


NEW MILTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

ACTION PLAN: UPDATED APRIL 2024



 New Forest DISTRICT COUNCIL	Title New Milton - New Parish Wards		© Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 100026220
	Date	Scale	

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1. INTRODUCTION

New Milton Town Council (NMTC) has engaged ONH to support the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG) in the production of the review of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (NMNP). Two initial sessions took place in December 2023 and January 2024 to enable the SG to look in detail at the existing plan, its effectiveness and potential new policy areas to determine whether it wished to proceed with the review of the Neighbourhood Plan and in doing so, determine the scope of the review. As a result, it was decided by the group at the meeting on the 9th January 2024 to proceed with the NMNP review to modify a number of existing policy areas and to create a small number of new policies.

At the SG meeting in February 2024, it was announced that New Forest District Council (NFDC) had very recently approved a full review of their Local Plan. In light of this, ONH arranged with officers of NMTC to meet with NDFC Planning Policy to review their updated [Local Development Scheme](#) in order to re-evaluate the scope of the NMNP review in advance of re-tabling this Action Plan at the Steering Group meeting in March 2024, alongside a revised project plan, taking into the account the emerging Local Plan timetable, which notes:

For areas where a Neighbourhood Plan is being actively prepared and positive progress is being made, the scope and content of the Local Plan review will be considered in the light of community-led planning objectives. The aim will be to ensure the timely progression of a sufficient and consistent planning framework for the plan area as a whole, whilst avoiding unnecessary duplication.

2. DEFINING THE REVIEW AND GENERATING POLICY IDEAS

The table below summarises the analysis of the NMNP Neighbourhood Plan policies and a proposed revised policy schedule reflecting discussions at the initial scoping sessions.

NFDC Local Plan Update (Feb 2024)

With the announcement of the Full review of the NFDC Local Plan, NFDC and potentially NMTC will now need to consider site allocations for housing. NDFC will be undertaking a “call for Sites” late summer/early autumn 2024. No decisions have yet been made in terms of either spatial strategy or methodology used to determine housing numbers, nor is there any confirmation as to whether a review of the green belt will be considered as part of the review. An Issues and Scope early public engagement period will be undertaken to coincide with the call for sites later this year.

The items in green are updates to the agreed scope of the review discussed at the meeting on the 22nd February 2024.

The SG agreed the scope of the review as follows:

POLICY	TITLE	STATUS	COMMENTS
NM1	A Spatial Plan for New Milton	Retain Modify	No action required. Update: May now require amendment in view of the review of the Local Plan
NM2	Diversifying Housing	Modify	Modify narrative to reflect the desire to identify more affordable sites, particularly to encourage housing for young people. In addition, to consider potentially restricting future 2 nd home ownership within the policy– See Action Plan Update: May now require a Housing Needs Assessment to understand the evidence for more affordable housing, particularly for older and younger residents
NM3	Land East of Caird Avenue	Modify	Modify policy to reflect changes in use class and to reflect development on site to date- See Action Plan Update: SG will need to engage with landowners /developers prior to modification
NM4	Design Quality	Modify	Modify policy with a view to removing part ix) which will form a new policy on climate change. The SG also would like to consider a stand-alone policy for biodiversity net gain and for green energy – See “New Policies” section of Action Plan. Update: Now may need to look at writing a design code for NM4 to provide a focused document for NM - the emerging Local Plan will provide a district wide code. Look to further protect and enhance wildlife and nature within built and urban environment.
NM5	New Milton Town Centre Regeneration	Modify	Modify policy to consider introduction of Areas of Special Character (<i>NP cannot modify or designate new Conservation areas</i>) and a create new policy for retrofitting in conservation area policy. See Action Plan and “New Policies”. The remainder of this policy will remain unaltered with a view to the creation of NDO(s) post modification. Update: Now likely to be a significant piece of work with emerging Local Plan, with a view that the longer term NDO work may now be included or absorbed as

