

# **Blyth Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2035**

## **Basic Conditions Statement**

**July 2019**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Basic Conditions Statement has been prepared in support of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan. It demonstrates how the Plan meets the statutory requirements set out within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and the Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- 1.2. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by the Blyth Neighbourhood Steering Group on behalf of Blyth Parish Council, a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011 and refers solely to the area within the Parish boundary (Figure 1). The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan covers a Plan Period of 15 years, between 2018 and 2035.
- 1.3. The Blyth Neighbourhood Development Plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area. It is solely related to the area of Blyth as designated by Bassetlaw District Council on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017. There are no other neighbourhood plans in place for the Blyth neighbourhood area.
- 1.4. The plan was presented for Regulation 14 Consultation, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012, between Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Some amendments have been made to the document based on the comments received and these are summarised in the document entitled 'Consultation Statement'.
- 1.5. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan refers only to planning matters (use and development of land) and does not deal with 'county matters' (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matter set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 1.6. This statement addresses each of the four "basic conditions" required by the Regulations and explains how the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of the Town & Country Planning Act. The Regulations state that a Neighbourhood Plan will be considered to have met the basic conditions if:
  - Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood

development plan;

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

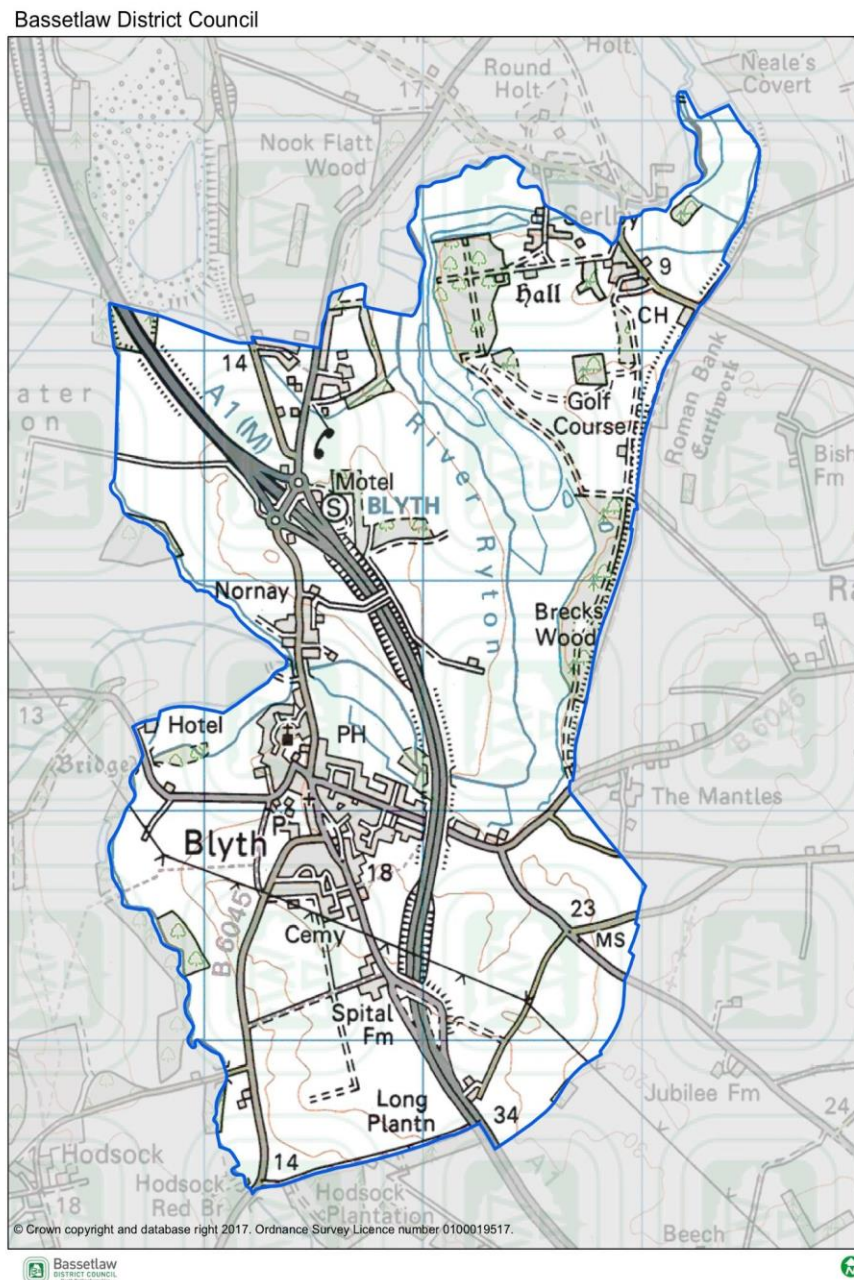


Figure 1. Designated Neighbourhood Area for the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan

## 2. Conformity with the Basic Conditions

- 2.1. As part of the Basic Conditions Statement, an Assessment of Compliance has been prepared, testing all policies within the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan against the principles of sustainable development, NPPF regulation, and the Local Plan policies of the Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) 2011 Core Strategy and the current BDC Draft Local Plan (January 2019). The result of the Assessment of Compliance has been summarized in the tables below

### Contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development

- 2.2. The definition of sustainable development employed in the Assessment of Compliance has been derived from the NPPF's definition (*NPPF February 2019, paragraph 8*):

“Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has 3 overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- **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
- **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
- **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.”

Neighbourhood Plan's Policies' conformity with the definition of Sustainable Development”, sets out how the Neighbourhood Plan Policies are delivering Sustainable Development.

- 2.3. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared having regard to national policies as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of July 2018.
- 2.4. As a whole, the Neighbourhood Plan and the process to produce it have been designed to comply with the following specific paragraphs of the NPPF:
- Paragraph 13 of the NPPF - The application of the weighting against developments that conflict with the provisions of a neighbourhood plan has implications for the way communities engage in neighbourhood planning. Neighbourhood plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans or spatial development strategies; and should shape and direct development that is outside of these strategic policies.
  - Paragraph 37 of the NPPF - General conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan: during the production of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group has consulted with the local planning authority in order to ensure that the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the BDC 2011 Core Strategy and BDC Draft Core Strategy (July 2017).
  - Paragraph 125 of the NPPF – Develop a Shared Vision: the community of Blyth has been actively engaged in developing a shared vision for the future of the Parish.
- 2.5. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has also taken account of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published by the Government in April 2014 in respect of formulating neighbourhood plans.
- 2.6. Figure, 2 “Neighbourhood Plan's Objectives' conformity with NPPF Goals” demonstrates how the objectives of the Blyth Neighbourhood Development Plan

have regard to relevant national policies within the NPPF in relation to:

- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
- Building a strong, competitive economy
- Promoting healthy and safe communities
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Supporting high quality communications
- Making effective use of land
- Achieving well-designed places
- Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.7. Figure 3, “Neighbourhood Plan’s Policies’ conformity with NPPF provisions”, demonstrates in more details how each policy in the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to specific paragraphs of the NPPF, including a narrative explaining how conformity has been achieved.

### Conformity with Strategic Local Policy

2.8. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in close collaboration with officers from Bassetlaw District Council. This has ensured that the process of developing the policies in the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by the Core Strategy Adopted 2011 and the BDC Draft Local Plan (January 2019).

2.9. The Basic Conditions set out in Paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 require the Neighbourhood Plan to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area. Since the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan was produced while the Draft Local Plan under examination, the plan considered both the Core Strategy 2011 as well as the Draft Local Plan 2019. This document will demonstrate how the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan are in conformity with both documents.



- 2.10. The Blyth NP has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group for Blyth Parish Council in close collaboration with officers from Bassetlaw District Council. This has ensured that the process of developing the policies in the Blyth NP has been informed by the Strategic Policies in the Core Strategy and from the from Policies and evidence base which are currently in the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.11. Figure 4 table provides a summary of how each of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the District's Strategic Policies.

