

# Calverton Neighbourhood Plan



## SEA Screening Statement & HRA

November 2016



Sustainability

# Calverton Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2028

## Submission Plan

Submitted to Gedling Borough Council in accordance with Regulation 15 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012

## SEA Screening Statement & HRA November 2016

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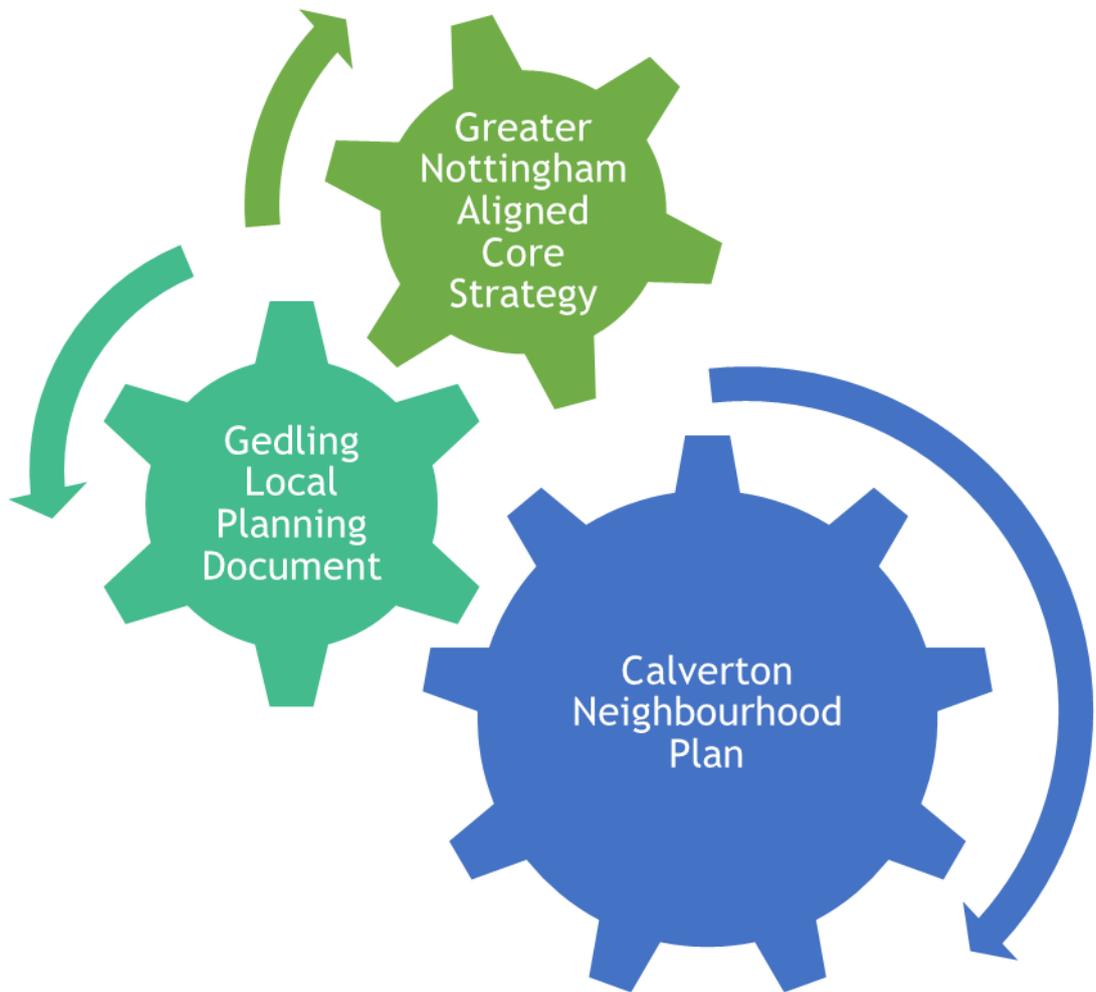
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# Section 1

## Strategic Environmental Assessment



# Introduction

1. [NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK](http://NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK) have been instructed by Calverton Parish Council and the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to undertake this screening statement, which is designed to determine whether or not the contents of the Calverton Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
2. The European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for certain development plans that would have a significant environmental effect. An SEA may be required for a Neighbourhood Plan, dependant on what the plan is proposing.
3. The *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004* require that the need for an SEA is to be determined by a screening process. This must meet the criteria of Schedule 1 of the Regulations (Appendix One).
4. For Calverton, it is the responsibility of Gedling Borough Council (GBC) to determine whether an SEA is required. To make this decision the Borough Council are required to consult with three statutory consultation bodies: Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England.
5. This SEA screening statement comprises of two parts: part one assesses the Neighbourhood Plan against the steps that should be taken to determine the need for SEA in accordance with the Directive and associated regulations, part two assesses the likely significant effects on the environment of the neighbourhood plan.