			brownfield site allocations policies contained within the NMNP review.
NM6	Heritage and Information Centre	Retain	No action required.
NM7	Cultural & Community Hub and War Memorial Recreation Ground	Retain	No action required for NMNP review but NMTC to review possibility for progress.
NM8	Health and Wellbeing Centre	Modify	Retain policy but potentially amend to reflect change in location. Update: See NM5 above
NM9	Business and Innovation Centre	Modify	Retain but amend policy to remove site specific location to reflect current lack of definitive site. Update: Likely to be considered on an alternative site as part of the work on NM5 above
NM10	Buildings of Local Heritage and Townscape Value	Modify	Consider updating policy to increase inclusion of non-designated heritage assets and local list and a review of the conservation area. See Action Plan Update: Discussion ongoing with NFDC over production of Local List.
NM11	Mitigating Effects on European Sites	Retain	No action required
NM12	Walking and Cycling	Modify	Amend policy to reflect updated position with Brockhills Lane, Gore Road & to identify route to Bashley and beyond with access to the Forest– See Action Plan (and NM14) Update: This item can continue to be progressed.
NM13	Barton on Sea	Retain Modify	No action required currently. Update: this policy may be linked to NM16 if the opportunity arises and may require reference to the “Green Loop” if this proceeds.
NM14	The Rural Areas in the National Park.	Modify	Consider updating to reflect desire for better connectivity to town centre from Bashley. See Action Plan and NM12 above
NM15	Employment	Retain Modify	No action required. Update: Potential opportunities will be considered.
NM16	Tourism	Modify	There is a desire to strengthen this policy to emphasise the importance of tourism and its promotion as well as

			to support changes of use locally which support tourism – see Action Plan
NM17	Early Years Facilities	Retain	No action required
NM18	Education	Retain	No action required
NM19	Connecting the Town	Retain	Review compliance – see Action Plan

Potential New Policies

NM20	Biodiversity Net Gain	New	Arising from NM4 above. See Action Plan Does NM TC have any sites it would identify for BNG?
NM21	Net Zero Buildings	New	Arising from NM4 See Action Plan
NM22	Maintaining and enhancing the conservation areas	New	Arising from NM5 See Action Plan Update: May now be able to utilise areas of special character work/conservation area appraisal to inform/amend/create conservation areas in the emerging Local Plan.
NM23	Local Shops	New	The group felt certain parades of shops should be included in the plan to demonstrate why the loss of them would be detrimental – See Action Plan Update: This item can continue to be progressed
NM24	Site Allocations	New	Group to consider whether to allocate sites within the NMNP review, the extent of sites under consideration and how this sits alongside the work of NFDC in allocating sites with the emerging Local Plan.

3. ACTION PLAN

The SG will need to agree if it is happy to manage all of the project tasks itself with ONH support, or use smaller task teams covering specific policies, whichever the SG feel would work best.

ONH will talk the group through the implications and likely actions required if the allocation of sites is to be included as part of the NMNP review.

Throughout the process, as before, a record of consultation and updates needs to be kept and collated in the final Consultation Statement (prepared by SG) that will be submitted to NFDC along with the Submission Plan, the Basic Conditions Statement and Modification Statements (prepared by ONH). ONH can provide worked examples of a Consultation Statement.

The essential content of any new or modified policy idea will need to be tested with local people, businesses and organisations, as well as others, such as the local planning authority, landowners, and other statutory consultees depending on the subject matter.

The group will also need to review their stakeholder analysis from the original NMNP to ensure they are connecting with the right local groups/organisations and key personnel at NFDC and NFNPA both at officer and member level.

POLICY	ACTION PLAN
<p>NM2 – Diversifying Housing</p>	<p>ACTION 1</p> <p>The SG has confirmed the desirability of new affordable homes to serve the needs of local people in particular young people and young families and in the potential for limiting the availability of second homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet with the Housing Enabling team at NFDC to discuss your housing aspirations and in respect of additional affordable schemes both in the town and out in the rural areas. Request the current position for housing need and opportunities to identify land to meet this demand. UPDATE : March 2024 NFDC have confirmed an HNA has yet to be undertaken but any policy which seeks to encourage homes for young persons or first time buyers needs to reflect an evidenced need. An HNA package should therefore be sought from Locality when the support scheme restarts (likely May) ○ Meet with the Planning Team at NFNPA to discuss the above in relation to Bashley, as this has been identified as potentially locating a rural exception site. ○ Review the Parliamentary debate pack on second homes, including links to made Neighbourhood Plan examples where a policy has been included to require new open market housing to only be occupied as a principal residence. NMTC officers to seek confirmation from NFDC/NFNPA as to extend of second home ownership within New Milton currently. ○ Identify potential landowners who may be interested in bringing forward development for younger people (possibly town centre call for sites) to replicate the existing scheme in New Milton restricting purchase to under 35s. <p>NOTE: ONH will update NM2 policy wording and narrative, following receipt of Action 1 output from SG.</p>
<p>NM3 – Land East of Caird Avenue</p>	<p>ACTION 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to engage with the landowner(s) to consider the remaining redevelopment of this site and whether any updates are required to the masterplan. ○ The group noted the March meeting that an approach would be made to the landowner to consider the current scope for commercial/health related facilities on Land East as the site was no longer suitable for housing and that consideration may be given to the Land West of Caird Avenue for potential residential use in the future.