## Conformity with the definition of Sustainable Development

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 1: Sustainable Development	✓	✓	✓	This Policy supports Sustainable Development of Blyth: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the villages. At the same time, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally-valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure.
Policy 2: Housing Design and Layout	✓	✓	✓	This policy ensures future development is located and designed sustainably and in a way that respects the existing character of the settlements. In doing so, it supports social and cultural wellbeing of the community through high-quality design, while ensuring housing and other needs are met. The policy protects and enhances the historic and natural environment in the Parish, protecting designated and non-designated buildings, existing mature tree and green features, and traditional features of the built environment. Protecting the character and attractiveness of the villages will have the secondary effect of promoting their value as tourism destinations, supporting related economic activities.
Policy 3: Housing Affordability	✓	✓	-	This Policy seeks to address local issues connected with housing affordability and to ensure local residents' housing needs are fulfilled, especially the needs of those unable to afford market accommodation. Furthermore, by providing more affordable housing, starter homes and semi-detached houses, mainly aimed towards keeping families and younger populations in Blyth, this Policy will have the secondary effect of supporting services and economic activities in the village.

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 4: Pre-application Community Consultation	-	✓	-	This Policy seeks to encourage consultation with the community before an application is submitted.
Policy 5: Windfall Sites	✓	✓	✓	This Policy supports residential development on windfall sites within the development footprints of Blyth: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the villages. At the same time, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally-valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure.
Policy 6: NP05: Land East of Bawtry Road (at Lynwood)	✓	✓	✓	This Policy allocates residential development within the development footprint of Blyth: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the villages. At the same time, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally-valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure.
Policy 7: BDC02: Land to the north of Retford Road	✓	✓	✓	This Policy allocates residential development within the development footprint of Blyth: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the villages. At the same time, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally-valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure.

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 8: BDC03: Land to the east of Spital Road	✓	✓	✓	This Policy allocates residential development within the development footprint of Blyth: additional houses in the area will support the economic and social growth of the community, supporting additional commercial and community services in the villages. At the same time, the policy ensures that rural and environmentally-valued sites in the countryside are protected from development pressure.
Policy 9: Employment	✓	✓	-	This policy supports employment opportunities in the Parish and promotes tourism activities. Within the village, some of the economic activities supported by the policy will deliver key services to the community. By promoting working from home, the Plan aims to promote Blyth as places to live and work, thus supporting the social and economic growth of the Parish as a whole.
Policy 10: Community Facilities	✓	✓	-	Protection of existing and promotion of new community facilities has positive effects on the social and historic environment strands of sustainability. The social benefit of community facilities derives from their capacity to meet local residents' needs and thus to promote a cohesive community. Some of the community facilities identified are also businesses, offering employment opportunities whilst providing a community service.
Policy 11 Important Views	-	✓	✓	Protection of important views contributes to maintaining and enhancing the character of the villages, and hence promotes a sense of place and community cohesion. Moreover, the protection of important views over the countryside, natural features, and historic sites helps to enhance and protect the historic and natural environment

NP Policy	Economic Factors	Social Factors	Environmental Factors	How Conformity is Achieved
				of the Parish. Protecting the character and attractiveness of the villages will have the secondary effect of promoting their value as tourism destinations, supporting related economic activities.
Policy 12: Local Green Space	-	✓	✓	The Local Green Space designation aims to protect sites important for their environmental value as ecosystems and biodiversity sites; for their community value as sites used for recreation, tranquil contemplation; and for their value as historical or beautiful sites. The Steering Group, following consultation with the residents, selected the most important sites whose protection will benefit the social and environmental wellbeing of the Parish
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	-	✓	✓	The protection of existing green infrastructure and public green spaces will be positive in terms of protecting the natural environment and improving biodiversity and will have beneficial social effects in terms of promoting healthy lifestyles and recreational opportunities.

Figure 1. Neighbourhood Plan's Policies' conformity with the definition of Sustainable Development

## Conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework

NP Objective		Relevant NPPF Goal
1	To support appropriate development and initiatives that contribute to the continued sustainability of Blyth as a place to live and work.	Promoting healthy and safe communities Building a strong, competitive economy Making effective use of land
2	To identify and protect the unique features and historic buildings that contribute to the character of the village.	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment Achieving well-designed places
3	To ensure that open spaces and other green infrastructure valued by the local community are identified and protected	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
4	To ensure that important community facilities that contribute to the continued sustainability of Blyth are provided and accessible.	Promoting healthy and safe communities Building a strong, competitive economy
5	To deliver a mix of high quality and well-designed housing types and tenures as required by the current and future population of Blyth.	Achieving well-designed places Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
6	To provide a safe and pleasant environment for all residents and visitors to the area	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Figure 2. Neighbourhood Plan's Objectives' conformity with NPPF Goals.