## Relationship to Aligned Core Strategy and Local Planning Document

6. The Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) for Greater Nottingham, including Gedling Borough, was adopted on the 10th September 2014. The Aligned Core Strategy has been prepared in partnership with the Councils in Greater Nottingham who have been working together to produce an aligned set of policies and principles on how the city region can develop between 2011 and 2028. The Aligned Core Strategies for Broxtowe, Gedling and Nottingham City are contained in one single document with Erewash Borough and Rushcliffe Borough producing aligned but separate Core Strategies.
7. The Aligned Core Strategy defines the spatial vision for the area, includes a number of objectives to achieve the vision and sets out the development strategy to meet these objectives. The document includes strategic planning policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of development including the allocation of strategic sites. It indicates the number of homes to be built by 2028, which is 7,250 homes for Gedling Borough. The Aligned Core Strategy recognises that each Council has local issues and priorities.

8. The 'Development Plan' for Calverton is made up of 5 elements as follows:

9. The Gedling Local Planning Document (LPD) includes more detailed planning policies that will work with the strategic policies set out in the Aligned Core Strategy and includes detailed policies for development management and the allocation of non-strategic development sites. The Local Planning Document also includes a Policies Map which illustrates the geographic extent of policies and proposals on a map.



10. All policies within the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan should be read in conjunction with the Aligned Core Strategy and the Gedling Local Planning Document. When determining proposals for development, no policy will be applied in isolation and account will be taken of all relevant policies.

**Strategic policies for the purposes of neighbourhood planning**

11. The system of neighbourhood planning allows parish councils to produce neighbourhood plans to guide development at a local level. One of the requirements of such plans is that they should be in line with the 'strategic policies' of the adopted development plan for the local area.

12. Gedling Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority defines which policies are to be considered 'strategic' with regard to the production of a neighbourhood plan. They consider that in addition to the policies and allocations contained within the Aligned Core Strategy, which are all considered to be 'strategic', Gedling proposes that all of the policies, allocations and designations within the Local Planning Document are also considered 'strategic' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.



# Stage One: Establishing the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment

13. The Government published Planning Practice Guidance states there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, a qualifying body, in this case Calverton Parish Council, must demonstrate how its plan or order will contribute to achieving sustainable development. Planning Practice Guidance also states, in some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. Consequently a SEA screening statement has been undertaken using guidance from the Government published advice in 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (2005).

14. The document 'A Practical Guidance to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' was published by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It sets out guidance on how to comply with the European Directive 2001/42/EC known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Figure 2 of this practical guidance shows the Directive's field of application in the form of a diagram (Appendix 1), which provides an outcome of whether a directive does or does not require an SEA.



15. Calverton Parish Council as the designated body have been requested by GBC on 31 March 2016 to "Determine whether a plan or Order is likely to have significant environmental effect". In order to do this we are providing an assessment of the NDP against the diagram provided in Appendix 1 to establish whether an SEA is required. Each stage of the diagram provides a criteria which a 'yes' or 'no' response is required to progress to the next stage.

16. In their Issues Consultation response GBC stated: *"Whilst it is not envisaged that the proposed Neighbourhood Plan will lead to significant environmental effects, this will still need to be addressed. A Sustainability Appraisal using the approach taken for the LPD and based on an understanding of relevant information on the local environment may be appropriate. This will also help assess alternative options including a 'do nothing' approach. It is likely that a significantly simpler approach may be appropriate and proportionate to the likely number and nature of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. An important part of assessing the environment, and also meeting the Basic Conditions, will be the impact of any policies on the prospective Special Protection Area. More details on this and a potential format can be found in the Habitats Regulation Assessments carried out as part of the preparation of the ACS and LPD."*

# Strategic Environmental Assessment

17. The table below shows the assessment of whether the NDP will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the diagram in Appendix 1 which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied and provides justification for the particular path considered suitable by us on behalf of Calverton Parish Council.

18. The views of Gedling Borough Council as the relevant Local Planning Authority have been incorporated into the assessment following consultation on the draft SEA Screening Statement which accompanied the draft plan published under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. The statutory environmental bodies were consulted on the draft plan and draft SEA Screening Statement, no comments were made.

**Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA**

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes to criterion 1	The preparation of and adoption of the plan is allowed under The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NDP is prepared by Calverton Parish Council (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Gedling Borough as the Local Planning Authority. The preparation of the NDP is subject to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	No	Communities, such as Calverton have a right to be able to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan is not required by legislative, regulatory or Administrative provisions. Instead, if 'made' the plan would form part of the statutory development plan. Therefore it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required.