	<p>NOTE: ONH will update wording to reflect use class changes and development on site, once landowner engagement has been undertaken and an update report received.</p>
<p>NM4 - Design Quality</p>	<p>ACTION 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to consider commissioning a New Milton specific design code to nuance any district wide design code included with the emerging Local Plan and to update the character areas contained with the <u>local distinctiveness study</u> undertaken in 2010 and in conformity with the <u>National Model Design Code</u> This will provide the NMNP with detailed visual evidence to support NM4. Design coding is available as a technical support package from Locality (when the programme reopens) or ONH can prepare one if preferred.
<p>NM5 – New Milton Town Centre Regeneration</p>	<p>ACTION 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to review Area C for potential inclusion as an Area of Special Character. SG to identify what is distinctive about this area and recommend using Historic England guidance. ○ Using the NMNP plan and local knowledge determine key town centre stakeholders and arrange a roundtable meeting to explore future opportunities to inform and revalidate the other areas included in this policy (including possible identification of sites for NM2 above) ○ SG to undertake a full review of the land contained with NM5 and the progress to date. SG may wish to engage with landowners to understand future delivery on these sites and encourage site owners/promoters to discuss potential responses to any call for sites to be carried out by NFDC and/or NMNP review - this will now also form part of NM25 work on brownfield opportunities. <p>NOTE: ONH will then update policy wording as needed to reflect current position</p>

<p>NM8 – Health and Wellbeing Centre</p>	<p>ACTION 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to review current progress and determine if the identified site location should be removed and relocated elsewhere as part of the overall review of town centre brownfield redevelopment. <p>NOTE: ONH will then update policy wording to reflect current position.</p>
<p>NM9 – Business and Innovation Centre</p>	<p>ACTION 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SG have already identified a potential site for NM9 and will look to undertake early engagement with the site owners to establish whether there would be scope for the siting of a tech hub in the identified area. ○ Once the outputs of early engagement are known then a report can be produced for the SG to consider whether to progress this to a commercial allocation policy as part of the NMNP review. <p>NOTE: ONH will update or redraft policy wording once the outputs of the above are known.</p>
<p>NM10 – Buildings of Local Heritage and Townscape Value</p>	<p>ACTION 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Assistant Town Clerk and Nick Saunders have identified non-designated heritage assets/local list candidates by address, locating on a map with description and photographing (noting that this content will be used to determine how planning applications should be decided as per NPPF §201). The Assistant Clerk is currently liaising with NFDC over inclusion of the local list within the NMNP review, given the examiners report at Ringwood NP where this policy was deleted due to lack of policy hook at the LPA. Hopefully this liaison will ensure that it is a quality submission which can be “fully justified” and ensure that “ a consistent approach to the matter is being adopted across the New Forest. “ ○ The SG will need to validate and agree a final list of successfully assessed candidates. ○ The SG will then need to write to the owners of all successfully assessed candidates to provide them with an opportunity to comment on their inclusion and this will need to be logged in the consultation statement and evidenced. ○ Finally, consider owner comments and agree final list of proposed Local Heritage Assets for inclusion in the NMNP. ○ The SG also identified they wished to review the conservation area designation. Please be aware that the SG can review it but does not have the ability to modify it, this would be for NFDP to do and this would need to be discussed

