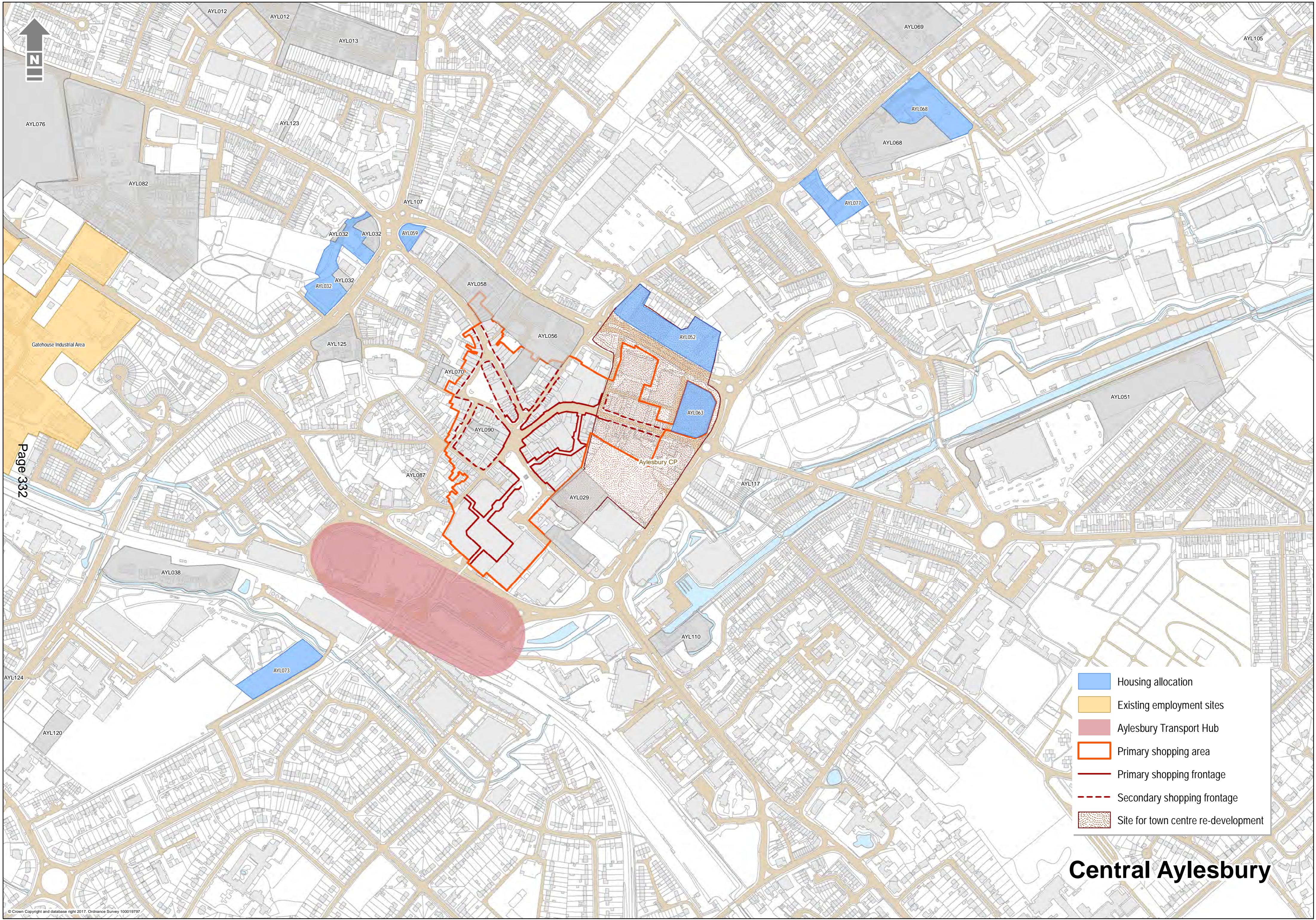
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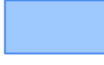






Temp VALP layers

	Housing allocation		Gypsy and Traveller Site
	Housing/employment allocation		Local Landscape Area (LLA)
	Existing employment sites		Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
	Aylesbury Transport Hub		Parish boundary
	Not built development		District boundary

Aylesbury

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-  Housing allocation
-  Existing employment sites
-  Aylesbury Transport Hub
-  Primary shopping area
-  Primary shopping frontage
-  Secondary shopping frontage
-  Site for town centre re-development

Central Aylesbury



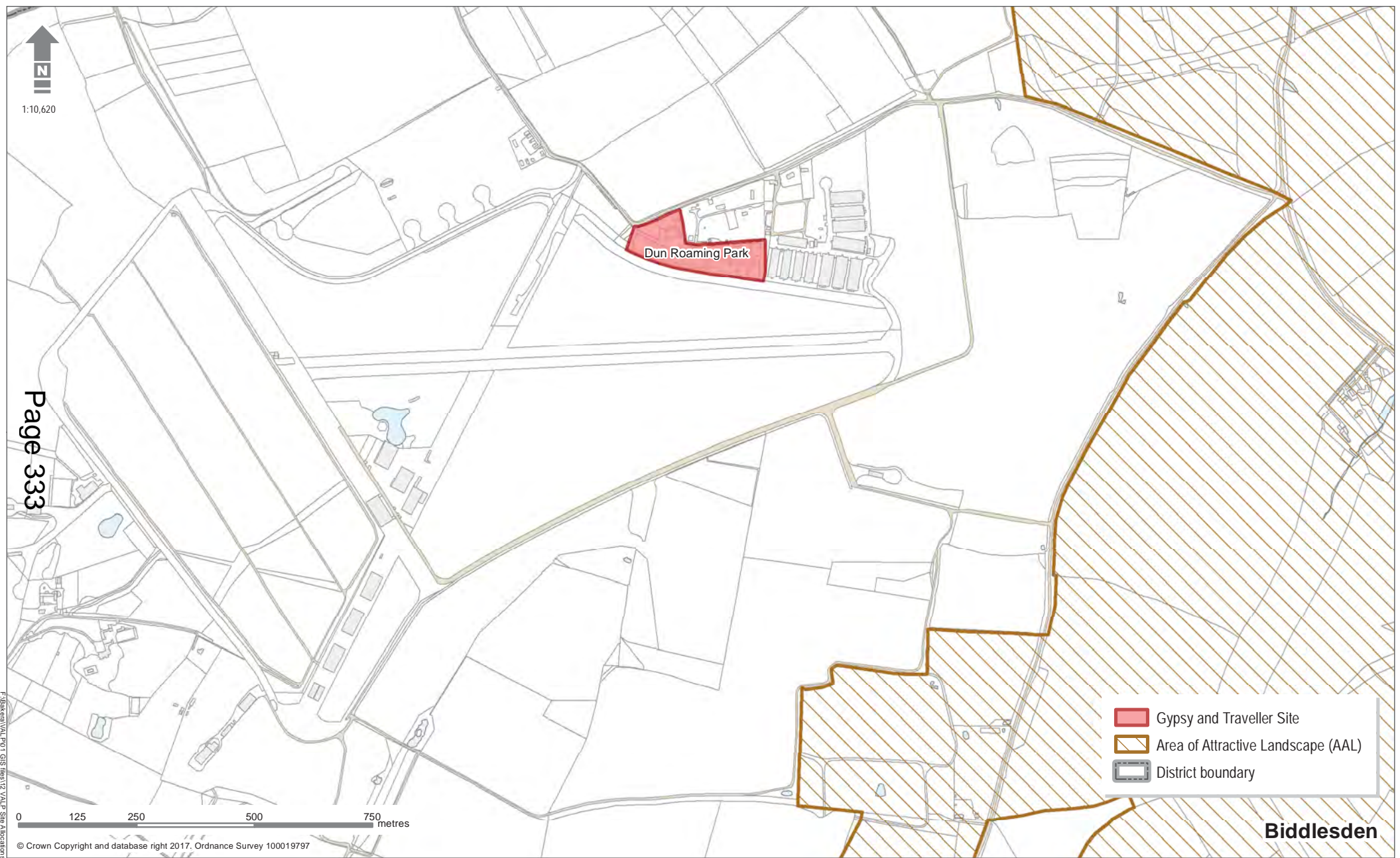
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-  Gypsy and Traveller Site
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
-  District boundary

Biddlesden



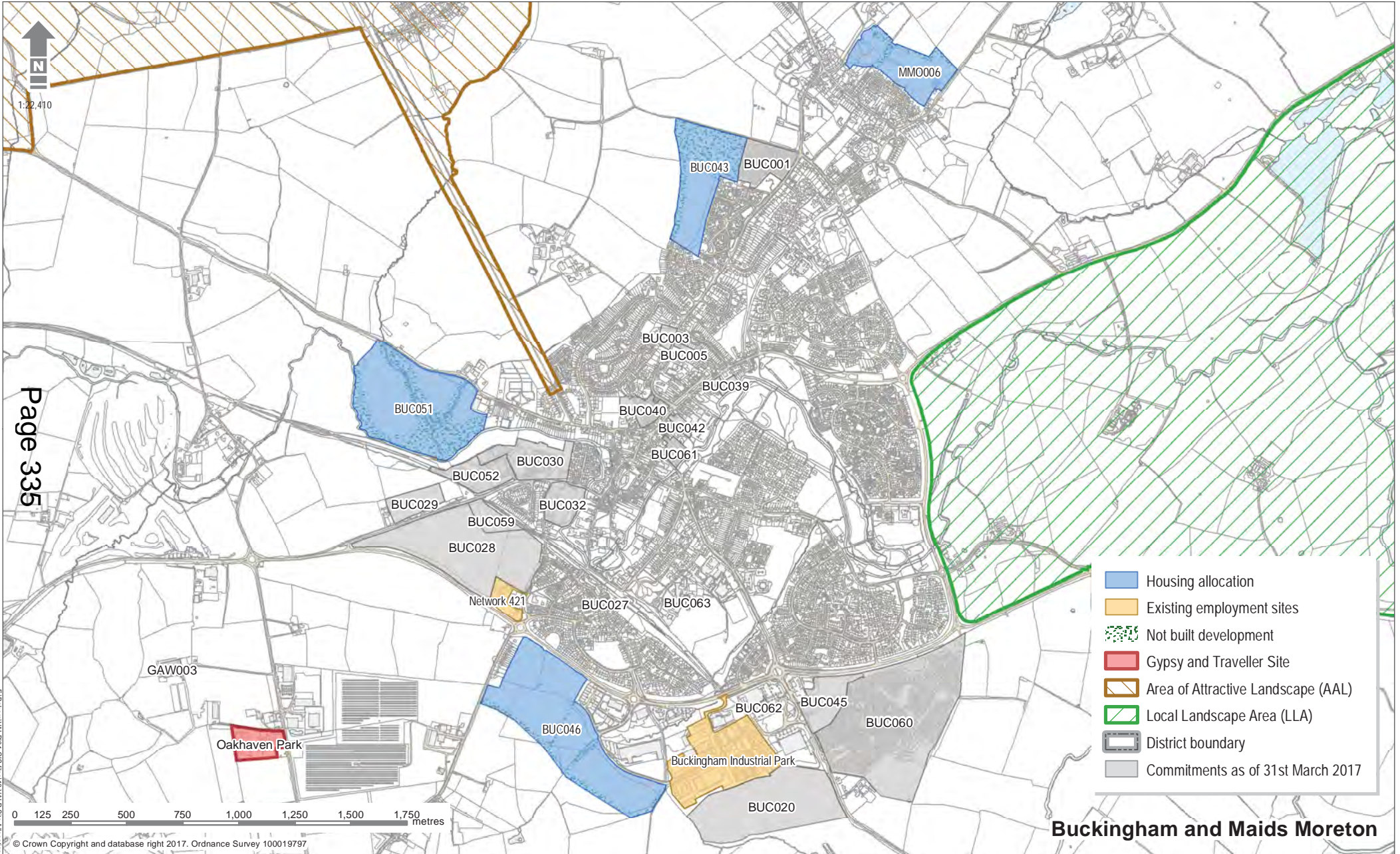
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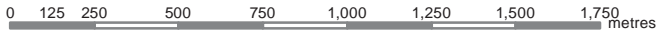
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- Housing allocation
- Existing employment sites
- Not built development
- Gypsy and Traveller Site
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- Local Landscape Area (LLA)
- District boundary
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Buckingham and Maids Moreton

