Appendix B – Local Planning Policies

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LOCAL PLAN 2014-2033

Policy	Title	Policy Text
SS1	Development Principles	The Council will expect the development and use of land to contribute positively to the social, economic and environmental improvement of the Staffordshire Moorlands in terms of delivering, in partnership with other agencies and services: • A mix of types and tenures of quality, affordable homes • Easy access to jobs, shops and transport services by all sections of the community; • Quality local services, including provision for education, healthcare, leisure, community, cultural and tourist facilities in response to anticipated population change and visitor numbers; • A healthy, safe, attractive, active, well-designed and well-maintained environment; • Increased economic prosperity and opportunities for employment and greater local capacity with an educated, skilled and flexible workforce; • Development which maintains the locally distinctive character of the Staffordshire Moorlands, its individual towns and villages and their settings; • Development that is undertaken in a way that protects and enhances the natural and historic environment of the District and its surrounding areas, including the Peak District National Park, both now and for future generations; and • Support development which secures high quality, sustainable environments, efficient and effective use of resources and contributes effectively to tackling climate change and reduced carbon emissions All proposals for development will be considered in the context of the District-wide Spatial Strategy and with regard to both its direct and indirect cumulative impact over the longer term. New development will make effective use of land and the best use of previously developed land and buildings.
SS2	Settlement Hierarchy	The settlement hierarchy reflects the roles, function and capacity of individual settlements. The settlement hierarchy is as follows: "**Towns** – these are the largest settlements comprising of Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle which accommodate half of the District's population and the majority of the District's services and facilities. The spatial strategy seeks to focus future growth in these settlements and to strengthen their role as service centres. These settlements will be defined by a Development Boundary. **Rural Area Larger Villages** – these are the most sustainable settlements in the rural areas which generally have a good local social infrastructure, some local employment opportunities and good accessibility to the towns and larger centres. These villages also have an important role in terms of serving and supporting their immediate surrounding rural areas and smaller villages. The spatial strategy focuses the bulk of the rural development in these settlements and seeks to ensure that they are sustained and promoted as service centres. These settlements will be defined by a Development Boundary. It is recognised that there is a significant range amongst these villages in terms of their size and facilities and it is proposed therefore that the scale of development in each area should be relative to their current size and infrastructure capacity. **Rural Area Smaller Villages** - these villages generally have a poor range of services and facilities and it is often necessary for local residents to travel outside the village for most of their daily needs. Development on a large scale would be unsustainable in these villages, as it is will generate a disproportionate number of additional journeys outside the village and may undermine the spatial strategy. However, it is recognised that these settlements have a limited role in meeting the development requirements for the District which may assist in maintaining the vitality of the smaller villages. These settlements are not defined by a Development Boundary and only limited development of an appropriate nature will be allowed. Where relevant, Green Belt policy will also apply. **Other Rural Areas** – this comprises the open countryside where development is normally unacceptable and green belt where further development is generally inappropriate. Within these areas there are some groups of houses and hamlets which are not identified as 'smaller villages' because of their predominantly open character and loose-knit nature. They also contain major developed areas which may be suitable for appropriate development or redevelopment."
SS8	Larger Villages Areas Strategy	The following are identified as larger villages: Alton Biddulph Moor Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		Brown Edge Cheddleton Endon Ipstones Kingsley Upper Tean Waterhouses Werrington & Cellarhead Wetley Rocks These settlements shall retain and enhance their role as rural service centres, providing for the bulk of the housing requirement of the rural areas and also for employment needs of a scale and type appropriate to each settlement having regard to infrastructure capacity and character. The Council and its partners will achieve this through the following actions: 1. Retain and enhance their role as rural service centres by: • Enabling appropriate development which supports and increases the range and quality of community facilities available to the rural areas; • Protecting community facilities where loss would be deemed to reduce the community's ability to meet it's day to day needs • Improving connections by public transport to surrounding smaller villages and market towns 2. Meet housing requirements by: • Increasing the range of available and affordable house types, including for first time buyers and families; • Allocating a range of deliverable housing sites with good accessibility to services and facilities • Supporting the development of housing windfall sites within the village boundaries, subject to wider Local Plan polices • Allowing for rural exceptions housing in appropriate locations on the edge of settlements (in accordance with Policy H 1). This will be additional to the housing provision for the rural areas • Giving consideration to limited infilling on the edge of settlement boundaries, subject to the criteria set out in Policy H 1. 3. Meet limited employment needs by: • Enabling small-scale new employment development; • Improving and intensifying the use of existing employment areas and, where appropriate, expanding them 4. Ensure that new development reflects and enhances each village's special character and heritage by: • Giving priority to the reuse and regeneration of existing redundant, underused or surplus sites and premises for new development; • Ensuring that development is of a suitable scale in relation to the role and function of the villages as set out in the Spatial Strategy • Supporting the use of Neighbourhood Plans and Village Design Statements to guide future development • Protecting and enhancing the setting of individual settlements • Supporting the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Local Green Spaces • Protecting and enhancing the setting and historic character of the village, including heritage assets • Ensuring development of site UT019 in Upper Tean is sensitively designed to enhance the Conservation Area and proposals include mitigation measures including appropriate screening of the southern boundary as set out in the Council's Landscape, Local Green Space and Heritage Impact Study • Ensuring development of site WA004 in Waterhouses is sensitively designed and includes heritage masterplanning and provision of a landscaping plan including submission of landscape and visual impact assessments to address recommendations set out in the Council's Landscape, Local Green Space and Heritage Impact Study. 5. Supporting the mixed-use development of the Blythe Vale site at Blythe Bridge in line with policy DSR 1.

