

Basic Conditions Statement

Introduction

1. Legal requirements
2. The Neighbourhood Area
3. Overriding purpose of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan
4. Having regard to national policy
5. The contribution towards achieving sustainable development
6. General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan
7. The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects

Tables:

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan's vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles

Table 2 How the plan contributes towards achieving sustainable development

Table 3: The purpose and outcome of each NDP policy with regard to sustainable development

Table 4: Analysis of the Babergh Local Plan objectives against the Neighbourhood Plan objectives

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies

Table 6: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan

Table 7: Impact of Objectives of Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics

1. Legal Requirements

1.1 This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared to accompany the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP).

1.2 This Statement accompanies the submission to the local planning authority, Babergh District Council, of the LNDP (“the Neighbourhood Plan”) under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”). Regulation 15 requires a submission neighbourhood development plan to be accompanied by “a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act¹”.

1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Lavenham Parish Council, a qualifying body (as defined in the Localism Act 2011), for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Parish of Lavenham , as designated by Babergh District Council on 2 September 2013.

1.4 The LNDP 2015 – 2031 is a Neighbourhood Development Plan as defined in the Localism Act 2011. The plan deals with planning issues which specifically relate to the use and development of land within the neighbourhood area only

1.5 The plan period of the LNDP is from 2015 to 2031 and it does not contain policies relating to excluded development in accordance with the Regulations.

1.6 The Statement addresses each of the ‘basic conditions’ required by paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. This states that a draft neighbourhood development order meets the basic conditions if

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

1.7 Sub paragraph 3 (paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act.) clarifies that b) (above) in relation to a listed building only in so far as the order grants planning permission for development that affects the building or its setting. The LNDP does not do this so this condition does not apply.

¹ The Town and Country Planning Act 1990

1.8 Sub-paragraph 4 clarifies that c) (above) applies in relation to a conservation area only in so far as the order grants planning permission for development in relation to buildings or other land in the area. The LNDP does not do this so this condition does not apply.

1.9 Schedule 2 to the Regulations also confirms that the following basic condition is prescribed for the purpose of paragraph 8(2) (g) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (i.e. item g above).

- *The making of the neighbourhood development plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010(2)) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007(3)) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).*

1.10 The LNDP meets the basic conditions therefore if:

- having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the plan,
- the making of the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,
- the making of the neighbourhood plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area)
- the making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and
- the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

2. Neighbourhood Area

2.1 The LNDP covers the whole of the Parish of Lavenham in Babergh District, in the County of Suffolk. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is shown in Map 4.2 in the LNDP.

2.2 Lavenham Parish Council submitted the application to designate the Neighbourhood Area to Babergh District Council in June 2013. In accordance with part 2 of the Regulations Babergh District Council, the local planning authority, publicised the Neighbourhood Area application from Lavenham Parish Council over a consultation period beginning on 4th July and ending on 28th August 2013.

2.3 Babergh District Council designated the whole of the parish of Lavenham as a Neighbourhood Area on 2 September 2013 by powers conferred to the Head of Economy by Babergh's Strategy Committee. via an Executive decision on 2nd September 2013. Lavenham Parish Council confirms that the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP) relates only to the Parish of Lavenham and to no other Neighbourhood Area. LNDP is the only Neighbourhood Development Plan in the designated area. No other Neighbourhood Development Plan exists nor is in development for any part of the Neighbourhood Area.

3. Overriding purpose of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan

3.1 The LNDP is underpinned by a Vision which is set out under Section 2 of the plan titled Key Issues. This states:

The principal objective of the Plan is to provide for the sustainable development of Lavenham through the achievement of a better balanced community. Over the years the trend towards an increasing proportion of elderly residents has accelerated and continues to do so. We need to increase the proportion of young people living within the village and will seek to do this by ensuring that any future developments put the emphasis on affordable, smaller homes capable of meeting well established local needs. This should also enable older residents, who wish to downsize, to stay in the village.

Lavenham's economy is underpinned by tourism. This provides employment, not only for those engaged in tourism related businesses but also the many local tradesmen who help to maintain property. The preservation of Lavenham's historic core within the conservation area and the importance of its setting within the surrounding countryside are key factors in maintaining Lavenham's position as an important tourism destination. The opportunities for employment and the need for more young people are closely linked and both depend on preserving Lavenham's unique qualities.

3.2 This vision is supported by the objectives contained within paragraphs 5.1 – 5.5 of the LNDP. The objectives can be grouped under economic, social and environmental themes although there is considerable crossover.

To make Lavenham a more sustainable community

Economic

Lavenham's economy will continue to be underpinned by tourism:

- Employment in Lavenham will continue to grow in tourism related industries
- Additional jobs will be created in education, care for the older generation and in high-tech design fields.
- Support tourism

Social

Achievement of a more sustainable and better balanced community:

- Increase affordable housing for younger people/families
- Increase housing supply including smaller properties suitable for young people/families
- Enable more people to live and work within the village

Providing housing choice for the older generation

- Increase and improvements in care home provision
- Increase in properties suitable for the older generation (smaller properties, bungalows, ground floor flats, homes meeting lifetime homes standards)

Improve the capacity of the County Primary School, to take account of growing population and increasing demand

Enable more people to live and work within the village

Environmental

Preservation of the historic core

- The historic core will continue to dominate the settlement as it does today.
- The historic core of the village will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it.

Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character:

- Lavenham’s residents and visitors will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside.
- Supporting new development which contributes positively to Lavenham’s existing character
- Preserve the countryside setting of the village

4 Having regard to National Policy

4.1 The LNDP must have appropriate regard to national policy. The following section describes how the LNDP relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012).