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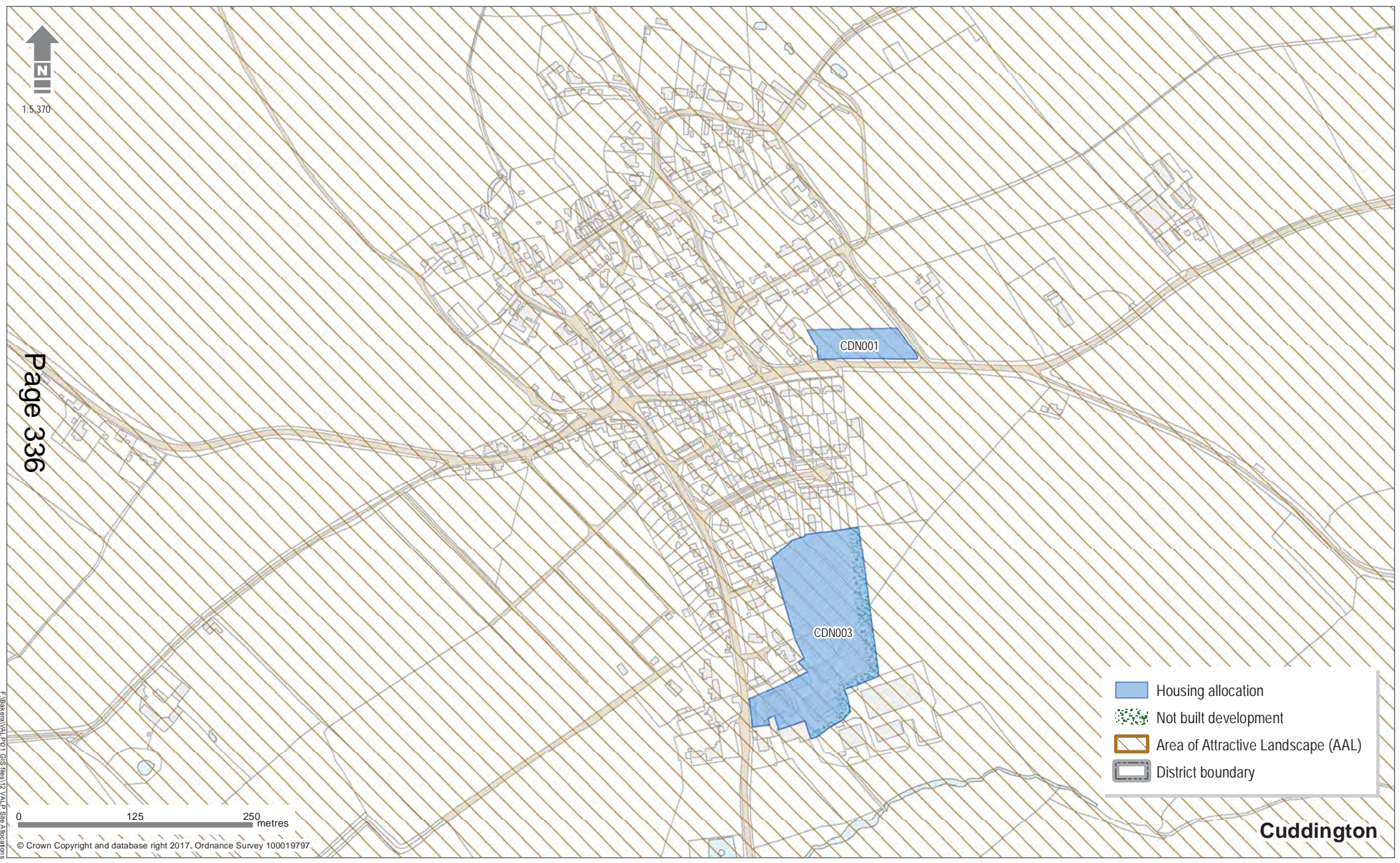
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-  Housing allocation
-  Not built development
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
-  District boundary

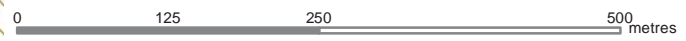
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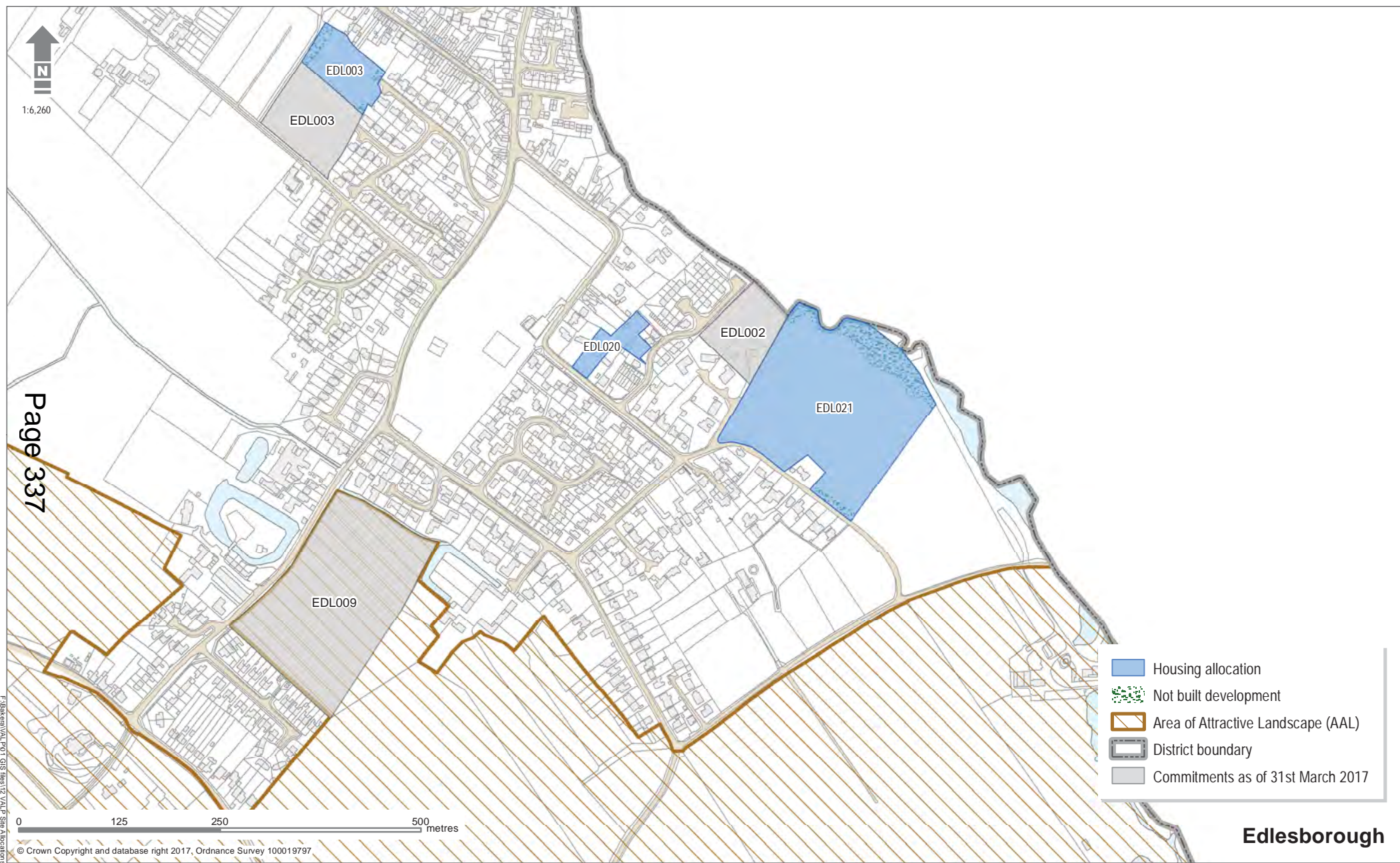
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- Housing allocation
- Not built development
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- District boundary
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Edlesborough



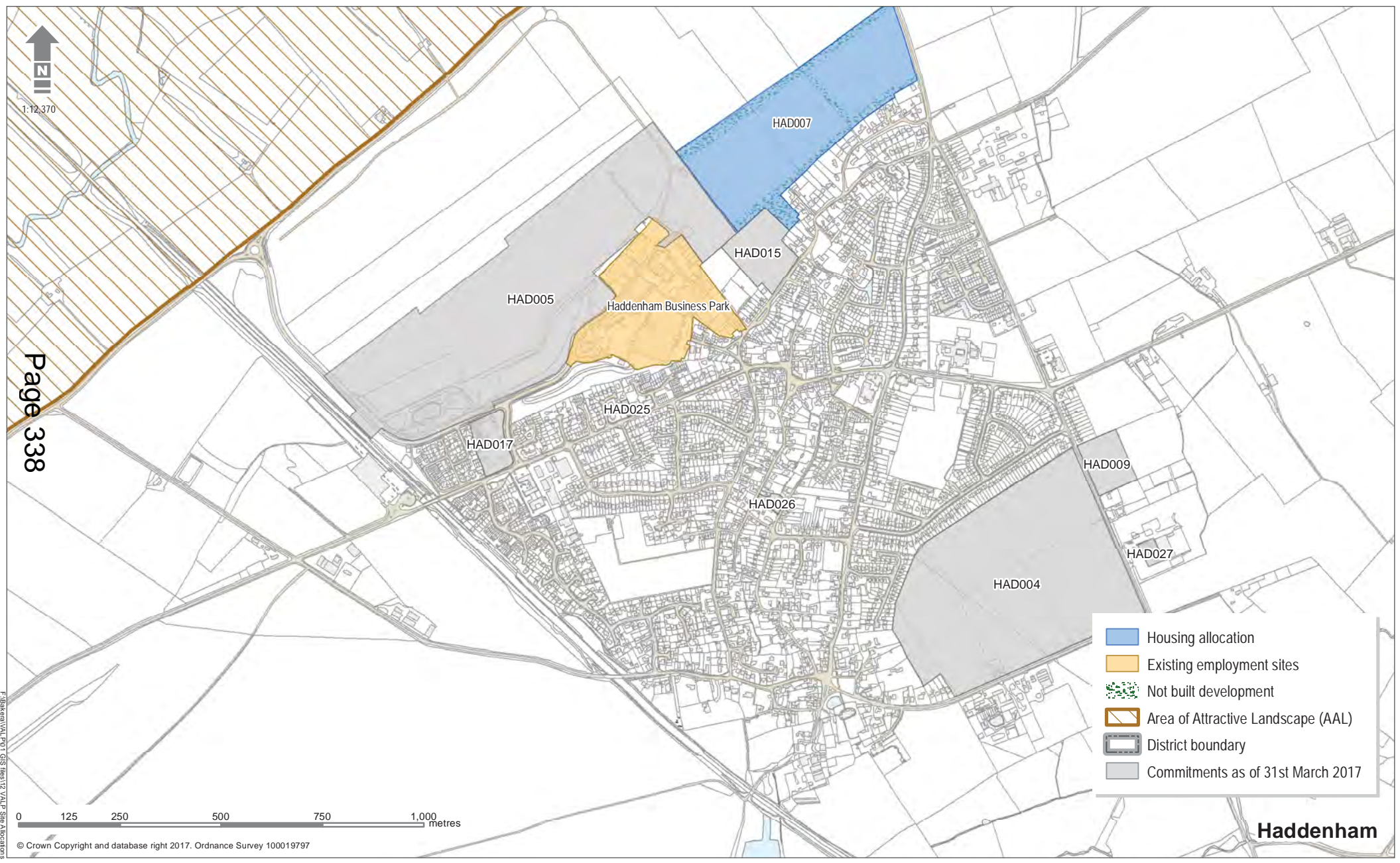
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Haddenham



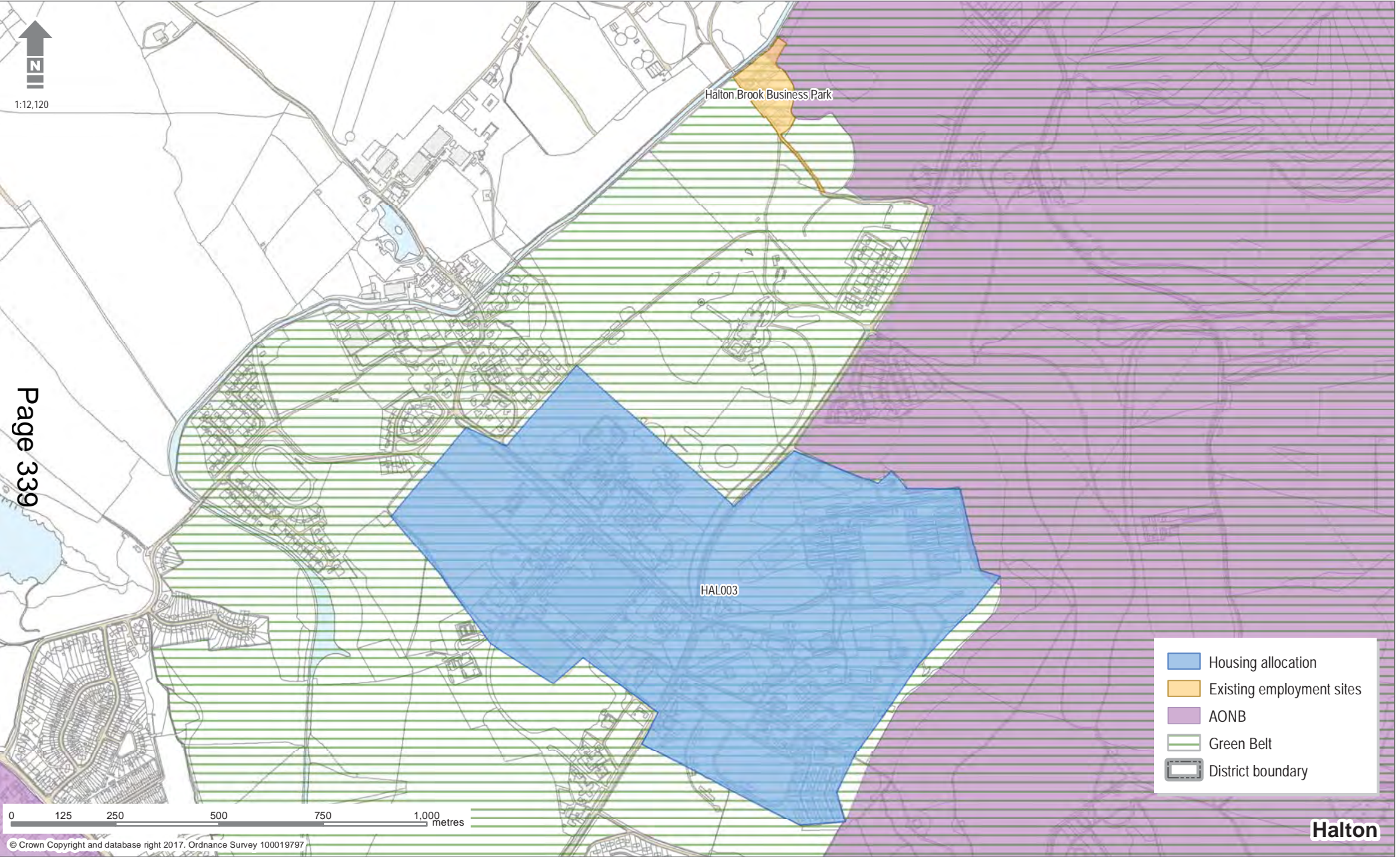
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- Housing allocation
- Existing employment sites
- AONB
- Green Belt
- District boundary