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		Any development proposal that might have the potential to affect a European or Ramsar Site must itself be subject to appropriate assessment.
SS12	Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy	Development proposals will be required to provide, or meet the reasonable costs of providing, the on-site and off-site infrastructure, facilities and/or mitigation necessary through the appropriate use of planning obligations and/or conditions. Planning obligations will only be sought where they met all of the following tests: a. necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; b. directly related to the development; and c. fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. Standard formula will be applied when applicable. The Developer Contributions SPD will provide further guidance on how contributions will be calculated. Provision will be required for subsequent maintenance where contributions are secured for facilities which are predominantly for the benefit of users of the development concerned. Subject to an assessment of development viability and further consideration by the Council, infrastructure requirements related to the cumulative impact of development in Staffordshire Moorlands will generally be supported by the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan that supports the Local Plan provides further clarification on infrastructure needs and sources of funding The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains up-to-date. In implementing this policy regard will be had to economic viability considerations, consistent with meeting the Local Plan objectives.
SD 1	Sustainable Use of Resources	The Council will require all development to make sustainable use of resources, and adapt to climate change. This will be achieved by: 1. Having regard to the BMV agricultural classification of the land, with a preference for the use of lower quality over higher quality agricultural land. Development should also aim to minimise soil disturbance and to retain ecological connectivity as far as possible 2. Supporting or promoting proposals that remediate brownfield sites affected by contamination. 3. Re-use of sites affected by mining activity will be supported, provided that any mining legacy is appropriately addressed and it can be demonstrated that the site is safe and stable for the development proposed. 4. Supporting development that is located and designed to minimise energy needs and to take advantage of maximised orientation (subject to design and landscape policies) to achieve energy savings in line with Policy SD 3. 5.The Council will require applicants for all major-scale planning applications (10 or more residential units or 1,000+ square metres floor area) to demonstrate that they have considered the energy efficiency, water conservation, sourcing of construction materials, and site orientation aspects of the scheme, and where possible the feasibility of integrating micro-renewables. The degree of detail expected will depend on the scale/complexity of the proposal. 6.The Council will encourage developers to investigate the potential for re-using construction or construction waste materials, especially those sourced locally (which can include those minerals available on site, as appropriate) and integrates where possible on-site waste management facilities.
SD 4	Pollution and Water Quality	The Council will protect people and the environment from unsafe, unhealthy and polluted environments by ensuring proposals avoid potential adverse effects; and only permitting proposals that are deemed (individually or cumulatively) to result in pollution (including air/ water/ noise/ vibration/ light/ ground contamination) if after mitigation, potential adverse effects are deemed acceptable. This may be achieved by the imposition of planning conditions or through a planning obligation. When considering planning applications, the Council will require developers to have regard to the actions and objectives of all relevant River Basin Management Plans and related Plans affecting the District in striving to protect and improve the quality and capacity of water bodies in or adjacent to the District. Planning permission shall only be granted where the proposal makes provision for the protection (and where feasible, enhancement) of water quality and waterside habitat, and water resources where applicable. In the case of development within Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) applicants should demonstrate how site layout has sought to mitigate potential pollution to public water

