

Appendix B

Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes of Most Relevance for the Local Plan

B.1 2022 Convention on Biological Diversity [See reference 17] – COP15 Kunming-Montreal adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030.

B.2 The Glasgow Pact (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2021) - Nations adopted the Glasgow Climate Pact [See reference 18]. The package of decisions consists of a range of agreed items, including strengthened efforts to build resilience to climate change, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and to provide the necessary finance for both. Nations reaffirmed their duty to fulfil the pledge of providing \$100 billion annually from developed to developing countries. And they collectively agreed to work to reduce the gap between existing emission reduction plans and what is required to reduce emissions. They also agreed to phase down unabated coal power and inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels.

B.3 United Nations Declaration on Forests and Land Use (COP26 Declaration) (2021) [See reference 19]: international commitment to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

B.4 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) [See reference 20], adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for

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peace and prosperity for people and the planet and includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), designed to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

B.5 The United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the 'Aarhus Convention') (1998) **[See reference 21]** establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to become effective.

B.6 The United Nations Declaration on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Declaration) (2002) **[See reference 22]** sets a broad framework for international sustainable development, including building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production and resource efficiency.

B.7 The United Nations Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) **[See reference 23]** is an international agreement to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

B.8 The International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) (1976) **[See reference 24]** is an international agreement with the aim of conserving and managing the use of wetlands and their resources.

B.9 The European Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) (1979) **[See reference 25]** aims to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats, to increase cooperation between contracting parties, and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species).

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B.10 The International Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) [See reference 26] is an international commitment to biodiversity conservation through national strategies and action plans.

B.11 The European Habitats Directive (1992) [See reference 27], together with the Birds Directive, sets the standard for nature conservation across the EU and enables all 27 Member States to work together within the same strong legislative framework in order to protect the most vulnerable species and habitat types across their entire natural range within the EU. It also established the Natura 2000 network.

B.12 The European Birds Directive (2009) [See reference 28] requires the maintenance of all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state in the European territory at a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements.

B.13 The United Nations Declaration on Forests (New York Declaration) (2014) [See reference 29] sets out international commitment to cut natural forest loss by 2020 and end loss by 2030.

B.14 The Valletta Treaty (1992) [See reference 30], formerly the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revisited), aims to protect the European archaeological heritage “as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study”.

B.15 The United Nations (UNESCO) World Heritage Convention (1972) [See reference 31] promotes co-operation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.

B.16 The European Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985) [See reference 32] defines ‘architectural heritage’ and requires that the signatories maintain an inventory of it and take statutory measures to ensure its protection. Conservation policies are also required to be

integrated into planning systems and other spheres of government influence as per the text of the convention.

B.17 The European Landscape Convention (2002) [See reference 33] promotes landscape protection, management and planning. The Convention is aimed at the protection, management and planning of all landscapes and raising awareness of the value of a living landscape.

National Plans and Programmes (beyond the NPPF) of Most Relevance for the Local Plan

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

B.18 The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) [See reference 34] focuses on building climate resilience across key sectors in the UK. Its key aims include strengthening preparedness for climate risks, enhancing infrastructure resilience, protecting natural ecosystems, and integrating adaptation into planning and policies across government and society. It promotes a whole-society approach to adapt to climate risks like flooding and heatwaves. The Fourth strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting, alongside NAP3 aims to increase accountability by requiring organisations to report on their preparedness for climate impacts, focusing on critical infrastructure and supporting national climate goals

B.19 The Biomass Strategy 2023 [See reference 35] builds on the 2021 Biomass policy statement and the Powering up Britain strategy which emphasised the important role that biomass will play in Britain's fully decarbonised power system by 2035, subject to security of supply. It sets out steps government intends to take to strengthen biomass sustainability and the

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opportunities for the use of sustainable biomass across multiple sectors of the economy in support of achieving the UK's net zero target.

B.20 The government aims to focus on implementing a cross-sectoral common sustainability framework, which will be subject to consultation. It states it committed to monitoring the levels of biomass supply to ensure the UK can secure necessary levels for increased biomass use across the economy. It has also committed to ensuring that biomass supply – given its risks and uncertainties – is not hindered at any stage; however, biomass demand is expected to increase. The government also aims for a "priority use" of biomass based on guiding principles that address sustainability, air quality, the net-zero and circular economy, and resource efficiency. This encompasses the deployment of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), the engineered greenhouse-gas removal technology, which captures and stores CO₂ from biomass while producing low-carbon energy.

B.21 The Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023) [\[See reference 36\]](#) explains how the government intends to meet its legally-binding climate goals, setting out a package of quantified and unquantified proposals and policies, and associated timescales and delivery risks this also includes:

- wider matters in connection with carbon budgets
- the contribution of these proposals and policies to sustainable development
- the impact the package has on sectors of the economy

B.22 Powering up Britain (2023) [\[See reference 37\]](#) sets out the department's approach to energy security and net zero, and acts as an introduction to Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan, and Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan.

B.23 The Energy Security Plan (2023) [\[See reference 38\]](#) sets out the steps that the government is taking to improve the UK's energy system resilience, particularly in the current geopolitical context. Key commitments include:

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- Looking at the role gas storage and other sources of flexibility can play in gas security.
- Delivery of energy efficiency upgrades through the Great British Insulation Scheme.
- Extension of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme to 2028.
- Setting up Great British Nuclear to lead delivery of the new nuclear programme.
- Launching a competitive process to select the best Small Modular Reactor technologies.
- Launching the Floating Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Scheme, to provide up to £160 million investment in port infrastructure projects.
- Publishing action plans on reducing the development time for transmission network projects and on accelerating electricity network connections.
- Announcing the Track-1 negotiation project list of carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) projects; launching a process to expand Track-1 clusters; and establishing two further (Track-2) CCUS clusters.
- Announcing a shortlist of projects for the first electrolytic hydrogen production allocation round.
- Announcing successful applicants of the first competition window for Strands 1 and 2 of the Net Zero Hydrogen Fund (development and capital co-funding) and launching a second competition window.
- Consulting on revised energy National Policy Statements which underline the national need for new energy infrastructure with the intention of expediting planning processes.

B.24 The Net Zero Growth Plan (2023) [\[See reference 39\]](#) outlines the Government's plans to reach net zero and unlock the financial benefits that this can bring. Key commitments include:

- Publishing an addendum to the Resources and Waste Strategy which will focus on net zero and include a plan to achieve the near elimination of biodegradable municipal waste going to landfill.