Sustainable Development

4.2 The central theme of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development. In this context sustainable development is broadly defined internationally as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.3 The NPPF draws on the three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. It requires the planning system, and thus the LNDP, where appropriate to:

- contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and by improving the local supporting infrastructure.
- support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
- contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; helping to improve biodiversity, making better use of natural resources, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy. The NPPF establishes 12 core planning principles and 13 sustainability goals to deliver sustainable development.

The National Planning Policy Framework’s Core Planning Principles

4.4 There are 12 core planning principles put forward in the NPPF (Paragraph 17). The table below lists these core planning principles and maps them against the LNDP Vision, Objectives and Policies.

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan’s vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles		
NPPF Core Principle	LNDP Vision and Objectives	Policies
Plan led	LNDP Vision and Objectives	The LNDP provides a vision for Lavenham to help deliver the community’s aspirations.
Enhance and Improve	- Make Lavenham a more sustainable community	The Plan includes policies which facilitate appropriate levels of residential

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan’s vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles		
NPPF Core Principle	LNDP Vision and Objectives	Policies
Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the capacity of the County Primary School - The historic core will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it. - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside. - Employment in Lavenham will continue to grow - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Enable more people to live and work within the village. 	development inside and outside the Lavenham Settlement Boundary (Policies H1 to H6). Policies D1 to D4 seek to ensure that the quality of new development serves to complement and enhance the local built environment whilst respecting the historic character of the parish.
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s economy will continue to be underpinned by tourism - Employment to grow (tourism, education, care for the ageing population, and high-tech design fields) - Enable more people to live and work in the village 	<p>Policy C8 supports proposals which seek th expansion of electronics communication networks.</p> <p>Policy C9 requires development proposals to contain a connectivity statement.</p> <p>Policy C10 seeks to define and protect the retail core of the village.</p> <p>Policy E1 supports the extension and improvements to the tourist information centre.</p> <p>Policy E2 support development proposals which would encourage the development of small businesses.</p> <p>Policies aimed at preserving the historic core (H1, D1, D2, Env 1)</p>
High quality design and standard of amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preservation of the historic core - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character -- Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside 	<p>Policy H1 which permits infill and edge of settlement developments subject to scheme contributing positively in terms of scale, character and impact on Lavenham’s rural setting. It also requires all development proposals to to be informed by the findings of Lavenham’s Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>Policy D1 requires proposals to preserve and enhance Lavenham’s distinctive character</p> <p>Policy D2 which provides criteria to assess the design quality of new development proposals, drawing on established principles of best practice.</p> <p>Policy D4 which applies criteria relating to design and amenity of infill development proposals</p> <p>Policy C1 which safeguards existing</p>

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan’s vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles		
NPPF Core Principle	LNDP Vision and Objectives	Policies
		<p>community facilities</p> <p>Policy C2 which identifies open spaces and recreation areas to be retained</p> <p>Policy C3 which protects and seeks opportunities to improve the enjoyment of outdoor recreation facilities (footpaths, bridleways, special landscape areas)</p> <p>Policy C4 which encourages the provision of allotments.</p> <p>Policy C6 which seeks to secure the continued provision of health facilities to serve the population</p> <p>Policy ENV1 which requires all development proposals to be informed by the findings of Lavenham’s Landscape Character Assessment identifies important views to be respected and designates Special Landscape Areas</p> <p>Policy ENV2 which protects Lavenham’s roofscape</p> <p>Policy ENV3 which seeks to enhance the amenity value of Market Place</p>
<p>Character, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s economy will continue to be underpinned by tourism - Employment to grow (tourism, education, care for the ageing population, and high-tech design fields) - Enable more people to live and work in the village - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Preservation of the historic core - The historic core will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it. - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy H1 which Policy H1 which establishes a growth strategy that is focused on preserving Lavenham’s rural setting. It also requires all development proposals to to be informed by the findings of Lavenham’s Landscape Character Assessment - Policy ENV1 which requires all development proposals to be informed by the findings of Lavenham’s Landscape Character Assessment and identifies important views to be respected and designates Special Landscape Areas
<p>Climate change and flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community - Enable more people to live and work in the village - Retention and enhancement of 	<p>The Plan includes a policy which focuses new development on walking times from the centre of the village - H1, thus minimising journey length and carbon emissions.</p>

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan’s vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles		
NPPF Core Principle	LNDP Vision and Objectives	Policies
	Lavenham’s unique character	<p>The Plan contains a policy which seeks to mitigate the risk of flooding D2 through good design.</p> <p>Policy C3 which supports the extension and improvement of green links, footways and pedestrian connectivity, which will encourage walking and cycling in preference to using motor vehicles.</p> <p>Policies C8 & C9 seek the expansion of electronic communications and connectivity.</p> <p>Policy ENV 2 which supports proposals to erect solar panels within the Conservation area provided they do not have a severe impact on the historic setting of Lavenham, the character or appearance of the Conservation area and the defined views into and out of the village.</p> <p>Policy ENV4 Provides specific policy context for small scale renewable energy projects</p>
Conserving and Enhancing the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside 	<p>The Plan includes policies C2 to C3 to preserve the natural environment and to take opportunities to enhance open spaces and their amenity value.</p> <p>Policy H1 which establishes a growth strategy that is focused on preserving Lavenham’s rural setting.</p>
Using brownfield land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside 	<p>There is limited availability of brownfield land in the Parished area. However Policy H1 directs growth to built up area and edge of settlement.</p> <p>The Plan includes a policy D4 which focuses on replacement dwellings and infill development within the built up area.</p>
Promoting mixed use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community - Lavenham’s economy will continue to be underpinned by 	<p>The Plan contains policies which encourage the development of new small businesses and the extension of existing businesses (C8, C9 & E2), and the provision of high speed broad band to facilitate home working and new business development (C8 & C9).</p> <p>Policy C10 which is aimed at strengthening the vitality and viability of Lavenham’s retail core. It designates a retail core where shops</p>