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 1: Sustainable Development	¶ 77, 78, 79 and Chapter 12	The NPPF is clear that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including valued landscapes and heritage assets, whilst delivering a sufficient supply of housing to meet local need. Policy 1 sets out the scale and location of development that will ensure that growth makes a positive contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development. The main built-up areas of the villages allow some growth whilst protecting the high-quality landscape and heritage assets that surround the villages.
Policy 2: Housing Design and Layout	¶ 105, 124- 129	<p>This Policy ensures that new developments in the Parish have high quality and appropriate design that promotes and reinforces local distinctiveness; present appropriate architectural features and landscaping solutions; and conserve heritage assets. The Policy sets out general principles without setting unnecessary prescriptions nor stifling innovation and originality.</p> <p>The policy includes considerations for the increased vulnerability to climate change events, such as flooding, in the design of new development in the area. Designers should consider the impact of climate change and flooding, incorporating SUDs where necessary.</p>
Policy 3: Housing Affordability	¶ 61,62, 63, 64	This policy seeks a locally appropriate market housing mix, together with the provision of affordable housing specifically for local people, to meet the housing needs assessed according to the up-to-date evidence. It also promotes the provision of different types of housing to give a variety of opportunities for people to secure their own homes. This will help to achieve a healthy and inclusive community.
Policy 4: Pre-application	¶ 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	This policy supports sets out a criterion in which new development should meet to contribute towards the areas growth and sustainability

NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
Community Consultation		
Policy 5: Windfall Sites	¶ 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	This policy supports sets out a criterion in which new development should meet to contribute towards the areas growth and sustainability
Policy 6: NP05: Land East of Bawtry Road (at Lynwood)	¶ 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	This policy supports sets out a criterion in which new development should meet to contribute towards the areas growth and sustainability
Policy 7: BDC02: Land to the north of Retford Road	¶ 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	This policy supports sets out a criterion in which new development should meet to contribute towards the areas growth and sustainability
Policy 8: BDC03: Land to the east of Spital Road	¶ 47, 50, 55, 56, 57, 76 and 159	This policy supports sets out a criterion in which new development should meet to contribute towards the areas growth and sustainability
Policy 9: Employment	¶ 80-84	The National Planning Policy Framework requires planning authorities to “facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit”. This Policy promotes this



NP Policy	NPPF Paragraph	How Conformity is Achieved
		aspiration by supporting mixed-use development and working from home, including alterations, extensions and small, new workshops or studios.
Policy 10: Community Facilities	¶ 28, 70	This policy supports the retention and development of local services and community facilities, and supports the delivery of social, recreational and cultural facilities and services in the community.
Policy 11 Important Views	¶ 109, 116, 156	The policy protects important natural and historic landscapes and scenic beauty through the protection of specific views and vistas over the countryside and the built-up form of the village.
Policy 12: Local Green Space	¶ 96, 97, 98, 99, 110,101	This policy designates Local Green Space following the provisions set in paragraph 96, 97, and 98 of the NPPF, in order to protect valued landscape, local ecological corridors and biodiversity sites, recreation facilities, and green infrastructures.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	¶ 20, 91, 92	The Policy aims to protect existing footpaths and pedestrian routes with a public right of way and access, while at the same time protecting important landscape areas, networks of biodiversity and recreational facilities.

Figure 3. Neighbourhood Plan's Policies' conformity with NPPF provisions.