Halton



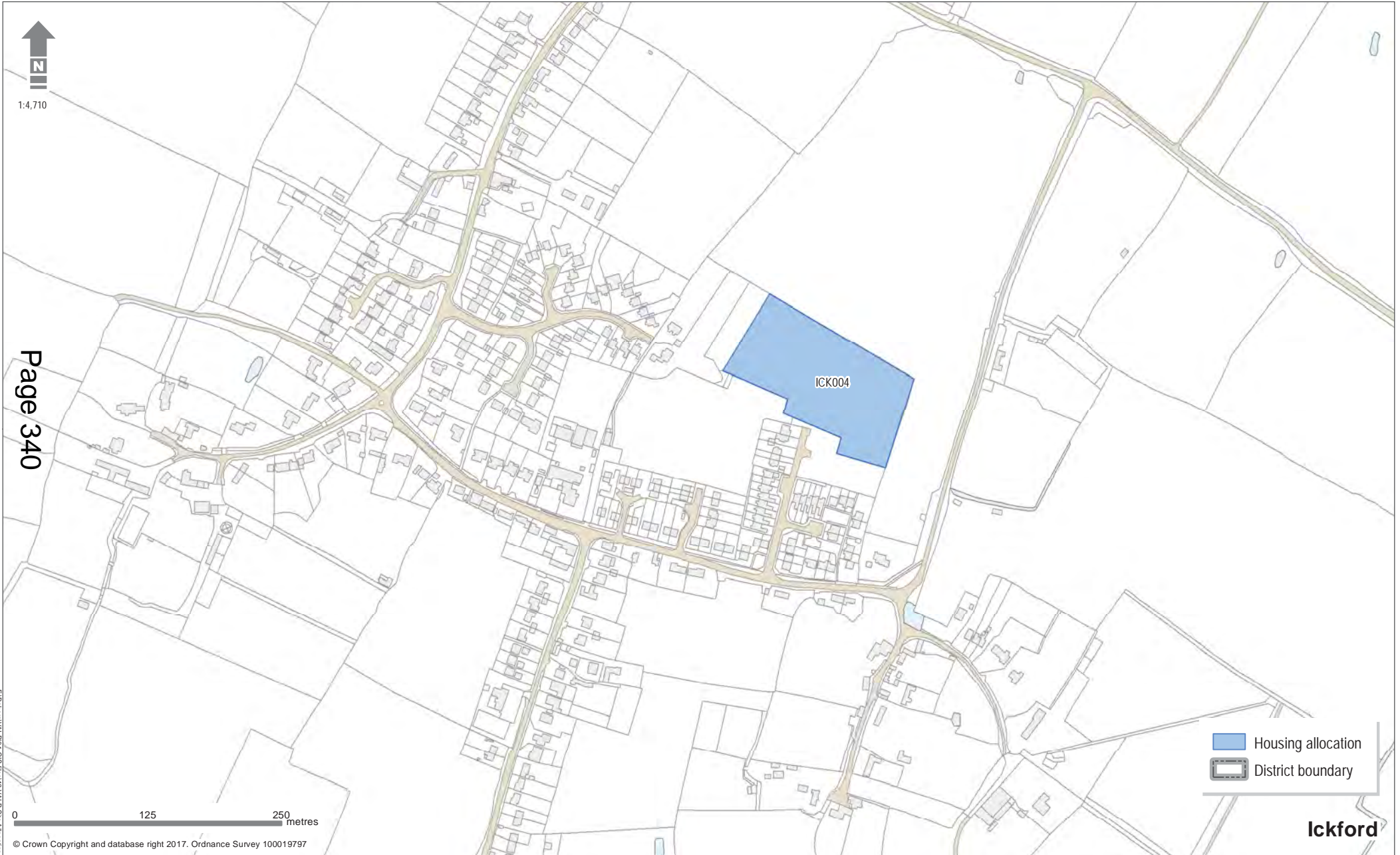
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

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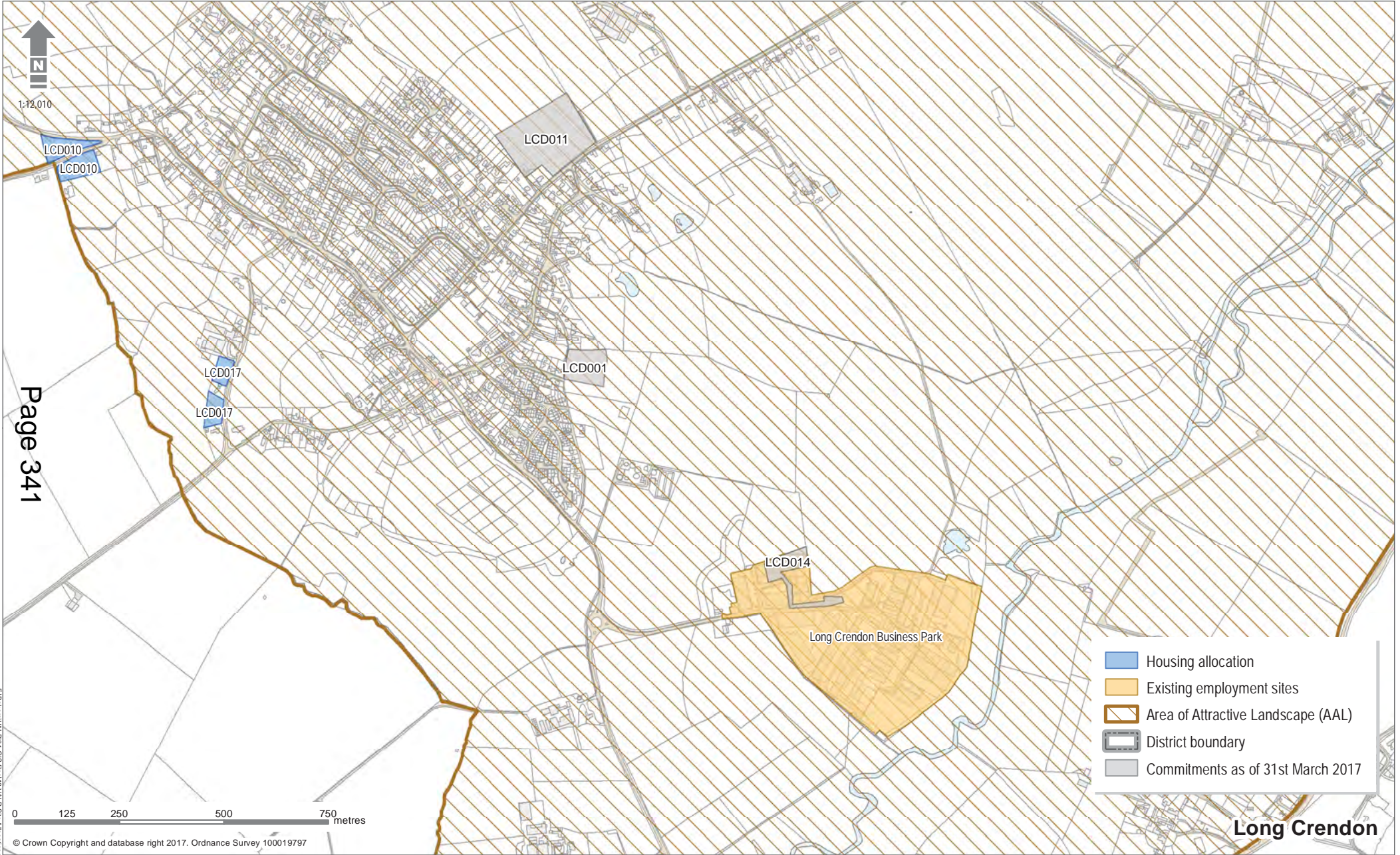
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-  Housing allocation
-  District boundary

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- Housing allocation
- Existing employment sites
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- District boundary
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Long Crendon

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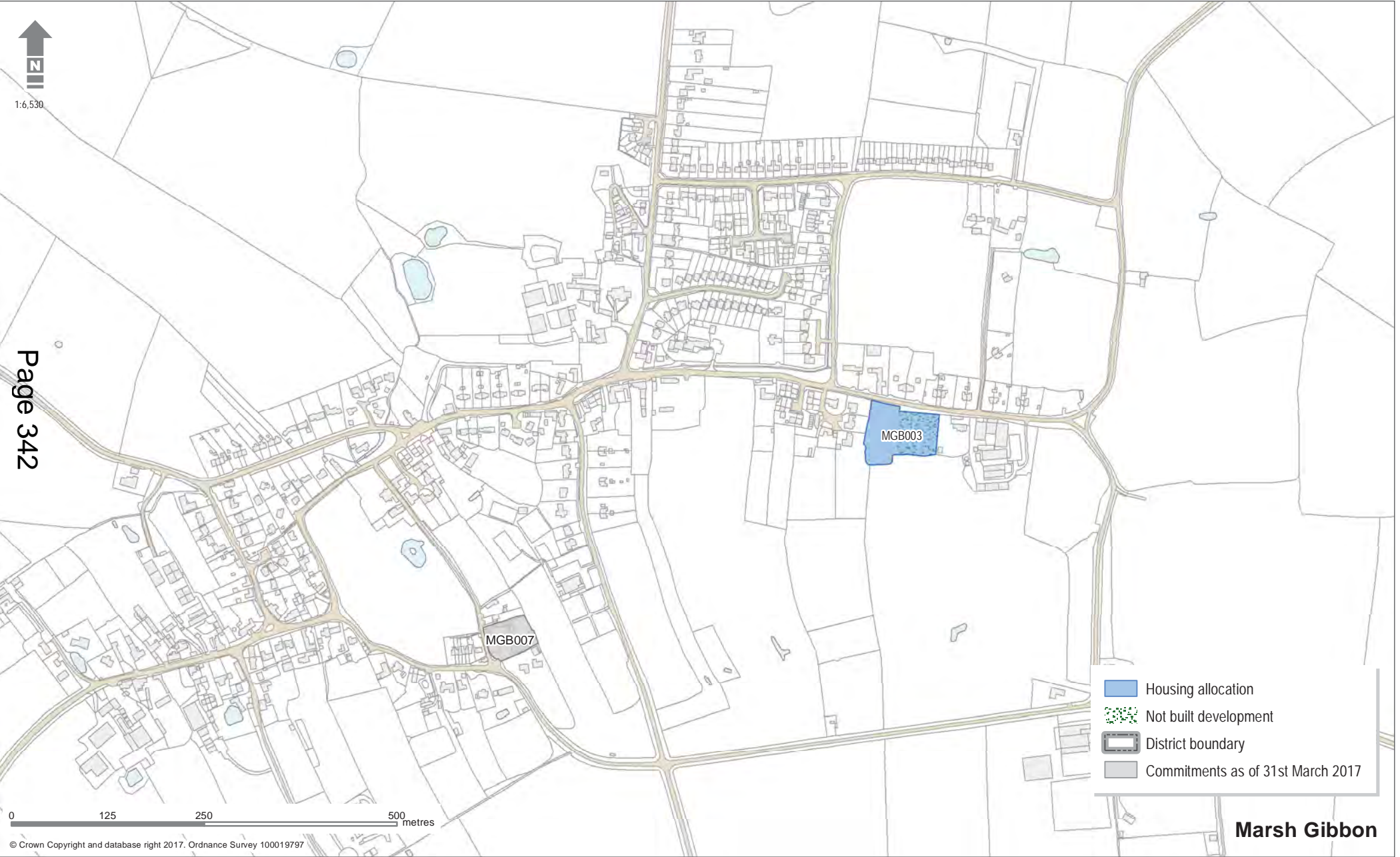
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
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-  Housing allocation
-  Not built development
-  District boundary
-  Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Marsh Gibbon