Table 1. Compatibility of the plan's vision, objectives and policies against the NPPF Core Principles		
NPPF Core Principle	LNDP Vision and Objectives	Policies
		and services are focused. Policy C3 which recognises the recreational value of Lavenham's unique landscape, footpaths, bridleways and Special Landscape Areas.
Conserving heritage	Preservation of the historic core	The Plan has policies H1 & H5 and ENV1 to ENV4 which require new development proposals to protect, complement or enhance the historic rural environment of Lavenham and its rural hinterland. ENV1 which identifies views to be protected into and out of the historic core. Policy D1 which sets out design criteria to be applied in the Conservation Area.
Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community with a consequent reduction in commuter traffic and parking - The historic core of the village will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it. - Enable more people to live and work in the village 	The Plan contains a policy H1 which ensures new development is within walking distance of the village centre as demonstrated by the walking times map at 7.4. Policy D2 enshrines through design the need for safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes and thus increases connectivity.
Health and social and cultural well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community - Enable more people to live and work in the village - Lavenham's residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside. - The historic core of the village will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it. - Investment in more affordable housing for younger people - Provide housing choice for those wishing to downsize to a smaller house and yet stay within the village. 	The Plan contains policies H1 and D2 which support pedestrians and cycle users, which thus seeks to improve road safety and pedestrian connectivity. Policy C2 identifies and seeks to safeguard open spaces in the village. C3 seeks to protect and enhance the footpath and bridleway network. C4 encourages the provision of public allotments, C6 seeks to protect health care provision available to villagers'.

The Sustainability Policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

4.5 The following section compares the thirteen Sustainable Development themes of the NPPF (*italic numbered headings*) with those of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP).

1. Building a strong, competitive economy

A key objective underpinning the LNDP is that Lavenham's economy will continue to depend on tourism and the plan recognises that preservation of the historic core is central to this.

Policy E2 in the LNDP supports the development of new small businesses in the parish as well as the expansion and diversification of existing businesses. Policy C7 and C8 seek to increase business competitiveness by facilitating the provision of fibre optic broadband and better connectivity.

2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres In 2011

The village shops are located in the retail trading area (see Map 9.6) and are supported by Policy C10. Services are located around the village and Policies C8 and C9 are aimed at seeking better competitiveness through the provision of enhanced broadband arrangements. Locations of new developments are to be within walking distance of the centre of the village (Policy H1) and should increase footfall within the retail core.

3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy

Policy E2 supports the development of new small businesses and the expansion and diversification of existing businesses. The availability of fast broadband is often a problem in rural areas, disadvantaging businesses and home workers. Policy C8 and C9 seeks to facilitate the provision of fibre optic broadband to support existing and new employment development opportunities.

4. Promoting sustainable transport

The NPPF says "Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people." Policy H1 requires new development to have good access within walking distance of the centre of the village and thus reduce car dependency. Policy C3 considers the opportunity for extending the footpath and bridleway network shown at Map C.3.

5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure

Policy C8 seeks to facilitate the better provision of fibre optic broadband across the village. Policy C9 requires new development to help achieve a fibre optic connection.

6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.

The NPPF requires plans to cater for current and future needs, to identify size, type and tenure, and to provide affordable housing where needed, (Paragraph 50). The LNDP does not make any site allocations for new housing development, but does contain policies which enable development, to include the development of affordable housing on rural exception sites. Policies H1 to H6 address; scale and location of new development, housing mix, affordable housing, allocation of affordable housing, rural exception sites and sheltered housing provision.

7. Requiring good design.

Policy D1 in the LNDP requires new development to protect, complement or enhance the historic rural character of the settlement and its hinterland. Policy D2 requires all new development to deliver good quality design by demonstrating that it responds to established design criteria which have been developed from design guidance developed by the leading professional bodies. The

approach taken in policy H1 is also one which recognises the importance of Lavenham's landscape setting in relation to the scale and character of the development schemes.

8. Promoting healthy communities

Health can be considered from different perspectives – physical, mental and social. The LNDP contains policies which seek to improve pedestrian facilities, thereby encouraging walking (D2, and C3) Policy C1 aims to protect community facilities, C2 seeks to safeguard open spaces and C3 Footpaths and Bridleways are seen as an important leisure asset. C4 will encourage the provision of allotments. C6 protects the provision of existing and future health care facilities.

9. Protecting Green Belt land

The Lavenham Neighbourhood Area does not include any designated green belt. Furthermore there is no green belt within the district of Babergh of the county of Suffolk.

10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Climate change is addressed across the LNDP. By way of example; LNDP Policy H1 focuses new development within or adjacent to the built up area boundary, thereby minimising the need for car journeys to access village facilities and services and Policy D2 requires a high level of design to support water management, pedestrian and cycle and related access. Better broadband and connectivity is supported at Policies C8 and C9.

