

A watercolor illustration of a village scene. In the foreground, there are green fields with a path leading towards a cluster of houses. The houses have various roof colors, including red and brown. A church with a prominent steeple is visible in the middle ground. The background shows a hazy landscape with more buildings and a body of water. The overall style is soft and painterly.

# Reach Neighbourhood Plan

## Basic Conditions Statement

March 2023

Reach Parish Council

Prepared for Reach Parish Council by



July 2022

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## 1 Introduction

As part of the formal submission of the Reach Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) for Examination, there is a requirement for the Parish Council, as the 'qualifying body' to illustrate that they have complied with a series of 'basic conditions' as set out in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as Amended). This Statement accompanies the submission to the local planning authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council, of the RNP under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("the Regulations"). Regulation 15 requires a submission neighbourhood development plan to be accompanied by *"a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act"*.

This statement has been prepared in order to confirm compliance with these basic conditions as follows:

- Section 2 identifies the legislative requirements for the 'basic conditions';
- Section 3 identifies the matters that the appointed examiner must consider and confirms how the neighbourhood plan responds to them;
- Sections 4 to 9 set out the basic conditions and review how the neighbourhood plan meets these requirements;
- Section 10 confirms that the neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention Rights.

It is considered that the Reach Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) complies with the requirements of the basic conditions as set out in Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.

## 2. Legal Requirements

2.1 Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) identifies the “Basic Conditions” that the neighbourhood plan must comply with.

Paragraph 8 (1) states that the examiner must consider:

- (a) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan meets the basic conditions (see sub-paragraph (2)),
- (b) whether the draft neighbourhood development plan complies with the provision made by or under sections 38A and 38B of this Act,
- (d) whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the neighbourhood area to which the draft neighbourhood development plan relates, and
- (e) such other matters as may be prescribed.

Paragraph 8 (6) stipulates that the examiner is not to consider any matter that does not fall within subparagraph (1) apart from considering whether the draft neighbourhood plan is compatible with the Convention rights.

### Meeting the Legal Requirements

Compliance with the individual elements of the legal requirements is set out below.

Requirement	Interpretation	RNP response
4B 8 (1)(a) Whether the Draft NP meets the Basic Conditions	This requires the RNP to demonstrate compliance with paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the T&CP Act.	This is considered in detail in later sections of this Statement.
4B 8 (1)(b) Whether the Draft Order Complies with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	This requires the draft order to comply with Sections 38A & 38B of the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Section 38A sets out the “Meaning of Neighbourhood Development Plan”.	Compliance with Sections 38A and 38B is demonstrated in the following rows.
	Section 38A(1) “any qualifying body is entitled to initiate a process for the purpose of requiring a Local Planning Authority in England to make a Neighbourhood Development Plan.”	The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted by Reach Parish Council, a qualifying body (as defined in the Localism Act 2011),
	Section 38A(2) A “Neighbourhood Development Plan is a plan which sets out policies (however expressed) in relation to the development and use of land in the whole or any part of a particular neighbourhood area specified in the plan.”	The RNP sets out Policies that relate to the development and use of land for the Neighbourhood Area covering the Parish of Reach, as designated by East Cambridgeshire District Council on 18 February 2019. The boundary of the Neighbourhood Area is shown on Map 1 of the RNP
	Section 38A, Paragraphs (3) - (12)	These paragraphs are not of relevance to the submission phase of the NP
	Section 38B1(a) The Neighbourhood Development Plan “Must specify the period for which it is to have effect.”	The plan period of the RNP is from 2021 to 2031