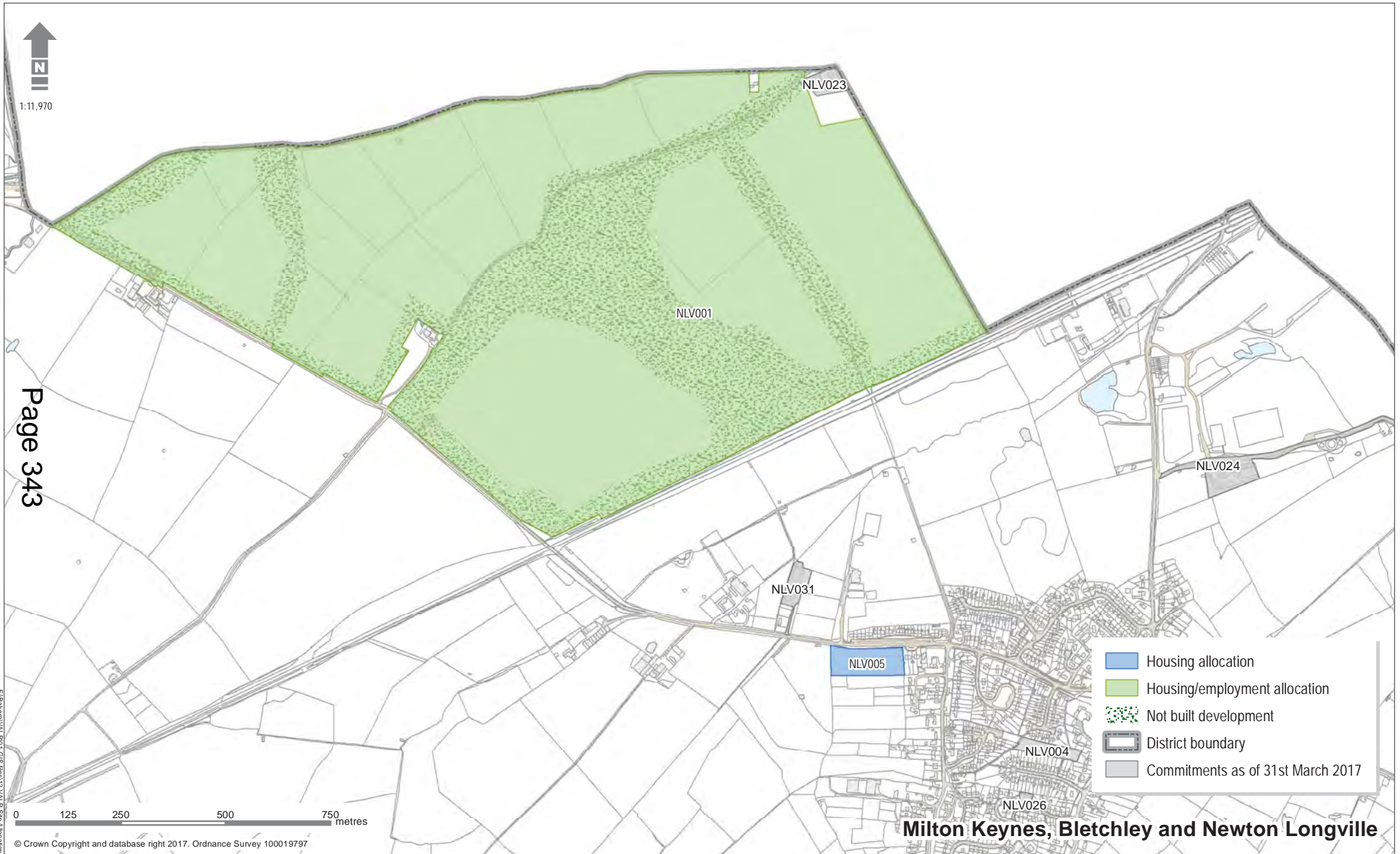
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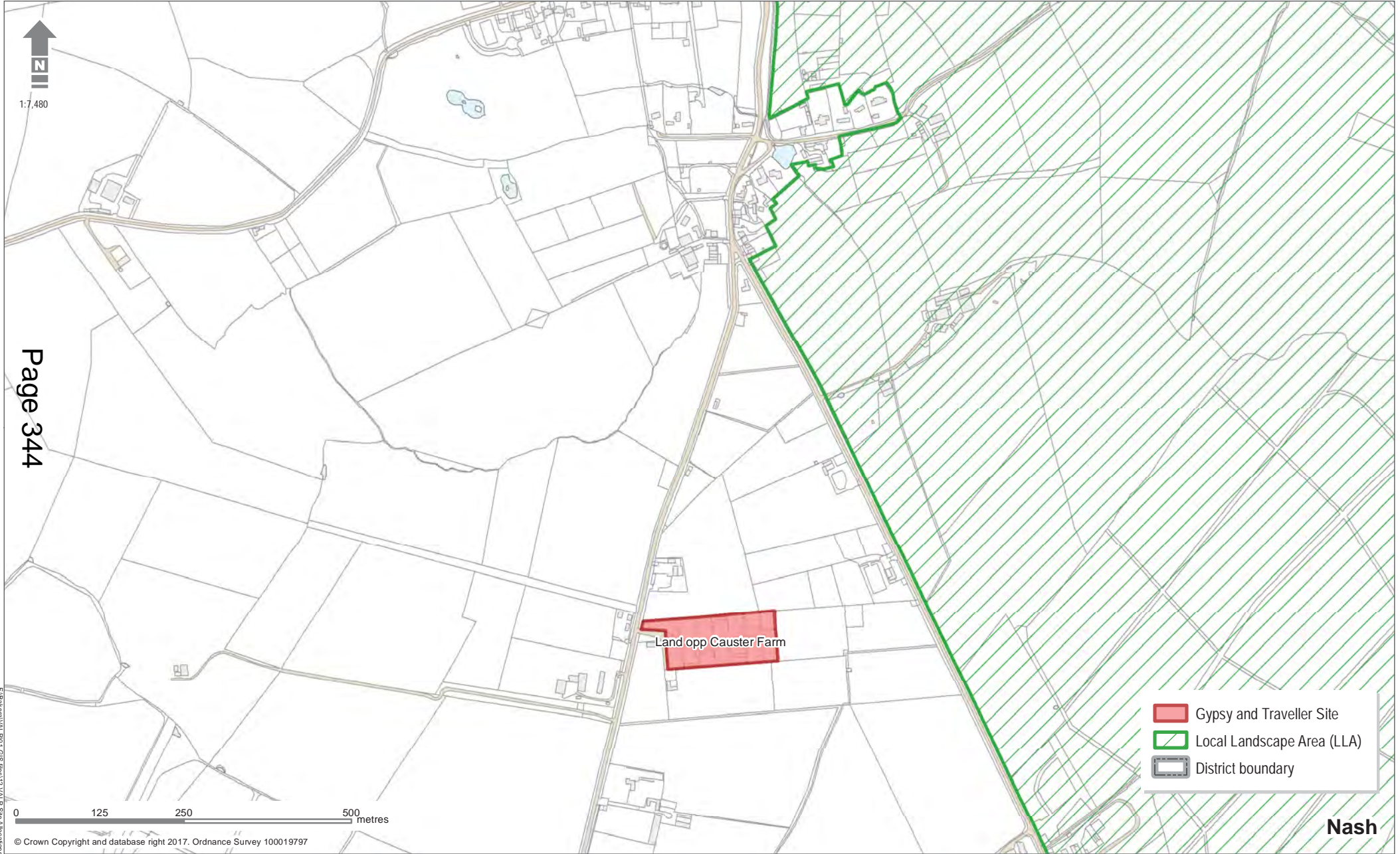
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Land opp Causter Farm

-  Gypsy and Traveller Site
-  Local Landscape Area (LLA)
-  District boundary

Nash



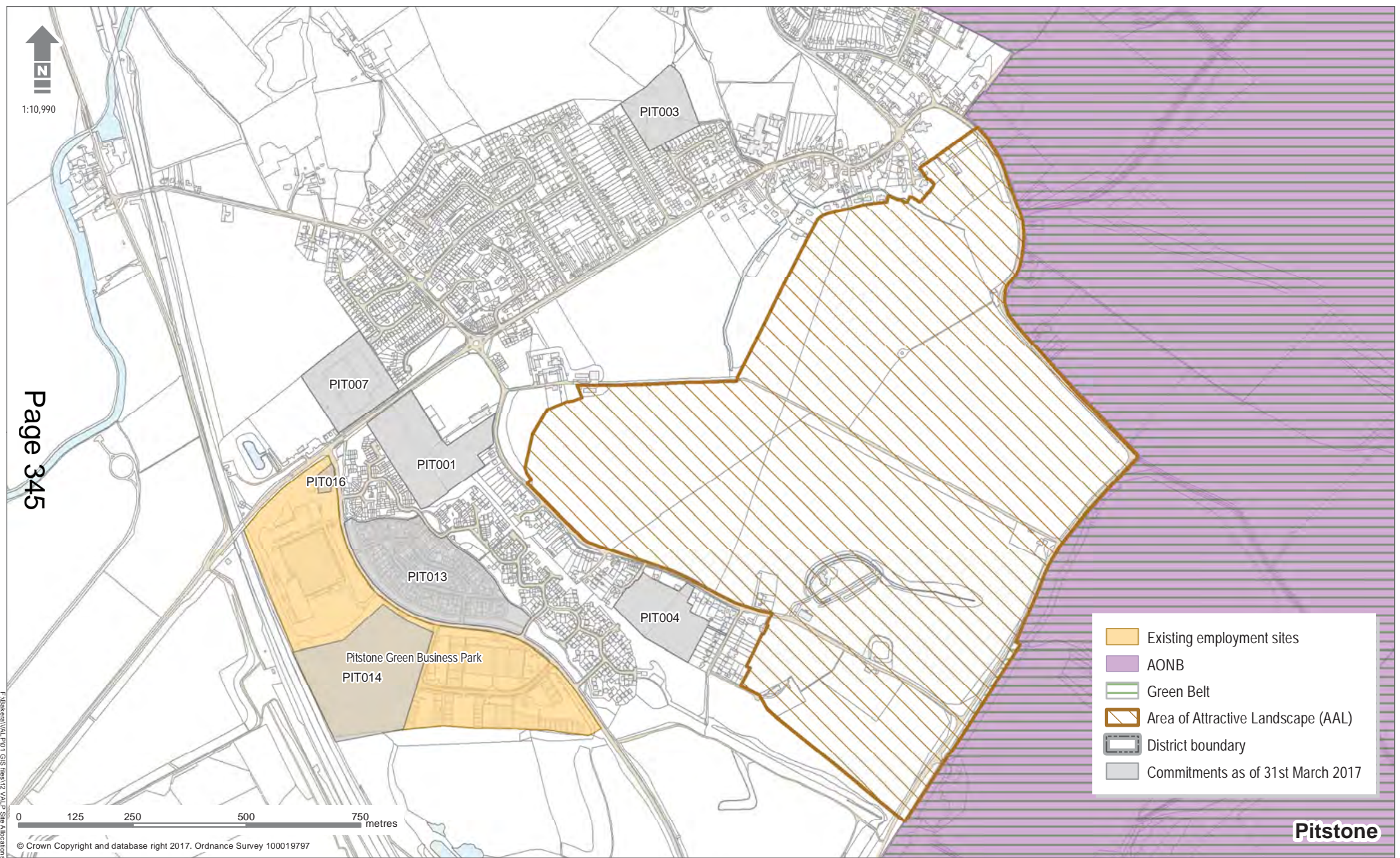
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- Existing employment sites
- AONB
- Green Belt
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- District boundary
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Pitstone