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		supply. A quantitative and qualitative risk assessment and groundwater protection mitigation strategy may be required subject to consultation with relevant bodies.
SD 5	Flood Risk	The Council will follow a sequential approach to the management of flood risk. New development will be guided to the areas with the lowest risk of current and future flooding where this is viable and compatible with other polices aimed at achieving a sustainable pattern of development. The development of sites within areas at greater risk of flooding will only be considered where they are deemed acceptable due to national or other policies or material considerations. All applicable development must be subject to a site-specific flood risk assessment which demonstrates that the development has been designed to be flood resilient and resistant and safe for its users for the lifetime of the development; in accordance with NPPF Policy. In addition, schemes in flood risk areas should demonstrate how the sequential approach has been used to locate the most vulnerable parts of the development in the areas of lowest flood risk. Where development sites are located in flood risk areas and/or affected by the presence of watercourses, the Council expects developers to undertake early discussions with the EA and the LLFA. Where a watercourse is present on a development site, applicants will be expected to take opportunities to undertake river restoration and enhance natural river corridors where appropriate, in line with the Water Framework Directive, and to make space for water. The culverting of any watercourse will not normally be permitted and development should, wherever possible, open up any culverted watercourses to increase flood water storage and create a green corridor. More generally the Council will support the identification and implementation of natural flood management measures that will contribute towards delivering a reduction in local and catchment-wide flood risk and impacts of climate change and other multiple benefits. All applicable developments should incorporate sustainable drainage measures (SuDS) to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water runoff and contribute to on-site flood alleviation, as well as contributing to wider Council objectives such as its emerging Green infrastructure Network; to enhancing biodiversity and recreation opportunities; landscape character etc. Developers should undertake early discussions with the LLFA to ensure that SuDs can be fully integrated into the final development layout. Where appropriate suitable measures to deal with surface water arising from development proposals will be required to minimise the impact to and from new development. In such cases the Council will expect applicants to demonstrate how their proposals manage surface water run-off sustainably with discharge to the public sewer only being considered as a last resort, where, clear evidence must be demonstrated why alternative options are not available. On greenfield sites developers should aim to not increase surface water runoff rates. On brownfield sites developers should aim to reduce surface water runoff to the greenfield rate wherever practical. Approved development proposals will be expected to be supplemented by appropriate maintenance and management regimes for surface water drainage. On larger sites involving phased development and/or involving multiple landowners the Council will where appropriate encourage applicants to engage in early discussion with utility providers and LLFA for the achievement of coordinated, holistic drainage strategies across the whole site over time. When considering planning applications, the Council will have regard to all relevant Catchment Flood Management Plans affecting the District. In all cases the Council will work with developers, stakeholders and landowners to encourage and promote implementation of natural flood risk management measures which will contribute towards flood risk reduction as well as achieve wider environmental benefits.
H 1	New Housing Development	1) New housing development should provide for a mix of housing sizes, types and tenure including a proportion of affordable housing as set out in Policy H 3, and where appropriate housing for special groups, to meet the needs and aspirations of the current and future population having regard to the Area Strategies. 2) In line with Government legislation the Council will maintain and update a register of those interested in acquiring self-build / custom-build housing plots across the District. Where a demand exists, residential developments of 10 dwellings (or 0.5ha) or more will make an appropriate contribution towards this need in agreement with the Council. This will be negotiated on a case by case basis. 3) All development will be assessed according to the extent to which it provides for high quality, sustainable housing and to which it meets identified housing needs, having regard to the location of the development, the characteristics of the site and the economics of provision. In addition:

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		a) Housing for special groups, particularly for older people and others as identified in the SHMA or successor document should be of a scale and in a location which is appropriate to its needs b) Housing proposals of 10 dwellings (or 0.5ha) or more will be required to provide a mix of housing in terms of size, type and tenure on the site unless viability or other circumstances exist. The final mix will be negotiated with the developer based on housing needs as informed by the SHMA or successor document and other relevant factors such as available supply and market demand. c) All housing development should be at the most appropriate density compatible with the site and its location, and with the character of the surrounding area. Higher densities will generally be appropriate in locations which are more accessible by public transport and which have good access to services. d) All new dwellings should aim to provide flexible accommodation which is capable of future adaptation by seeking to achieve adequate internal space for the intended number of occupants in accordance with the Nationally Described Space standard and delivered to meet accessibility standards set out in the Optional Requirement M4(2) of Part M of the Building Regulations. This will be determined on a site-by-site basis subject to considerations such as viability and design e) All new dwellings must be of sufficient size to provide satisfactory levels of amenity for future occupiers of the dwellings whilst respecting the privacy and amenity of occupiers of existing dwellings. 4) Housing development on sites not allocated for such purposes in Policy H 2 will be supported as follows: a) Within the development boundaries of the towns and larger villages, residential development and development on unidentified (windfall) sites will be permitted, subject to compliance with the Spatial Strategy and wider Local Plan policies b) Outside of the development boundaries, limited infill residential development of an appropriate scale and character for the Spatial Strategy will be supported, provided that: • The development will adjoin the boundary of a larger village and be well related to the existing pattern of development and surrounding land uses, or; • The development is well related to the existing pattern of development of a smaller village and will not create or extend ribbon development or lead to sporadic pattern of development; and c) In all cases the development will not lead to a prominent intrusion into the countryside or have a significant adverse impact on the character and appearance of the countryside. 5) In the other rural areas in the open countryside, only the following forms of housing development will be permitted; a) Affordable housing which cannot be met elsewhere, in accordance with Policy H 3. b) A new dwelling that meets an essential local need, such as accommodation for an agricultural, forestry or other rural enterprise worker, where the need for such accommodation has been satisfactorily demonstrated and that need cannot be met elsewhere. c) Proposals for replacement dwellings, provided they do not have a significantly greater detrimental impact on the existing character of the rural area than the original dwelling or result in the loss of a building which is intrinsic to the character of the area. d) The conversion of rural buildings for residential use where the building is suitable and worthy in physical, architectural and character terms for conversion; or where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets. e) Proposals to redevelop previously developed land provided it is not of high environmental value. f) The subdivision of an existing residential dwelling provided it is not in an isolated location. 6) When development is located in the Green Belt, national Green Belt Policy will apply. The Council will closely monitor the delivery of residential windfall sites and affordable housing to ensure that it is meeting expected levels.