Requirement	Interpretation	RNP response
	Section 38B1(b) A Neighbourhood Development Plan "may not include provision about development that is excluded development."	The RNP does not contain policies relating to excluded development as defined in Section 61K of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
	Section 38B1(c) A Neighbourhood Development Plan may not relate to more than one neighbourhood area	The RNP does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It solely relates to the Neighbourhood Plan Area as designated by East Cambridgeshire District Council on 18 February 2019.
	Section 38B(2) Only one Neighbourhood Development Plan may be made for each neighbourhood area.	There are currently no other NP's in place in this neighbourhood area.
	Section 38B(3) If to any extent a policy set out in a Neighbourhood Development Plan conflicts with any other statement or information in the plan, the conflict must be resolved in favour of the policy.	There are no conflicts within the RNP
	Section 38B(4)(a) Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions for "restricting the provision that may be included in Neighbourhood Development Plans about the use of land."  These Regulations are set out in Statutory Instrument 2012 No 637, The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.	The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have been used to inform the preparation of the RNP.
	Section 38B(4)(b) Regulations made by the Secretary of State may make provisions "requiring Neighbourhood Development Plans to include such matters as are prescribed in the Regulations."	A <a href="#">screening process</a> was carried out by the local planning authority and published in August 2021 to determine whether a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required in support of the RNP. In both cases it was considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will not have significant environmental effects and that no European sites would be affected by the policies described in the RNP.
	Section 38B, which include paragraphs 38B(4)(c), 5 & 6,	The remaining requirements are not of relevance to this Basic Conditions Statement
4B 8 (1)(d) Whether The Referendum Should Extend Beyond The NP Area	This requires the examiner to consider whether the area for any referendum should extend beyond the NP Area to which it relates.	The RNP relates solely to land that falls within the Parish of Reach.
4B 8 (1)(e) Other Matters 3.28.	This requires the examiner to consider such other matters as may be prescribed	There are no other prescribed matters.

### 3. Compliance with Basic Conditions

- 3.1 Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act sets out the basic conditions that must be met by a draft Neighbourhood Plan. Subsections (a), (d), (e), (f), and (g) are of relevance to this statement.
- 3.2 The Regulations state that the neighbourhood plan will have met the basic conditions if it:
1. Has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
  2. Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
  3. Is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area; and
  4. Is compatible with European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Right (ECHR) obligations.

#### National Policy

- 3.3 The Reach Neighbourhood Development Plan must have appropriate regard to national policy. The following section describes how the RNP relates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as published in July 2021. The NPPF is framed around a basic premise of achieving sustainable development, comprising three main dimensions: economic, social and environmental. It requires the planning system to have regard to three overarching objectives:
- a) *“an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
  - b) *a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and*
  - c) *an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.”*
- 3.4 The NPPF contains thirteen topic-based chapters in which more detailed policy guidance is set out for plan making and decision taking. Table 1, below, identifies how the Plan meets the basic condition of having regard to the NPPF by assessing the Plan against the principles for each of the NPPF topic-based chapters

## Core Planning Principles appraisal

NPPF Core Principle	Reach NP Objectives	Reach NP Policies
Delivering a sufficient supply of homes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the projected housing requirement for the village to 2031.</li> <li>2. Ensure that new homes respond to the identified local needs of Reach.</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH2 – Housing Development Policy RCH3 – Housing Mix</p>
Building a strong, competitive economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Encourage small scale locally sustainable economic initiatives that support the village.</li> <li>4. Manage opportunities for environmentally sensitive tourism related initiatives.</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH4 – New Business and Employment Policy RCH5 – Farm Diversification Policy RCH15- Community Energy Proposals</p>
Ensuring the vitality of town centres	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Retain existing facilities and encourage the provision of new services and facilities</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH15- Community Energy Proposals Policy RCH17- Protecting Existing Services and Facilities</p>
Promoting healthy and safe communities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Retain existing facilities and encourage the provision of new services and facilities</li> <li>12. Ensure that the essential infrastructure including highways is maintained and, where necessary, improved</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH9 – Local Green Spaces Policy RCH18 – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy RCH19- New Vehicle-Free Routes</p>
Promoting sustainable transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Minimise the impact of the motor vehicle on the village.</li> <li>14. Improve public transport provision to Cambridge and Newmarket</li> <li>15. Improve opportunities for non-motorised travel, especially to Burwell</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH12 – Design Considerations Policy RCH19- New Vehicle-Free Routes</p>
Supporting high quality communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Influence and guide suitable designs of new developments within the Parish.</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH12 – Design Considerations</p>
Making effective use of land	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Protect and enhance the rural setting of the village.</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH1- Spatial Strategy</p>
Achieving well-designed places	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Influence and guide suitable designs of new developments within the Parish.</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH14 – Sustainable Building Policy RCH16- Dark Skies Policy RCH19- New Vehicle-Free Routes</p>
Protecting Green Belt land	Not applicable to the Plan	Not applicable to the Plan
Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Have a positive effect on the environment, by promoting actions that contribute to mitigating the Climate Crisis and reducing the carbon footprint</li> </ol>	<p>Policy RCH12- Design Considerations Policy RCH13- Mitigating the risk of flooding from development RCH14- Sustainable Building Policy RCH15 – Community Energy Proposals</p>