	<p>with the conservation/heritage office Elaine.Walters@NFDC.GOV.UK at the earliest opportunity to understand if there are any plans to revisit conservation areas as part of the Local Plan review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the NP could consider is the designation of any areas they would like to recognise as Local Areas of Special Character in order that it provides NFDC with the required evidence base for any future review they undertake of the conservation area boundaries. See Historic England guidance, on Conservation Area reviews. This could also be included as part of any design code work. <p>NOTE: ONH will then create new policy wording to incorporate any new non-designated local heritage assets as well as narrative for the conservation area review/Areas of Special Character. SG to update their policies map.</p>
<p>NM12 – Walking and Cycling</p>	<p>ACTION 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update the current walking and cycling network map to reflect position with Brockhills Lane and Gore Road and identify the proposed route to Bashley as an opportunity on the map. Review and validate the remainder of the map to update the evidence base. ○ Contact the County Councillor or relevant officer at HCC to ascertain the current position in respect of the emerging LCWIP for the New Forest. <p>NOTE: SG/ONH will then update policies map. ONH will update policy wording to reflect current position.</p>
<p>NM14 – The rural areas in the National Park</p>	<p>ACTION 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The SG focus here is on connectivity – review the current footpath and cycle infrastructure from the National Park into town and add to the evidence base, identifying opportunities for improvement (this may cross over with NM12 above) <p>NOTE: ONH will then update policy wording/narrative and intent.</p>
<p>NM16 - Tourism</p>	<p>The SG have expressed a desire to strengthen this policy to emphasise the importance of tourism.</p> <p>ACTION 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to identify what aspects of tourism they wish to emphasis. ○ SG to review strategic policy (NFDC and NFNPA) tourism policies as well as NMNP policy to identify that what is missing. ○ Clear link to NM14 and NM12 improving connectivity to the town from the National Park; are their also opportunities to improve access to Barton-on-Sea?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify opportunities to improve public transport to the forest and seafront ○ Identify any support for visitor related attractions – are there any facilities to improve or retain? ○ Consider defining use class of visitor accommodation which would be supported – C1. Are there many second homes in this area being used for tourism (AirBnB for example?) Should there be a consideration in respect of short term lets? ○ SG to produce a report on the evidence collated above. <p>NOTE: ONH will then update policy wording/narrative and intent.</p>
<p>NM19 – Connecting the Town</p>	<p>ACTION 11</p> <p>Review compliance to update evidence base to demonstrate effectiveness of policy.</p>
<p>NEW POLICIES</p>	<p>ACTION PLAN</p>
<p>NM20 Biodiversity</p>	<p>The Environment Act 2021 will mean that biodiversity net gain and local nature recovery is now a legal obligation (April 2024 for small sites), at least at the development management stage. More is emerging on how plan making should embrace these ideas but there is an opportunity to use information held by the Hampshire Records Centre to identify suitable areas for offsetting if required by developers that cannot meet their obligations onsite and may coincide with local nature recovery land opportunities.</p> <p>ACTION 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review the relevant policies in NFDC LP1 and Policy SP9 of the NFNPA LP. ○ Review all of the existing publicly available environmental data (e.g. Magic Map, local ecological surveys, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre etc.) and map all existing green infrastructure assets/designations. ○ Once environmental data mapped, identify opportunities for improvement e.g., potential for defining linked ecological corridors, renewable energy generation, carbon sequestration projects, flood alleviation/re-wilding, biodiversity ‘net gain’ opportunity areas, allotments, community orchards, and opportunities to green the urban environment, tree lined streets etc ○ Review previously identified sites at Barton Common and Ballard Water Meadow as potential local nature reserves as well as the sites owned by the Town Council which could be considered for nature recovery/ BNG. ○ Prepare a report summarising all of the above.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Note: This policy idea will involve a significant amount of mapping layers of existing and new information to create a single GI Plan which will form the basis of a GI policy map. The NFDC/NFNPA GIS teams may be able to assist with this. If they cannot, please refer to ONH for assistance. <p>NOTE: ONH will prepare Justification, Intent and policy wording following outcome of Action 11.</p>
<p>NM21 – Addressing the Performance Gap (updated)</p>	<p>ACTION 13</p> <p>The NMNP review provides an opportunity to remove ix) from the current NM4 Design policy to create a new Policy to reflect NMTCs commitment to addressing the climate emergency.</p> <p>A number of NPs currently have a Zero Carbon policy which refers to Passivhaus (see examples below.) In view of the content of the recent ministerial statement it is our belief that these policies will need to be adjusted slightly to emphasis more the energy performance gap between what a building should deliver in emissions and what it actually delivers in terms of both operational and embedded carbon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review the adopted policy approach of the Ringwood NP once examination outcomes known. (Policy accepted by the examiner - see examination report) o See also Cassington Neighbourhood Plan See Policy CAS8 o Review the relevant policies in NFDC LP1 and Policy SP11 of the NFNPA LP o Review the NFDC Greener Housing Strategy 2022- 2032 o SG to then discuss with any identified key stakeholders in the community (eg. Climate Change Action Groups) potential policy inclusion in the NP. o Review the Moore Close development once completed which has been built to Future Homes Standard to consider performance gap. <p>NOTE: ONH will prepare Justification, Intent and policy wording following outcome of Action 13.</p>
<p>NM22 – maintaining and enhancing the Conservation Area</p>	<p>The SG have identified concerns over the eroding of the character of the conservation area and wish to encourage the re-development of buildings which make a negative contribution to their character and appearance. There is also a desire to demonstrate that the loss of shops in the conservation area may affect their sustainability and would like to demonstrate their importance to the community to prevent their loss.</p>