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- Responding to the consultation on a revised Waste Prevention Programme for England alongside the new programme 'Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste'.
- Providing up to £20 billion of funding for early deployment of CCUS to unlock private investment and jobs.
- Consulting on an ambitious Zero Emission Vehicle mandate; publishing the Low Carbon Fuels Strategy in 2023; and legislating to include recycled carbon and nuclear derived fuels in renewables transport fuel schemes.
- Consulting on transition planning disclosure requirements for the UK's largest companies and the UK Green Taxonomy, as well as on steps and interventions needed to support the growth of high integrity voluntary markets and to protect against greenwashing.
- Introducing a regulatory framework for heat networks; beginning the implementation of heat network zoning by 2025; and confirming funding of £15 million for the 2023/24 Home Decarbonisation Skills Competition and the £5 million Heat Training Grant for heat pump and heat network skills. Growth and decarbonisation of the UK heat network market will continue through the Green Heat Network Fund and the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme, including £220 million for the Heat Network Transformation Programme over 2025/6 and 2026/7.
- Considering options for integrating greenhouse gas removals in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme.
- Publishing the Biomass Strategy in 2023, which will outline the role that bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) can play in reducing carbon emissions.
- Taking forward the next steps in the Review of Electricity Market Arrangements.

B.25 The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 [\[See reference 40\]](#) for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim

targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country.

B.26 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 [See reference 41] outlines the UK government and devolved administrations' position on the key climate change risks and opportunities that the UK faces today. The risk assessment considers sixty-one UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years:

- risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards
- risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought
- risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards
- risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards
- risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks
- risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system
- risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings
- multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas

B.27 The British Energy Security Strategy (2022) [See reference 42] sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term. The strategy builds on the Prime Minister's 'Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution', and the 'Net zero strategy'. Key aims and commitments include:

- New commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see 95% of Great Britain's electricity set to be low carbon by 2030.

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- Supporting over 40,000 more jobs in clean industries, totalling 480,000 jobs by 2030.
- Accelerated expansion of nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, oil and gas, including delivering the equivalent to one nuclear reactor a year instead of one a decade.
- Offshore wind – Aim of providing up to 50GW by 2030, of which 5GW is planned to be from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This is aimed to be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining which will aim to reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment.
- Oil and gas – A licensing round for new North Sea oil and gas projects is planned to launch in Autumn, with a new taskforce providing bespoke support to new developments.
- Onshore wind – The Government plans to consult on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills.
- Heat pump manufacturing – The Government aim to run a Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition in 2022 worth up to £30 million to make British heat pumps, with hopes to reduce demand for gas.

B.28 The Environment Act 2021 [\[See reference 43\]](#) sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. The Environment Act will deliver:

- Long-term targets to improve air quality biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency.
- A target on ambient PM_{2.5} concentrations.
- A target to halt the decline of nature by 2030.
- Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets.

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- A cycle of environmental monitoring and reporting.
- Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making.
- Office for Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law.

B.29 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) [\[See reference 44\]](#) sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste).
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

B.30 The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy (2021) [\[See reference 45\]](#) aims to support existing industry to decarbonise and encourage the growth of new, low carbon industries to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK encouraging long-term investment in home-grown decarbonisation technology. The strategy builds in the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and sets out the government's vision for building a competitive, greener future for the manufacturing and construction sector and is part of the government's path to net zero by 2050. The strategy aims to reduce emissions by two-thirds in just 15 years and support up to 80,000 jobs over the next thirty years and includes measures to produce 20 terawatt hours of the UK industry's energy supply from low carbon alternatives by 2030. It also aims to introduce new rules on measuring the energy and carbon performance of the UK's largest commercial and industrial buildings, providing potential savings to businesses of around £2 billion per year in energy costs in 2030 and aiming to reduce annual carbon emissions by over 2 million tonnes - approximately 10% of their current emissions. Other key commitments within the Strategy include:

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- The use of carbon pricing to drive changes in industry to focus on emissions in business and investment decisions.
- To establish a policy framework to accelerate the switch from fossil fuels to low carbon alternatives such as hydrogen, electricity, or biomass.
- New product standards, enabling manufacturers to clearly distinguish their products from high carbon competitors.
- To ensure the land planning regime is fit for building low carbon infrastructure.
- Support the skills transition so that the UK workforce benefits from the creation of new green jobs.
- An expectation that at least 3 megatons of CO₂ is captured within industry per year by 2030.
- That by 2050, there will be zero avoidable waste of materials across heavy industries.

B.31 The Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) [See reference 46] sets out the government's plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces. This strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the UK plans to meet its carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050. Key aims of the strategy include:

- Reduce direct emissions from public sector buildings by 75% against a 2017 baseline by the end of carbon budget 6.
- Significantly reduce energy consumption of commercial, and industrial buildings by 2030.
- Phase out the installation of new natural gas boilers beyond 2035.
- Significantly grow the supply chain for heat pumps to 2028: from installing around 35,000 hydronic heat pumps a year to a minimum market capacity of 600,000 per year by 2028.

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- Reduce the costs of installing a heat pump by at least 25-50% by 2025 and to ensure heat pumps are no more expensive to buy and run than gas boilers by 2030.
- Achieve 30-fold increase in heat pumps manufactured and sold within the UK by the end of the decade.
- Grow the market for heat pumps notably via a £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme to support households who want to switch with £5,000 grants.
- Improve heat pump appeal by continuing to invest in research and innovation, with the £60 million Net Zero Innovation Portfolio 'Heat Pump Ready' Programme supporting the development of innovation across the sector.
- Ensure all new buildings in England are ready for Net Zero from 2025. To enable this, new standards will be introduced through legislation to ensure new homes and buildings will be fitted with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency.
- Establish large-scale trials of hydrogen for heating, including a neighbourhood trial by 2023.
- Ensure as many fuel poor homes in England, as reasonably practicable, achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of band C by the end of 2030.
- Support social housing, low income and fuel poor households via boosting funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant, which aim to improve the energy performance of low income households' homes, support low carbon heat installations and build the green retrofitting sector to benefit all homeowners.
- Scale up low-carbon heat network deployment and to enable local areas to deploy heat network zoning- Heat Network Transformation Programme of £338 million (over 2022/23 to 2024/25).

B.32 The UK Hydrogen Strategy (2021) [See reference 47] sets out the approach to developing a substantial low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK and to meet the ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. The Strategy outlines the role of hydrogen in meeting net zero targets,

the existing opportunity within the UK, a strategic framework, a roadmap for the economy, and the UK Government's commitments for a hydrogen economy. The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2021).

B.33 The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (2021) [See reference 48] seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, reducing their carbon emissions and lessening the impact of climate change. The Regulations require the adoption of a standard methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance, reported through Energy Performance Certificates and Display Energy Certificates.

B.34 Natural England's Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan (2021) [See reference 49] is the third adaptation report covering climate change adaptation and covers the following themes in developing Natural England's response to the biodiversity and climate crisis:

- We will plan climate change adaptation with the aim of restoring ecological process at a landscape scale as part of nature recovery to enhance resilience and accommodate inevitable change.
- Our work on adaptation can deliver multiple benefits, including integrating climate change mitigation, biodiversity and enhancing the quality of life for people.
- We recognise the benefits of local level adaptation and our Area Teams have a key role to play in delivering adaptation in a place-based way.
- Using a natural capital and ecosystem approach to account for the multiple benefits that nature provides to society
- Developing adaptive management that takes account of change in the natural world both in the policy advice and delivery space.
- We will ensure our different work programmes have a joined-up approach to adaptation.
- Developing the evidence base to support practical adaptation, including monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions.