NPPF Core Principle	Reach NP Objectives	Reach NP Policies
coastal change		
Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	5. Minimise impact on the natural environment and improve biodiversity	Policy RCH6 – Landscape Quality Policy RCH7 – Green Infrastructure Policy RCH8 – Biodiversity Policy RCH13- Mitigating the risk of flooding from development Policy RCH16- Dark Skies
Conserving the historic environment	7. Ensure new development is appropriate to the historic character of the village. 8. Recognise and protect the historic importance of buildings and character areas	Policy RCH10 – Heritage Assets Policy RCH11 – Buildings of Local Significance
Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals	Not applicable to the Plan	Not applicable to the Plan

## How the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan policies achieve sustainable development

3.4 The table below identifies the purpose of each policy in the Plan and its intended outcome in relation to achieving sustainable development as defined by the NPPF.

Policy	Purpose	Outcome
RCH 1	To provide a strategy for the location of new development within the neighbourhood plan area	Ensures that new development is located within the development envelope, to help support local services and the community.
RCH 2	Identifies land for housing up to 2031 and how it will be delivered	Contributes to meeting the housing need while ensuring the impact of the development is reduced.
RCH 3	Supports the delivery of new housing that meets locally identified needs	Contributes to meeting the local housing need.
RCH 4	Supports the provision of business development.	Contributes towards maintaining the local economy.
RCH 5	Supports proposals to re-use farm and rural buildings for employment purposes.	Promotes sustainable economic growth.
RCH 6	Protects the rural character and setting of the village.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment
RCH 7	Protects and supports the green infrastructure network and Local Green Spaces from the impact of development .	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and promoting healthy and safe communities.
RCH 8	To secure net gain for biodiversity.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment
RCH 9	Designates a number of sites as local green space as per NPPF criteria.	Protects spaces that have an identifiable local importance to the village
RCH 10	Protects heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the built and historic environment
RCH 11	Designates Buildings of Local Significance and seeks to retain and protect local heritage assets.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the built and historic environment
RCH 12	Provides design criteria for new development.	Contributes to ensuring that development proposals have a positive impact on the Neighbourhood Area.
RCH 13	Provides development criteria for managing flood risk and providing sustainable drainage	Contributes to meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding.
RCH 14	Supports the inclusion of energy saving measures in new buildings	Contributes to meeting the challenge of climate change.
RCH 15	Supports provision of local energy solutions.	Contributes to meeting the challenge of climate change..

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
RCH 16	Manages the detrimental impact of lighting on the countryside.	Contributes to conserving and enhancing the natural environment
RCH 17	Supports the retention and improvement of community facilities and services in the village	Maintains existing village services and to reduce the need to drive out of the village for day-to-day needs
RCH 18	Supports the improvement and protection of open space, sport and recreation facilities	Ensures that adequate and suitable sports and recreation facilities are provided in the Neighbourhood Plan Area
RCH 19	Promotes active travel.	Contributes to meeting the challenge of climate change, and improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

## General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan

The Reach Neighbourhood Development Plan (RNP) must demonstrate that it is in general conformity with the development plan for the local authority area concerned. The development plan currently in force for the RNP is the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan adopted on 21 April 2015 (Local Plan 2015).