Stage	Y/N	Reason
<p>3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))</p>	<p>Yes to criterion 1  No to criterion 2</p>	<p>The NDP is prepared to set out for town and country planning purposes; the NDP set out policies which will influence future development within the village and parish of Calverton, including development of housing and community land uses. However, the plan will be used as a tool which manages the design details of development rather than the principles of land use. The draft NDP does not allocate any sites for housing or employment development. It does however safeguard land for various purposes including a small area of land for health and community use.</p> <p>Furthermore the NDP will not be a tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p>
<p>4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening assessment, has considered the potential impacts of the NDP on sites covered by the Habitats Regulations. This HRA screening assessment concludes that a HRA is not required for the NDP.</p>
<p>5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The NDP does not determine the land uses within Calverton as it contains no land allocations. Notwithstanding this, the NDP does provide details of the community's preferential locations for open space of small areas at local level. In addition, the NDP determines the health and community use of small areas within Calverton.</p>
<p>6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Once the NDP is 'made' by Gedling Borough Council it will form part of the statutory development plan against which planning applications will be determined.</p>
<p>7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The NDP does not deal with any of these issues.</p>
<p>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)</p>	<p>No (see stage 2 below)</p>	<p>Stage 2 of this SEA Screening Statement will consider the potential effects of the NDP on the environment. This considers the effects of the NDP against the criteria referred to in Article 3.5 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.</p>

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## Stage Two: Likely significant effects on the environment

19. The table below shows the assessment of the potential significant effects of the environment, as required by Article 3.5 of the SEA Directive.

**Table 2: Assessment of the likely significant effects of the environment.**

SEA Directive Criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary	Likely Significant effect? (Y/N)
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard to:		
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	The NDP would form part of the Statutory Development Plan and therefore would set a framework for future development projects in Calverton. However, the plan sits within a wider framework set out by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Aligned Core Strategy for Greater Nottingham; the saved policies of the Gedling Local Plan; and the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document. The policies of the NDP are in general conformity with the NPPF, the Aligned Core Strategy for Greater Nottingham; the saved policies of the Gedling Local Plan; and the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document. In addition, the projects for which the NDP contributes to setting a planning framework are very local in nature.	No
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The NDP has a low hierarchical position within a number of statutory development plans, therefore the NDP will respond to rather than influence other plans or programmes. Policies set out in the NDP are in conformity with the NPPF, the Aligned Core Strategy for Greater Nottingham; the saved policies of the Gedling Local Plan; and the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.	No
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of The TSP will work to protect and enhance the natural environment and landscape of Calverton	The NDP will work to protect and enhance the natural environment and landscape of Calverton, including statutory environmental designations. The policies of the NDP provide protection for areas of high environmental value, the Sherwood Forest pSPA, green spaces and the Greenbelt.  A number of NDP policies will contribute to the social sustainability of Calverton. Policy G5 of the plan requires new housing development to provide a range of housing types, particularly for the older demographic of Calverton. Therefore, the NDP will provide socially sustainable development as defined in the NPPF, which requires the planning system to supply housing which meets the needs of current	Yes

	<p>and future generations. In addition, various policies including Policy G2 seeks to balance growth and infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), new residential development is seen as essential to fund important services required for socially sustainable development. A number of NDP policies require new development to contribute to community facility provision. The NDP contains positive policies relating to green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p> <p>Therefore it is considered that the NDP will have a positive impact on local environmental assets and therefore will promote sustainable development.</p>	
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	<p>There are no environmental problems directly relevant to this plan. There will be an increase in the number of houses in the village as a result of new development. However the NDP will help to address wider environmental problems as highlighted in the NPPF at a local level, such as climate change, air pollution, traffic congestion, loss of biodiversity and flooding; without any negative effects. For example, Policy ISF1 will encourage sustainable transport methods of cycle and walking within Calverton for local journeys and will therefore discourage travelling by private vehicles.</p> <p>Policy BE4 encourages sufficient car parking provision for new residential dwellings to mitigate against traffic congestion in Calverton.</p> <p>Policy NE3 will prevent local flooding problems, including surface water flooding from occurring.</p>	No
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	<p>The NDP is not directly relevant to the implementation of European legislation. This legislation is taken into account by the Aligned Core Strategy and Local Planning Document which the Neighbourhood Plan complies.</p>	No



SEA Directive Criteria and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Assessment Commentary	Likely Significant effect? (Y/N)
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	<p>The NDP will result in positive environmental effects through policies that seek to protect landscape character and green spaces. The plan will result in positive social effects through policies which seek to address local highways issues indirectly through the provision of adequate off-street car parking and support the development of community recreational facilities. The plan will result in positive economic effects through policies which seek to support improvements to the Village Centre.</p> <p>The duration of the positive effects outlined above are likely to be long term. However, due to the small scale and nature of the issues considered in the NDP, it is considered that any effects will be low in frequency and reversible.</p>	No
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	<p>A combination of this neighbourhood plan which seeks to protect and enhance the character, environment and landscape of Calverton, and wider environmental policy of the Aligned Core Strategy and the Gedling Local Planning Document, is likely to have cumulative positive environmental effects will have cumulative positive benefits for the area of Calverton.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, as the NDP deals with issues which are of a small scale and nature, it is considered that the impact of the neighbourhood plan will be limited.</p>	Yes
(c) the trans boundary nature of the effects	All effects will be very local in impact, having negligible impacts on neighbouring areas.	No
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	There are no significant risks to human health or the environment. Instead the plan aims to enhance the environment and to provide the infrastructure required to meet the social needs of Calverton residents.	No
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan relates to an area of approximately 1,916ha. However only a small proportion of the Neighbourhood Plan area will be affected by the plans policies, as they are focused on the village of Calverton. The village is approximately 430ha with a population of approximately 7,076 which sits in wider rural hinterland. Therefore the magnitude and spatial extent of the plan is small.	Yes