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- Developing a joined-up approach to Nature-based Solutions which deliver mitigation and adaptation with measurable benefits for nature and people.

B.35 The risk assessment updates the overarching risks of climate change to our aims and objectives, which are outlined in our Building Partnerships for Nature Action Plan.

B.36 Climate Change Adaptation Manual: Evidence to support Nature Conservation in a Changing Climate (2020) [See reference 50] is a resource to support practical and pragmatic decision-making in relation to climate change adaptation, by bringing together recent science, experience and case studies, and is intended to be an accessible entry point to a range of available resources and tools.

B.37 Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, and Natural England outline a shared vision to use nature-based solutions to tackle the Climate Emergency (2020) [See reference 51] outlines a shared vision and practical actions to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies. As such, the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England commit to collaborating their responses to the climate and biodiversity emergencies by:

- Delivering large-scale woodland creation.
- Protecting and restoring peatlands.
- Supporting farmers towards net zero.
- Working with nature to manage flood risk.
- Taking a strategic approach to land use.
- Encouraging alternatives to carbon intensive materials.
- Pushing for action across the UK and abroad.

B.38 The Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future (2020) [See reference 52] builds on the Prime Minister's Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution. The white paper addresses the transformation of the UKs energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth

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during its transition to net-zero emissions by 2050. Key aims of the paper include:

- Supporting green jobs – The government aims to support up to 220,000 jobs in the next 10 years.
- Transforming the energy system – To transform its electricity grid for net-zero, the white paper highlights how this will involve changing the way the country heats its homes, how people travel, doubling the electricity use, and harnessing renewable energy supplies.
- Keeping bills affordable – The government aims to do this by making the energy retail market “truly competitive”. This will include offering people a method of switching to a cheaper energy tariff and testing automatically switching consumers to fairer deals to tackle “loyalty penalties”.
- Generating emission-free electricity by 2050 – The government aims to have “overwhelmingly decarbonised power” in the 2030s in order to generate emission-free electricity by 2050.
- Establishing UK Emissions Trading Scheme – The government aims to establish a UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) from 1 January 2021 to replace the current EU ETS at the end of the Brexit Transition Period.
- Exploring new nuclear financing options – The government is continuing to explore a range of financing options for new nuclear with developers including the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model.
- Further commitments to offshore wind – The white paper lays out plans to scale up its offshore wind fleet to 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, including 1GW of floating wind, enough to power every home in the country.
- Carbon capture and storage investments – Including £1bn worth of investments in state-of-the-art CCS in four industrial clusters by 2030. With four low-carbon clusters set up by 2030, and at least one fully net-zero cluster by 2040.
- Kick-starting the hydrogen economy – The government plans to work with industry to aim for 5GW of production by 2030, backed up by a new £240m net-zero Hydrogen Fund for low-carbon hydrogen production.

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- Investing in electric vehicle charge points – The government plans to invest £1.3bn to accelerate the rollout of charge points for electric vehicles as well as up to £1bn to support the electrification of cars.
- Supporting the lowest paid with their bills – The government aims to support those with lower incomes through a £6.7bn package of measures that could save families in old inefficient homes up to £400.
- Moving away from fossil fuel boilers – The government aims, by the mid-2030s, for all newly installed heating systems to be low-carbon or to be appliances that it is confident can be converted to a clean fuel supply.
- Supporting North Sea oil and gas transition – The white paper notes the importance of supporting the North Sea oil and gas transition for the people and communities most affected by the move away from fossil fuels. The government aims to achieve this by ensuring that the expertise of the oil and gas sector be drawn on in developing CCS and hydrogen production to provide new green jobs for the future.

B.39 National Infrastructure Strategy: Fairer, faster greener (2020) [See reference 53] sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country, strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. This will be enabled by clear support for private investment and through a comprehensive set of reforms to the way infrastructure is delivered.

B.40 The Sixth Carbon Budget report (2020) [See reference 54] is based on an extensive programme of analysis, consultation and consideration by the Committee and its staff, building on the evidence published last year for our Net Zero advice. Our recommended pathway requires a 78% reduction in UK territorial emissions between 1990 and 2035. In effect, bringing forward the UK's previous 80% target by nearly 15 years.

B.41 Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) [See reference 55] sets out the strategic priorities for the new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), published in July 2021. It sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon

budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP takes a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

B.42 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management: Policy Statement (2020) [See reference 56] sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to future flood and coastal erosion risk, and in doing so, reduce the risk of harm to people, the environment and the economy. The Policy Statement sets out five policy areas which will drive this ambition:

- Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure;
- Managing the flow of water more effectively;
- Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits;
- Better preparing our communities; and
- Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach.

B.43 Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming (Climate Change Committee, 2019) [See reference 57] responds to a request from the Governments of the UK, Wales and Scotland, asking the Committee to reassess the UK's long-term emissions targets. Our new emissions scenarios draw on ten new research projects, three expert advisory groups, and reviews of the work of the IPCC and others. The report's key findings are that:

- The Committee on Climate Change recommends a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050.
- In Scotland, we recommend a net-zero date of 2045, reflecting Scotland's greater relative capacity to remove emissions than the UK as a whole.
- In Wales, we recommend a 95% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050.

B.44 Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings: How to Improve Energy Efficiency (2018) [See reference 58] provides guidance for anyone who wishes to improve energy efficiency in an historic building.

B.45 The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewables Sources Regulations 2011 [See reference 59] required the government to ensure that renewable energy comprised 15% of the UK's total energy mix by 2020. The Renewable Energy Directive has now been superseded by Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II). Although the UK has now been released from the renewable energy targets under RED II following Brexit, the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement includes a commitment to promote energy efficiency and the use of energy from renewable sources and reaffirmation of the EU's 2030 "targets" and the UK's 2030 "ambitions" for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

B.46 The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England 2011 [See reference 60] sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. The strategic aims and objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Manage the risk to people and their property;
- Facilitate decision-making and action at the appropriate level – individual, community or Local Authority, river catchment, coastal cell or national; and
- Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

B.47 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [See reference 61] and The Flood and Water Regulations 2019 [See reference 62] sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

B.48 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate [See reference 63] sets out visions for the following sectors:

- People and the Built Environment – “to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.”
- Infrastructure – “an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate.”
- Natural Environment – “the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides.”
- Business and Industry – “UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change.”
- Local Government – “Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.”

B.49 Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) [See reference 64] aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

B.50 The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) [See reference 65] sets out the approach of the government to secure growth of the national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The key policies and proposals of the Strategy sit below a number of overarching principles: acceleration of clean growth including through recommendations for private and public investment to meet carbon budgets; providing support to improve business and industry

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energy efficiency; improving energy efficiency in the housing stock including through low carbon heating; accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; delivering clean, smart, flexible power; enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources; leading in the public sector to meet emissions targets; and ensure Government leadership to drive clean growth.