## Conformity with the Bassetlaw Core Strategy and Draft Local Plan (2011 & 2019)

NP Policy	Core Strategy Objective 2011	Core Strategy Policy 2011	Draft Local Plan 2019	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 1: Sustainable Development	S01, S02, S03	CS1, CS5, CS9	Policy 1,2,3,4, 8	<p>Policy 1 conforms to Policy CS5 of the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 designated part of Blyth (south of the A1(M)) as a Local Service Centre where development will be ‘with smaller regeneration opportunities and the services, facilities and development opportunities available to support moderate levels of growth.’ Likewise, Policy CS9 designated the remanding area of Blyth (north of the A1(M)) as an ‘All Other Settlement’, where development is ‘not specifically identified in the preceding policies are considered to have limited or no service/facility provision and are reliant upon other settlements for such needs’. The draft BDC Local Plan provides an indication that a percentage of the housing growth required across the District will be delivered in rural Bassetlaw of which Blyth is identified within. It goes further to provide a housing requirement figure for the area, in addition to a cap on housing growth to ensure the village remains a sustainable place to live.</p>
Policy 2: Housing Design and Layout	S01 S05, S07, S08, S09	M2, DM3, DM4, DM5, DM8	Policy 4 13, 21,22	<p>Policy 2 conforms to BDC’s Core Strategy Policy DM5 advises that development proposals will be expected to deliver housing at densities that reflect the specific characteristics of the site and its surrounding area. BDC Core Strategy policy DM5 also requires development proposals to ‘reflect the specific characteristics [densities] of the site and its surrounding area (concerning both built form and landscape)’</p>

NP Policy	Core Strategy Objective 2011	Core Strategy Policy 2011	Draft Local Plan 2019	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 3: Housing Affordability	S01	CS8	Policy 3,4	SO1 requires development to meet the diverse housing needs of the district. BDC's approach that involves all development of affordable housing is allocated based on specific local connection criteria as part of the S106 agreement in securing the planning permission. Policy 3 establishes a local connection criterion that ensures that local people will be able to access the additional Blyth provision.
Policy 4: Pre-application Community Consultation	-	-	-	Although Bassetlaw District Council has always encouraged pre application consultation they cannot legally require it (apart from major infrastructure projects). This Policy takes its context from the NPPF which post-dates the Core Strategy and seeks to encourage consultation with the community before an application is submitted.
Policy 5: Windfall Sites	S01, S02, S03	CS1, CS5, CS9, DM4 DM5	Policy 1, 2, 8	SO1 requires development to meet the diverse housing needs of the district. DM4 requires clear and functional with the surrounding settlement. By supporting good quality design and appropriate density in infilled windfall site, the Policy has regards for the provision contained in the Adopted Core Strategy 2011, in particular, Policy DM4 and DM5. The redevelopment and re-use of brownfield properties is also a policy objective of the draft emerging BDC Local Plan.

NP Policy	Core Strategy Objective 2011	Core Strategy Policy 2011	Draft Local Plan 2019	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 6: NP05: Land East of Bawtry Road (at Lynwood)	S01, S03	CS1, CS5, CS8	Policy 1, 2, 8	This Policy contributes to achieve the housing growth standards set in the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 (CS1) and more in general the presumption in favour of sustainable development set in the Core Strategy for Rural Service Centre (SC8). The Policy has regards for the provisions of the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 in terms of location and density of development (Policy DM4), provision of community facilities, protection of natural and heritage assets, and resiliency to flood hazard. This Policy also has respect for the provision of the BDC Draft Local Plan in regard to location, density, protection of green infrastructure and natural heritage, flood risk, and protection of the character and historic heritage of the village.
Policy 7: BDC02: Land to the north of Retford Road	S01, S03	CS1, CS5, CS8	Policy 1, 2, 8	This Policy contributes to achieve the housing growth standards set in the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 (CS1) and more in general the presumption in favour of sustainable development set in the Core Strategy for Rural Service Centre (SC8). The Policy has regards for the provisions of the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 in terms of location and density of development (Policy DM4), provision of community facilities, protection of natural and heritage assets, and resiliency to flood hazard. This Policy also has respect for the provision of the BDC Draft Local Plan in regard to location, density, protection of green infrastructure and natural heritage, flood risk, and protection of the character and historic heritage of the village.