	<p>The SG has also identified that retrofitting in conservation areas can be an issue, as such, this new policy will guide effective retrofitting, so it can be undertaken sensitively within the conservation area.</p> <p>ACTION 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to read the Climate Emergency Conservation Area Toolkit Dec 2022 by ACAN and then work through the toolkit to establish whether there are specific opportunities that can be identified to encourage, guide or permit effective retrofitting measures in the Conservation Area ○ Review the Local Distinctiveness Study and Old Milton Conservation Area study as part of evidence base. <p>NOTE: ONH will prepare Justification, Intent and policy wording following outcome of Action 14.</p>
<p>NM23- Local Shops</p>	<p>ACTION 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG to identify, survey and map the affected shops/parades. ○ Read and review the St Ives pre-submission Regulation 14 document Policy SI4 clause E and B to consider whether this type of policy would be appropriate. – Noting that changes of use of such shops under certain circumstances are permitted development but would need to apply for prior approval and as such the policy would demonstrate that prior approval should not be given due to the harm caused. The policy could also support improvements or enhancements to the areas identified. <p>NOTE: ONH will prepare Justification, Intent and policy wording following outcome of Action 15.</p>
<p>NM24 Site Allocations</p>	<p>ACTION 16</p> <p>The SG agreed at the March 28th meeting that they may wish to include the allocation of sites within the NMNP review. As part of the discussion the SG felt that Option 2 was the preferred choice (as detailed below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 1) If the NMNP review wishes to consider the inclusion of greenfield and brownfield sites, then NFDC has stated they will undertake a call for sites later this year to cover the whole of the district. They have provided the template used for the last call for sites. The SG may wish to rely upon this call for sites to inform their site allocations work, actively publicising on behalf of NFDC to encourage local landowners/site promoters to submit potential sites.