11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

The NPPF requires the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. Policy ENV1 proposes protection of green spaces and the protection of identified views into and out of the village. Policy D1 reinforces this message through the need for good design. Policy C2 safeguards existing open spaces. Policy H1 establishes a growth strategy that is focused on preserving Lavenham's rural setting. It also requires all development proposals to be informed by the findings of Lavenham's Landscape Character Assessment

12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

The historic linear settlement of Lavenham is a designated Conservation Area and there are some 201 statutorily listed buildings in the parish. Lavenham's setting amongst gently undulating countryside contributes greatly to its amenity value. Whilst acknowledging the need to meet future development in Lavenham it is necessary that this is achieved with the least interference to the visual appeal and setting of the village. Policy D1 requires new development to protect, complement or enhance the historic rural character of the settlement and its hinterland, especially with regard to its scale, density, materials and impact on views into and out of the village. Policy H1 establishes a growth strategy that is focused on preserving Lavenham's rural setting as well as the setting of its historic core.

13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Mineral extraction is excluded development and is therefore not dealt with in the LNDP.

5. Achieving Sustainable Development

5.1 The LNDP must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (as defined in the NPPF and summarised in section 1.1 of this Basic Conditions Statement). Paragraph 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework says that there are three dimensions to sustainable development:

- to contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy,
- to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities; and
- to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment. This section shows how the LNDP delivers sustainable development.

5.2 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF states that *“to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system.”*

5.3 The table, extracted from section 5 of the Neighbourhood Plan below shows how the LNDP has succeeded to achieve this balance between the three dimensions.

Table 2. How the plan contributes towards achieving sustainable development		
NPPF Component	LNDP Dimension	LNDP Policy
Economic	Local economy to continue to be underpinned by tourism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment to grow in tourism related industries - Additional jobs will be created in education, older generation care and high-tech design fields 	H6, ENV3, C6, C7, C8, C10 C9, E1, E2
	Supporting tourism	Projects P2-P9
Social	A more sustainable and balanced community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase affordable housing for younger families/people - Increase housing supply including smaller properties for younger families/people - Enable more people to live and work within the village - Improve the capacity of the County Primary School 	C1 – C6 H1, H2, H3, H4, H5 C7
	Providing housing choice for the older generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase and improvements in care home provision - Increase in properties suitable for the older generation (homes meeting lifetime homes standards and bungalows and ground floor flats) 	H2, H4, H6, C6 D1-D4
Environmental	Preservation of the historic core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the historic core will continued to dominate the settlement as it does today - The historic core will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it 	H1, H7, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4 Projects P1,P14, P15
	Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s residents and visitors will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside - Supporting new development which contributes positively to Lavenham’s existing character - Preserve the countryside setting of the village 	H1, ENV1, ENV2 ENV3 ENV4 D1, D2, D4, ENV1 C1, C2, C3, C4, , P10, P11, P12, P13, P15

5.4 The following table sets out the purpose of each policy in the LNDP and its intended outcome with regard to the achievement of sustainable development.

Table 3: The purpose and outcome of each NDP policy with regard to sustainable development		
Policy	Purpose	Outcome
Housing		
H1	Determine scale and location of development	Provides specific criteria as to where any new development can come forward.
H2	Necessity for housing to meet local need	Requires developments to include housing for young families and older residents to downsize.
H3	Affordable housing provision	To protect affordable housing element to any development by using open book methodology.
H4	Allocation of Affordable Housing	Ensures people with strong local connection are given priority for Affordable Housing.
H5	Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites	Provides Lavenham specific rural exception sites.
H6	Sheltered Housing	Provides a framework for the delivery of care home and sheltered accommodation provision.
Design		
D1	Design and Character	Provides Lavenham specific policies on design, construction site management, and infill development.
D2	High Quality Design	
D3	Site Management	
D4	Replacement dwellings and infill	
Community		
C1	Community facilities	} Establishes which community facilities and open spaces are protected and where and how new infrastructure will be sought.
C2	Open spaces	
C3	Footpaths and Bridleway Network	
C4	Allotments	
C5	Developer Contribution	
C6	Health Care	
C7	Existing school site Communications infrastructure Connectivity	Earmarks the existing school site for future residential to meet the needs of older residents (in the event that the school is successfully relocated to a better site).
C8		Equipment not to be obtrusive.
C9		Demonstration by developers that connectivity is appropriately considered.
C10	Lavenham's retail core	Defines a retail core area in Lavenham where new shops and services are to be focused and resists loss of ground floor units.
Environment		

Table 3: The purpose and outcome of each NDP policy with regard to sustainable development

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
ENV1	Defined views	Identifies the views and landscape important to the village, which new development proposals must respect.
ENV2	Protection of Roof scape	Policy context for protecting roofscapes and street scene.
ENV3	Market Place	Supports proposals to enhance Lavenham’s historic market place.
ENV4	Renewable energy projects	Provides specific policy context for small scale renewable energy projects.
Economy E1	Tourist Information Centre	Seeks development to improve tourist information facilities.
E2	Support for Small Business development	Seeks development which will enable small businesses to thrive.

6. General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan

6.1 The Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNDP) must demonstrate that it is in general conformity with the development plan for the local authority area concerned. The development plan currently in force for the LNDP is the Babergh District Council Local Plan 2011 – 2031(adopted in February 2014), together with remaining 2006 Saved Policies. A new joint Local Plan is currently being prepared by Babergh and Mid-Suffolk District Councils.

6.2 The LNDP Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in general conformity with the Babergh District Council Local Plan 2011-31 and the 2006 Saved Policies. This is demonstrated in the following paragraphs of this section of the basic conditions statement.

Vision of LNDP and the 2011-31 Local Plan

6.3 The vision of the Babergh District Council as contained in section 2 of the Executive Summary to its Local Plan;-

Babergh will continue to be an attractive, high quality place in which to live and work, and to visit. The local character and distinctiveness of South Suffolk will be further enhanced by a strong economy and healthier environment providing the framework for a well connected network of places that is made up of mixed and balanced communities.