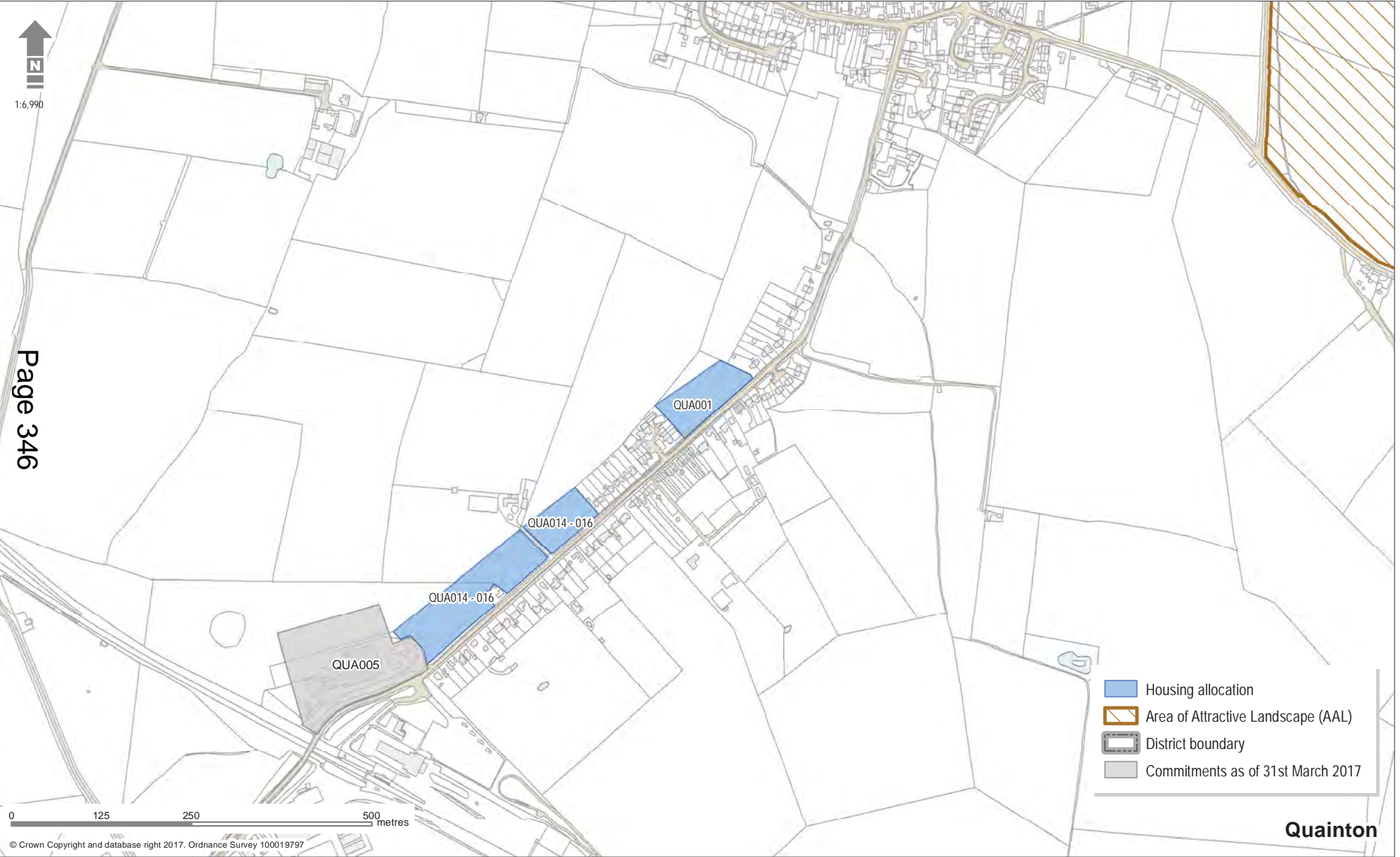
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
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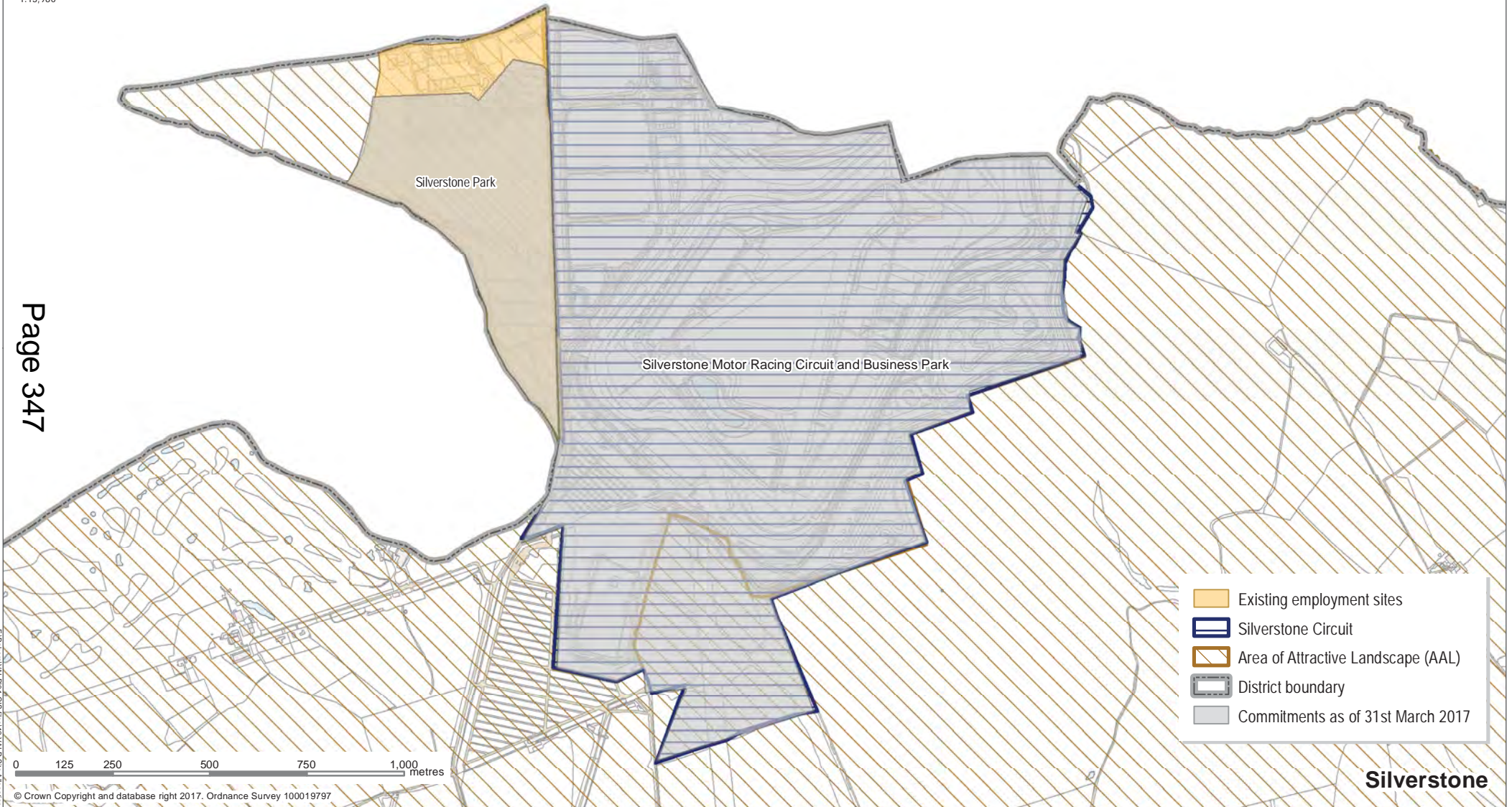
-  Housing allocation
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
-  District boundary
-  Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Quinton



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- Existing employment sites
- Silverstone Circuit
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- District boundary
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

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Silverstone

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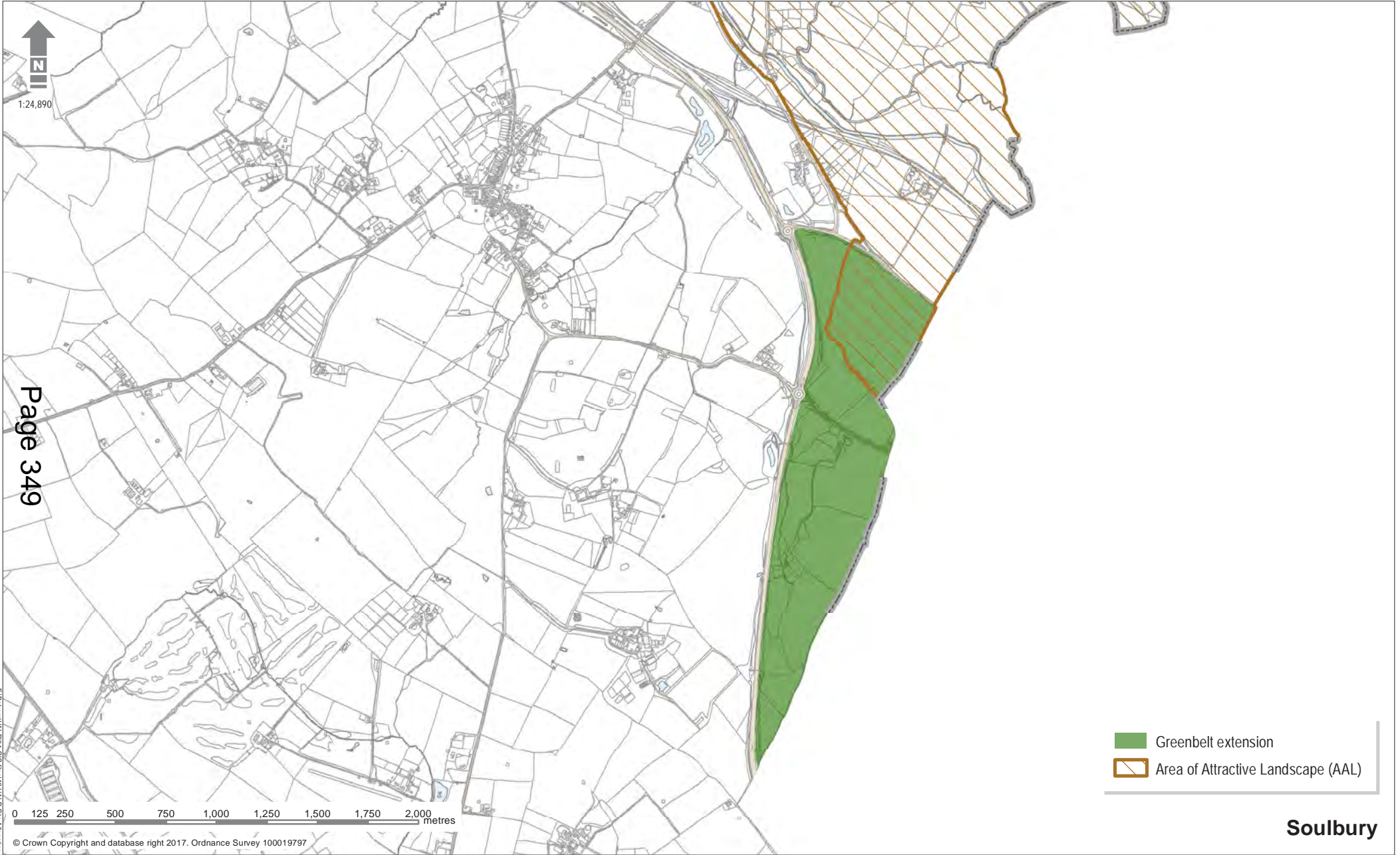
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Willows Park

 Gypsy and Traveller Site

Slapton





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-  Greenbelt extension
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)

Soulbury

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
Page 350

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0 125 250 500 metres

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-  Housing allocation
-  Not built development
-  Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Steeple Claydon



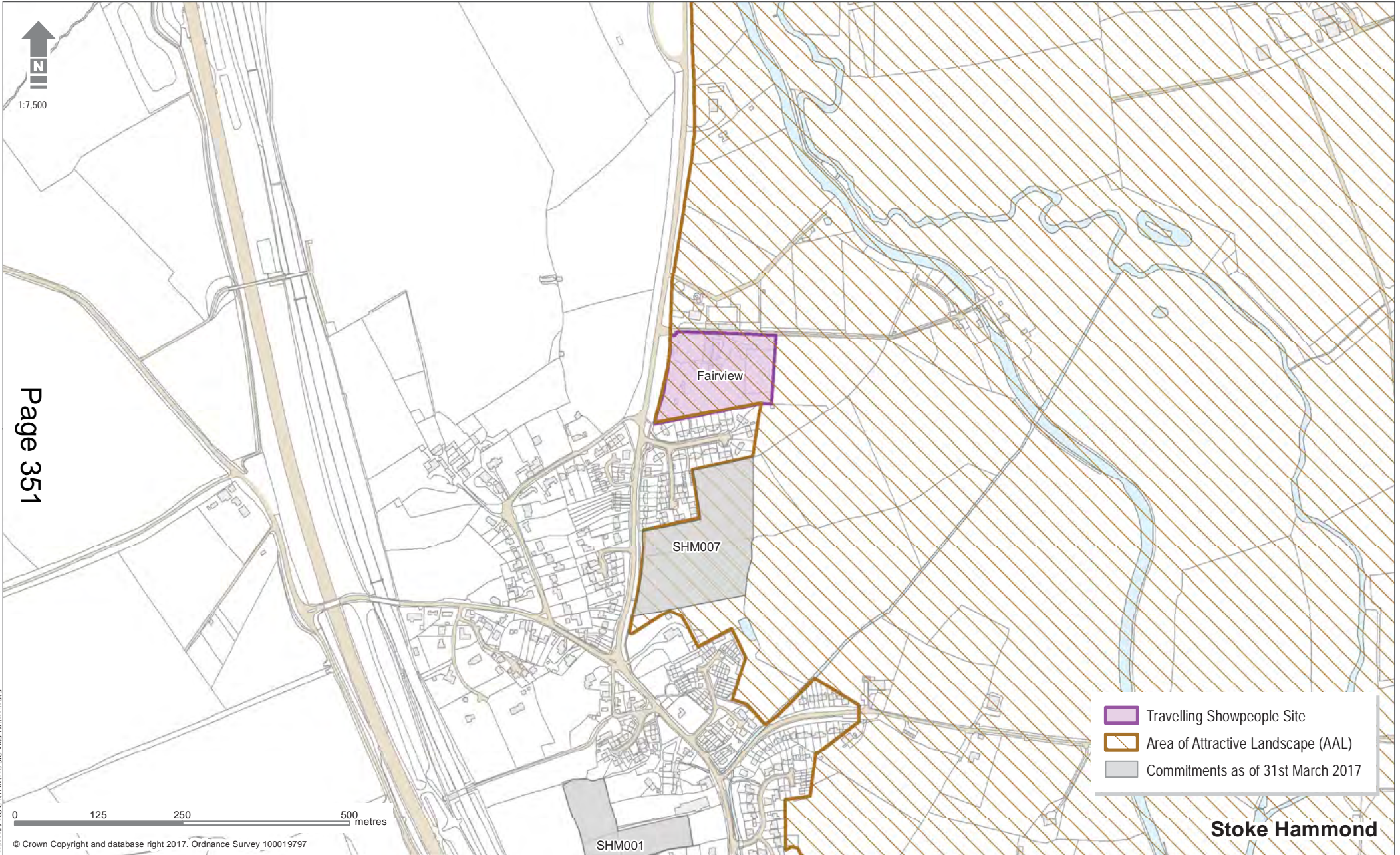
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
Page 351

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-  Travelling Showpeople Site
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
-  Commitments as of 31st March 2017