Policy	Title	Policy Text
H 3	Affordable Housing	1) Residential developments of 10 dwellings (or 0.5ha) or more shall provide 33% affordable housing. Where justified, the Council will consider a lower level of provision taking into account the Local Plan and Site Allocations Viability Study, other up-to-date viability evidence and other contributions. Affordable housing should normally be provided on-site. Provision off-site or through a commuted sum payment in lieu will only be considered where it will be of broadly equivalent value to on-site provision and it can be robustly justified in delivering affordable homes through mixed and balanced communities. 2) Unless circumstances dictate otherwise and in agreement with the Council, 60% of all affordable dwellings provided on each site will be social / affordable rented housing with the remaining 40% being intermediate / starter homes. 3) In or on the edge of villages, affordable housing schemes that are of an appropriate scale for the spatial strategy will be permitted on suitable rural exceptions sites which are well related to services and facilities and where a demonstrable need exists within the local area which cannot otherwise be met by means of provision in the plan. Small numbers of market homes may be allowed at the Council's discretion where it would facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet the needs of the local community. 4) Affordable housing should be designed as an integral part of developments and be 'tenure blind' in relation to other properties within the site. 5) In areas of low demand or where the stock does not meet and is not capable of meeting local housing market needs consideration will be given, in consultation with local communities, to options for renovation/improvement or redevelopment schemes to create more sustainable and balanced housing.
DC 1	Design Considerations	All development shall be well designed and reinforce local distinctiveness by positively contributing to and complementing the special character and heritage of the area in line with the Council's Design Guide SPD. In particular, new development should: 1. be of a high quality and add value to the local area, incorporating creativity, detailing and materials appropriate to the character of the area; 2. be designed to respect the site and its surroundings and promote a positive sense of place and identity through its scale, height, density, layout, siting, landscaping, character and appearance; 3. create, where appropriate, attractive, active, functional, accessible and safe public and private environments which incorporate public spaces, green infrastructure including making provision for networks of multi-functional new and existing green space (both public and private), landscaping, public art, 'designing out crime' initiatives and the principles of Active Design; 4. incorporate sustainable construction techniques and design concepts for buildings and their layouts to reduce the impact of the development; 5. protect the amenity of the area, including creation of healthy active environments and residential amenity, in terms of satisfactory daylight, visual impact, sunlight, outlook, privacy, soft landscaping as well as noise, odour and light pollution; 6. promote the maintenance, enhancement, restoration and re-creation of biodiversity and geological heritage, where appropriate; 7. provide for safe and satisfactory access and make a contribution to meeting the parking requirement arising from necessary car use; 8. require new developments to be well integrated for car, pedestrian and cycle use as well as other sustainable transport links; 9. ensure that existing drainage, waste water and sewerage infrastructure capacity is available, and where necessary enhanced, to enable the development to proceed; 10. ensure, where appropriate, equality of access and use for all sections of the community; 11. be served by high speed broadband (>30mbps) unless it can be demonstrated through consultation with Next Generation Access Network providers that this would not be possible, practical or economically viable. In all circumstances during construction of the site sufficient and suitable ducting should be provided within the site and to the property to facilitate ease of installation at a future date
DC 2	The Historic Environment	1. The Council will conserve and where possible enhance heritage assets, including their setting in a manner appropriate to their significance. This will take into account the desirability of maintaining and enhancing their significance and will ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the character of the built and historic environment. 2. Protection will be given to designated heritage assets and their settings and non-designated heritage assets as set out in the NPPF