The vision for Lavenham is contained in the Key Issues section of the LNDP;-

The principal objective of the Plan is to provide for the sustainable development of Lavenham through the achievement of a better balanced community. Over the years the trend towards an increasing proportion of elderly residents has accelerated and continues to do so. We need to increase the proportion of young people living within the village and will seek to do this by ensuring

that any future developments put the emphasis on affordable, smaller homes capable of meeting well established local needs. This should also enable older residents, who wish to downsize, to stay in the village.

Lavenham’s economy is underpinned by tourism. This provides employment, not only for those engaged in tourism related businesses but also the many local tradesmen who help to maintain property. The preservation of Lavenham’s historic core within the conservation area and the importance of its setting within the surrounding countryside are key factors in maintaining Lavenham’s position as an important tourism destination. The opportunities for employment and the need for more young people are closely linked and both depend on preserving Lavenham’s unique qualities.

The visions of the LNDP and the 2011-31 Local Plan are closely compatible.

6.4 The table below demonstrates the compatibility between the objectives set out in the Babergh Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (Core Strategy and Policies Part 1 of the Local Plan) and the objectives set out in the LNDP.

Babergh Local Plan Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
1.Mixed and balanced communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community - A more sustainable and balanced community - Increase affordable housing for younger people - Increase housing supply including smaller properties for younger people/families - Providing housing choice for the older generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase and improvements in care home provision - Increase in properties suitable for the older generation (homes meeting lifetime homes standards, bungalows, ground floor flats) - Enable more people to live and work in the the village.
2.Economic growth and prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s economy will continue to be underpinned by tourism - Employment to grow in tourism related industries - Additional jobs will be created in education, older generation care and high-tech design fields. - Supporting tourism
3.Regeneration and renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The historic core will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it

Table 4: Analysis of the Babergh Local Plan objectives against the Neighbourhood Plan objectives	
Babergh Local Plan Objective	Neighbourhood Plan Objectives
4.Provision of adequate infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the capacity of the County Primary School to take account of growing population and increasing demand
5.Response to climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A more sustainable and balanced community - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community - Enable more people to live and work in the village
6.Local character and built/natural & historical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preservation of the historic core - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Supporting new development which contributes positively to Lavenham’s existing character - The historic core will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it.
7.Rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lavenham’s residents will continue to enjoy the surrounding countryside - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Employment in the village will continue to grow
8.Phasing development to manage growth effectively	<p>Due to its more local level, the Neighbourhood Plan is restricted in the extent to which it can phase development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable more people to live and work within - Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character - Make Lavenham a more sustainable community

6.5 The table below sets out the strategic policies of the Babergh Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (Core Strategy and Policies Part 1 of the Local Plan). It also provides an explanation as to how the Neighbourhood Plan conforms to this strategic context.

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
CS1 Applying the Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	The presumption in favour of sustainable development comes from the NPPF and will apply to development coming forward within Lavenham. The LNDP does not and could not alter this. There is no conflict.
<p>CS2 Settlement Pattern Policy</p> <p>Lavenham village is recognised as a Core Village in the Settlement Hierarchy set out in Policy CS2</p> <p>CS2 states that Core Villages will act as a focus for development within their functional cluster and, where appropriate, site allocations to meet housing and employment needs will be made in the Site Allocations document.</p> <p>CS2 states that In all cases the scale and location of development will depend upon the local housing need, the role of settlements as employment providers and retail/service centres, the capacity of existing physical and social infrastructure to meet forecast demands and the provision of new / enhanced infrastructure, as well as having regard to environmental constraints and the views of local communities as expressed in parish / community / neighbourhood plans</p>	<p>The LNDP recognises fully the function of Lavenham has a core village.</p> <p>The plan provides much of the constraints and infrastructure context required to apply Policy CS2 at the Neighbourhood Plan level.</p> <p>The growth strategy set out in Policy H1 of the LNDP is focused on ensuring development does come forward appropriately having regard to the local housing need, the capacity of existing physical infrastructure, the social infrastructure, the environmental constraints (landscape, topography, heritage assets, defined views to be respected) and of course the Neighbourhood plan encapsulates the views of the local community including as expressed in Policy H1 a strong preference for smaller developments.</p>
<p>CS3 Strategy for Growth and Development</p> <p>Policy CS3 states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - proposals for employment uses that will contribute to the local economy and increase the sustainability of Core Villages, Hinterland Villages and the rural economy will be promoted and supported where appropriate in scale, character and nature to their locality - Town centres and Core Villages are the main focus for retail, leisure and community uses in the district. <p>The policy commits the district to make provision for 5,975 new dwellings between 2011 and 2031 It states the housing target will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing commitments as identified in the trajectory; - Allowing for a windfall figure of 1,640 	<p>The LNDP recognises fully the function of Lavenham as a core village and the contribution it should be making towards the achievement of 1050 homes as part of the rural growth strategy.</p> <p>Policies H1 provides the growth strategy for the Lavenham NDP.</p> <p>Policy E2 supports the proposals that will encourage the development of small businesses.</p> <p>Policy C10 is focused on protecting and enhancing the vitality and viability of Lavenham’s retail core.</p>