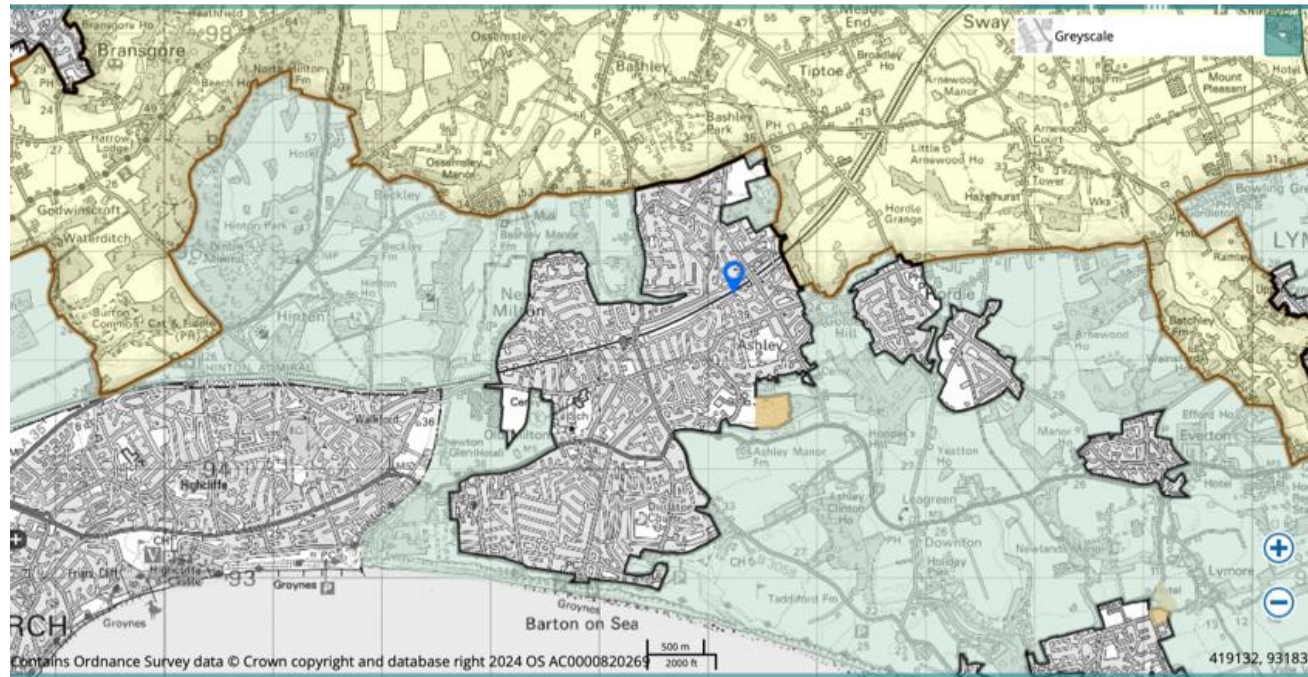
- If the NMNP review wishes to consider greenbelt release for site allocations as part of option 1, there would need to be a conversation with NFDC at the appropriate point after the initial call for sites has been completed. The NMNP review would need to rely upon a policy lever within the new plan in order to enable this, which would impact the timetable to the degree that the NDFC Local Plan would need to be at a significantly advanced stage (post Reg 19) prior to the NMNP review going to examination. In this scenario, site allocations in the NMNP may have to consider more of a top-down approach once a housing allocation number has been determined by NFDC for New Milton

- Option 2) Alternatively, if the SG wish to only consider very specific criteria for site allocations eg, brownfield sites within the existing settlement boundary, once the criteria is defined, ONH will produce a long list of potential sites through an internal identification process. This list will be mapped and presented to the group to validate prior to a site selection workshop led by ONH, prior to approaching potential developers/site promoters.

- If considering brownfield SPB sites only (option 2), the NMNP review could proceed to Reg 14 when it is ready to do so in 2025; it does not need to have an allocation number from NFDC and could therefore take a “bottom-up” approach to site selection determining sites on the basis of what serves New Milton well. It would then leave NFDC to allocate any remaining sites required for New Milton. This option would also provide a measure of certainty for NFDC that these sites are coming forward as part of the NMNP review, with the quantum therefore taken into account when determining the spatial strategy for the area.

The group will also need to consider initial parameters in terms of what is sought to be achieved through site allocations to focus the consideration of potential sites.

- A) Maximise brownfield development in order to reduce the number of greenfield sites developed.
- B) Consider gently increasing density or considering mixed use sites (ground floor community facilities with residential accommodation above to concentrate town centre footfall and vibrancy.)
- C) Provide sufficient to facilitate and/or deliver the infrastructure improvements in town centre.
- D) A desire to renew/regenerate the town centre and promote public realm improvements.
- E) Promote housing to attract different demographics to the town centre
- F) Preserve and enhance key landmark buildings.



New Milton area with greenbelt and national park boundaries highlighted.

NOTE: ONH will prepare a long list for the SG to validate as the first step in taking forward option 2. Once the list has been prepared and validated then a workshop session will be held in order to prepare a site allocations report and early testing with landowners, NFDC and the wider community.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS POINTS

ACTION 17

Using the project plan the SG should decide what form each engagement should take.