The Government's Planning Practice Guidance states:

"Strategic policies will be different in each local planning authority area. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan
- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan
- whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic"

## Spatial Vision of Local Plan 2015

The Spatial Vision of the adopted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan states, as relevant to the RNP, that:

- In 2031, East Cambridgeshire will have maintained a high quality of life and retained its distinct identity as a predominantly rural area of villages and market towns, whilst accommodating the development of new homes and jobs.
- The district will have taken advantage of the economic vitality of the Cambridge sub-region, and have a diverse and thriving economy, with vibrant and attractive towns and villages which act as employment and service centres for their surrounding rural areas. More residents will have a high quality of life, with increased access to affordable housing, a wider range of local better skilled jobs, and good quality services and facilities.
- A mix of residential development will be delivered to meet local needs (including affordable housing), whilst ensuring necessary infrastructure and community facilities/services are in place to support growth. In the wider countryside, appropriate small-scale development will be allowed where this meets local needs and supports the long-term sustainability of a settlement.
- Wherever new housing is provided, it will respond to local needs and requirements as far as possible in terms of type, size and tenure. In addition, large developments will be of exemplar quality, and all new housing will be of high quality and well designed, ensuring that the distinctive character of the district's towns and villages is maintained and enhanced.

## Compatibility of the RNP with the Strategic Policies of the Development Plan

The Government's Planning Practice Guidance states that "A local planning authority (or, where relevant, elected Mayor or combined authority) should set out clearly its strategic policies in accordance with paragraph 21 of the National Planning Policy Framework and provide details of these to a qualifying body and to the independent examiner." It further states that:

"Strategic policies will be different in each area. When reaching a view on whether a policy is a strategic policy the following are useful considerations:

- whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective
- whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development
- the scale at which the policy is intended to operate
- whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced
- whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision

- and aspirations in the local plan or spatial development strategy
- in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the local plan or spatial development strategy
- whether the local plan or spatial development strategy identifies the policy as being strategic”

East Cambridgeshire District Council have not identified which of the policies in the Local Plan 2015 are determined to be “strategic”. However, other Neighbourhood Plans in the District have identified strategic policies, which the District Council has not contested, and have been successfully examined and found to meet the Basic Conditions. This Basic Conditions Statement has therefore taken guidance from the strategic policies identified in other ‘made’ Neighbourhood Plan’s Basic Conditions Statements in order to appraise the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan against the Local Plan strategic policies.

The table below provides details of the policies in the development plan, a link to the RNP policy (where relevant) and a narrative of conformity of the RNP with the development plan.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
Policy Growth 1 - Levels of housing, employment and retail growth	<b>RCH1</b> – Spatial Strategy <b>RCH2</b> – Housing Development <b>RCH3</b> – Housing Mix <b>RCH4</b> – New Businesses and Employment <b>RCH5</b> – Farm Diversification	<p>Local Plan Policy 1 identifies the amount of housing, employment and retail growth that will take place in the district to 2031.</p> <p>The RNP identifies sites for new housing in the neighbourhood plan area, and encourages the provision of three bed dwellings to meet local need. The RNP also encourages small scale business development and the re-use of agricultural and rural buildings for employment purposes. The RNP seeks to retain existing services and facilities given the size of the village.</p>
Policy Growth 2 – Locational Strategy	<b>RCH1</b> – Spatial Strategy <b>RCH2</b> – Housing Development <b>RCH17</b> - Protecting Existing Services and Facilities	<p>Local Plan Policy 2 sets out a high level strategy for the distribution of growth across the district, identifying that more limited development will take place in villages which have a defined development envelope, thereby helping to support local services, shops and community needs.</p> <p>RNP accords with this strategy in that the planned development is within the Development Envelope as amended by the Neighbourhood Plan, and supports the retention of local services and facilities for the community.</p>
Policy Growth 3 – Infrastructure Requirements	<b>RCH1</b> – Spatial Strategy <b>RCH7</b> – Green Infrastructure <b>RCH17</b> - Protecting Existing Services and Facilities <b>RCH18</b> – Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities	<p>The Local Plan policy sets out a strategy for the provision of infrastructure and the key infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not undermine this approach.</p>
Policy Growth 4 – Delivery of growth	<b>RCH1</b> – Spatial Strategy <b>RCH2</b> – Housing Development <b>RCH4</b> – New Businesses and Employment <b>RCH5</b> – Farm Diversification	<p>The Local Plan policy identifies the amount of housing, employment and retail development planned across the district to 2031. It does not provide a housing or employment requirement to be met in Reach or identify sites for development in the village.</p> <p>The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan make specific provision for two small housing development sites and support appropriate infill, whilst also allowing for other development within the development envelope and therefore does not</p>