B.51 The National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) [\[See reference 66\]](#) identifies key planning objectives, requiring planning Authorities to:

- Help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy;
- Ensure waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns;
- Provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste;
- Help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment; and
- Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.

B.52 The Waste Management Plan for England (2013) [\[See reference 67\]](#) sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero waste economy.

B.53 The Energy Efficiency Strategy: The Energy Efficiency Opportunity in the UK 2012 [\[See reference 68\]](#) aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

B.54 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009) [\[See reference 69\]](#) sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a

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new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

B.55 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) [See reference 70] sets out the ways in which we will tackle climate change by reducing our CO2 emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

B.56 The Climate Change Act 2008 [See reference 71] sets targets for UK greenhouse gas emission reductions of at least 100% by 2050, against a 1990 baseline (this was previously 80% but was updated to a net zero target in June 2019).

B.57 The Planning and Energy Act (2008) [See reference 72] enables local planning authorities to set requirements for carbon reduction and renewable energy provision. It should be noted that while the Housing Standards Review proposed to repeal some of these provisions, at the time of writing there have been no amendments to the Planning and Energy Act.

B.58 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations [See reference 73] seek to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

Health and Well-being

B.59 The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act [See reference 74], published by DLUHC in 2023 sets out the direction for planning and makes provisions to

support the levelling-up agenda. It seeks to streamline the planning process whilst attaching greater weight to development plans. It also aims to improve infrastructure delivery with a new levy system, improve alignment between plans to address cross-boundary issues, and will introduce added protection for heritage assets. The Bill also states that existing EU-generated systems of SEA, HRA and EIA will eventually be replaced by a simpler process known as 'Environmental Outcomes Reports'.

B.60 The White Paper Levelling Up the United Kingdom (2022) [See reference 75] sets out how the UK Government will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises 12 UK-wide missions to achieve by 2030. Missions which relate to population, health and wellbeing state that by 2030:

- The gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
- Well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
- Homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
- Pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- The number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
- Renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the Government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

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B.61 A fairer private rented sector White Paper (2022) [\[See reference 76\]](#) aims to build upon the vision of the Levelling Up White Paper and reform the Private Rented Sector and improve housing quality. It outlines that everyone deserves a secure and decent home and outlines measures to improve the experience of renters in the Private Rented Sector.

B.62 The State of the Environment: Health, People and the Environment (2021) [\[See reference 77\]](#) focuses on the relationship between human health and people's access to and connection with a clean, high quality natural environment. It presents information on England's environment, and people's exposure to environmental pollutants, flooding and climate change in relation to human health. It highlights environmental inequalities that contribute to differences in health outcomes for people in England.

B.63 The National Design Guide (2021) [\[See reference 78\]](#) sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

B.64 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) [\[See reference 79\]](#) sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

B.65 The COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan (2021) [\[See reference 80\]](#) sets out the Government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing; to take action to address factors which play a

crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes; and, to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

B.66 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020) [See reference 81] sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

B.67 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021) [See reference 82] provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

B.68 Heritage and Society (2020) [See reference 83] presents evidence about the value of heritage to society, individuals and community groups across England. The evidence is gathered from a wide range of reliable sources including major household panel surveys, systematic literature reviews, bespoke evaluation studies and public opinion surveys. This year, exceptionally, the report includes a section presenting evidence about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our social lives including our access to and engagement with our precious heritage. The key findings include:

- Like most parts of society and the economy, the heritage sector suffered a heavy blow as a result of lockdown due to COVID-19
- Outdoor heritage sites are places people feel most comfortable visiting
- Virtual visits and digital engagement with heritage has helped people cope during lockdown
- Our local neighbourhoods have demonstrated their value during lockdown by helping us to cope

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- Heritage volunteering, an important source of community resilience, was challenged during lockdown
- Volunteering to support COVID-19 related causes has seen an increase which supports a spirit of collective care for our communities and places
- The heritage sector has an important role to play in our individual mental wellbeing in the future
- Visiting heritage can ease the challenges associated with dementia and Alzheimer's
- Online heritage resources support more equal access to digital learning for children

B.69 The Public Health England, PHE Strategy 2020-25 (2019) [\[See reference 84\]](#) identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

B.70 The Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 [\[See reference 85\]](#) sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

B.71 The Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our broken housing market) [\[See reference 86\]](#) sets out ways to address the shortfall in affordable homes and boost housing supply. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Planning for the right homes in the right places – Higher densities in appropriate areas, protecting the Green Belt while making more land available for housing by maximising the contribution from brownfield and surplus public land, regenerating estates, releasing more small and medium-sized sites, allowing rural communities to grow and making it easier to build new settlements.
- Building homes faster – Improved speed of planning cases, ensuring infrastructure is provided and supporting developers to build out more quickly.

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- Diversifying the Market – Backing small and medium-sized house builders, custom-build, institutional investors, new contractors, housing associations.
- Helping people now – supporting home ownership and providing affordable housing for all types of people, including the most vulnerable.

B.72 The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2015 [See reference 87] sets out the Government’s planning policy for traveller sites, replacing the older version published in March 2012. The Government’s overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

B.73 The Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standard (2015) [See reference 88] sets out the Government’s new nationally described space standard. The standard deals with internal space within new dwellings and sets out requirements for the Gross Internal (floor) Area of new dwellings at a defined level of occupancy, as well as floor areas and dimensions for key parts of the home.

B.74 The Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change Report Ready for Ageing? (2013) [See reference 89] warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states “longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises”. The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

B.75 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) [See reference 90] investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is “overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are

inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”.

B.76 Laying the foundations: A housing strategy for England [See reference 91] aims to provide support to deliver new homes and improve social mobility.

B.77 Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England 2010 [See reference 92] sets out how the Government’s approach to public health challenges will:

- Protect the population from health threats – led by central Government, with a strong system to the frontline;
- Empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone’s health and wellbeing and tackle the wider factors that influence it;
- Focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework;
- Reflect the Government’s core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and
- Balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a ‘ladder’ of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation.

B.78 The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 [See reference 93] apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which

affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

Environment

B.79 The Green Infrastructure Framework (2023) [See reference 94] by Natural England will help increase the amount of green cover to 40% in urban residential areas. The Green Infrastructure Framework provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area. From parks to green roofs, and increased tree cover, the Green Infrastructure Framework will make a significant contribution to nature recovery by embedding nature into new developments. Increasing the extent and connectivity of nature-rich habitats will also help increase wildlife populations, build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and ensure our cities are habitable for the future.