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
<p> dwellings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Making provision for 2,500 new dwellings to be built in specific locations broken down between Sudbury and Great Cornard (850), Hadleigh (250), Ipswich Fringe (350) and the Core and Hinterland Villages (1050) 	
CS4 Chilton Woods Strategic Land Allocation and Strategy for Sudbury/Great Cornard	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS5 Strategic broad location – East of Sudbury/Great Conard	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS6 Hadleigh	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS7 Strategic Site Allocation – Babergh Ipswich Fringe	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS8 Sproughton Strategic Employment Site Allocation	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS9 Wherstead Strategic Employment Site Allocation	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
CS10 Brantham Regeneration Area Allocation	Not applicable to Lavenham. No conflict
<p>CS11 Strategy for Development and Core and Hinterland Villages.</p> <p>The 2006 Local Plan Saved Policies includes policies relating to the Built-up Area Boundaries. The BUAB for Lavenham is part of the 2006 Local Plan Saved Policies . The 2014 Babergh Core Strategy however changes the role of the BUAB as it no longer functions to contain development within these boundaries. Policy CS11 intentionally provides greater flexibility for appropriate development beyond the BUAB, subject to specified criteria set out in the policy as well as in Policy CS15 of the 2014 Babergh Core Strategy.</p> <p>Policy CS11 states that development for Core Villages will be approved where proposals score positively when assessed against Policy CS15 and the following matters are addressed to the satisfaction of the local planning authority (or other decision maker) where relevant and appropriate to the scale and location of the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the landscape, environmental and heritage characteristics of the village; ii) the locational context of the village and the proposed development (particularly the AONBs, 	<p>The LNDP works within the strategic context provided by CS11 in the Babergh Core Strategy and therefore anticipates that development will come forward outside the existing BUABs.</p> <p>As a whole the LNDP and in particular Table 7.2 and Policy H1 provides the detail required in order to apply policy CS11 properly by providing information on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the landscape, environmental and heritage characteristics of the village; - ii) the locational context of the village and the proposed development (particularly the AONBs, Conservation Areas, and heritage assets) - iv) locally identified need - housing and employment, and specific local needs such as affordable housing; - v) locally identified community needs; <p>The LNCP therefore plays a strong complementary role to this policy.</p>

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
<p>Conservation Areas, and heritage assets)</p> <p>iii) site location and sequential approach to site selection;</p> <p>iv) locally identified need - housing and employment, and specific local needs such as affordable housing;</p> <p>v) locally identified community needs; and</p> <p>vi) cumulative impact of development in the area in respect of social, physical and environmental impacts.</p>	
<p>CS12 Sustainable Design and Construction Standards</p> <p>This policy deals largely with large scale development which will not be relevant to Lavenham..</p> <p>It also states that all new non-residential developments will be expected to achieve, as a minimum, the BREEAM “Excellent” standard or equivalent.</p>	<p>No conflict with the LNDP</p>
<p>CS13 Renewable/Low Carbon Energy</p> <p>This states that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all new development will be required to minimise dependence on fossil fuels and make the fullest contribution to the mitigation of climate change through adopting a sustainable approach to energy use. - the Council will support proposals for development that includes on-site low and zero carbon technologies including, where appropriate, proposals to retro-fit existing buildings as part of schemes to extend or convert those buildings. In all cases, the Council will encourage and support community initiatives, including linking with / contributing to the provision of local off-site renewable energy sources and the use of energy service companies (ESCOs) or similar energy saving initiatives. 	<p>Carbon footprint is addressed in the LNDP. By way of example; LNDP Policy H1 focuses new development within or adjacent to the built up area boundary, thereby minimising the need for car journeys to access village facilities and services. Policy ENV 4 provides a Lavenham specific framework for small scale renewable energy projects.</p>
<p>CS14 Green Infrastructure</p> <p>The policy includes:</p>	<p>Green infrastructure is addressed in LNDP in a way which complements the approach taken in the Local Plan.</p>

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing green infrastructure will be protected and enhanced. In new developments green infrastructure will be a key consideration - All new development will make provision for high quality, multi-functional green infrastructure appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal. - Particular consideration will be given to ensuring new provision establishes links with existing green infrastructure, providing a well connected network of green infrastructure in urban and rural areas. 	<p>Policy C2 safeguards existing open spaces. Policy C3 seeks to protect and enhance outdoor recreation facilities including footpaths, bridleways and where appropriate the permanent grasslands.</p> <p>Policy D2 requires new edge of settlement development proposals to provide pedestrian access into the countryside</p>
<p>CS15 Implementing Sustainable Development in Babergh</p> <p>This policy provides specific criteria for development proposals coming forward under Policy CS11 of the Core Strategy (i.e. Core village development)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect the landscape, landscape features, streetscape / townscape, heritage assets, important spaces and historic views; - Make a positive contribution to the local character, shape and scale of the area; - Protect or create jobs and sites to strengthen or diversify the local economy particularly through the potential for new employment in higher skilled occupations to help to reduce the level of out-commuting, and raise workforce skills and incomes; - Ensure an appropriate level of services, facilities and infrastructure are available or provided to serve the proposed development; - Retain, protect or enhance local services and facilities and rural communities; - Consider the aspirations and level and range of support required to address deprivation, access to services, and the wider needs of an ageing population and also those of smaller rural communities 	<p>The policies in the LNDP provides the detailed context as to how development proposals can meet this criteria in the CS15. The LNCP therefore plays a strong complementary role to this policy.</p> <p>Specific relevant policies are Policies H1, H6, H7, D1, D2, C1 – C10, ENV1, ENV2, ENV3, ENV4, E1 and E2</p>

