

MILTON KEYNES CITY COUNCIL HANSLOPE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Decision Statement – 19 March 2025

Summary

Milton Keynes City Council will make the Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan Review part of the Milton Keynes City Council Development Plan on 19th March 2025.

Background

Hanslope Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for its area to be designated a Neighbourhood Area, under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The area was designated on 9th December 2015.

The current Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan was made by the Milton Keynes City Council on 23rd October 2019.

The Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan Review was submitted to the Milton Keynes City Council for examination in October 2024 and was subsequently publicised for a six-week period, ending on 20th December 2024. All comments received were then passed to the Independent Examiner, Andrew Matheson, who submitted his report on the Plan on 27th February 2025, stating that the plan met relevant basic conditions and requirements, subject to modifications.

Modification of existing neighbourhood plans is governed by Schedule A2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA). Where it is considered that the modifications contained in the draft plan would not be so significant or substantial as to change the nature of a plan, a referendum is not required. The examiner stated that the modifications to the draft plan would not change the nature of the plan and that the plan should be made with the modifications specified in his report.

Paragraph 14 (3) of Schedule A2 of the PCPA states that *“if the examiner's report recommends that the authority should make the draft plan with the modifications specified in the report, the authority must make the draft plan with those modifications.”* The Council must accept the independent examiner's recommendations, except where there are concerns in relation to breach of any retained EU obligation or Convention rights, or to correct errors. That is not the case here.

This Decision Statement confirms that the modifications proposed by the examiner's report have been accepted (see Table 1). Accordingly, the draft Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan Review has been amended taking into account these modifications.

Decision

The Council makes the Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan Review part of the Milton Keynes City Council Development Plan, replacing the current 'made' plan. In doing so, the Council is of the opinion that the Hanslope Neighbourhood Plan Review is compatible with all relevant retained European Union obligations and Convention rights, as incorporated into UK law, and is legally compliant.

Table 1

Examiner's recommendations		Modifications to submission draft Neighbourhood Plan
1	<p>1.1 Amend the tense of the second sentence of paragraph 1.3 as follows: 'After Independent Examination, the Plan Review has been 'made' and become a statutory part of the development plan for the Neighbourhood Area.'</p> <p>1.2 Delete paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 and the intervening sub-heading; revise subsequent paragraph numbers accordingly.</p> <p>1.3 Delete paragraphs 1.9 and 1.10 and their related sub-headings</p>	<p>Amend paragraph 1.3 to read: "Neighbourhood plans provide local communities with the chance to shape the future development of their areas. Upon passing through After Independent Examination, the Plan Review has been will be made and become a statutory part of the development plan for the Neighbourhood Area."</p> <p>Delete paragraphs 1.5 and 1.6 and 'The Pre-Submission Plan' sub-heading.</p> <p>Delete paragraphs 1.9 and 1.10 and 'Next Steps' and 'Reg 14 Consultation' sub-headings.</p>
2	<p>In paragraph 5.6 replace "proposed policies" with 'policies'.</p>	<p>Amend paragraph 5.6 to read: "Set out below are the proposed policies of the plan."</p>

3	<p>3.1 On the Policies Maps amend the Hanslope Development Boundary to exclude land to the rear of the properties along Newport Rd in accordance with the map submitted with the representation from Milton Keynes City Council to the Regulation 16 Consultation. 3.2 Amend paragraph 5.8 to add: ‘In the light of the refusal of planning permission for residential development on land at and to the rear of 65 Newport Road (refused in April 2021 [application ref: 20/02959/OUT (subsequent appeal was dismissed)]) and also in August 2023 [application ref: 23/00889/OUT]) the boundary has also been amended to exclude the land to the rear of the properties along Newport Road.’</p>	<p>Amend Hanslope Development Boundary on Policies Maps to exclude land to the rear of the properties along Newport Road. Amend paragraph 5.8 to read: “The Plan Review updates the development boundaries to incorporate the Hayfields development to the south of the Parish, which has been completed since the original Neighbourhood Plan was made. <u>In the light of the refusal of planning permission for residential development on land at and to the rear of 65 Newport Road (refused in April 2021 [application ref: 20/02959/OUT (subsequent appeal was dismissed)] and also in August 2023 [application ref: 23/00889/OUT]) the boundary has also been amended to exclude the land to the rear of the properties along Newport Road.</u>”</p>
4	<p>Within Policy HAN6: 4.1 Amend clause i to read: ‘They are confined to the redevelopment of existing buildings or infilling between existing buildings or new buildings adjoining existing buildings;’ 4.2 Add a new clause ii (and revise the numbering of the subsequent clauses) as follows: ‘ii there is no extension of sites into the countryside;’.</p>	<p>Amend Policy HAN6; Rural Economic Development to read: “Development proposals to expand or to diversify existing rural employment sites will be supported, provided: i They are confined to the redevelopment of existing buildings or infilling between existing buildings or the development of new buildings build development adjoining existing buildings; ii <u>There is no extension of sites into the countryside;</u> iii They include a landscape scheme that will effectively screen the site from the surrounding countryside; and iiiv <u>iv</u> Their design conforms to other policies of the development plan.”</p>