B.80 Nature Recovery Network [See reference 95] is a national network of wildlife-rich places to increase and restore nature, and the role of the delivery partnership and management groups. The Nature Recovery Network document explains:

- how Defra and Natural England will work with partners to create a national NRN
- what the NRN will achieve
- the roles of the delivery partnership and management group
- how to become a partner

B.81 The Environment Improvement Plan 2023 [See reference 96] for England is the first revision of the 25YEP. It builds on the 25YEP vision with a new plan

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setting out how we will work with landowners, communities and businesses to deliver each of our goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress. Taking these actions will help us restore nature, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the prosperity of our country. To achieve its vision, the 25YEP set out 10 goals. We have used those 10 goals set out in the 25YEP as the basis for this document: setting out the progress made against all 10, the specific targets and commitments made in relation to each goal, and our plan to continue to deliver these targets and the overarching goals. The environmental goals are:

- Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife
- Goal 2: Clean air
- Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water
- Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides
- Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste
- Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably
- Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards
- Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity
- Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment

B.82 The Air Quality Strategy for England (2023) [\[See reference 97\]](#) sets out local authorities powers and responsibilities as well as the actions that Defra expects local authorities to take in support of the governments long-term air quality goals, including new PM2.5 targets.

B.83 The waste prevention programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste (2023) [\[See reference 98\]](#) sets out government's priorities for managing resources and waste, in line with the resources and waste strategy for England. The programme aims to move to a circular economy by

keeping goods in circulation for as long as possible and at their highest value. This includes increasing the reuse, repair and remanufacture of goods.

B.84 Establishing the Best Available Techniques for the UK (UK BAT) (2022) [See reference 99] sets out a new framework that aims to improve industrial emissions and protect the environment through the introduction of a UK BAT regime. It aims to set up a new structure of governance with a new independent body in the form of Standards Council and the Regulators Group, consisting of government officials and expert regulators from all UK nations. It aims to also establish a new UK Air Quality Governance Group to oversee the work of the Standards Council and the delivery of the requirements under this new framework. It is anticipated that the BATC for the first four industry sectors will be published in the second half of 2023. Climate Change Allowances (2022) [See reference 100] details when and how local planning authorities, developers and their agents should use climate change allowances in flood risk assessments.

B.85 Working with nature (2022) [See reference 101] discusses the importance of nature in providing ecosystem services and presents recent and historical trends in biodiversity. It outlines some of the main pressures affecting England's habitats, wildlife and ecosystems: land use; climate change; pollution; invasive non-native species; and hydrological change.

B.86 The Environment Act 2021 [See reference 102] sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. Biodiversity elements in the Act include:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development.
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network.
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling.

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- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures.
- Conservation Covenants.
- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.
- Prohibit larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation.
- Requires regulated businesses to establish a system of due diligence for each regulated commodity used in their supply chain, requires regulated businesses to report on their due diligence, introduces a due diligence enforcement system.

B.87 Managing Water Abstraction (2021) [See reference 103] is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.

B.88 National Chalk Streams Strategy (2021) [See reference 104] was built around the “trinity of ecological health”: water quantity, water quality and habitat quality and included 30+ recommendations to Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the water companies, NGOs and stakeholders.

B.89 Meeting our future water needs: a national framework for water resources (2020) [See reference 105] set the strategic direction for long term regional water resources planning. The framework is built on a shared vision to:

- leave the environment in a better state than we found it
- improve the nation’s resilience to drought and minimise interruptions to all water users

B.90 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 [See reference 106] protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, including birds. The Regulations lay down rules for the protection, management and

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exploitation of such habitats and species, including how adverse effects on such habitats and species should be avoided, minimised and reported.

B.91 The national framework [See reference 107] marks a step change in water resources planning. The 5 regional water resources groups will produce a set of co-ordinated, cross-sector plans. These plans will:

- address the scale of challenges we face by identifying the options needed in their region to manage demand and increase supply
- realise opportunities from water resources planning by working collaboratively

B.92 The Clean Air Strategy 2019 [See reference 108] sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of Government and society to meet these goals. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. These will support the creation of Clean Air Zones to lower emissions from all sources of air pollution, backed up with clear enforcement mechanisms. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

B.93 The Environment Agency's Approach for Groundwater Protection (2018) [See reference 109] contains position statements which provide information about the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They detail how the Environment Agency delivers government policy for groundwater and adopts a risk-based approach where legislation allows. Many of the approaches set out in the position statements are not statutory but may be included in, or referenced by, statutory guidance and legislation.

B.94 The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 [See reference 110] protect inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, and outlines the associated river basin management process. These Regulations establish the

need to prevent deterioration of waterbodies and to protect, enhance and restore waterbodies with the aim of achieving good ecological and chemical status.

B.95 The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations 2017 **[See reference 111]** sets out the Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles, a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help Local Authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

B.96 Drought response: our framework for England (2017) **[See reference 112]** tells you how drought affects England and how the Environment Agency works with government, water companies and others to manage the effects on people, business and the environment. It aims to ensure consistency in the way we co-ordinate drought management across England. It sets out:

- how drought affects different parts of England
- who is involved in managing drought and how we work together
- how we and others take action to manage drought
- how we monitor and measure the impacts of drought to advise senior management and government on the prospects and possible action
- how we report on drought and communicate with others

B.97 The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2016 **[See reference 113]** provides for the designation of land as nitrate vulnerable zones and imposes annual limits on the amount of nitrogen from organic manure that may be applied or spread in a holding in a nitrate vulnerable zone. The Regulations also specify the amount of nitrogen to be spread on a crop and how, where and when to spread nitrogen fertiliser, and how it should be stored. It also

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establishes closed periods during which the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser is prohibited.

B.98 The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 [\[See reference 114\]](#) focus on the quality of water for drinking, washing, cooking and food preparation, and for food production. Their purpose is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring it is wholesome and clean.

B.99 The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 [\[See reference 115\]](#) streamline the legislative system for industrial and waste installations into a single permitting structure for those activities which have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment. They set out how to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

B.100 The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2016 [\[See reference 116\]](#) set out limits on concentrations of outdoor air pollutants that impact public health, most notably particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). It also sets out the procedure and requirements for the designation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

B.101 Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2015 [\[See reference 117\]](#) are wide-ranging government regulations that can potentially apply to many businesses. The regulations oblige those who create environmental damage, whether by water pollution, adversely affecting protected species or sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), or by land pollution that causes risks to human health, to not only cease the damage, but also to implement a wide variety of remedial measures to restore affected areas.

B.102 Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013) [\[See reference 118\]](#). Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for offsetting.

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B.103 The Water White Paper (2012) [\[See reference 119\]](#) sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

B.104 The National Policy Statement for Waste Water (2012) [\[See reference 120\]](#) sets out Government policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure. The policy set out in this NPS is, for the most part, intended to make existing policy and practice in consenting nationally significant waste water infrastructure clearer and more transparent.

B.105 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) [\[See reference 121\]](#) guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks.

B.106 Defra Right of Way Circular (1/09) (2011) [\[See reference 122\]](#) gives advice to local authorities on recording, managing and maintaining, protecting and changing public rights of way.

B.107 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [\[See reference 123\]](#) and The Flood and Water Regulations (2019) [\[See reference 124\]](#) sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding is managed more effectively. This includes incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; rolling back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

B.108 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2010 [\[See reference 125\]](#) is an Act of Parliament to make new provision for public access to the countryside.