<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</li> <li>- intensive land-use</li> </ul>	<p>The NDP contains some areas designated for their natural importance, including Green Belt, and the Sherwood Forest pSPA. Policies NE1 to NE6 of the NDP provides protection to the natural environment within and surrounding Calverton from detrimental new development.</p> <p>Present within the plan area are numerous grade 2 and 2* listed buildings, and a small number of scheduled ancient monuments. Policy BE5 will provide protection to heritage assets within the entire plan area. In addition, these heritage assets will also be protected by higher tier documents, such as the NPPF, the Aligned Core Strategy and the Gedling Local Planning Document.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognized national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>The Sherwood Forest pSPA is within the Neighbourhood Plan area, the NDP contains policies aimed at protecting open space outside of the pSPA and the creation of new recreation and leisure opportunities to help reduce visitor pressure, particularly in the form of dog-walkers on the pSPA.</p>	<p>No</p>

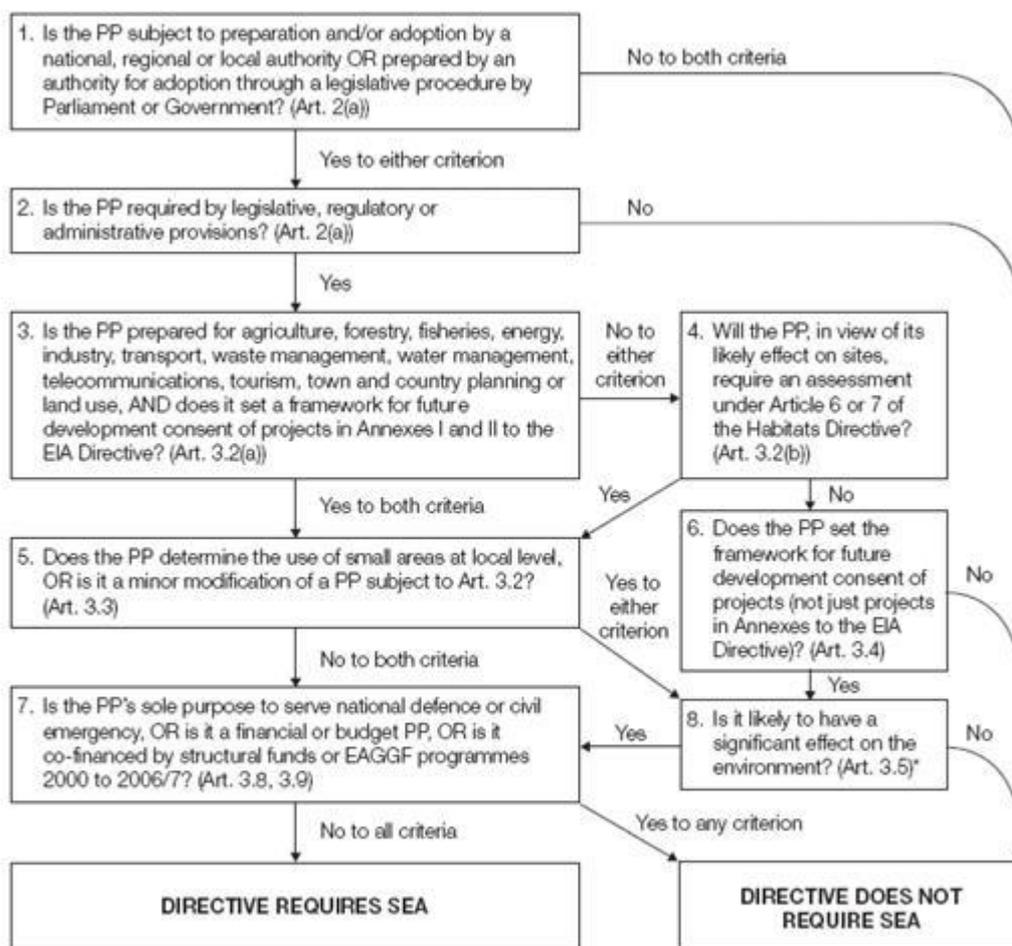


## Conclusion

20. As a result of the assessment in section 3, based on Article 3.5 of the SEA Directive, [NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK](http://NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK) on behalf of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group consider that there will be no significant environmental effects arising from the NDP. As such, the NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

**Strategic Environmental  
 Assessment  
 Required?  
 = No**

# Appendix One: Diagram of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



\*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.