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
		undermine the approach set out in the Local Plan.
Policy Growth 5 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development	All policies apply	The Local Plan policy seeks to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.  The RNP policies complement this approach.
Policy Growth 6 – Community-led development	<b>RCH15</b> – Community Energy Proposals	The Local Plan policy supports community-led development, such as schemes involving affordable housing, small business units, renewable energy generation and other appropriate uses.  The RNP includes a specific policy to promote community led renewable energy initiatives.
Policy HOU1 – Housing Mix	<b>RCH3</b> – Housing Mix	The Local Plan policy sets a broad framework for the achievement of a mix of housing within different categories of development.  Policy RCH3 compliments this approach by identifying a particular local need for Reach as identified by local evidence.
Policy HOU2 – Housing density	<b>RCH13</b> - Design Considerations	The Local Plan policy states that the housing density of a scheme will be judged on a site-by-site basis, taking into account a number of criteria.  Policy RCH13 compliments this approach by providing specific design criteria for the consideration of development proposals as set out in the Development Design Checklist appended to the Neighbourhood Plan (appendix 4).
Policy EMP1 - Retention of existing employment sites and allocations	No specific policies apply	The Local Plan policy seeks the retention of land and premises currently or last used for employment purposes.  The RNP does not contradict the local plan policy.
Policy ENV1 – Landscape and Settlement Character	<b>RCH6</b> – Landscape Quality <b>RCH7</b> - Green Infrastructure <b>RCH9</b> – Local Green Spaces <b>RCH10</b> – Heritage Assets <b>RCH11</b> - Buildings of Local Significance <b>RCH12</b> – Design	The Local Plan policy seeks to ensure that the location, scale, form, design, materials, colour, edge treatment and structural landscaping of proposals will create positive, complementary relationships with existing development, identifying specific matters that should be taken into account.  The identified policies in the RCH are complimentary to Policy ENV1.

Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
	Considerations <b>RCH16</b> - Dark Skies	
Policy ENV2 – Design	<b>RCH12</b> - Design Considerations <b>RCH13</b> - mitigating the risk of flooding from development <b>RCH14</b> - Sustainable Building	<p>The Local Plan policy requires new development proposals to be designed to a high quality, enhancing and complementing local distinctiveness and public amenity by relating well to existing features and introducing appropriate new designs.</p> <p>The identified policies in the RNP are complimentary to Policy ENV2.</p>
Policy ENV7 – Biodiversity and geology	<b>RCH8</b> – Biodiversity <b>RCH12</b> - Design Considerations	<p>The Local Plan policy requires new development to protect land with biodiversity and geological value, allows for mitigation measures where appropriate and maximise opportunities for creation, restoration, enhancement and connection of natural habitats.</p> <p>The identified policies in the RNP are complimentary to Policy ENV7.</p>
Policy ENV11 – Conservation Areas	<b>RCH 10</b> – Heritage Assets <b>RCH11</b> - Buildings of Local Significance <b>RCH12</b> – Design Considerations	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks development proposals in a conservation area to be of a high standard of design and materials in order to preserve or enhance the character of the area.</p> <p>The identified policies in the RNP are complimentary to Policy ENV11.</p>
Policy ENV 12: Listed Buildings	<b>RCH10</b> – Heritage Assets <b>RCH12</b> – Design Considerations	<p>The Local Plan policy sets out criteria whereby proposals that would have an impact on a listed building may or may not be permitted.</p> <p>The identified policies in the RNP are complimentary to Policy ENV12.</p>
Policy ENV 13: Local Register of Buildings and Structures	<b>RCH11</b> - Buildings of Local Significance	<p>The Local Plan policy states that proposals that affect a building or structure on the Local Register will not be permitted where it would have a detrimental impact on the visual, architectural or historic significance of the asset.</p> <p>Policy RCH11 compliments this approach.</p>
Policy COM1: Location of retail and town centre uses	<b>RCH17</b> - Protecting Existing Services and Facilities	<p>The policy identifies in what circumstances proposals for new retail development in small settlements such as Reach will be permitted.</p>



Local Plan Strategic Policy	Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Comment
Policy COM3: Retaining community facilities	<b>RCH17</b> - Protecting Existing Services and Facilities	<p>Policy RCH17 compliments this approach.</p> <p>The Local Plan policy sets out criteria against which proposals for the loss of community facilities will be considered.</p> <p>Policy RCH17 compliments this approach.</p>
Policy COM7: Transport Impact	<b>RCH19</b> - New vehicle-free routes	<p>The Local Plan policy seeks to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, and promotes sustainable forms of transport appropriate to its particular location.</p> <p>Policy RCH19 compliments this approach.</p>

## 4. Compatibility with European Union Obligations and Human Rights

### Environmental Impact and Habitat Regulations

Section 4B 8 (2)(f) states that a draft Neighbourhood Plan will meet the basic conditions if, the making of the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations and the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

European Union Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be undertaken for certain types of plan or programmes that would have a significant environmental effect. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations) that this is to be determined by a screening process which should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations). The results of this process must be set out in an SEA Screening Statement, which must be publicly available

In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Regulations, Reach Parish Council requested East Cambridgeshire District Council, as the responsible body, to consider whether an environmental assessment of the emerging Reach Neighbourhood Plan is required. The District Council subsequently made this determination following consultation with the statutory consultees. The determination is set out in a report dated 20 August 2021 and the conclusion of the determination was subsequently confirmed by the appropriate statutory bodies. In line with Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) the screening determination is also submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council alongside the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

### Human rights and equality impact assessment

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

### Impact of Objectives of Reach Neighbourhood Development Plan on Persons with Protected Characteristics

RNP Objectives	Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
Objective 1: Meet the projected housing requirement for the village to 2031.	Promotes the delivery of new housing that meets local needs  Positive impact on persons with protected characteristics

<b>RNP Objectives</b>	<b>Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics</b>
Objective 2: Ensure that new homes respond to the identified local needs of Reach	Seeks to ensure that new housing is of a type that meets local needs  Positive impact for persons with protected characteristics.
Objective 3: Encourage small scale locally sustainable economic initiatives that support the village	Ensures that economic opportunities exist to support the village  Broadly positive impact on persons with protected characteristics
Objective 4: Manage opportunities for environmentally sensitive tourism related initiatives	Seeks to ensure that opportunities for environmentally sensitive tourism exist in the parish  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics.
Objective 5: Minimise impact on the natural environment and improve biodiversity	Seeks to improve biodiversity and minimise impact on the natural environment.  Neutral impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 6: Protect and enhance the rural setting of the village.	Minimises the impact of development on the village  Neutral impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 7: Ensure new development is appropriate to the historic character of the village	Seeks to protect the historic environment  Neutral impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 8: Recognise and protect the historic importance of buildings and character areas.	Seeks to protect the historic environment  Neutral impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 9: Have a positive effect on the environment, by promoting actions that contribute to mitigating the Climate Crisis and reducing the carbon footprint.	Ensures that reducing the carbon footprint and mitigation of the climate crisis are part of the decision making process.  Neutral impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 10: Influence and guide suitable designs of new developments within the Parish.	Seeks to ensure new development is of a quality that is acceptable in the neighbourhood area  Broadly positive impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 11: Retain existing facilities and encourage the provision of new services and facilities	Seeks to retain existing facilities and services.  Broadly positive impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 12: Ensure that the essential infrastructure including highways is maintained and, where necessary, improved.	Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics

<b>RNP Objectives</b>	<b>Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics</b>
Objective 13: Minimise the impact of the motor vehicle on the village.	Seeks to ensure that new development does not have detrimental impacts  Broadly positive impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 14: Improve public transport provision to Cambridge and Newmarket	Ensures that public transport is a consideration in planning decisions.  Positive impact for persons with protected characteristics
Objective 15: Improve opportunities for non-motorised travel, especially to Burwell	Ensures that travel modes other than the car are considered and provided  Broadly positive impact for persons with protected characteristics

### **Impact of Reach Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies on Persons with Protected Characteristics**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics</b>
RCH 1	To provide a strategy for the location of new development within the neighbourhood plan area	Ensures that a balance is made between enabling development and minimising the loss of land outside the settlement  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 2	Identifies land for housing up to 2031 and how it will be delivered	Ensures that opportunities are available for the construction of new homes in the plan period.  Positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 3	Supports the delivery of new housing that meets locally identified needs	Ensures that new housing is of a type to meet existing and future local needs.  Positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 4	Supports the provision of business development.	Provides opportunities for employment in the neighbourhood area.  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 5	Supports proposals to re-use farm and rural buildings for employment purposes.	Ensures that existing farm or rural buildings are re-used to support the local economy.  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 6	Protects the rural character and setting of the village.	Protects the character of the village.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 7	Protects and supports the green infrastructure network and Local Green Spaces from the impact of development .	Ensures existing green infrastructure and green spaces are protected  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics

Policy	Purpose	Outcome for persons with Protected Characteristics
RCH 8	To secure net gain for biodiversity.	Protects biodiversity interests.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 9	Designates a number of sites as local green space as per NPPF criteria.	Identifies 7 specific sites for protection from development.  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 10	Protects heritage assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.	Protects heritage interests.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 11	Designates Buildings of Local Significance and seeks to retain and protect local heritage assets.	Ensures locally recognised buildings and features are retained.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 12	Provides design criteria for new development.	Ensures new development reflects local characteristics and contributes to a high quality sustainable environment.  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 13	Provides development criteria for managing flood risk and providing sustainable drainage	Ensures that new development is located to avoid the risk of flooding.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 14	Supports the inclusion of energy saving measures in new buildings	Ensures that new development incorporates energy efficiency measures.  Broadly positive impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 15	Supports provision of local energy solutions.	Encourages the provision of community led renewable energy initiatives, to enable the community to raise funds and reduce bills.  Broadly positive for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 16	Manages the detrimental impact of lighting on the countryside.	Ensures that the countryside setting and dark skies of the local area is not weakened by inconsiderate lighting.  Neutral impact for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 17	Supports the retention and improvement of community facilities and services in the village	Ensures local facilities are retained to avoid unnecessary vehicular trips.  Broadly positive for persons with certain protected characteristics
RCH 18	Supports the improvement and protection of open space, sport and recreation facilities	Ensures that opportunities for sport and recreation are available in the neighbourhood area.  Ensures that opportunities for sport and recreation are available in the neighbourhood area.
RCH 19	Promotes active travel.	Supports opportunities to create walking, cycling and pedestrian routes in the neighbourhood area.  Broadly positive for persons with certain protected characteristics

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