B.109 Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) [See reference 126] sets out how England’s soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention on tackling degradation threats, including better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and dealing with contaminated land.

B.110 Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 [See reference 127] implement in England and Wales Community legislation on pollution of groundwater. They provide rules for the granting by the Environment Agency of a permit under these Regulations, consent under section 91(8) of the Water Resources Act 1991 and (with exceptions) an environmental permit under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations. In addition, the Regulations create an offence of discharge of a hazardous substance or non-hazardous pollutant without a permit, provide for powers of enforcement of the Environment Agency and prescribe penalties for offences committed under these Regulations.

B.111 Flood Risk Regulations 2009 [See reference 128] regulations were enacted in December 2009. They outline a set of tasks, which the county council is required to follow between now and approximately 2015. The regulations also implement the 2007 EU Floods Directive. In accordance with the regulations the council has a series of new responsibilities, these are:

- The preparation of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Report, including the identification of flood risk areas
- The preparation of Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps
- The preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans
- Cooperating with the Environment Agency and other Lead Local Flood Authorities.

B.112 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) [See reference 129] sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles are take: practical action now, maintain and increase

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ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpin all of these. Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

B.113 Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (2008) [\[See reference 130\]](#) sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030, providing an outline of steps which need to be taken to get there. These steps include improving the supply of water; agreeing on important new infrastructure such as reservoirs; proposals to time limit abstraction licences; and reducing leakage. The document also states that pollution to rivers will be tackled, whilst discharge from sewers will be reduced.

B.114 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) [\[See reference 131\]](#) sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term; and
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

B.115 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 [\[See reference 132\]](#) places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.

B.116 The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 [\[See reference 133\]](#) apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas. They also require Noise Action Plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in large urban areas. The Action Plans identify Important Areas (areas exposed to the highest levels of noise) and suggest ways the relevant authorities can reduce these. Major airports and those which affect large urban areas are also required to produce and publish their own Noise Action Plans separately. The Regulations do not apply to noise from

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domestic activities such as noise created by neighbours; at workplaces; inside means of transport; or military activities in military areas.

B.117 The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2003) [\[See reference 134\]](#) protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and certain industrial sectors, notably domestic and industrial waste water. The regulations require the collection of waste water and specifies how different types of waste water should be treated, disposed and reused.

B.118 Environment Agency policy against the culverting of watercourses (1999) [\[See reference 135\]](#) provides technical guidance for people applying for Environment Agency consent to culvert a watercourse or to modify an existing culvert.

B.119 Land Drainage Act 1991 [\[See reference 136\]](#) consolidates the enactments relating to internal drainage boards, and to the functions of such boards and of local authorities in relation to land drainage.

B.120 The Environmental Protection Act 1990 [\[See reference 137\]](#) makes provision for the improved control of pollution to the air, water and land by regulating the management of waste and the control of emissions. Seeks to ensure that decisions pertaining to the environment are made in an integrated manner, in collaboration with appropriate authorities, non-governmental organisations and other persons.

B.121 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [\[See reference 138\]](#) was enacted primarily to implement the Birds Directive and Bern Convention in Great Britain. The Act received royal assent on 30 October 1981 and was brought into force in incremental steps. It is supplemented by the Wildlife and Countryside (Service of Notices) Act 1985, which relates to notices served under the 1981 Act. The act contains four parts and 17 schedules, which cover:

- Part 1: Wildlife (includes protection of birds, animals and plants; and measures to prevent the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife).

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- Part 2: Nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks (including the designation of protected areas).
- Part 3: Public rights of way.
- Part 4: Miscellaneous provisions of the act.

B.122 The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 [See reference 139] is an Act of Parliament to make provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country.

Historic Environment

B.123 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2023-26 [See reference 140], contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

B.124 The Heritage Statement 2017 [See reference 141] sets out how the Government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.

B.125 The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017) [See reference 142] sets out guidance, against the background of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guide (PPG), on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes. It gives general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the

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significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views contribute to setting.

B.126 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) [See reference 143] sets out requirements for the consideration and appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

B.127 The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans (2015) [See reference 144] offers advice to all those involved in the process, to help ensure that the historic environment plays a positive role in allocating sites for development. It offers advice on evidence gathering and site allocation policies, as well as setting out in detail a number of steps to make sure that heritage considerations are fully integrated in any site selection methodology.

B.128 Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015) [See reference 145] contains information on assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.

B.129 The Historic Environment in Local Plans (n.d) [See reference 146] sets out information to help local planning authorities make well informed and effective local plans.

B.130 Historic Landscape Characterisation (n.d) [See reference 147] can be used to help secure good quality, well designed and sustainable places. It is a method of identification and interpretation of the varying historic character within an area that looks beyond individual heritage assets as it brigades understanding of the whole landscape and townscape into repeating HLC Types.

B.131 The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 [See reference 148] sets out the Government's vision for the historic

environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Includes reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government's response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

B.132 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 [See reference 149] is an Act of Parliament that changed the laws for granting of planning permission for building works, with a particular focus on listed buildings and conservation areas.

B.133 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 [See reference 150] is a law passed by the UK government to protect the archaeological heritage of England and Wales and Scotland. Under this Act, the Secretary of State has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of ancient monuments of national importance, in order to help preserve them. It also creates criminal offences for unauthorised works to, or damage of, these monuments.

B.134 The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 [See reference 151] is an Act of Parliament that makes provision for the compilation of a register of gardens and other land (parks and gardens, and battlefields).

Economic Growth

B.135 The Growth Plan 2022 [See reference 152] makes growth the government's central economic mission, setting a target of reaching a 2.5% trend rate. Sustainable growth will lead to higher wages, greater opportunities and provide sustainable funding for public services. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's "growth plan" contained a raft of significant tax measures, with major changes being announced for both individuals and businesses.

B.136 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) [See reference 153] sets out a plan to ‘build back better’ tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high-quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

B.137 The Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024 [See reference 154] aims to drive competitiveness, increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, and generate fairer returns across the agricultural industry. The Transition Plan introduces several new schemes to improve the environment, animal health and welfare, and farm resilience and productivity (e.g., grants will be available for sustainable farming practices, creating habitats for nature recovery and making landscape-scale changes such as establishing new woodland and other ecosystem services). Heritage and the Economy 2020 [See reference 155] examines the economics of heritage conservation and presents evidence on the numerous ways that the historic environment contributes to the national economy and to local economies. The key findings include:

- In 2019, pre COVID-19 pandemic, the heritage sector provided over 206,000 jobs directly and supported a further 357,000 jobs through indirect and induced mechanisms in multiple sectors including the construction, tourism, public, creative industries and social services sectors.
- Heritage employment growth outstripped the rest of the UK economy, growing almost twice as fast between 2011 to 2019.
- However, like many sectors the heritage sector has been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus.
- The conservation, use, and re-use of our precious heritage assets exemplify the fundamental principles of the circular economy.
- The cost of reducing pollution as measured by the marginal abatement cost (MAC) is generally lower for retrofitted historic buildings, than for an equivalent new building.