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		3. All applications likely to affect heritage assets will require the submission of a heritage statement, including a qualitative visual assessment where appropriate 4. Where development is likely to affect archaeology, both designated and undesignated, the Council requires the submission of a desk based assessment, and where appropriate, field surveys and trench evaluation by a qualified professional. 5. Where the loss of significance is unavoidable, recording should take place and this should be added to the Historic Environment Record as a minimum, held by Staffordshire County Council. 6. The Council will continue its proactive approach to heritage assets at risk and welcomes development proposals which would result in the sympathetic reuse of these assets in line with NPPF policy. 7. The Council will promote development which sustains, respects or enhances buildings and features which contribute to the character or heritage of an area and those interests of acknowledged importance through the use of Conservation Area Appraisals, Design Guidance and Statements, Archaeological Assessments, Characterisation Studies and Masterplanning.
DC 3	Landscape and Settlement Setting	The Council will protect and, where possible, enhance local landscape and the setting of settlements in the Staffordshire Moorlands by: 1. Resisting development which would lead to prominent intrusion into the countryside or have a significant adverse impact on the character or the setting of a settlement or important views into and out of the settlement as identified in the Landscape and Settlement Character evidence; 2. Supporting development which respects and enhances local landscape character and which reinforces and enhances the setting of the settlement as identified in the Landscape and Settlement Character evidence; 3. Supporting developments which conserve or enhance the biodiversity qualities of any natural or man-made features within the landscape, such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows, walls, watercourses or ponds; 4. Supporting opportunities to positively manage the landscape and use sustainable building techniques and materials which are sympathetic to the landscape; 5. Ensuring that development does not adversely affect the wider setting of the Peak District National Park.
C 1	Creating Sustainable Communities	To create sustainable communities at a local level the Council will: 1. Support proposals which protect, retain or enhance existing community facilities (including multi use and shared schemes) or provide new facilities. New facilities should preferably be located within defined built up areas where they are most accessible. In exceptional cases facilities may be located adjacent to these areas where it can be demonstrated that this is the only practical option and where a site is well related to the existing settlement. 2. Safeguard land required for the provision of facilities to meet existing and future community needs, as identified by service providers. 3. Resist proposals involving the loss of community facilities unless: a) an alternative facility of the same type and quality that meets the needs of the community is available in the locality or can be provided in an accessible location in the same locality; or b) a viability appraisal including a marketing exercise by a qualified professional demonstrates that there are no options for continued or shared use as any type of community facility which are financially viable and it can be demonstrated that loss of the facility would not disadvantage local residents. c) In the case of proposals to change use from one type of community facility to another, the Council will consider the respective benefits of both the existing and proposed uses in terms of their contribution to the community's ability to meet its day to day needs. 4. Only permit new development where the utility, transport and community infrastructure necessary to serve it is either available, or will be made available by the time it is needed. All development proposals must therefore either incorporate the infrastructure required as a result of the scheme, or make provision for financial contributions and/or land to secure such infrastructure or service provision at the time it is needed, by means of conditions or a planning obligation in line with the Developer Contributions SPD, or any subsequently adopted Community Infrastructure Levy. 5. Support the relocation of uses which are no longer compatible with their surroundings due to negative amenity issues such as noise or accessibility where an alternative suitable site can be secured, subject to the requirements set out in Policy E 2 in order to facilitate regeneration.

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<tr><th>Policy</th><th>Title</th><th>Policy Text</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>This policy will only apply insofar as it is consistent with any permanent or temporary provisions for changes of use permissible under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (as amended).</td></tr>
<tr><td>C 2</td><td>Sport, Recreation and Open Space</td><td>
The Council will promote the provision of high quality recreational open space by implementing and supporting schemes that will protect, provide and improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, indoor and outdoor sports and children's play facilities throughout the district, in accordance with the updated Open Space Study, Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sports Facility Assessment (2017) and successor documents.

Residential developments of 10 dwellings (or 0.5ha) will be expected to make provision, or a contribution towards provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities which are necessary and reasonably related in form and scale in accordance with the recommendations set out in the above studies. The quantity standards from the Open Space Study are set out below and further guidance will be set out in the Developer Contributions SPD.

In addition:

<table>
<tr><th>Typology</th><th>Recommended Quantity Standard (ha per 1,000 population)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Parks and gardens</td><td>0.14</td></tr>
<tr><td>Natural and semi-natural greenspace</td><td>Not set</td></tr>
<tr><td>Amenity greenspace</td><td>0.60</td></tr>
<tr><td>Allotment</td><td>0.10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Provision for children and young people</td><td>0.08</td></tr>
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1) Existing areas of open space, recreational land and buildings including school playing fields and amenity open space will be protected from development, unless:

a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

2) New sport, recreation and open space facilities should:

a) be located in accessible locations and supported by the local transport infrastructure;
b) protect the residential amenity of the area;
c) be of an appropriate quality, scale and form compatible with the local area, especially if the site is located outside the settlement boundary in the open countryside;
d) not harm interests of acknowledged importance; and
e) be designed so that they are fit for purpose.