5	<p>5.1 Within Policy HAN8: 5.1.1 Delete LGS (G) and retitle subsequent LGSs accordingly. 5.1.2 Replace the final sentence with: ‘Very special circumstances must exist to justify development within a Local Green Space, where national Green Belt policy applies.’ 5.2 Revise paragraph 5.34 to refer to four new spaces instead of five. 5.3 Amend the Policies Map to delete LGS (G) from the map and the key and retitle subsequent LGSs to match the Policy. 5.4 Replace Appendix 4 Local Green Spaces Report with the revised version as attached to the Qualifying Body’s email dated 21st February 2025.</p>	<p>Amend Policy HAN8: Local Green Spaces to read: “The Neighbourhood Plan designates the following Local Green Spaces, as shown on the Policies Map: (A) The Recreation Ground, (B) The new managed ‘wild area’ located at the bottom of the Hanslope Fields, bordering Green End lane, (C) The Manor Farm permanent meadow to the rear of Church End, (D) The Allotments, (E) Village Pond, (F) Old Oak Tree and surrounding grassed area, (G) Wheatfields Green Space, (H) (G) Lincoln Court amenity space, (I) (H) Community Orchard by village hall, Newport Road. Proposals for development in a Local Green Space will be resisted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. <u>Very special circumstances must exist to justify development within a Local Green Space, where national Green Belt policy applies.</u>”</p> <p>Amend paragraph 5.34 to read: “The policy designates five five four new Local Green Spaces (E,F,G,H,I) and retains the four original designations (A,B,C,D) from the made Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with paras 105-107 of the NPPF and Plan:MK Policies I2 and L3.”</p> <p>Amend Policies Map to delete LGS (G): Wheatfields Green Space and retitle subsequent LGSs to match the Policy.</p> <p>Replace Appendix 4: Local Green Spaces Report with revised version supplied by Qualifying Body dated 21 February 2025.</p>
6	<p>6.1 Revise the wording of Policy HAN10 as follows: ‘An indicative Local Gap is shown on the Policies Map within which any countryside development proposals must be sited and designed in such a way as to prevent the visual coalescence of the distinct settlements of Hanslope and Long Street.’ 6.2 Substitute the Policies</p>	<p>Amend Policy HAN10:Local Gap to read: “The Neighbourhood Plan defines a Local Gap, as shown on the Policies Map, in order to prevent the visual coalescence of Hanslope and Long Street and to protect its setting. Development proposals that lie within the defined Local Gap must be located <u>An indicative Local Gap is shown on the Policies Map within which any countryside</u></p>

	<p>Maps attached to the Qualifying Body’s email dated 18th February 2025 for that used in the Submission Plan.</p>	<p><u>development proposals must be sited</u> and designed in such a way as to prevent the visual coalescence of the <u>distinct settlements of Hanslope and Long Street.</u>” Replace Policies Map with version supplied by Qualifying Body dated 18 February 2025.</p>
7	<p>7.1 The amended Policies Maps provided by the Qualifying Body with their email dated 18th February 2025 should replace that included within the Submission Plan. 7.2 The Appendix 4 provided by the Qualifying Body with their email dated 21st February 2025 should replace that included within the Submission Plan</p>	<p>Replace Policies Map with version supplied by Qualifying Body dated 18 February 2025. Replace Appendix 4 with version supplied by Qualifying Body dated 21 February 2025.</p>