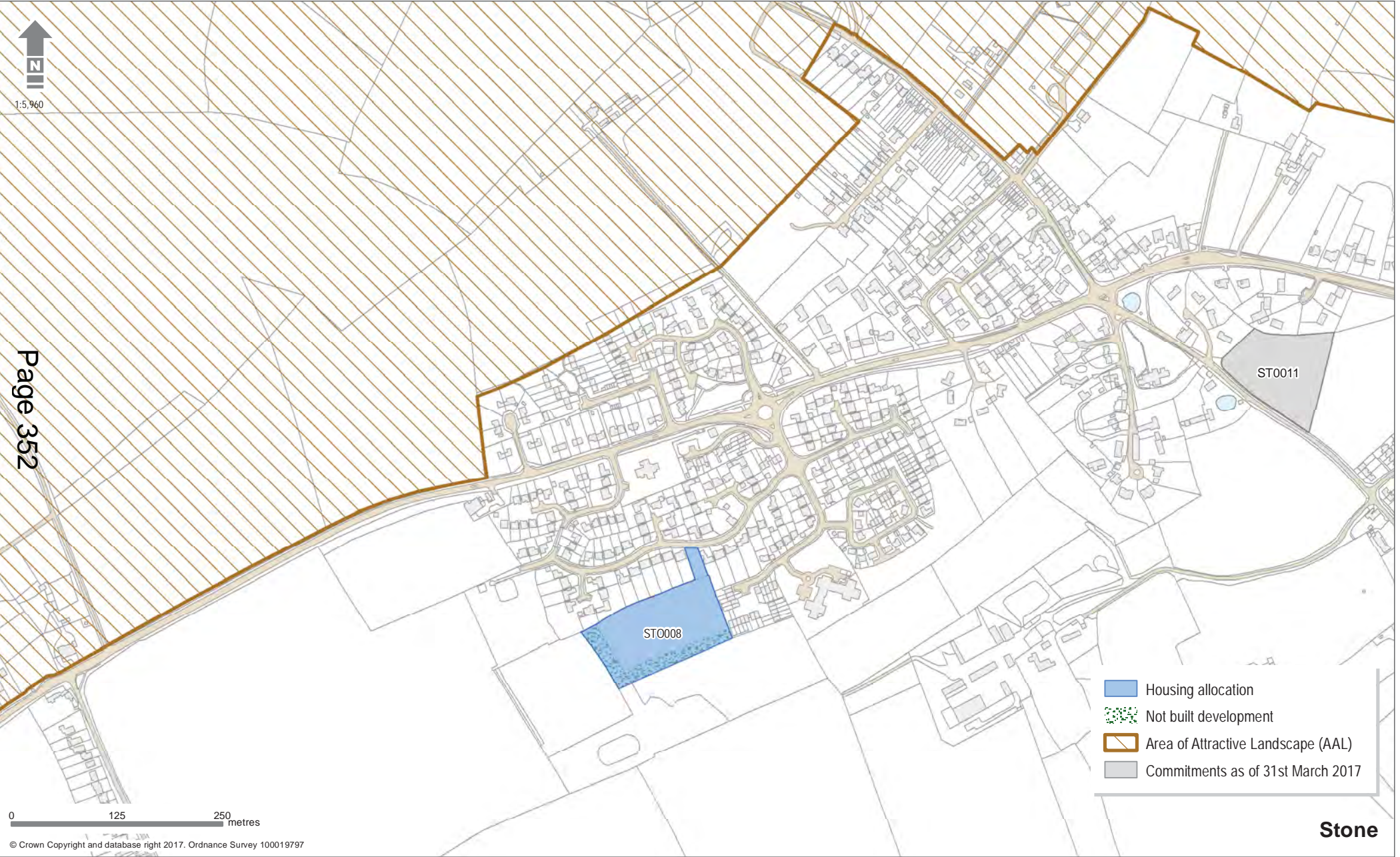
Stoke Hammond



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Page 352

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- Housing allocation
- Not built development
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Stone



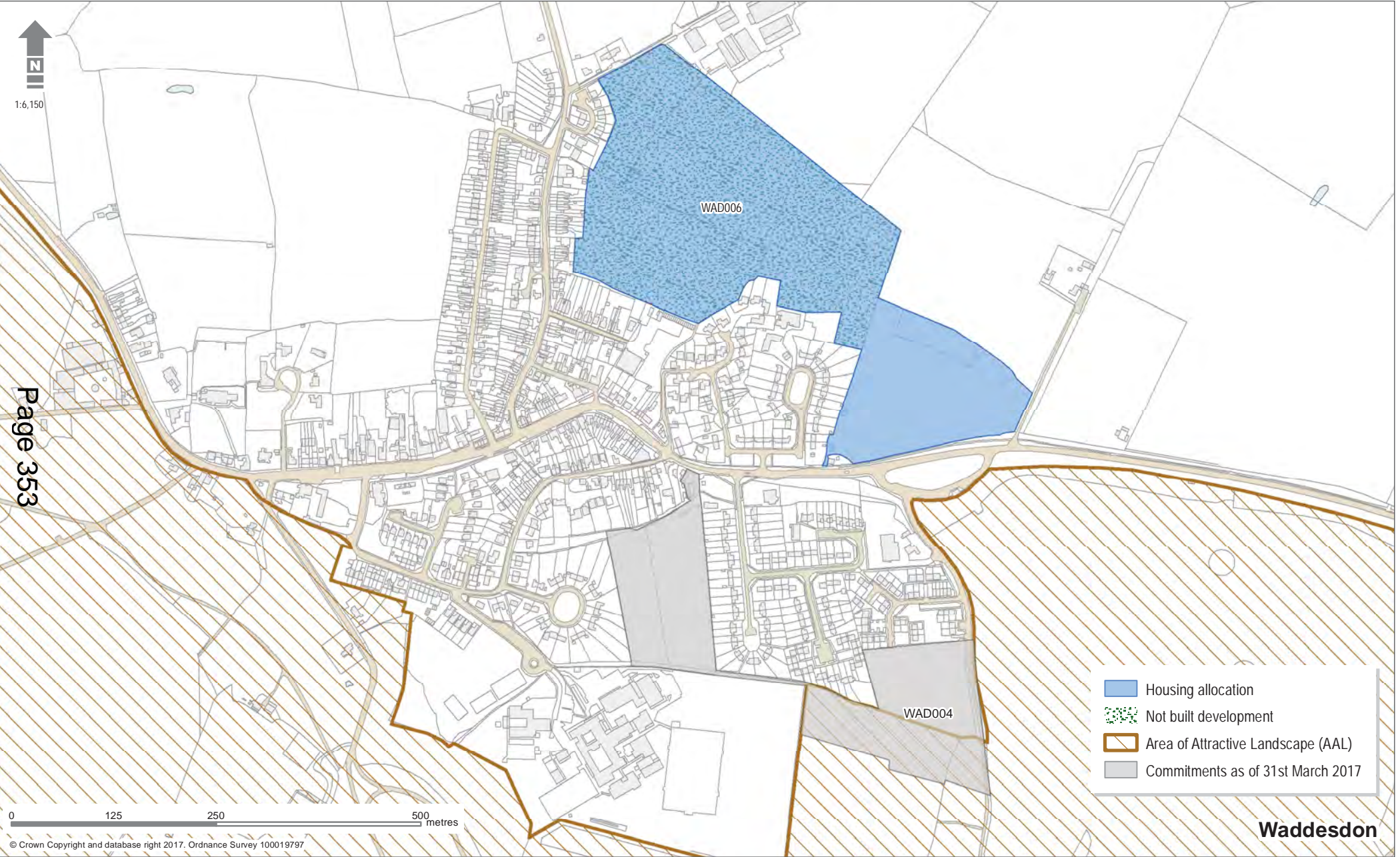
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Page 353



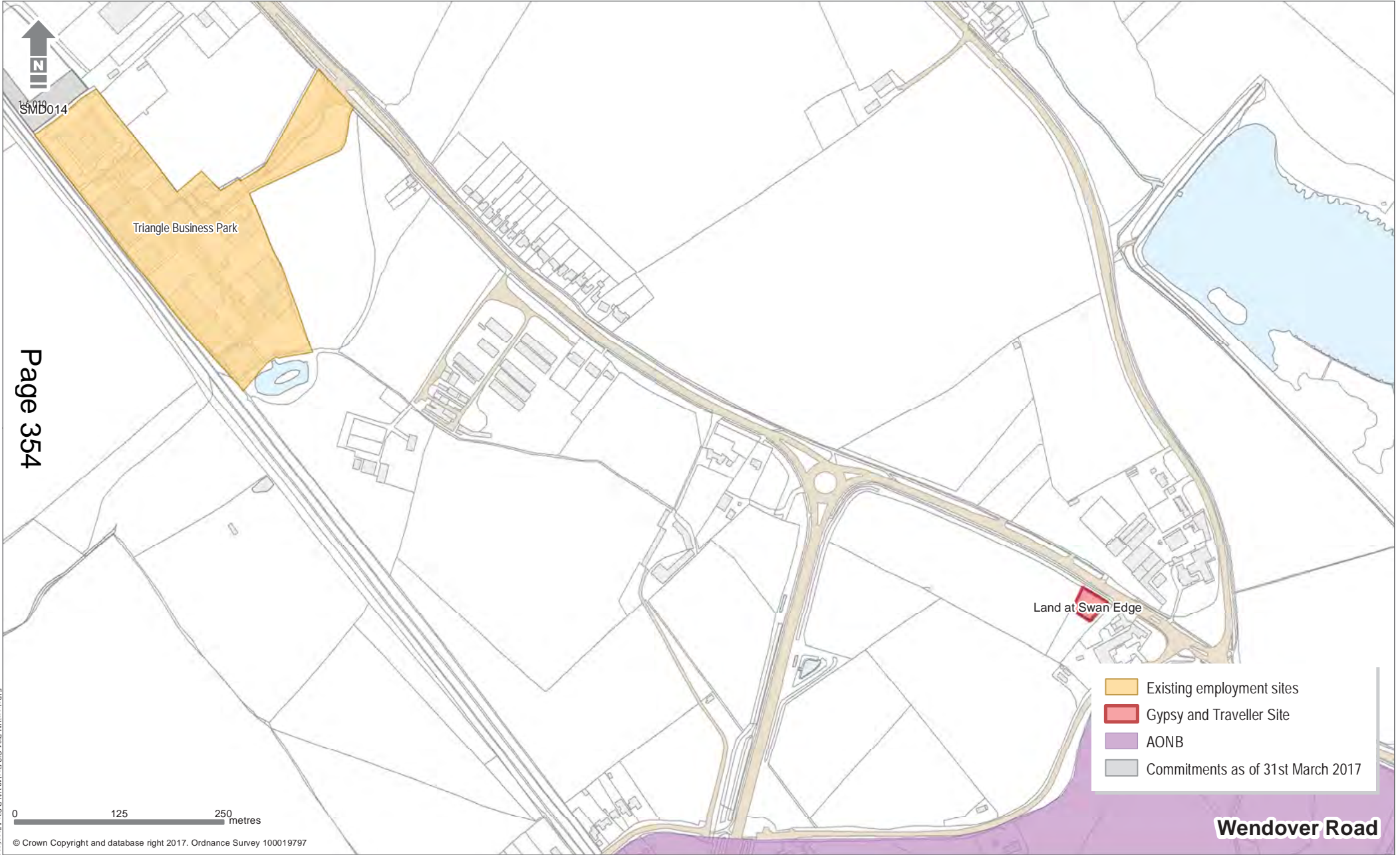
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- Housing allocation
- Not built development
- Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Waddesdon



SMB014

Triangle Business Park

Land at Swan Edge

- Existing employment sites
- Gypsy and Traveller Site
- AONB
- Commitments as of 31st March 2017