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
<p>CS16 Town, Village and Local Centres Relevant parts of this policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retail, leisure, tourism, cultural and office development will continue to be focussed in Sudbury and Hadleigh, and in village and local centres at an appropriate scale and character for the location..... 	<p>Policy C10 in the LNDP supports this strategic policy by focusing new shops and services within the retail core of Lavenham.</p>
<p>CS17 The Rural Economy</p> <p>This policy is relevant to Lavenham:</p> <p>Policy CS17: The Rural Economy Historic villages, such as Lavenham and Long Melford and coastal villages such as Chelmondiston and Shotley play an important role in tourism and leisure within the district, and appropriate new development that supports this role will be encouraged.</p>	<p>The LNDP is underpinned by a recognition that Lavenham's economy will continue to be underpinned by tourism and that preservation of the historic core is central to this. Specific policies include ENV3, E1, E2, C10.</p>
<p>CS18 Mix and Types of Dwellings</p> <p>This states that residential development that provides for the needs of the District's population, particularly the needs of older people will be supported where such local needs exist, and at a scale appropriate to the size of the development. The mix, type and size of the housing development will be expected to reflect established needs in the Babergh district (see also Policy CS15).</p>	<p>Policy H2 complements Policy CS18</p>
<p>CS19 Affordable Homes</p> <p>Requires of all residential schemes to achieve 35% affordable housing. Where viability is a proven issue, Policy CS19 states that "The onus is on developers to provide documentary evidence to support cases where development viability is a proven issue, and where such cases are accepted the local planning authority will determine an appropriate proportion of affordable homes, tenure mix and/or appropriate levels of commuted sums on a site-by-site basis."</p>	<p>Policy H3 complements the approach in Policy CS19</p>
<p>CS20 Rural Exception Sites</p> <p>States the Council will take a flexible approach to</p>	<p>The criteria set out in Policy H5 provides the locally relevant specific criteria so that CS20 can be applied appropriately in Lavenham.</p>

Table 5: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to Local Plan strategic policies	
Babergh Local Plan Strategic Policies	Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to these policies
the location of rural exception sites in the district, and will allow proposals adjacent, or well related, to the settlement development boundaries of Core and Hinterland Villages. The policy provides some generic criteria to be applied.	The LNCP therefore plays a strong complementary role to this policy.
CS21 Infrastructure Provision	The LNDP conforms to the principles set out in this policy. The information set out in LNDP provides locally specific information regarding infrastructure constraints specifically relating to education infrastructure. The LNDP supports the relocation of the primary school and seeks to facilitate this (so far as within its remit) through its planning policies e.g. C2 and C7
CS22 Monitoring Policy applies specifically to monitoring of Core Strategy Policies.	

6.6 The saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan can be accessed at www.babergh.gov.uk. A number of these can be eliminated as being of no relevance to the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan due to being of a site specific nature. Others are listed below and assessment has been made to identify any potential conflicts. Of the policies below the ones which could be considered to be of most relevance to LNDP are EN26 Telecommunications, HS28 Infilling, HS39/HS40 Special needs housing and SP04 Shopping in local centres. In most cases, the LNDP either doesn't the specific topic area or it complements the approach taken in the district wide document by providing the local specific context. In the case of HS39 and HS40 there is a conflict due to Policy H6 of the LNDP taking a more positive stance in terms of location of new proposals for residential care home, for a sheltered housing scheme or other specialist housing. Considering the key objective of the plan (providing housing choice for the older generation) and existing and projected demographics of the village, this is considered entirely appropriate and in line with the NPPF.

Table 6: Commentary on how the LNDP conforms to saved policies from the 2006 Local Plan.	
EN22 Light Pollution Development management policy setting out criteria for development proposals which involve outside lighting	No conflict with LNDP
EN26 Telecommunications Policy permitting planning applications for new telecommunications equipment	LNDP complements this with its own policy
HS05 Replacement dwellings Development management policy allowing single dwelling development against certain criteria outside of existing towns/villages	Policy H1 in the LNDP provides the Lavenham specific context for the development proposals coming forward under CS11 of the Babergh Core Strategy. LNDP does not have its own specific

	policy applicable to this type of out of settlement development. No conflict.
<p>HS28 Infilling</p> <p>States criteria against which infill development proposals will be refused.</p>	Policy D4 is a more positively worded policy in keeping with NPPF requirements. No conflict.
<p>HS31/32 Public open space</p> <p>Sets out circumstances as to when development proposals will need to provide public open space including play space</p>	Policy C2 states that additional open space/green infrastructure will be provided as part of new development in line with Core Strategy requirement. No conflict here
<p>HS33 Extensions to existing dwellings</p> <p>Development management policy specific to proposals concerning house extensions</p>	LNDP does not have a specific policy. Policy D1, D2 and D4 provide Lavenham specific detail which would also apply.
<p>HS35 Residential annexes</p> <p>Development management policy specific to proposals involving the creation of additional annexes.</p>	LNDP does not have a specific policy. Policy D1, D2 and D4 provide Lavenham specific detail which would also apply.
<p>HS39 Special needs housing</p> <p>Development management policy setting out circumstances when planning applications for nursing, residential care, rest homes and sheltered housing and extensions to such homes will be permitted. One of the criteria is that such schemes should be within the built up area of the town.</p>	<p>Policy H6 of LNDP takes a more flexible approach by allowing proposals for residential care home, for a sheltered housing scheme or other specialist housing both within the built up area and adjacent to it. Otherwise policy H6 contains similar requirements to HS39.</p> <p>This departure from district wide approach is considered an appropriate approach having regard for the key objective of the plan (providing housing choice for the older generation) and existing and projected demographics of the village.</p>
<p>HS40 Special needs housing</p> <p>Similar policy to HS39 but concerning the change of use developments.</p>	Again policy H6 of LNDP takes a more flexible approach and this is considered appropriate.
<p>EM02 General employment areas</p> <p>Policy regarding employment uses on existing employment sites</p>	None of the sites listed include sites in Lavenham. No conflict with LNDP.
<p>EM19 High technology employment provision</p> <p>Development management policy providing the criteria against which new employment proposals will be assessed against.</p>	LNDP provides additional criteria (design etc) against which proposals would apply. Policy E2 encourages development proposals which would