3) Applications to improve the use and availability of existing outdoor sports and recreation provision such as the creation of artificial grass pitches and introduction of ancillary facilities such as changing rooms, artificial surfaces or floodlighting will be permitted provided that they :

a) are directly related to the needs of the facility and are proportionate in scale;
b) can be satisfactorily and economically serviced;
c) do not have an unacceptable impact on existing neighbours;
d) meet the above criteria for new sport, recreation and open space facilities; and
e) are acceptable in other respects e.g. design, landscape impact, not inappropriate in Green Belt

4) The Council will encourage securing community access to schools to maximise the use of existing sports provision outside of the school day and the co-location of community infrastructure wherever possible.

Any of the above development should be consistent with the updated Open Space Study, Playing Pitch Strategy and Indoor Sports Facilities Assessment and the guidance in the Developer Contributions SPD.
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Policy	Title	Policy Text
C 3	Green Infrastructure	The Council will, through partnership working with local communities, organisations, landowners and developers, develop an integrated network of high quality and multi-functional green infrastructure that will: a) Support and improve the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities for local communities and enhance the settings of neighbourhoods; b) Link existing and potential sites of nature conservation value and historic landscape features, create new wildlife habitats, increase biodiversity, and increase tree cover where it is appropriate to the landscape; c) Enhance the natural, man-made and cultural features that are crucial to the local landscape and create opportunities for the restoration of degraded landscapes and the enhancement of the urban fringe; d) Mitigate the negative effects of climate change and maximise potential climate change benefits including effective flood risk and waterways management; e) Create appropriate access for a wide range of users to enjoy the countryside, including improved linkages to and provision of formal and informal recreation opportunities and accessible woodland areas, encouraging walking, cycling and horse riding; f) Contribute to the diversification of the local economy and tourist development through the enhancement of existing, and provision of new facilities. The Council will identify, protect and enhance Green Infrastructure assets through the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
NE 1	Biodiversity and Geological Resources	The biodiversity and geological resources of the District and neighbouring areas will be conserved and enhanced by positive management and strict control of development (and having regard to relevant ecological evidence) by: 1. By ensuring all development schemes have regard to the surveys and actions recommended by the Council's Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and Local Wildlife Assessment, and include measures for protection and enhancement of site biodiversity and protection of any geodiversity as appropriate. 2. Resisting any proposed development that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of an International site (or successor designation) alone or in combination with other plans or projects unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met. Any development with a potential to adversely affect a European site/s through construction activities should ensure that Ciria construction guidelines are followed including environmental good practice on control of dust and water pollution. 3. The Council will not normally permit any development proposal which would directly or indirectly (either individually or in combination with other developments) have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Where an adverse effect on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. 4. Conserving, and enhancing regional and locally designated sites. The Council will not permit any development proposal which would directly or indirectly result in significant harm to geological and biodiversity conservation interests, unless it can be demonstrated that: a) there is no appropriate alternative site available; and b) all statutory and regulatory requirements relating to any such proposal have been satisfied; and c) appropriate conservation and mitigation measures are provided; or if it is demonstrated that this is not possible d) the need for, and benefit of, the development is demonstrated to clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site and compensatory measures are implemented. 5. Expecting all development where possible seeks to deliver a net gain in biodiversity proportionate to the size and scale of the development. In circumstances where adverse impacts are demonstrated to be unavoidable, developers will be required to ensure that impacts are appropriately mitigated, with suitable compensation September 2020 119 Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan - Adopted measures towards loss of habitat used only as a last resort where there is no alternative. Where any mitigation and compensation measures are required, they should be appropriately scheduled and managed according to the nature, size and scale of the development so as to minimise impacts that may disturb protected or important habitats and species.

