

ACT Neighbourhood Plan

Basic Conditions Statement

October 2022



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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This is a Basic Conditions Statement, prepared to accompany the submission of the ACT Neighbourhood Plan.

The statement explains how the ACT Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements.

2. Meeting Legal Requirements

2.1 General Legal Requirements

Qualifying Body

The draft plan proposal is being submitted by the Neighbourhood Forum, which is the qualifying body for Neighbourhood Planning.

The Neighbourhood Area and the Neighbourhood Forum were both designated in August 2015 and has been redesignated until 6th November 2025

Scope and Statutory Process

The Plan relates to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). This includes screening and statutory consultation.

Period of Effect

The Neighbourhood Plan states the period for which it is to have effect as 'from the day it is made to the end of 31st December 2037.

Excluded Development

The draft plan proposal does not deal with mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Neighbourhood Area

The draft plan proposal relates to the Neighbourhood Area as defined in the ACT Neighbourhood Plan and to no other area. There are no other neighbourhood plans relating to this Area.

2.2 The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that neighbourhood plans must meet are as follows:

- must be appropriate having regard to national policy;
- must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area;
- must be compatible with EU obligations.

In addition, the plan must meet requirements of human rights law.

Regulations specify an additional basic condition that a plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

The following chapters of this statement deal with the basic conditions in more detail.

3. Sustainable Development

3.1 Dimensions of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework states that sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives.

The draft plan proposal takes a balanced approach to enabling growth, but also considering economic, social and environmental sustainability.

3.2 Policies

The Neighbourhood Plan's Policies seeks to enable sustainable growth. Sustainability underpins all the policies, as follows:

AQ1: Air Quality –

- Includes the centre of Platt Bridge which has three air quality management areas, all on the A537 leading to and from Wigan and through the ward's central junction in Platt Bridge, which links all 5 villages.

GS1: Local Green Space -

- Maypole Wood,
- Platt Bridge Community Green;

GS2: Proposed Green Corridor –

It is part of the Green Belt that almost entirely surrounds the five villages and a large area of Wildlife Corridor

- ‘Woodcock Park’, near Woodcock Drive (OSSR AB/NG/6);
- ‘Kingsdown Flash’, known locally as Polly’s Pond, near Lee Lane (OSSR AB/NG/5, AWBE table 2);
- Viridor Woods (Forestry Commission) Bolton Road (OSSR AB/NG/34).
- The Proposed Green Corridor links Maypole Woods, Kingsdown Flash [locally known as Polly’s Pond], Low Hall, Abram Flashes, Viridor Woods and The Three Sisters, incorporating parts of the Abram Ward Circular Walks

GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces -

- Abram
 - Abram Park, off Lee Lane,
 - Recreation ground behind former Labour Club,
 - St Johns Street Recreation Ground,
 - Kingsdown Flash [locally known as Polly’s Pond],
 - Maypole Crescent Recreational ground;
- Bamfurlong
 - Bryn Gates Play Area,
 - Furlong Close Play Area,
 - Coffin Brook,
 - Bryn Hall Fishing Lakes and Ponds;
- Bickershaw
 - Barracks Road Play Area,
 - Beacon Road Play Area,
 - Bickershaw Lane Play Area,
 - Fan Lodge Fishery,
 - Queens Fishery,
 - St James Crescent Play Area,
 - Victoria Fields;
- Platt Bridge
 - Stratton Drive/Fogg Folds Recreation Ground,
 - Kent Avenue Play Area,
 - Neville Street Play Area,
 - Westcroft Play Area,
 - Platt Bridge Teen Meet,
 - Scafell Grove Recreation Ground,
 - Woodcock Drive Recreation Ground,
 - Miners Welfare Recreation Ground,
 - Warrington Road Recreation Ground,
 - Woodland North East of Stratton Drive (AB/WL/18 on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision and Needs Assessment),
 - Molly’s Fisheries;
- Spring View
 - Spring View Community Association Play Area (Repton Avenue),
 - Taylors Lane recreation grounds,
 - Two Ponds Fishery

TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways -

Enhancements to the Abram Ward Circular Walks, including improved accessibility by walking and cycling, will be supported.