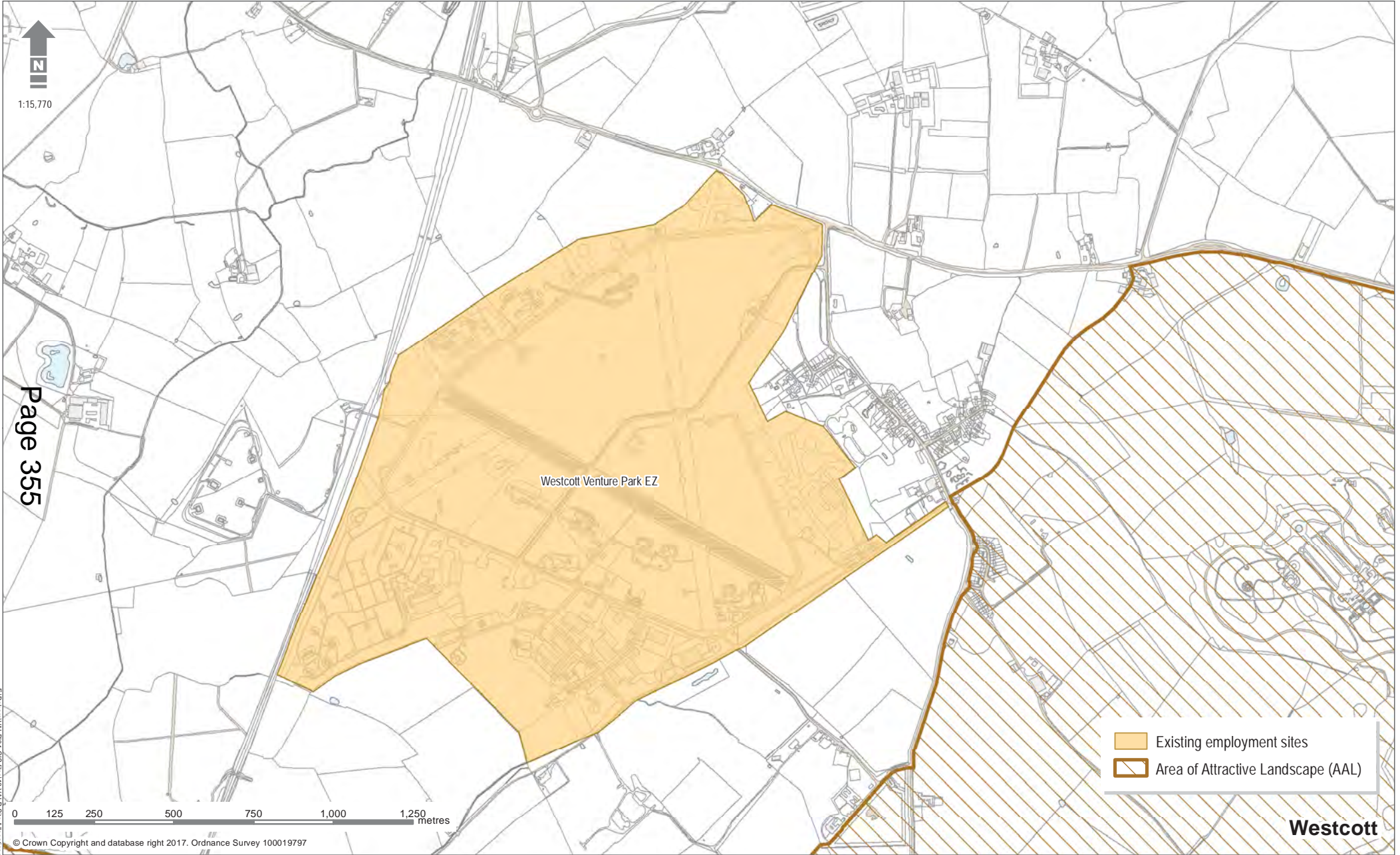
Page 354

0 125 250 metres

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Wendover Road



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Westcott Venture Park EZ

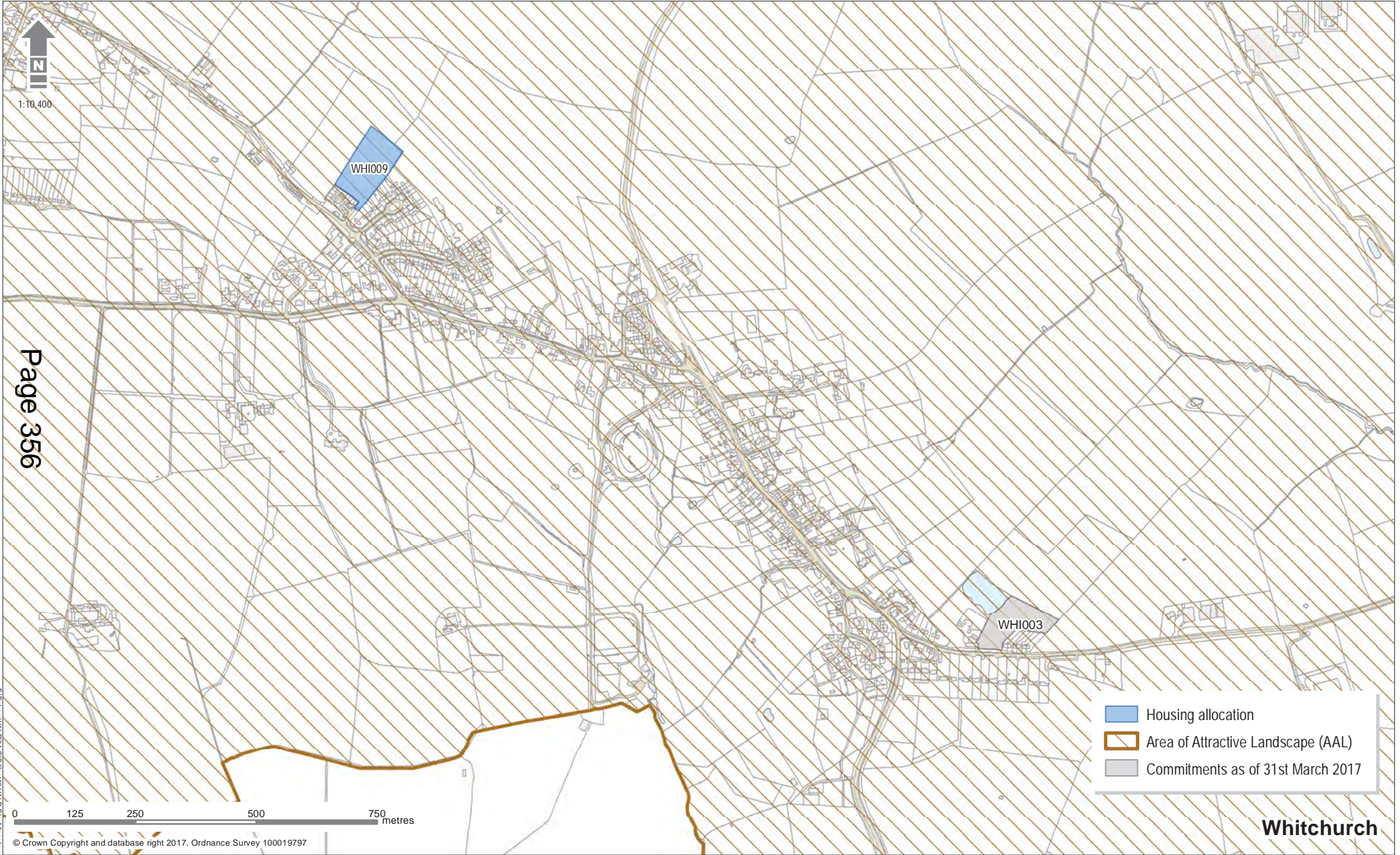
-  Existing employment sites
-  Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL)

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 1,250 metres

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Westcott

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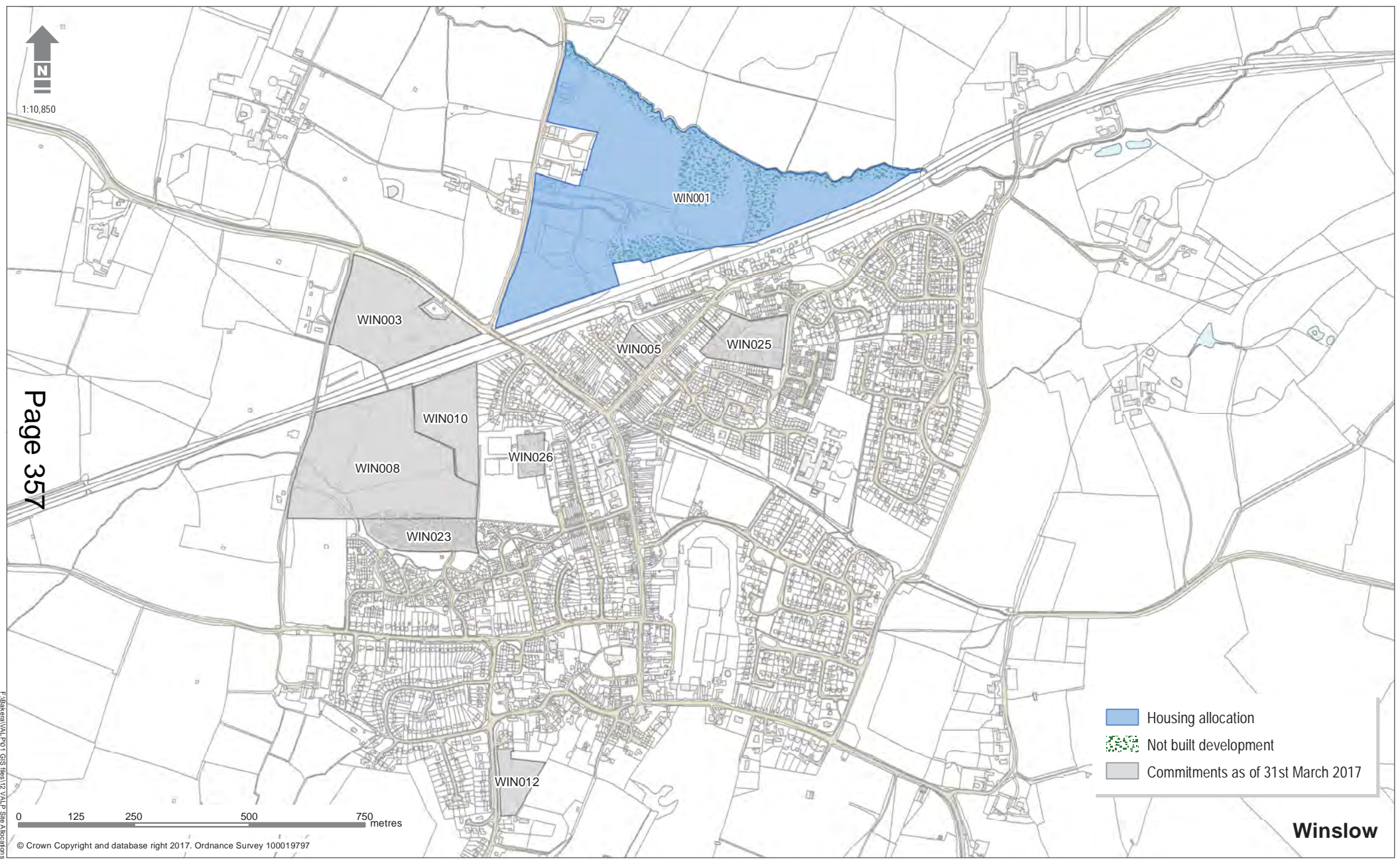
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
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-  Housing allocation
-  Not built development
-  Commitments as of 31st March 2017

Winslow



Forward Plans

Aylesbury Vale District Council

The Gateway Gatehouse Road Aylesbury HP19 8FF

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/valp

localplanconsult@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Memorandum of Understanding between Aylesbury Vale District Council, Wycombe District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (July 2017)

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Aylesbury Vale District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, Wycombe District Council, and the Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) are committed to working together under the Duty to Co-operate (DtC) to ensure that the growth needs of Buckinghamshire are appropriately considered within the wider sub-regional context, against the relevant provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), whilst taking account of any other material considerations so that the County's development needs are planned for in the most sustainable ways. To ensure that the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) (as amended) and the NPPF relating to the DtC are met the Councils and BTVLEP have entered into this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to ensure that there will be the "continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation" referred to at paragraph 181 of the NPPF. The Buckinghamshire district councils will also be engaging with their other respective DtC organisations as each council considers necessary having where relevant regard to joint engagement and information sharing.
- 1.2 The areas for cooperative working are set out below in discrete topic areas. For each topic area the relevant areas of work are set out with a description of the process which will or has been undertaken together with the timings for the completion of the work and the role of other organisations. It also sets out matters where there has been agreement. This document will operate as a 'living' document being updated and revised as necessary to ensure that all areas of cooperation are reflected in it. Any amendments to the MoU will require the agreement of all participants.

2. Issues for Cooperation

This section sets out issues where cooperation is or has taken place and where agreement has been reached.

2.1 Housing

(a) Housing Market Area (HMA) - This work has been completed and subsequently revised as a jointly commissioned study for all of the Buckinghamshire councils, it concluded that the 'best fit' for a Bucks HMA is to include all of the four district councils which are the subject of this MoU. This is based on there being a joint Plan for Chiltern and South Bucks Districts. The completed study forms part of the evidence base for all three district level Local Plans and is available on the Councils' websites.

Agreement — It is agreed that the 'best fit' Housing Market Area based on plan areas consists of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe Districts.

(b) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) - a jointly commissioned Bucks HEDNA has been undertaken to establish housing and employment need within the 'best fit' HMA and an updated HEDNA was published in December 2016. An Addendum was then prepared in June 2017 (see below for details as to what this covered) The results of this work is being utilised as the housing and employment need evidence to

inform the production of the Local Plans for each Council and to assist in the co-operation with other neighbouring authorities.

Agreement – based on the December 2016 Bucks HEDNA update and the Bucks HEDNA Addendum June 2017, the following objectively assessed housing need figures for the 4 District Council areas and for the Buckinghamshire Housing Market Area for the respective plan periods up to 2033 are agreed as:

Authority	Objectively Assessed Housing Need
Aylesbury Vale (2013-33)	19,400
Chiltern and South Bucks (2014-33)	12,900
Wycombe (2013-33)	13,200
Bucks HMA	45,500

(c) Housing distribution — Each Council has undertaken a Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), in accordance with the agreed HELAA methodology for the four district councils (agreed and published May 2015). The Councils have acted as critical friends to each other to ensure that the methodology is applied in a uniform manner. The Councils have agreed the housing distribution of each District to assist in determining whether housing needs can be met within an individual district or not.

Agreement – June 2017

Authority	Housing Distribution
Aylesbury Vale (2013-33)	27,400
Chiltern and South Bucks (2014-33)	7,175
Wycombe (2013-33)	10,925
Bucks HMA	45,500

(d) Unmet housing needs - The Councils agreed that that the housing need within the HMA would first fall to be met within each plan area based on the needs of each individual plan area, but if that was proven to be impossible then the resultant need would be met elsewhere within the 'best fit' HMA where it was reasonable to do so and was consistent with achieving sustainable development. Only if needs could not be met fully within the 'best fit' HMA would consideration then be given to needs being met outside of the HMA with authorities that have the next strongest functional links. Through the capacity work referred to above it was shown that the housing need for Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe districts would exceed their capacity. The resultant unmet need then needed to be met where possible in the relatively unconstrained part of the HMA lying outside the Green Belt and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The determination of the level of unmet need was then determined through discussions between the relevant councils.

Agreement - That the following levels of unmet housing need within respective local plan periods up to 2033 will be accommodated in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan:

Authority	Unmet Housing Need
Chiltern and South Bucks (2014-33)	5,725
Wycombe (2013-33)	2,275
Total to be included in Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan	8,000

(e) Affordable housing - The Councils agreed that the affordable housing need within the HMA would first fall to be met within each corresponding plan area, subject to land availability. The VALP in delivering the unmet housing needs from other parts of the Bucks HMA will be securing a proportion of affordable housing in line with affordable housing policies in the VALP. It is further agreed that the level of affordable housing expected to be secured as part of the overall unmet housing need should contribute to meeting the relevant affordable housing needs of Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks, and that Aylesbury Vale District Council, working with Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks district councils, will enter into joint working arrangements that will aim to allow residents to have access to an appropriate element of affordable housing to be provided within housing developments in Aylesbury Vale District.

2.2 Economy

(a) Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) - As part of the joint HMA study, referred to above, the Functional Economic Market Area (FEMA) has also been established and it is agreed that the 'best fit for the FEMA based on plan areas is to include all of the four district councils which are the subject of this MoU. The completed study forms part of the evidence base for all three district level Local Plans and is available on the Councils' websites.

Agreement – It is agreed that the 'best fit' Functional Economic Market Area consists of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe Districts.

(b) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) - The economic needs for the FEMA and each Council's area has been established through the jointly commissioned Bucks HEDNA referred to above and this is being utilised to inform the production of the Local Plans for each Council. The December 2016 HEDNA update provides the latest assessment. The HEDNA has been supplemented by a jointly commissioned Addendum, bringing together consideration in more detail the local market circumstances relating to commercial development through the auspices of the Bucks Thames Valley LEP, and other considerations. The Addendum identifies that there is a mismatch between approaches to assessing economic needs based on demand and labour supply forecasts, and those based on market considerations and past take up, including differing conclusions on the need for different "B" use classes. This creates uncertainties in planning ahead.