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# Appendix Two: Relationship of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives to the Gedling Local Planning Document SA objectives

21. The table below shows the assessment of the Relationship of the Neighbourhood Plan objectives to the Gedling Local Planning Document Sustainability Appraisal objectives. In formulating our views on the inter-relationship we have taken into account the views of Gedling Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority on the draft SEA Screening Statement.

		Local Plan Objectives			
		Objective A Sustainable growth	Objective B Historic built environment	Objective C Natural environment, countryside and Green Belt setting	Objective D Sustainable Transport
++ strongly compatible + compatible ? uncertain - no relationship					
Gedling Local Planning Document SA Objectives	Housing	++	+	?	+
	Health	++	-	++	++
	Heritage and Design	-	++	++	-
	Crime	+	-	-	?
	Social	++	+	++	+
	Environment, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	?	+	++	-
	Landscape	++	+	++	+
	Natural Resources	?	?	++	++
	Flooding	?	?	++	-
	Waste	-	-	?	-
	Energy and Climate Change	?	?	+	+
	Transport	+	?	?	++
	Employment	++	?	?	-
	Innovation	+	-	-	-
	Economic Structure	+	?	+	+

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# Appendix Three: Assessment of Reasonable Policy Alternatives

22. The table below shows how Calverton Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group have assessed the reasonable policy alternatives as part of reaching their conclusion on the policies to include within the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Sustainable Growth of Calverton
<p><b>Policy G1 - Comprehensive Development</b></p> <p>Policy Options Considered - Given the nature of the site allocation and the safeguarded land being proposed in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document it was considered that inclusion of some form of policy was the only reasonable option. To not include any policy would not draw together the work done previously by Gedling Borough Council on a Masterplan for this area. Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village.</p> <p>Whether it is practical or not for a Masterplan to be required across a site in multiple ownerships has been considered. It is not unusual for sites to be developed by multiple developers with multiple landowners and in relation to large sites this type of approach to comprehensive development is achieved and is not considered to be unreasonable.</p>
<p><b>Policy G2 - Developer Contributions</b></p> <p>Policy Options Considered - Given the scale and nature of the site allocation and the safeguarded land being proposed in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document it was considered that inclusion of some form of policy was the only reasonable option. To not include any policy would not draw together the work done previously by Gedling Borough Council on a Masterplan for this area which clearly identified a need for requisite growth in infrastructure to be delivered.</p> <p>Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village but only if adequate additional infrastructure is secured and provided. Evidence supports the need for additional health and education infrastructure.</p> <p>Whether it is reasonable or not to seek village centre environmental improvements and a safety improvement scheme at the junction of Oxton Road and Flatts Lane has been carefully considered. The village centre environment is already struggling to cope with current levels of use, additional pressure from new development will need improvements to mitigate the impact. The road safety improvement is a scheme which has been identified as necessary by the Highway Authority. It potentially has funding identified by the Highway Authority although it is recognised that this may change. The new development will result in potentially 5,180 extra daily vehicle movements (740 dwelling x 7 vehicle movements) through this junction which has a very poor safety record. As such it is considered reasonable to require such a developer contribution.</p>
<p><b>Policy G3 - Village Centre</b></p> <p>Policy Options Considered - The village centre is defined in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document, as such there is no requirement to define or designate the village centre. The Gedling Local Planning Document was not however considered sufficient to deal with the detailed issues of public realm and car parking that have been identified as issues of concern by local residents.</p>

Given the fact that car parking occupancy is at maximum, the need for additional car parking is seen as necessary to the continued health and viability of the village centre to meet the strategic policies of the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.

The village centre environment is already struggling to cope with current levels of use, additional pressure from any new retail development will need improvements to mitigate the impact.

#### **Policy G4 - Employment**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. The Gedling Local Planning Document Policy LPD43 sets out a similar broad policy framework.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by indicating a preferred change of use to leisure or community use if any change from employment use is to occur.

#### **Policy G5 - Housing Mix**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. The Gedling Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy set out a similar broad policy framework.

The policy reflects the aims and objectives of the ACS/LPD and recent government initiatives including starter homes. It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, this is in relation to the context of providing elderly and disabled accommodation which is supported by evidence relating to the demographics of the village. Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village but only if a full range and mix of housing is provided.

### **Infrastructure, Services and Facilities in Calverton**

#### **Policy ISF1 - Sustainable Transport**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. The Aligned Core Strategy Policy 14 sets out a similar broad policy framework.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by indicating a need to secure linkages to the village centre and other services and facilities in Calverton.

#### **Policy ISF2 - Car Parking**

Policy Options Considered - The village centre is defined in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document, as such there is no requirement to define or designate the village centre. The Gedling Local Planning Document was not however considered sufficient to deal with the detailed issues of public realm and car parking that have been identified as issues of concern by local residents.

This policy protects and improves existing car parking provision in the village centre and supports additional car parking provision which has regard to the Conservation Area and other heritage assets.

Given the fact that car parking occupancy is at maximum, the need for additional car parking is seen as necessary to the continued health and viability of the village centre to meet the strategic policies of the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.