Development proposals which restrict pedestrian and cycling access into the villages from the Abram Ward Circular Walks will not be supported.

BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities -

This includes buildings in all five villages as Community Facilities:

- Abram
 - Abram Community Centre,
 - The Bucks Head,
 - Abram Scout Hut,
 - St John's C of E Primary School,
 - Abram St Johns' the Evangelist Church,
- Bamfurlong
 - Bryn Hall Pub,
 - Church of the Good Shepherd,
 - Bamfurlong Methodist Church,
- Bickershaw
 - Bickershaw Village Community Club,
 - Bickershaw C of E Infants and Junior School,
 - Bickershaw Parish Church;
- Platt Bridge
 - Holy Family CMS Club, Tram Street,
 - Kes' Public House,
 - Platt Bridge Community Zone,
 - Platt Bridge Community Centre,
 - Newbridge Learning Community Sports Hall,
 - Holy Family Catholic Primary School,
 - St Mary's Primary School,
 - Platt Bridge Community School,
 - St Nathaniel's Parish Church;
- Spring View
 - Spring View Cricket and Recreation Club,
 - Spring View Community Sport Association,
 - Spring View United Methodist Church.

This also includes Heritage Assets, Productive Green Spaces and Community Pubs

TM1: Transport and Movement -

Transport infrastructure should be designed to help create a high-quality public realm and sense of place, covering the whole of the Neighbourhood Area

Abram Ward Circular Walks includes: Amberswood Common; Low Hall; Victoria Fields; Bickershaw Country Park (in adjacent area); Pennington Flash [in adjacent area]; Maypole Woods; Viridor Woods; Three Sisters [small area within the ACT Plan Area]; Ince Moss/Horrock's Flash; Wigan Flashes [adjacent]; Kingsdown Flash.

RD1: Residential Development -

Residential development will be supported in the following locations, subject to them having no significant detrimental impact on the amenities of existing residential properties or being inappropriate development in the Green Belt:

- Brownfield sites;
- Infill sites within existing built frontages in the village urban areas.

The following are encouraged and will be supported:

- Schemes comprising 100% affordable housing;
- Smaller (1, 2, 3 bedroom) houses and apartments;
- Housing suitable for the older people;
- Special care schemes;
- Community-led or self-build housing.

REF1: Refurbishment -

- At present there are no plans from Wigan Council to develop any areas of Green Belt within the Neighbourhood Area, however we need to ensure all suitable, viable and deliverable brownfield land in and around the Wigan Borough and our ward is fully utilised.

DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity -

Parking areas should include vehicle charging points, with smart charging functionality.
Promotes Cycling and Walking via Abram ward Circular Walks

3.3 Achieving Sustainable Development

The combination of policies enabling growth and addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability mean that the Plan will help to achieve sustainable development, including practical measures to address climate change. This takes account of the needs of current and future generations.

4. National Policy and Guidance

4.1 Having Regard to National Policy and Guidance

The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Chapter 2 of the NPPF deals with achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives, set out in Paragraph 11.

Paragraph 11a) states:

all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change; and adapt to its effects

This principle has underpinned the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which has the following vision / aims:

Vision

For our neighbourhood to be a great place to live and work, with the environment at its heart – making it attractive, resilient, ambitious, thriving and sustainable.

Aims

Three key objectives have been set out to help deliver the vision:

- 1. To enhance and protect our internationally significant landscapes and green spaces**
- 2. To create local employment opportunities, including supporting the development of local community businesses and encouraging local and regional tourism**
- 3. To provide affordable, energy efficient, high-quality homes for our communities of all ages**

Chapter 3 of the NPPF deals with plan making. Paragraph 16 requires plans to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, to be aspirational but deliverable; to be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement and contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous.

The neighbourhood plan is based on a range of evidence, in line with planning practice guidance. This includes evidence on housing need, the natural and historic environments, assessment of potential housing sites, transport, flood risk, and other economic, social and environmental factors.