	assist small businesses. No conflict.
EM20 Expansion of existing employment uses Policy allowing expansion of employment uses subject to no conflict with residential/environmental amenity or highway safety	LNDP provides additional criteria (design etc) against which proposals would apply. Policy E2 encourages development proposals which would assist small businesses. No conflict.
EM21 Redundant airfields	Does not apply to Lavenham neighbourhood plan area.
EM23 Workshops	Does not apply to Lavenham neighbourhood plan area.
EM24 Retaining employment sites Not likely to be NPPF compliant	No conflict
SP03 Retail outside town centres Relevant to out of town retail proposals	Policy C10 seeks to retain the viability and vitality of Lavenham's retail core. No conflict with LNDP which
SP04 Shopping in local centres Prevents loss of retail use in local centres	Policy C10 provides local specific context to approach set out in SP04
Sp05 Farm shops	No conflict with LNDP
CR02 AONB landscapes	Lavenham does not have AONB. No conflict.
CR04 Special Landscape areas Policy setting out circumstances when development in Special Landscape areas will be allowed	Policy ENV1 brings the special landscape area designation within Lavenham forward into the next plan period.
CR07 Landscaping schemes	Policy D2 provides Lavenham specific context to this. No conflict
CR08 Hedgerows	Policy D2 provides Lavenham specific context to this. No conflict
CN14/15 Historic parks and gardens	Not relevant to Lavenham.
RE07 Large scale recreation	Not relevant to Lavenham
TP04 Cycle links	Not relevant to Lavenham
TP15 Parking standards	No conflict with LNDP
TP16 Green Travel Plans	No conflict with LNDP

7. The making of the neighbourhood plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations, and the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

SEA and HRA

7.1 European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for certain types of plan or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) that this is to be determined by a screening process which should use a specified

set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available

7.2 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, Lavenham Parish Council requested Babergh District Council, as the responsible body, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan is required. The District Council subsequently made this determination following consultation with the statutory consultees. The determination is set out in a report dated February 2015 **“Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Determination Statement of reasons for Babergh District Council’s determination”** (the Lavenham NDP SEA/HRA Screening Determination Statement of Reasons). This determination was sent to the Statutory Consultees by email on 6 March 2015 as per Regulation 11 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004

This document can be viewed at the link below and confirms that an SEA is not required for the Neighbourhood Plan

<http://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Uploads-BDC/Economy/Strategic-Planning-Policy/Neighbourhood-Planning/LavenhamNPSEAHRAScreeningReport2015.pdf>

7.3 In line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) this document is also submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

7.4 The Lavenham NDP SEA/HRA Screening Determination Statement of Reasons document also confirms that the making of the Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Human rights and equality impact assessment

7.5 The overall purpose of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living now and in the future and working in the parish from an environmental, social and economic point of view. The aims and policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have been formulated in response to local people’s views and in the light of evidence gathered for the parish, in order to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified. In order to confirm that the LNDDP does not have any unintended consequences for particular groups the strategic aims and the policies in the Plan have been systematically scrutinised to ensure that they do not disadvantage any potentially vulnerable groups. The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between persons who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. “Protected characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. This section assesses the Submission Draft of the LNDDP to ensure that Lavenham Parish Council is satisfying its statutory duties in this regard. An assessment has been made on whether the vision, objectives and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan have a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. The purpose of each of the objective and the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are provided, and their likely impact on persons with protected characteristics is assessed.

Table 7: Impact of Objectives of Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics	
LNDP Objectives	Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local economy to continue to be underpinned by tourism</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>employment to grow in tourism related industries</i> - <i>related jobs will be created in education, older generation care and high-tech design fields</i> • <i>A more sustainable and balanced community</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>increase affordable housing for younger people/families</i> - <i>increase housing supply including smaller properties for younger people/families</i> - <i>Enable more people to live and work within the village.</i> • <i>Provide housing choice for the older generation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Increase and improvements in care home provision</i> - <i>increase in properties suitable for the older generation (homes meeting lifetime homes standards, bungalows and ground floor flats)</i> • <i>Improve the capacity of the County Primary School, to take account of growing population and increasing demand</i> 	<p>Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics.</p> <p>} } }</p> <p>Enables local housing needs to be met and supports the provision of infrastructure which is needed to improve local services. This would potentially benefit older persons needing specially designed accommodation. Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.</p> <p>} }</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Preservation of the historic core</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The historic core will continue to dominate the settlement as it is today</i> - <i>The historic core of the village will have a less congested and more relaxed feel to it.</i> 	<p>Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Retention and enhancement of Lavenham’s unique character:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Lavenham’s residents and visitors will continue to enjoy the surrounding</i> 	<p>Neutral impact on persons with protected characteristics.</p>

Table 7: Impact of Objectives of Lavenham Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics	
LNDP Objectives	Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
<p><i>countryside.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Supporting new development which contribute positively to Lavenham's existing character</i> - <i>Preserve the countryside setting of the village.</i> 	

7.6 Certain protected characteristics are not affected by the LNDR, namely gender reassignment, race, religion, or sexual orientation. For persons with these characteristics has a neutral effect. Where policies in the Plan would adversely affect persons with these protected characteristics, they would not be differently affected than persons without these characteristics. For example, if a person with these protected characteristics were disadvantaged by a policy, it would have the same consequence for a person without the protected characteristic who wished to do the same thing. Similarly, if a person with one of these protected characteristics were to benefit from a policy, it would have the same benefit for a person without the protected characteristic in the same circumstances.