The district councils have worked together on assessing the supply of employment floorspace and land across the FEMA, and this has been considered in the HEDNA Addendum including the broad balance between supply and demand led forecasts. Overall it concludes that, against demand led forecasts:

- There is a shortfall of land and floorspace in Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks districts and a surplus in Aylesbury Vale District;
- There is a mismatch of supply forecasts in terms of use class.

- There is sufficient land in the FEMA to meet overall forecast needs and that this is sufficient to cater for adjustments in growth sectors going forward.

Based on the HEDNA Addendum the councils and the Bucks Thames Valley LEP agree that:

- Plans should reflect the uncertainties in relation to future economic growth by adopting a precautionary and flexible approach to economic development, including ensuring allocations are flexible to adjust to changes in the market;
- Councils should monitor economic activity and market trends, and address any implications in reviews of local plans as necessary and;
- The overall approach across the FEMA broadly delivers sufficient land for economic growth taking into account a range of factors including an element of redistribution of growth from the three southern districts into Aylesbury Vale to take account of their shortfalls due to their constrained nature.

(c) The district councils will undertake retail studies to determine the need for retail development within their areas. The councils will consult with regard to the content of the studies in relation to their local plans at each consultation stage. It is recognised however that the nature of retail development is such that it cannot be 'exported' to a neighbouring authority because retail catchments are generally on a smaller geographical scale to housing and the needs for B class employment.

2.3 Green Belt

As part of ensuring that all reasonable options have been explored to meet housing and economic needs in the preparation of the Council's Local Plans it was agreed between the Councils that an assessment of the Green Belt be undertaken. A jointly commissioned Buckinghamshire Green Belt Assessment (the Part 1 assessment) was therefore undertaken on the basis of an agreed methodology to examine the degree to which each District's designated Green Belt meets Green Belt purposes. In addition the Green Belt Assessments Part 2 undertaken by the constituent district councils have identified potential Green Belt sites that could be considered for development.

Agreement

1. The methodology and outcomes of the Green Belt Part 1 work are agreed.
2. That all the parcels/sub parcels of land recommended in the Part 1 assessment for further consideration be assessed in the Green Belt Part 2 assessments as well as other options that each council considers to be appropriate for their respective plan areas.

2.4 Gypsies and Travellers

A Bucks Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Needs Assessment was published in August 2013 for the four districts in Buckinghamshire and this was updated in October 2014. Following the publication of new Government Planning Policy for Travellers an updated assessment (the 2017 update) was undertaken to provide the basis for the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches (including travelling show people) in the three Local Plan areas of the Bucks.

Agreement

1. That the authorities agree the assessment of the need for gypsy and traveller accommodation (including travelling showpeople) as set out in the 2017 update report.
2. No authority in Bucks is asking another Bucks authority to meet any of their gypsy and traveller (including travelling showpeople) needs.

2.5 Transport

The cross boundary impacts of development on transport infrastructure have been assessed on an agreed basis jointly with the County Council. This has been undertaken in conjunction with strategic and plan based traffic modelling of the impact of proposed allocations on the road networks within each Council's area and across the county as a whole with the assistance of the County Council using an agreed joint assessment methodology. Where appropriate joint commissioning of transport modelling including utilising the county- wide transport model has been undertaken to assess strategic growth proposals, or growth proposals straddling or close to district boundaries.

2.6 Infrastructure

The District Councils have cooperated with each other and cooperated with infrastructure providers, which has particularly involved the County Council, to assess the impacts of proposed development on infrastructure across the HMA/FEMA and identify appropriate new infrastructure requirements to address deficiencies for inclusion in infrastructure delivery plans. The Councils have also worked with the Local Enterprise Partnerships to assist in the planning and delivery of infrastructure.

2.7 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment

Each authority has prepared/is preparing its own Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment for their plan area. Any under-provision against objectively assessed needs has been assessed in that authority's sustainability appraisal. Similarly any additional provision to meet unmet needs has been assessed by the authority accommodating the unmet need.

2.8 Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Studies

Each authority has undertaken their own flood risk assessments and water cycle studies (where necessary) or other specific studies related to water infrastructure, and have shared the outcomes of the work as appropriate. Where cross border issues have been identified the authorities have worked together to resolve these.

3. Wider Cooperation

- 3.1 Outside of the joint working set out above the Councils and BTVLEP agreed that as a minimum they would consult each other at an early stage on relevant study methodologies with a view to agreeing a methodology and then consult each other on the draft study prior to publication. Wider cooperation has also involved collective engagement over strategic issues including London growth, East West Rail, HS2 and Heathrow expansion. The Councils also

agree to work cooperatively regarding issues of deliverability to ensure delivery of new housing and to share monitoring data on housing delivery at least annually to ensure up to date information is available across the 'best fit' Housing Market Area.

4. The Agreement

- 4.1 This is not a legally binding document but is an agreement and working understanding through which authorities are agreeing approaches for working together on shared planning principles and approaches to issues joint evidence and the content of respective local plans where relevant. The content will be kept under review and may be modified by agreement to take account of any relevant changes in circumstances. The following authorities agree to the above.

Signed



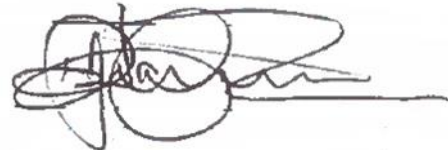
Councillor Carole Paternoster
Cabinet Member for Growth and Strategy,
Aylesbury Vale District Council



Councillor Peter Martin
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development
Chiltern District Council



Councillor David Johncock
Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability
Wycombe District Council



Councillor Nick Naylor
Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development
South Bucks District Council



Andrew Smith, Chairman,
Bucks Thames Valley Local
Enterprise Partnership

Date: 13th July 2017

Cabinet
10 October 2017

SILVERSTONE PARK ENTERPRISE ZONE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING
Councillor N Blake
Leader of the Council

1 Purpose

- 1.1 In May 2016 Cabinet formally agreed to the creation of 3 Enterprise Zones (EZs) within the Vale as part of a group, comprising the County Council, Bucks LEP and the Landowners. Collectively these sites are referred to as the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone (AVEZ).
- 1.2 As part of this arrangement, and because the Council is the Collection Authority for Business Rates, it was agreed that Aylesbury Vale District Council would be the Accountable Body for the AVEZ.
- 1.3 A founding principle of Enterprise Zones is that the Government allows Business Rates retention from new development so that the income generated is invested in infrastructure to facilitate future EZ development in accordance with agreed investment strategies. Each of the AVEZ Sites has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed with landowner that sets out each site's investment strategy, including priorities for investment of retained business rates.
- 1.4 As the Accountable Body, any borrowing requirement necessary to forward fund infrastructure needs fall to this Council to fund.
- 1.5 This report considers the first request for infrastructure funding from Silverstone Park Enterprise Zone as approved by the Board of the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone at its meeting on 14 September 2017.

2 Recommendations

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Cabinet is advised to consider the request made by Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone towards capital funding to meet the advanced infrastructure requirements at Silverstone Park Enterprise Zone and;2.2 Recommend to Council the inclusions of £4,993,269 in the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy accordingly. |
|--|

3 Detailed Report

- 3.1 At Silverstone Park the MOU with MEPC (the land owner) specifies that infrastructure funds of £10m will be applied (funded jointly by MEPC and business rates retention) to support infrastructure in advance, such as power supply, utilities, groundworks, site roads and broadband.
- 3.2 To date MEPC have delivered a first phase of speculative development (12,164m²) in the Enterprise Zone and 'Tier 1' Infrastructure works (including a 21MVA upgrade to the High Voltage electricity distribution network, and gas and drainage infrastructure). MEPC's infrastructure investment priority is to deliver 'Tier 2' Infrastructure as listed in the table set out in 4.2 below to directly serve the EZ site.
- 3.3 Provision of the 'Tier 2' Infrastructure will accelerate the future provision of site specific services on future development phases ('Tier 3 Infrastructure'). It will enable MEPC to respond rapidly to future occupier requirements for premises across the whole of the remaining EZ site.

- 3.4 MEPC are committed to future development under the terms of the agreed MOU. The ability to move forward rapidly with the early delivery of development to meet potential occupiers' timescale requirements would be greatly assisted by the Tier 2 infrastructure. This would ultimately result in earlier delivery of additional rates income being secured for the EZ.
- 3.5 At the March 2017 meeting the EZ Board approved in principle MEPC's proposal (Annex 1) for EZ funding support for utilities infrastructure. The EZ Implementation Plan (as submitted to DCLG in March 2017) was also revised to take account of this proposal. This was revisited and finally agreed at the Board meeting on 14 September 2017.
- 3.6 Following the EZ Board meeting, Hewdon Consulting were appointed to appraise the Project. Hewdon's conclusions are summarised in Section 3 (Full Hewdon Report – Appendix 1 in confidential papers).

4 Investment Requirement

- 4.1 The 'Tier 2' Infrastructure Works will enable connection of future EZ development plots (accommodating up to 80,000m² employment floor space) to the main incoming utilities supplies. Details of the Tier 2 Infrastructure are shown on pages 6 – 9 of MEPC's application.
- 4.2 The details of investment requested are set out in the table below;

Item	Cost £
Sewer Infrastructure Works (page 6): Pumping Stations, Storage Tanks & sewers.	£1,651,878
HV Electrical Infrastructure Works (p7): Foul Drainage Sub Stations (4); EZ Industrial Unit Sub Stations (2); HV Cables	£1,412,568
Gas Infrastructure Works (p8): Gas Main from A43 to EZ site	£880,533
Telecom Infrastructure Works (p9): between POP at Innovation centre & EZ Site	£108,000
Total Infrastructure Works Costs	£4,052,979
Professional Fees / Surveys / Other Costs (12% on Works)	£486,357
Contingency (10% on Works & Fees)	£453,933
Total Cost	£4,993,269

The above costs are estimates based on supplier quotations, agreed Schedules of Rates and MEPC's QS estimates, allowances and contingencies.

- 4.3 It is anticipated that the funding will be required to be drawn down as:-
- 2017/18: £1.524m
 - 2018/19: £3.469m

5 Resources Implications

- 5.1 The funding required will need to be in the form of borrowing taken by Aylesbury Vale District Council as the Accountable Body.
- 5.2 The funding is not in the form of a loan to MEPC, but is instead a capital grant.

- 5.3 Interest and loan repayments will be funded from the existing Business Rates and the additional Business Rates to be generated by Silverstone Park Enterprise Zone, as a result of the infrastructure development works.
- 5.4 The loan is not secured on the investment and so the Council will need to accept the risk of non repayment.
- 5.5 In practice the net income generated by all three Enterprise Zones will be made available to service loan repayments and the resources will not be ring-fenced to individual Enterprise Zone sites. This will spread any risk associated with non repayment across all 3 Zones.
- 5.6 Further, an agreement is being sought amongst those Enterprise Zone members who benefit from any Enterprise Zone gains to underwrite any unfunded obligations which cannot be met from the net income available to the Enterprise Zones, should this unlikely situation arise.
- 5.7 In terms of hierarchy, Enterprise Zone income is directed in the first instance to the agreed running and staffing costs and then to fund loan obligations. Only once these obligations are met is any excess directed toward other investment projects.
- 5.8 The 3 Enterprise Zones are already delivering some retained Business Rates from units previously constructed and let by MEPC at Silverstone together with some existing units at Westcott. The income from these is almost sufficient to cover the budgeted running costs and the loan repayment, should this funding be approved.
- 5.9 It is therefore considered that the financial risk associated with this decision is very low.
- 5.10 The rate applicable will be pegged to a standard annuity PWLB loan over a term equivalent to the remaining length of the Enterprise Zone agreement. There is no lending return to the Council from this decision, but the Council will recover any administrative costs associated with the decision from the Enterprise Zone.
- 5.11 The funding is Capital expenditure for accounting purposes and a decision to approve this funding will need to be reflected in the Capital Programme and the Treasury Management Strategy.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Hewdon Consulting's Project Appraisal (June 2017) summarises the proposal as being for a £4.993m grant to MEPC for utilities to the Silverstone EZ Site in advance of occupier demand, funded from existing and forecast retained business rates generated from the site. The appraisal concludes that:-
 - a.) The strategic intent and the proposed financing mechanism accord with the approach set out in the EZ Implementation Plan;
 - b.) MEPC is an experienced developer with a competent professional team and should be more than capable of carrying out the project efficiently; the project budget includes a large percentage for on-costs and client contingency. It would be prudent to make it clear that the £4.993m grant is a maximum figure, with MEPC responsible for cost overruns.
 - c.) AVEZ should approve the final tender sums for each utilities contract and ensure that the client contingency retained at that stage is a reasonable percentage.

- d.) AVDC will rely on retained business rates from existing and future development to recoup the grant cost, but the projected income over the life of the EZ should easily achieve this.
- e.) The state aid position is complex and Hewdon are unable to say definitively that the project is fully compliant. Hewdon's view is that the risk of a challenge is very low. In any event it will be up to MEPC as recipient to satisfy themselves regarding the details of State Aid compliance.

7 Options considered

- 7.1 As the designated Accountable Body for the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone, any borrowing requirement falls to Aylesbury Vale District Council. If the Council chooses not to approve the funding then the scheme and wider objectives of the Enterprise Zone cannot be progressed.

8 Reasons for Recommendation

- 8.1 The borrowing decision sits outside of the Council's agreed budget framework and so requires the authority of Cabinet and Council to proceed.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Andrew Small Tel. 01296 585507

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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