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		6. Supporting opportunities to improve site management and increase public access to wildlife sites including supporting the objectives of the Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan. 7. Ensuring development promotes the appropriate maintenance, enhancement, restoration and/or re-creation of biodiversity through its proposed nature, scale, location and design. The Staffordshire Moorlands Biodiversity Opportunity Map, in conjunction with the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, will be used to guide biodiversity enhancement measures to be included in development proposals as appropriate to the nature and scale of development proposed and other environmental interest, in particular supporting opportunities to increase grassland and heathland habitats including supporting targets in the UK and Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan. 8. Protecting and enhancing habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity as identified in legislation, and recognising and implementing appropriate measures, including landscape-scale conservation management, to take account of the fact that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change. 9. Recognising the value of the natural environment for sport and leisure activities and the need to manage such activities to ensure there is no conflict. 10. Ensuring the provision and protection of green infrastructure networks in line with Policy C 3.
NE 2	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	The Council will protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, in particular, ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows from loss or deterioration. This will be achieved by: • Requiring that existing woodlands, healthy trees and hedgerows are retained and integrated within a proposed development unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh their loss; • Requiring new developments to provide tree cover that secures a good level of sustainability through tree retention, planting and soft landscaping, including where possible the on site replacement of any trees that are removed with sufficient tree planting to replace or increase the canopy cover on-site as appropriate. Landscaping schemes will also be required to mitigate against negative landscape impact and complement the design of new development and make provision for future maintenance. Where it is not possible to secure this new or replacement tree planting within the site, the Council will work with applicants to ascertain if a suitable site(s) can be found off-site for replacement planting in the locality; • Resisting development that would directly or indirectly damage existing ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows. The Council will refer to its adopted Tree Strategy in the consideration of proposals; and will in general seek to retain as many trees and as much hedgerow on site as possible.
T 1	Development and Sustainable Transport	The Council will promote and support development which reduces reliance on the private car for travel journeys, reduces the need to travel generally and accommodates residual development traffic in line with the Integrated Transport Strategy. This will be achieved by: 1. Ensuring that all new development is located where the highway network can satisfactorily accommodate traffic generated by the development or can be improved as part of the development. 2. Ensuring that major development is located in areas that are accessible by sustainable travel modes or can be made accessible as part of the proposal. 3. Considering appropriate parking provision on a case by case basis with recourse to the parking guidance set out in Appendix 2. 4. Where appropriate all new development shall facilitate walking and cycling within neighbourhoods and town centres, and link with or extend identified walking or cycling routes. In addition applicants should also consider how their schemes can enhance the existing path network in line with the Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan and also give consideration to the protection of non-definitive public footpath routes in addition to definitive routes. Development which generates significant demand for travel or is likely to have significant transport implications (as identified within a Transport Assessment) will, where appropriate: Contribute to improved public transport provision Contribute to junction improvements, traffic management and highway infrastructure

Policy	Title	Policy Text
		Provide proactive facilities and measures to support sustainable transport modes including on-site features to encourage sustainable travel methods e.g. cycle path links, cycle storage facilities, bus stops etc Provide and actively promote travel plans.
T 2	Other Sustainable Transport Measures	In line with priorities set out in the NPPF and the Integrated Transport Strategy, and through working with partner organisations, the Council will encourage and support measures which promote better accessibility, create safer roads, reduce the impact of traffic, or facilitate highway improvements. In particular, the Council will: 1. Support, subject to feasibility assessment, strategic infrastructure improvements and links to major urban areas for example to road, rail, bus facilities in the District and the development of new rail or bus termini within the District. 2. Continue to safeguard all existing disused railway lines within the District and support the reuse of these for public or commercial/tourism use. To this end the Council will refuse any development which would impede or truncate these routes. However proposals for recreational routes, cycleways, bridleways etc will generally be acceptable 3. Work with its partners to promote the improvement/expansion of existing bus services and the provision of sustainable transport services in the District, particularly those serving rural areas. 4. Support and promote the development of a network of safe walking, horse riding and cycling routes (including the National Cycle Network), connecting to public transport, linking communities and recreational/tourist areas. The Council will also ensure that all legally recognised public rights of way affected by development are protected (or diverted where necessary) and, where possible, enhanced. 5. Seek to minimise the environmental impact of freight road transport and to work with Staffordshire County Council and other partner organisations to agree designated lorry routes, freight handling facilities and greater rail use. 6. Support development proposals which encourage electrical battery powered vehicles.