NP Policy	Core Strategy Objective 2011	Core Strategy Policy 2011	Draft Local Plan 2019	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 8: BDC03: Land to the east of Spital Road	SO1, SO3	CS1, CS5, CS8	Policy 1, 2, 8	This Policy contributes to achieve the housing growth standards set in the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 (CS1) and more in general the presumption in favour of sustainable development set in the Core Strategy for Rural Service Centre (SC8). The Policy has regards for the provisions of the Adopted Core Strategy 2011 in terms of location and density of development (Policy DM4), provision of community facilities, protection of natural and heritage assets, and resiliency to flood hazard. This Policy also has respect for the provision of the BDC Draft Local Plan in regard to location, density, protection of green infrastructure and natural heritage, flood risk, and protection of the character and historic heritage of the village.
Policy 9: Employment	SO5, SO9	DM7, DM8, DM3, CS8	Policy 1,8, 23	SO5 supports employment opportunities in rural locations, CS8 encourages the expansion of rural employment opportunities in rural service centres. Policy 9 supports opportunities for working locally as a way of making Blyth a more sustainable place
Policy 10: Community Facilities	SO5	CS7,CS8, DM3, DM7	Policy 23	SO5 supports the continued viability of rural settlements, SO10 supports the provision of essential social infrastructure, CS7 and CS8C supports the provision of community facilities and safeguards existing facilities from redevelopment. Policy 10 relates specifically to Blyth reflecting the value placed on the various community facilities used the local populations for future generations.

NP Policy	Core Strategy Objective 2011	Core Strategy Policy 2011	Draft Local Plan 2019	How Conformity is Achieved
Policy 11 Important Views	SO8, SO9, SO10, SO7	DM4, DM8, DM9	Policy 21	Policy 11 conforms to the BDC 2011 Core Strategy policies (DM7, DM8 and DM9). It also conforms to the draft Local Plan (January 2019) Policy 21, which pursues a landscape strategy to improve the condition and sensitivity of the Landscape with respect to local character. Policy 11 conforms to these policies by supporting local views, vistas and landscapes.
Policy 12: Local Green Space	SO8, SO10, SO7	DM9	Policy 20, 21,24	SO8 supports the protection of the natural environment and landscape character, DM9 expects proposals to enhance GI, restore or enhance biodiversity and respect landscape character. Policy 12 designates an area of Local Green Space that will be a focus for environmental improvements over the Plan period.
Policy 13: Green Infrastructure	SO8, SO10, SO7	DM9	Policy 18, 19 20, 21,24	SO8 supports the protection of the natural environment and landscape character, DM9 expects proposals to enhance GI, restore or enhance biodiversity and respect landscape character. Policy 13 identifying components of the existing green infrastructure network for the district and allows such components to be protected and enhanced for future generations.

Figure 4. Neighbourhood Plan conformity with the BDC Strategy (2011 & 2019) and Allocations and Development Management DPD

## Compatibility with EU Obligations and Legislation

- 2.12. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is a way of ensuring that plans and programmes relating to the development and use of land are compatible with the aims of sustainable development. Sustainability Appraisal assesses the economic, environmental and social impacts of a proposed policy to ensure that it will contribute to achieving sustainable development. Neighbourhood Plans that allocate sites are required to undertake a sustainability appraisal. The Blyth Neighbourhood Plan does allocate sites so a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken.
- 2.13. The environmental assessment of plans with a significant environmental impact is a requirement of the EC Directive on the assessment of plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 2.14. In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in negative significant effects occurring on protected European Sites as a result of the Plan's implementation.
- 2.15. A SEA and HRA Screening was undertaken by Bassetlaw District Council (Appendix 1) to determine whether the content of the draft Neighbourhood Plan required a SEA or HRA Appropriate Assessment. Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency were consulted. It has been determined that the Plan is not likely to have significant environmental effects and as such a full SEA or HRA are not required.
- 2.16. The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. Whilst an Equality Impact Assessment Report has not been specifically prepared, great care has been taken throughout the preparation and drafting of this Plan to ensure that the views of the whole community were embraced to avoid any unintentional negative impacts on particular groups. The population profile has revealed that there is not a significant number of people who do not speak English as a first language, and it has not been necessary to produce consultation material in other languages.

2.17. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared with extensive input from the community and stakeholders as set out in the accompanying Consultation Statement. There was consultation and engagement early on in the process and residents were encouraged to participate throughout. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been consulted on as required by Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; responses have been recorded and changes have been made as per the schedule set out in the Consultation Statement. The Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Steering Group and meets the requirements set out in Paragraph 15 (2) of the Regulations.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1. It is the view of the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group that the foregoing has shown that the Basic Conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act are met by the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein.
- 3.2. The Plan has appropriate regard to the NPPF, will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, is in conformity with strategic policies contained in Bassetlaw District Council's strategic planning policies, and meets relevant EU obligations.
- 3.3. On that basis, it is respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the Blyth Neighbourhood Plan complies with Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Act.