**Policy ISF3 - Highway Impact**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. The emerging Gedling Local Planning Document Policies LPD35 and LPD61 set out a similar broad policy framework.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the need to also consider the attractiveness of the streetscene.

**Policy ISF4 - Infrastructure Provision**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy is consistent with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Policies 18 and 19 of the Aligned Core Strategy.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the specific aspects of infrastructure which is relevant to Calverton.

To not include any policy would not draw together the work done previously by Gedling Borough Council on a Masterplan for this area which clearly identified a need for requisite growth in infrastructure to be delivered.

Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village but only if adequate additional infrastructure is secured and provided. Evidence supports the need for additional health and education infrastructure.

**Policy ISF5 - Safeguarded Land for Community Facilities**

Policy Options Considered - Given that the need for increased health provision has been identified as necessary the Neighbourhood Plan has considered how it can help lead to the delivery of larger facilities. It has been a long-term aim of the Doctors Surgery to either expand their existing facility or build a new facility. The current site is highly constrained and the flexibility to allocate a site for relocation in the approach taken by this policy is supported by all parties. The identification of a specific site for this proposal is welcomed by all parties.

A process was gone through to identify potentially suitable sites within a short walking distance of the current facility that was also accessible by being on the bus route. The following sites were considered:

- Junction of Bonner Lane and Bonner Hill - not considered as in Green Belt
- Allotment site east of Leslie Grove - not taken forward as considered to be an important Local Green Space
- Dark Lane - this site is not available as it has planning permission for housing
- Land adjacent to Nabarro Court - not taken forward as considered to be an important Local Green Space and is used for recreational purposes
- Land north of Collyer Road (2 sites) - these sites were considered suitable and were both taken forward for allocation

**Policy ISF6 - Educational Facilities**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and due to the specific local circumstances which sees the schools in Calverton already being on

constrained sites, such that to meet current space standards the Colonel Frank Seely has to have an off-site additional playing field space. In addition local value has been identified in relation to the criteria to be applied to new or expanded educational facilities given that they will be required to meet the growth proposed.

#### Policy ISF7 - Community Assets

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy is consistent with the Aligned Core Strategy and the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the specific aspects of community assets to be protected in Calverton.

#### Policy ISF8 - Allotments

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy is consistent with the Aligned Core Strategy and the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the specific locations in terms of notations on the Policies Map to be protected in Calverton.

### The Built Environment of Calverton

#### Policy BE1 - Design and Landscaping

Policy Options Considered - Given the scale and nature of the site allocation and the safeguarded land being proposed in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document it was considered that inclusion of some form of policy was the only reasonable option. To not include any policy would not draw together the work done previously by Gedling Borough Council on a Masterplan for this area which clearly identified a need for high quality development to be delivered.

Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village but only if appropriate consideration is given to design and landscaping. This is supported by evidence including in the Calverton Conservation Area Appraisal and Green Belt Assessment.

#### Policy BE2 - Local Distinctiveness and Aesthetics

Policy Options Considered - Given the scale and nature of the site allocation and the safeguarded land being proposed in the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document it was considered that inclusion of some form of policy was the only reasonable option. To not include any policy would not draw together the work done previously by Gedling Borough Council on a Masterplan for this area which clearly identified a need for high quality development to be delivered.

Public opinion has consistently supported development in the North-west of the village but only if appropriate consideration is given to design and landscaping. This is supported by evidence including in the Calverton Conservation Area Appraisal and Green Belt Assessment.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the specific Local distinctiveness in Calverton which has been identified through the Calverton Conservation Area Appraisal and by local residents.

### **Policy BE3 - Public Realm**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework given that a high quality public realm made up of high quality streets, pavements and other publicly accessible areas within Calverton is seen by local people as being an important element of the overall urban design of the village.

### **Policy BE4 - Parking Provision**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy potentially duplicates Policies LPD 35 and LPD 57 of the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document on design and parking provision and Policy 10 of the Aligned Core Strategy on design.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework given that a high quality public realm made up of high quality streets, pavements and other publicly accessible areas within Calverton is seen by local people as being an important element of the overall urban design of the village. Previous development has seen insufficient attention paid to parking provision such that high levels of on-street parking have occurred. This has resulted in a poor urban environment and potential road safety problems. As such the existing policy framework is considered to be insufficient and this policy supplements the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document and Aligned Core Strategy by taking an overall design-led approach towards parking provision as an integral part of overall design.

### **Policy BE5 - Heritage Assets**

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy potentially duplicates the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework and to add local value, which has been done by referring to the specific local heritage assets in Calverton that should be afforded protection and the locally distinctive characteristics of the village as identified in the Conservation Area Appraisal.

Heritage within Calverton is seen by local people as being an important element of the overall urban design of the village and public opinion is that the existing policy framework has been demonstrated to be insufficient to prevent development in the village which is seen by local residents as having adversely affected the Calverton Conservation Area.

