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Date: 13th February 2020

Dear Ms Burden

Independent Examination of Bletsoe Neighbourhood Development Plan

I refer to your letter dated 30 January 2020. Set out below are the answers to your questions which have been agreed with Woods Hardwick on behalf of the Bletsoe Neighbourhood plan group.

1. To what extent do the policies in the BNP align with the strategic policies of the Local Plan 2030 as adopted?

We have reviewed the submitted Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan and the plan complies with all of the strategic policies except for Policy 7S. Policy 1 in the BNP is more restrictive than Policy 7S in the Local Plan 2030. It is therefore recommended that the second paragraph refers to Policy 7S in the Local Plan 2030 to ensure compliance with the strategic policies. We suggest, for your consideration, that the policy wording could be amended to read:

“In order to maintain the intrinsic value of the countryside, development proposals located outside of the defined Settlement Policy Area ~~(except for the sites allocated by BNP policies 2 and 3)~~ will be resisted unless the proposal satisfies the appropriate policies within this Plan and Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 Policy 7S, or it can be clearly demonstrated the proposal is sustainable development which seeks to enhance the vitality of the village, the historic environment and rural economy.”

2. Can Table A of the Basic Conditions Statement and Appendix C of the BNP be updated to remove reference to former development plan policies which have been replaced, and to insert the policies of the Local Plan 2030 where relevant?

We have provided an annotated version (see attached) of Appendix C (which is also the same as Table A in the Basic Conditions Statement) of the BNP showing the policies that we consider are relevant after the adoption of the Local Plan 2030.

3. Are there any policies in the Local Plan 2030 which are relevant to the BNP but which have not been addressed by the BNP?

4. If the answer to the above is yes, is it appropriate for those policies to be addressed in the draft submitted BNP or would it be appropriate for them to be addressed in a future review of the BNP?

Regarding questions 3 and 4, BNP does not include policies for flood risk and SUDS however we note that Anglian Water have responded to the Reg 16 consultation and they requested an addition to the site allocation policies. It is therefore suggested that a reference to SUDS could be included in the site allocation policies cross referring to Policy 93 of Local Plan 2030.

Please contact Sonia Gallaher (details above) if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Gill Cowie
Manager for Planning and Housing Strategy

Appendix C

BNP Policy	BNP Objective	Local Plan Policy	NPPF 2019	Reason for Policy
BNP1	1,2, 3,4,5	BBLP Policy H24; CSRIP Policies CP2, CP7, CP8, CP12, CP13, CP14, CP16 ADLP AD1 <u>Local Plan 2030</u> <u>policies 4S, 5S, 6,</u> <u>7S, 37, 41S, 46S,</u> <u>51S, 58S, 59S</u>	Section 2,5,8,11,12,15, &16	To achieve Sustainable Development while recognising the need to protect the intrinsic value of the countryside.
BNP2	1	CSRIP Policies CP7, CP8, CP14, CP16 <u>Local Plan 2030</u> <u>policies 4S, 5S, 6,</u> <u>7S, 28S, 29, 30,</u> <u>31, 32, 33, 53, 54,</u> <u>97</u>	Section 2, 5 12 & 16	To achieve Sustainable Development and provide housing while recognising the need to protect the intrinsic value of the countryside.
BNP3	1	CSRIP Policies CP7, CP8, CP14, CP16 <u>Local Plan 2030</u> <u>policies 4S, 5S, 6,</u> <u>7S, 28S, 29, 30,</u> <u>31, 32, 33, 53, 54,</u> <u>97</u>	Section 2, 5 12 & 16	To achieve Sustainable Development and provide housing while recognising the need to protect the intrinsic value of the countryside.
BNP4	1, 5	BBLP Policy BE9, BE11, BE29, BE21, BE32; CSRIP CP21 <u>Local Plan 2030</u> <u>policies 28S, 29,</u>	Section 2 and 12	To achieve high quality design for all development.

		<u>30, 31, 32, 33 38, 41S</u>		
BNP5	2	BBLP Policy BE29, BE30; CSRIP CP21 <u>Local Plan 2030 policies 28S, 29, 31</u>	Section 9	Ensuring appropriate provisions are made for the parking of vehicles
BNP6	2	BBLP Policy T6; CSRIP CP21, ADLP Policy AD36 <u>Local Plan policies 31, 87, 91</u>	Section 9	Encouraging sustainable transportation methods
BNP7	2	BBLP Policy BE15, H24, H25, CSRIP CP22 ADLP Policy AD40; <u>Local Plan 2030 policies 28S, 35S</u>	Paras 96 & 97	To protect the environment by conserving green open space.
BNP8	1, 4	<u>Local Plan 2030 Policy 94</u>	Section 10	Ensuring adequate communication facilities