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- It has been estimated that for every €1 million invested in energy renovation of buildings, an average of 18 jobs are created in the EU (Wade, 2020).
- Historic assets form a significant part of our retail environment and our high streets with up to 48% of all national retail stock built before 1919. Local distinctiveness can be key to high street renewal.
- Heritage has an important role to play in our wellbeing economy. Heritage is an essential part of the social fabric of our society.
- Heritage has an important role to play in building back more inclusive local economies, communities and identities.

B.138 The Heritage Sector in England and its impact on the Economy 2020

[See reference 156] assesses the economic contributions and impacts of England's heritage sector in the UK. The report also provides detailed estimates of the national and regional economic impact of the heritage sector.

B.139 The Agriculture Act 2020 **[See reference 157]** sets out how farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded in the future with public money for “public goods” – such as better air and water quality, thriving wildlife, soil health, or measures to reduce flooding and tackle the effects of climate change, under the Environmental Land Management Scheme. The Act will help farmers to stay competitive, increase productivity, invest in new technology and seek a fairer return from the marketplace. Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024.

B.140 UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018) **[See reference 158]** lays down a vision and foundations for a transformed economy. Areas including artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; the future of mobility; and meeting the needs of an ageing society are identified as the four ‘Grand Challenges’ of the future.

B.141 The National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 **[See reference 159]** brings together the Government's plans for economic infrastructure over this five year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

B.142 The LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017) [\[See reference 160\]](#) seeks to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long-term Industrial Strategy.

Transport

B.143 Future of Transport: supporting rural transport innovation (2023) [\[See reference 161\]](#) shows how innovative and emerging transport technologies could address some of the major challenges in rural communities. It highlights the importance of transport to everyday life rural life and provides guiding principles for the introduction of new technologies and services.

B.144 The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy Report to Parliament (2022) [\[See reference 162\]](#) sets out the objectives and financial resources for cycling and walking infrastructure. It states the Government's long-term ambition is to make walking and cycling the natural choices for shorter journeys. It aims to double cycling by 2025, increase walking activity, increase the percentage of children that usually walk to school and reduce the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured on England's roads.

B.145 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) (Decarbonising Transport Plan (DTP)) [\[See reference 163\]](#) sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It follows on from the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge report published in 2020. The DTP commits the UK to phasing out the sale of new diesel and petrol heavy goods vehicles by 2040, subject to consultation, in addition to phasing out the sale of polluting cars and vans by 2035. The DTP also sets out how the government will improve public transport and increase support for active travel, as well as creating a net zero rail network by 2050, ensuring net zero domestic aviation emissions by 2040, and a transition to green shipping.

B.146 Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) [See reference 164] sets out the strategic priorities for the new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), published in July 2021. It sets out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and more quickly, therefore the TDP takes a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

B.147 The Road to Zero (2018) [See reference 165] sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.148 The Transport Investment Strategy 2017 [See reference 166] sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

B.149 The Highways England Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) [See reference 167] is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the

environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

B.150 Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (2013) [See reference 168] focuses on four core areas which need to be addressed so that people can be confident in choosing greener modes of transport. There are as follows:

- Accurate, accessible and reliable information about different transport options;
- Convenient and affordable tickets;
- Regular and straightforward connections at all stages of the journey and between different modes of transport; and
- Safe and comfortable transport facilities.

B.151 The strategy also includes details on how the Government is using behavioural change methods to reduce or remove barriers to the use of sustainable transport and working closely with stakeholders to deliver a better-connected transport system.

Sub-national Plans and Programmes of Most Relevance to the Local Plan

B.152 Guiding Principles in Land Contamination (2010) [See reference 169] provides answers to a series of questions and includes numerous references to other published guidance on land contamination.

B.153 Land contamination risk management (2020) [See reference 170] details how to manage the risks from land contamination.

B.154 Fairer, greener, stronger: our Strategic Transport Plan for the Midlands: Midlands Connect (2022) [See reference 171] aims to develop, analyse and prioritise the most important transport investments. The projects need to support a more productive, prosperous and sustainable Midlands. The plan makes the following commitments:

- Deliver a Business Case for our full Midlands Engine Rail programme.
- Provide evidence to Government as it investigates how high speed trains will run from the East Midlands.
- Strengthen the position of the Midlands as a leader in the take-up of Electric Cars.
- Publish a Transport Technology Route Plan.
- Develop a clear plan to assist the take up of alternatively fuelled vehicles in the freight sector.
- Continue to invest in the development of new ideas to improve the major road network for all road users.
- Publish a Freight Improvement Plan.
- Develop a funding strategy that outlines the opportunities to bring in private sector funding.
- Support the development of rural mobility solutions.
- Deliver a Decarbonisation Policy Toolkit.
- Establish a Midlands Transport Decarbonisation Forum.

B.155 Leicester and Leicestershire 2050: Our Vision for growth: The Strategic Growth Plan (2018) [See reference 172] has been prepared by the ten partner organisations to provide a long term vision that will address the challenges and opportunities presented in Leicester & Leicestershire . It is a non-statutory plan but it sets out the agreed strategy for the period to 2050. The vision will be delivered through the Local Plan.

B.156 Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment – Housing Distribution Paper [See reference 173] and Employment Distribution

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Paper (2022) [See reference 174] - District councils across Leicestershire, working with the City Council and County Council, have a proposed approach to the distribution of new homes and employment land to meet future needs which cannot be accommodated in Leicester. The papers set out the proposed redistribution including an average annual housing need contribution of 123 dwellings between 2020 to 20236 by Harborough District to meet the unmet housing need of Leicester.

B.157 Leicester & Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy 2021-2030 [See reference 175]: The Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Growth Strategy 2021-2030 seeks to deliver recovery and growth. Leicester and Leicestershire face the challenges of recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the post-EU transition – from a position of strength as the region has transformed into a leading technology and knowledge-based economy over the past 10 years. This strategy is built on robust research, stakeholder views and existing policies.

B.158 Energy Infrastructure Strategy for Leicester and Leicestershire 2018 [See reference 176]: Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP), in partnership with Leicester City Council & Leicestershire County Council, have commissioned Element Energy and Cambridge Econometrics to develop and deliver an Energy Infrastructure Strategy and implementation plan for the LLEP area. The Energy Infrastructure Strategy sets the level of ambition, and guides investment in the low carbon energy sector, which has been identified as one of the LLEP's priority sectors for economic growth. The strategy identifies a set of concrete project opportunities that can be pursued immediately and over the coming years. The projects proposed span the LLEP area, and involve a wide range of sectors including homes, businesses, transport, power generation and energy networks. The strategy takes into account national policy (including the Clean Growth Strategy) and local policies and will feed into the development of the LLEP's Industrial Strategy.

B.159 Leicestershire Rural Framework 2022-2030: The Leicestershire Rural Partnership (LRP) [See reference 177] is an established and successful partnership which brings together public, private and voluntary stakeholders to improve services and support to rural communities and businesses. The work of the Partnership is shaped by the priorities in its Rural Development Framework,

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and its success is dependent on the input from a range of organisations that sit on the LRP Management Board. The vision of the framework is to make rural Leicestershire a thriving, inclusive, digitally well connected and healthy communities and businesses, that are adapting to the challenges posed by climate change to become resilient and maximising the opportunities offered by a net zero carbon future.