These are likely to be a mixture of public events, focus workshops, leaflets, social media content, surveys/questionnaires, exhibitions etc.

Each will be designed to suit the timing and purpose of each engagement activity. Although the Regulation 14 consultation is framed by the statutory regulations, there is nothing to stop the team from planning actions to publicise and to inform the formal consultation which is scheduled for June 2025 ONH will assist with content for the informal engagement event and the Regulation 14. It can be useful to pull together this thinking in the form of a simple communications strategy. ONH can provide worked examples

ACTION 18

As with the made NMNP, a record of consultation (including correspondence with owners on matters such as Local Heritage Assets for example) and updates needs to be kept and collated in the final Consultation Statement that will be submitted with the Submission Neighbourhood Plan and other submission documents.

ACTION 19

Identified SG members and officers will need to meet with the relevant officers at NFDC and NFNP Planning Policy Teams to review current policy, gather any relevant information in terms of Local Plan updates at both NFDC and NFNPA to understand if there are any of the proposed modifications which they may wish to provide input, to ensure they complement the relevant or emerging Local Plan policies.

Identified SG members and officers will also need to meet with the officers from the Development Management Team and NFDC to understand how modifying the NMNP can assist them in their decision making and ensure appropriate weight is given to the policies. Early engagement will ensure open dialogue and identify any areas of concern and opportunities for the NP review at the earliest opportunity.

ACTION 20

- A new project plan has now been tabled to work alongside the emerging Local Plan process. If this is approved by NMTC, then it is recommended that using the project plan, the SG diarise their meetings for 2024/2025 to ensure timely delivery of the modification of the NP. It is suggested that internal meetings of the SG are held monthly with ONH attending in person at key deliverable stages (likely quarterly) with additional remote attendance as required at any other SG meetings.

5. TECHNICAL STUDIES

As the Plan may now allocate or reserve development sites, then it is possible that New Forest District Council will require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is a parallel process designed to show that the Plan will have no significant environmental effects. An SEA Screening Opinion will be required from New Forest District Council in the first instance, but like most planning authorities, may want to see probable intent and scope of the NP review before issuing a Screening Opinion. ONH can advise how to initiate this once the Action Plan is agreed.

6. TIMETABLE

Following the February SG meeting ONH (LC) and NMTC (CR), met with Planning Policy Officer Andrew Herring (NFDC) to consider the emerging Local Plan Timetable to ensure the NMNP review is informed by and progresses alongside the NFDC Plan review.

Annex 1: Initial programme for 2024/25 and 2025/26 and for the preparation of the Local Plan review

New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Review programme

Local Plan Review		2024				2025				
		Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Initial evidence base scoping and commissioning										
Preparation of an Issues and Scope public consultation document										
Public consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Scope ('Regulation 18') (including a 'call for sites')										
Consultation review, evidence base development, option testing, Local Plan drafting										
Public Consultation on a full Draft Local Plan ('Regulation 18')										
Consultation review, further testing and refinement										
Public Consultation on Published Plan (regulation 19)										
Examination period ¹	Submit published local plan for independent examination (regulation 22)									
	Examination hearing									
	In-examination Modifications and consultation, if recommended by the Inspector									
	Inspector's report									
Adoption										
To be published at a later date once planning reforms in progress are finalised.										

1. The timing and duration of the examination period is at the discretion of the Planning Inspectorate. Modifications of some form may be required. These may affect the final Local Plan adoption date.

Figure 3: New Forest District (outside the National Park) Local Plan Review programme

With the NFDC Issues and Scope Regulation 18 scheduled for the latter part of the summer 2024 it is recommended that early informal engagement for the NMNP review is tabled for late Autumn 2024, with further informal engagement scheduled for Spring 2025, prior to the Regulation 14. The project plan already circulated reflects how the project may proceed and shows the sequence of activities and their dependencies, so it can be monitored and revised as necessary.

7. NEXT STEPS

- The SG should review the content of this note, and action plan, advise of any changes necessary and agree the approach to moving the project forward.
- Once the action plan is agreed, make it available publicly (published on Town Council website for example) and send it to NFDC and NFNPA to inform meetings with them.
- Assign actions based on tasks identified in the action plan table.