## **The Natural Environment of Calverton**

### **Policy NE1 - Local Green Space**

Policy Options Considered - This policy is consistent with Policy LPD22 - Local Green Space of the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document. That document did not identify any Local Green Spaces in Calverton, leaving this issue to the Neighbourhood Plan.

A process was gone through to identify potentially suitable sites, not all open space areas within the village were considered to be appropriate for identification as Local Green Space.

### Policy NE2 - Open Space

Policy Options Considered - This policy relates to new and existing open space provision, care has been taken to ensure that it does not conflict with policy LPD21 of the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document.

A process was gone through to identify potentially suitable sites, not all open space areas within the village were considered to be appropriate for identification as Local Green Space but may still have been worthy of some form of policy protection given their positive contribution to the character and appearance of the streetscene.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework given that a high quality public realm made up of high quality streets, pavements and other publicly accessible areas within Calverton is seen by local people as being an important element of the overall urban design of the village.

### Policy NE3 - Flooding

Policy Options Considered - Given the scale and nature of the proposed development and the history of flooding events in the village it was considered that inclusion of some form of policy was the only reasonable option. To not include any policy would not identify the locally distinctive elements of flooding relevant to Calverton.

### Policy NE4 - Setting of Calverton

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. As Calverton is surrounded by Green Belt consideration is required as to whether any additional policy framework is required.

The Calverton Conservation Area Appraisal highlights the importance of the inter-relationship between the southern ridge and the core of the village along Main Street. Consultation exercises for both this plan and GBC's Masterplanning process have highlighted the fact that residents regard the Southern Ridge Area as being integral to the overall setting of Calverton. Within that area, Dark Lane continues to be a focus of attention. During consultation, local residents have re-emphasised their concerns regarding the previously approved development of land to the west of Dark Lane.

The grounds for protecting the 'Southern Ridge Area' include that, whilst its green belt status provides a policy for achieving protection, it should be recognised that the area's value to the local community exceeds the value it has as green belt land in the context of the wider local plan area. The southern setting of the village is used intensively by residents from across the Parish, with a network of public footpaths/bridleways and features such as Spindle Lane which has expansive views, Ramsdale Golf Course, Millennium Wood, James Seely Park with its Rookery area, and Dark Lane.

It was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework, based on local distinctiveness, public opinion and evidence.

### Policy NE5 - Green Infrastructure

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy potentially duplicates the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy.

The designated nature conservation sites in Calverton form important gateway features which are integral parts of the setting to the parish and village, as such it was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework.

### Policy NE6 - Biodiversity

Policy Options Considered - The main options considered was to include or not include this policy. This policy potentially duplicates the emerging Gedling Local Planning Document and the Aligned Core Strategy.

Calverton's landscape incorporates areas of permanently uncultivated land that provide an important resource in terms of biodiversity, recreational and visual amenity. In addition to more expansive, semi-wild wooded areas there is a network of mature, ancient hedgerows that are integral to the established green infrastructure; functioning as important habitats in their own right and as wildlife corridors. As such it was decided to include this policy as part of an overall balanced policy framework.

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# Section 2

## Non-Statutory Habitats Regulations Assessment



# Introduction

23. [NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK](http://NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK) have been instructed by Calverton Parish Council and the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group to undertake this voluntary Habitats Regulation Assessment. The contents of the Calverton Neighbourhood Development Plan does not technically require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

24. For Calverton, the Neighbourhood Plan Area is located in the Sherwood Forest Area, near to habitats that have been identified as important for breeding nightjar and woodlark, and which may or may not in the future become a potential Special Protection Area (pSPA). Therefore, following the advice of Natural England in their response of 26 April 2016 we consider it appropriate to consider the potential effects of any proposed development on this important bird area and other identified habitats in the vicinity of the site.



25. Natural England in their response stated: *“While the provisions of ‘the Habitats Regulations’ do not apply in this situation Natural England recommend that you and the LPA may wish to adopt a risk based approach, in order to provide decision-making with a degree of future-proofing until there is more certainty on whether Sherwood Forest area is to be afforded pSPA or SPA status. We suggest that the Plan should be accompanied by information to demonstrate that any allocations have considered the likely impacts on the breeding nightjar and woodlark populations and have tried to avoid any potential effects as far as possible. Based on evidence from other SPAs, where ground nesting birds are the interest feature, it is considered that 400 metres represents the zone of highest potential impact on the SPA from new residential development and represents an area where it is unlikely that the effects resulting from increased recreational pressure and predation by cats could be successfully avoided or mitigated.”*



Relationship to Aligned Core Strategy and Local Planning Document

26. The 'Development Plan' for Calverton is made up of 5 elements as follows:

27. The Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) for Greater Nottingham, including Gedling Borough, was adopted on the 10th September 2014. The Aligned Core Strategy has been prepared in partnership with the Councils in Greater Nottingham who have been working together to produce an aligned set of policies and principles on how



the city region can develop between 2011 and 2028. The Aligned Core Strategies for Broxtowe, Gedling and Nottingham City are contained in one single document with Erewash Borough and Rushcliffe Borough producing aligned but separate Core Strategies.