4.2 NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF was revised in July 2021 and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the NPPF:

NPPF Policy	NP aim	NP Policies
Chapter 5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes To support the Government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes, it is important that a sufficient amount and variety of land can come forward where it is needed, that the needs of groups with specific	3	RD1: Residential Development We aim for our neighbourhood to provide homes for families, couples and single people of all ages and backgrounds, these homes will include small and large properties: apartments, houses and bungalows. We also aim for homes in the Neighbourhood Area to have a mix of tenures, from social housing, affordable rented homes and affordable homes to buy, as well as larger homes to rent or buy. Schemes to refurbish and reuse

housing requirements are addressed		vacant buildings will be strongly supported. It is essential that new and refurbished homes are built to high-quality standards with environmental sustainability and energy efficiency at the forefront
<p>Chapter 6: Building a strong, competitive economy</p> <p>Create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. The need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.</p> <p>Allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future.</p>	2	<p>TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways</p> <p>BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities</p> <p>REF1: Refurbishment</p> <p>GS1: Local Green Space</p> <p>We aim for the Neighbourhood Area to be an ambitious, innovative and prosperous neighbourhood, where current and new residents can find fulfilling and varied employment opportunities. We are keen to attract new residents, businesses and visitors into the area. We actively support the development of new local and community businesses, along with the provision of appropriate premises and work-places in our neighbourhood. We aim to encourage local and regional tourism, and 'green' business opportunities which will make the most of our landscapes and green spaces.</p>
<p>Chapter 7: Ensuring the vitality of town centres</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should support the role that town centres play at the heart of local communities, by taking a positive approach to their growth, management and adaptation</p>	2	<p>GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces</p> <p>TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways</p> <p>BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities</p> <p>REF1: Refurbishment</p> <p>We are keen to attract new residents, businesses and visitors into the area. We actively support the development of new local and community businesses, along with the provision of appropriate premises and work-places in our neighbourhood</p>
<p>Chapter 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities</p>	1, 2	<p>GS1: Local Green Space</p> <p>GS2: Proposed Green Corridor</p>

<p>Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places</p> <p>To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should consider the social, economic and environmental benefits of estate regeneration</p> <p>Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.</p>		<p>GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces</p> <p>TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways</p> <p>BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities</p> <p>REF1: Refurbishment</p> <p>We aim to support community and local businesses to find the productive potential of some of these green spaces.</p> <p>We aim for the Neighbourhood Area to be an ambitious, innovative and prosperous neighbourhood, where current and new residents can find fulfilling and varied employment opportunities.</p> <p>We aim to encourage local and regional tourism, and ‘green’ business opportunities which will make the most of our landscapes and green spaces.</p>
<p>Chapter 9: Promoting sustainable transport</p>	<p>1, 2</p>	<p>TM1: Transport and Movement</p> <p>We actively support the development of new local and community businesses, along with the provision of appropriate premises and work-places in our neighbourhood.</p> <p>We aim to encourage local and regional tourism, and ‘green’ business opportunities which will make the most of our landscapes and green spaces</p>
<p>Chapter 11: Making effective use of land</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions</p>	<p>1, 3</p>	<p>GS1: Local Green Space</p> <p>GS2: Proposed Green Corridor</p> <p>GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces</p> <p>TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways</p> <p>BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities</p> <p>RD1: Residential Development</p>

		REF1: Refurbishment DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity
<p>Chapter 12: Achieving well designed place</p> <p>The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities</p>	2	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities RD1: Residential Development REF1: Refurbishment DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity To create more sustainable work/life patterns, supported by a range of community facilities and local employment opportunities, which support economic development, sustainable growth and healthy active people.
<p>Chapter 13: Protecting Green Belt Land</p> <p>The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence</p>	1	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways The Neighbourhood Area is home to some beautiful, biodiverse habitats and countryside which need ongoing protection and enhancement. We want local people within the Abram Ward, across the Wigan Borough and regionally to be able to appreciate and enjoy these nationally significant landscapes, green and open spaces, through improved access and providing learning opportunities and outdoor leisure opportunities. We aim to support

		community and local businesses to find the productive potential of some of these green spaces.
<p>Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p> <p>The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside areas identified in local plans or other strategic policies that are being taken forward through neighbourhood planning</p>	1	<p>AQ1: Air Quality</p> <p>GS1: Local Green Space</p> <p>GS2: Proposed Green Corridor</p> <p>DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity</p>
<p>Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment</p>	1	<p>GS1: Local Green Space</p> <p>GS2: Proposed Green Corridor</p> <p>DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity</p>

5. Local Policy

5.1 General Conformity

It should be noted that general conformity relates to the policies of the neighbourhood plan taken as a whole, considered against the strategic local policies taken as a whole.

The draft plan proposal has been drafted against the context of strategic local policies and, taken as a whole, does not undermine and helps to deliver the spatial strategy of the Local Plan.

More detailed comparisons of Neighbourhood plan policies to strategic policies is contained in 5.3 below

5.2 Strategic Policies

Strategic policies are contained in the Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Adopted September 2013)

5.3 Policy Comparison

The Neighbourhood Plan policies have been drafted to compliment and add local and other detail to the corresponding Local Plan Policies. The following table maps together corresponding policies.

Strategic Local Policies: Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted September 2013	Neighbourhood Plan Policies
SD1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development	DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity
SP1: Spatial strategy for Wigan Borough	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities TM1: Transport and Movement

	RD1: Residential Development
SP2: Our Town and Local Centres	AQ1: Air Quality GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities TM1: Transport and Movement REF1: Refurbishment
SP4: Broad locations for new development This identifies South of Hindley. Even though not directly the Neighbourhood Area, there may be an affect on the Neighbourhood Area. Housing and employment development with approximately 1,000 dwellings up to 2026. A through-road from the A578 Leigh Road to the A58 Liverpool Road will be required and a substantial proportion of the site will be required for strategic green infrastructure	GS2: Proposed Green Corridor TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways TM1: Transport and Movement DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity
SP5: Greenheart	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces
CP1: Health and Wellbeing	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways

	BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities
CP2: Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities
CP3: Community facilities	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities
CP4: Education and learning	GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities
CP5: Economy and employment	BEC1: Business, Enterprise and Community Facilities REF1: Refurbishment
CP6: Housing	RD1: Residential Development
CP7: Accessibility	TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways TM1: Transport and Movement
CP8: Green belt and safeguarded land	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways
CP9: Strategic landscape and green infrastructure	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor GS3: Recreational and Green Spaces

	TM2: Footpaths and Cycleways
CP10: Design	GS2: Proposed Green Corridor DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity
CP12: Wildlife habitats and species	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor
CP13: Low-carbon development	AQ1: Air Quality DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity
CP17: Environmental protection	GS1: Local Green Space GS2: Proposed Green Corridor DES1: Sustainable Design, Character and Biodiversity

6. EU Obligations & Human Rights

6.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The plan has been screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This included consultation with national statutory bodies.

The screening outcome is that the plan does not require SEA.

The outcome of screening is included at Appendix 1.

6.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

There are no European sites within or immediately adjacent to the Neighbourhood Area.

The screening outcome is that the plan does not require HRA.

The outcome of screening is included at Appendix 1.

6.3 EU Obligations

Given the above screening outcomes, which take account of the responses of national statutory bodies, the Neighbourhood Plan proposal meets the basic conditions relating to not breaching EU obligations and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

6.4 Human Rights

The draft plan proposal is a result of extensive engagement with the local community and stakeholders, from the earliest stages of the process. This has informed the content of the draft plan.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) was undertaken and this took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles.

An equalities assessment is included at Appendix 2. This indicates that the plan would have positive impacts for people with protected characteristics.

The draft plan proposal meets human rights requirements.

7. Appendices

7.1 Screening Outcomes

The following is an extract from the Wigan Council ACT Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report, September 2021.

Screening Decision

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect. We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the ACT Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

Environment Agency position

Environment Agency note and acknowledge the Council's screening decision and have no further comments to make.

7.2 Equalities Assessment

Diversity

The Neighbourhood Plan needs to cater for the widest range of needs, for all of the population. Planning should be inclusive and rigorous engagement has taken place as part of the process of creating the plan. Equally, there is evidence to suggest that diversity is an important factor in achieving sustainable growth.