28. The Aligned Core Strategy defines the spatial vision for the area, includes a number of objectives to achieve the vision and sets out the development strategy to meet these objectives. The document includes strategic planning policies to guide and control the overall scale, type and location of development including the allocation of strategic sites. It indicates the number of homes to be built by 2028, which is 7,250 homes for Gedling Borough. The Aligned Core Strategy recognises that each Council has local issues and priorities.

29. The Gedling Local Planning Document (LPD) includes more detailed planning policies that will work with the strategic policies set out in the Aligned Core Strategy and includes detailed policies for development management and the allocation of non-strategic development sites. The Local Planning Document also includes a Policies Map which illustrates the geographic extent of policies and proposals on a map.

30. All policies within the Calverton Neighbourhood Plan should be read in conjunction with the Aligned Core Strategy and the Gedling Local Planning Document. When determining proposals for development, no policy will be applied in isolation and account will be taken of all relevant policies.

### Strategic policies for the purposes of neighbourhood planning

31. The system of neighbourhood planning allows parish councils to produce neighbourhood plans to guide development at a local level. One of the requirements of such plans is that they should be in line with the 'strategic policies' of the adopted development plan for the local area.

32. Gedling Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority defines which policies are to be considered 'strategic' with regard to the production of a neighbourhood plan. They consider that in addition to the policies and allocations contained within the Aligned Core Strategy, which are all considered to be 'strategic', Gedling proposes that all of the policies,

allocations and designations within the Local Planning Document are also considered 'strategic' for the purposes of neighbourhood planning.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment

33. The Habitats Regulations Assessment as required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 require that Development Plans undergo an assessment to determine whether or not the Local Plan will have a significant effect on sites of European importance for nature conservation.

34. Part 1 of the Development Plan, the Greater Nottingham Aligned Core Strategy adopted September 2014, was the subject of a Habitats Regulations Assessment in light of the information available to indicate that the Sherwood Forest area may be formally proposed as a Special Protection Area in the near future, in recognition of the internationally important populations of woodlark and nightjar in this locality.



35. That HRA concluded that any significant effects were capable of mitigation through changes to the Aligned Core Strategy which were subsequently made. Since the adoption of the Aligned Core Strategy in September 2014 work has been ongoing with the development of the Part 2 of the Development Plan, the Gedling Local Planning Document. The HRA process has been able to inform and influence the policy options and preferred sites as they have been considered. The policies of the Local Planning Document have been screened as it relates to the prospective Sherwood Forest Special Protection Area notwithstanding that the area is not yet a designated site. The LPD policies cover the following broad areas:



- Climate change, flood risk and water management;
- Environmental protection;
- Natural environment;
- Open space and recreational facilities;
- Historic environment;
- Design;
- Homes;
- Employment;
- Retail and community facilities; and
- Transport.

36. However, as the Gedling Local Planning Document is in general conformity with the Aligned Core Strategy no significant impact has been revealed in the relevant HRA. The majority of the policies have been ruled out as they will not have a Likely Significant Effect on the prospective Sherwood SPA (or other European sites) and therefore will not need to be taken forward to the next stage of assessment.

37. Natural England recognises that the housing distribution in the Gedling Local Planning Document has remained the same as the Aligned Core Strategy, but with some of the housing figures being significantly reduced. The reduction in housing numbers for sites in Calverton was welcomed by Natural England. The sites in Calverton being adjacent to sites identified as important for nightjar and woodlark. The lower housing figures would reduce the potential recreational impact on these sites. The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan follow this lead to create other recreational opportunities within Calverton to reduce the potential recreational impact on the pSPA.



38. Policies NE1 to NE6 seek to protect biodiversity, open space and the landscape. Potential impact on pSPA could arise if development needs outweigh the open space requirement. The HRA for the Gedling Local Planning Document identified that a potential impact could arise if proposals are north of B6386 in Calverton. The Neighbourhood Plan does not put forward any proposals north of B6386 in Calverton.

39. In terms of mitigation measures the determination of planning applications can take into consideration whether there would be a potential impact on the pSPA. For the main housing allocation in Calverton, known in the Neighbourhood Plan as the 'North-West Quadrant Urban Extension', the HRA for the Gedling Local Planning Document identified that mitigation measures including green infrastructure and visitor management will be required and should help avoid the likelihood of a significant effect on the pSPA. The Neighbourhood Plan through its policies including Policy G1 seeks to support this mitigation.

## Conclusion

40. As a result of the non-statutory assessment iabove, based on the provisions of the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, [NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK](http://NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK) on behalf of the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group consider that the Policies of the NDP are appropriate having regard to the pSPA and the mitigation required.

# Calverton Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2028

## Submission Plan SEA Screening Statement & HRA November 2016

Calverton Neighbourhood Plan is led by a Working Group made up of local volunteers supported by Calverton Parish Council

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