Legal Requirements

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 defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. An Equalities Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or policies in order to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic. An assessment has been made on whether the Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics. If the impact is negative, this is given a high, medium or low assessment. The following table describes these:

Abram Ward General Population Characteristics

Sourced from the 2011 Census key statistics:

Age Structure

Age	2011 Abram	% of total
All usual residents	15,020	
Age 0 to 4	1,135	7.6
Age 5 to 7	550	3.7
Age 8 to 9	346	2.3
Age 10 to 14	875	5.8
Age 15	195	1.3
Age 16 to 17	501	3.3
Age 18 to 19	429	2.9
Age 20 to 24	974	6.5
Age 25 to 29	1,215	8.1
Age 30 to 44	3,329	22.2
Age 45 to 59	2,632	17.5
Age 60 to 64	944	6.3
Age 65 to 74	1,121	7.5
Age 75 to 84	579	3.9
Age 85 to 89	137	0.9
Age 90 and over	58	0.4
Mean Age	36.6	
Median Age	35.5	

Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	2011
All usual residents	15,020
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	14,239
White: Irish	58
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	13
White: Other White	244
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	58
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	23
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	25
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	41
Asian/Asian British: Indian	34
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	33
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	1
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	43
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	58
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	99
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	8
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	6
Other ethnic group: Arab	15
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	22

Impacts on Protected Characteristics

Equalities assessment requires consideration of each of the protected characteristics. However, it should be noted that the needs, attitudes and opinions of people within any of these groups is as diverse as in the population as a whole, including sometimes very polarised views. The plan will achieve a range of benefits which potentially benefit all of the local population, including creation of local economic opportunities, town centre recovery, and creation of housing and community facilities to meet a range of needs.

In addition, the plan protects green infrastructure and the natural and historic environments and promotes high quality design. The plan addresses climate change through a range of practical requirements.

More specifically against protected characteristics, the following are of particular relevance.

Age

Age can have implications for mobility, access to a cars (especially older and younger groups), reliance on local facilities, housing needs and health, among other matters. The

Plan includes policies on design (DES1) and transport (TM1) which specifically address the old and the young, including those without access to a car. Housing should seek to cater for a range of local needs (RD1). The plan also seeks to promote regeneration and expand local economic opportunities and maintain a range of local community facilities (BEC1) and green spaces (GS1, GS2, REC1).

The Plan also aims to improve Cycle and Pedestrian paths (INF1). The impact on all ages will be positive.

Disability

Disability can have implications for accessibility, housing needs, access to employment, access to facilities and other factors. Housing policies emphasise local need (RD1) Employment policies seek to promote regeneration and expand local employment opportunities and also seek to maintain a range of local community facilities (BEC1).

The Plan also aims to improve Cycle and Pedestrian paths (INF1)

The impact on people with disabilities will be positive.

Maternity and Pregnancy

Maternity has implications for numerous factors, including ease of movement, changing housing needs, and access to local facilities. The Plan seeks to maintain a range of local community facilities (BEC1) and housing to meet differing needs (RD1).

The Plan also aims to improve Cycle and Pedestrian paths (INF1)

The impact on pregnant women will be positive.

Race

Race and culture can be factors in housing needs, community facilities, safety and a range of other planning matters. The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes. However, the plan does ensure a range of housing to meet varying needs (RD1) and to maintain a range of local community facilities (BEC1). The design policy (DES1) should help to create safer environments. The impact will be positive on people of all races.

Sex (Gender)

The range of policies would create social, economic and environmental benefits for people of all genders. The impact will be positive for all genders.

Religion, Gender Re-assignment, Sexual orientation

Religion or LGBT+ status may have implications for housing, community facilities, safety and a range of other planning matters. The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes. However, the range of policies would create social, economic and environmental benefits for everyone, including LGBT+ people. The design policy (DES1) should help to create safer environments. The plan promotes a range of housing to meet varying needs (RD1). The impact will be positive for people with different religions and LGBT+ people

Conclusion

The Neighbourhood Plan provides a strategy for the development of the neighbourhood area, and a range of policies and proposals, which will result in positive benefits for the local community, including those with protected characteristics.

Contact

ACT Neighbourhood Plan Forum

Chairperson

Contact name: Gen Smith

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Abram Ward Communities Together website

[Abram Ward Communities Together – Your Neighbourhood, Your Plan!](http://AbramWardCommunitiesTogether.org.uk)
(AbramWardCommunitiesTogether.org.uk)