B.160 Leicestershire Public Health Strategy 2022-2027 [\[See reference 178\]](#) sets out the authority's priorities and identifies areas for focus over the next five years. In setting out the Public Health strategy, the county council's Public Health team look to deliver services and support which reduce the causes of ill-health and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

B.161 Leicester and Leicestershire SHELAA Joint Methodology Paper 2019 [\[See reference 179\]](#): Provides guidance to the Leicester and Leicestershire Councils undertaking housing and economic development land availability assessments. Local Planning Authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area have agreed a joint approach to the preparation of housing and economic land availability assessments through this methodology and have agreed common working arrangements in line with Duty to Cooperate requirements.

B.162 Leicester City and Leicestershire Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2017 [\[See reference 180\]](#): The fieldwork for the study was completed after the publication of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites. There were seven Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Harborough District that meet the planning definition, 52 unknown households that meet the planning definition and 11 households that do not meet the planning definition. The GTAA identified a need for six additional pitches for households that meet the planning definition and upto 18 additional pitches for unknown households.

B.163 Harborough District Council Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2024) provides an assessment of current and future need for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople accommodation in Harborough

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District. The fieldwork for the study was completed between March 2024 and June 2024, and the baseline date for the study is June 2024. There were 7 Gypsy or Traveller households identified in Harborough District that met the 2023 PPTS planning definition; 17 households that did not meet the PPTS planning definition; and 77 undetermined households that may meet the PPTS planning definition. In relation to Gypsy and Travellers, there is a need for 7 pitches for households that met the 2023 planning definition and 77 pitches for undetermined households. In relation to Travelling Showpeople, there is a need for 69 plots for households that met the planning definition and 37 plots for undetermined households.

B.164 Strategic B8 Needs Sensitivity Report (2024) provides an interim updated assessment of the need for additional strategic B8 development, comprising warehousing and logistics units of > 9,300 sq.m in size across Leicester & Leicestershire; and considers what proportion of this might be planned for in Harborough's Local Plan. The study indicates that an appropriate contribution for the District is between 100-140 ha of additional B8 development to meeting the residual or net need. This is in addition to current commitments at Magna Park.

B.165 Warehousing and Logistics in Leicester and Leicestershire: Managing Growth and Change (2022) [See reference 181], examines the current state and future needs of the logistics sector in the region up to 2041. It highlights key drivers of change, including the rise of e-commerce, the push for decarbonisation, and advances in technology, all of which are reshaping the logistics market. The study addresses land and floorspace requirements, identifying shortfalls at both rail-served and road-served sites, and proposes planning policies to support sustainable growth. The report also explores labour and skills implications, forecasting significant job creation while emphasising the need for higher-skilled roles due to automation and innovation. The report recommends strategic investments in rail infrastructure, warehouse modernisation, and grid capacity to support electric vehicles. Additionally, it stresses the importance of monitoring trends, enhancing local planning policies, and addressing HGV parking shortages to maintain the region's competitive edge in logistics and distribution.

B.166 Harborough District Landscape Character Assessment 2007 [See reference 182] provides a comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment of the District. The assessment also examined the relationship between the urban edge settlements and adjoining landscapes. The District is analysed in landscape terms according to a range of key characteristics: topography, vegetation cover, ecology, heritage, land use and settlement patterns. The study uses landscape character areas, of which, there are five within Harborough. The landscape character areas have been refined, described and evaluated in relation to landscape qualities and capacity.

B.167 The Leicestershire Local Transport Plan for Leicestershire 2026–2040 [See reference 183] outlines a comprehensive strategy to create a safe, resilient, and well-connected transport network that supports economic growth, enhances community health, and protects the environment. The plan is structured around five core themes: delivering economic growth, improving resilience, enabling health and wellbeing, embracing innovation, and protecting the environment. The plan addresses key challenges, such as population growth, ageing demographics, housing demand, and climate change, while promoting active travel, decarbonisation, and sustainable transport solutions. The plan also includes phased implementation, starting with a strategic vision in the core document, followed by focused strategies and investment plans for multi-modal transport and infrastructure improvements. Regular monitoring and evaluation aims to ensure the plan adapts to emerging needs and opportunities, providing value to communities and stakeholders across Leicestershire.

B.168 The Leicestershire Highways Design Guide (2022) [See reference 184] deals with highways and transportation infrastructure for new developments in areas for which Leicestershire County Council is the highway authority. This version is a 2022 interim guide, which contains minor amendments and updates to references to standards and guidance. A full refresh project is now underway, which will be subject to consultation.

B.169 Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 (2019) [See reference 185] - Leicestershire County Council is responsible for minerals and waste planning in the administrative area of Leicestershire (outside the City of Leicester). The Council is reviewing its current planning policies dealing with

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mineral extraction and waste management. This Minerals and Waste Local Plan includes a spatial vision, spatial strategy, strategic objectives, and core policies which set out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County of Leicestershire over the period to the end of 2031. The Development Management Policies set out the criteria against which planning applications for minerals and waste development will be considered. Smaller non-strategic waste facilities will be sought in the first instance within the Broad Locations for strategic waste facilities but also in Market Harborough.

B.170 The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities 2020-2050 (LLSTP) [See reference 186] has been prepared by Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council. The LLSTP outlines the key long-term transport priorities that will support the future development and prosperity of Leicester and Leicestershire. It highlights where the two transport authorities will work together to deliver common transport aims and objectives. The LLSTP will provide a transparent framework for determining decisions on key long-term transport priorities, ensure cross-boundary co-ordination and build on the effective partnership and joint work that is undertaken with Leicester City Council.

B.171 The Cycling and Walking Strategy for Leicestershire (2022) [See reference 187] aims to support people across the county to make more sustainable travel choices, with a vision for Leicestershire to become a county where walking and cycling are safe, accessible and obvious choices for short journeys and a natural part of longer journeys, helping to deliver healthier, greener communities by reducing congestion, and improving air quality, health and wellbeing. The Action Plan sets out the practical actions that are being taken to help deliver the strategy over the short, medium and long term. It will be updated annually to take account of funding availability, changes to national guidance, priorities and any changes to delivery of proposals.

B.172 Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy 2017 [See reference 188] identifies priorities for Leicester and Leicestershire which are:

- To maximise the benefit from the Midland Main Line services.

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- To achieve the best result from the implementation of HS2 Phase 2.
- To improve radically direct fast connectivity to key regional and national destinations.
- To ensure that rail access and economic development are planned together.
- To support modal shift from cars and lorries to sustainable transport.

B.173 Leicester and Leicestershire have poor rail connectivity particularly between regional and national centres. The strategy proposes a number of developments to improve rail travel within Leicestershire.

B.174 Harborough Retail Town Centres Study (2024) includes a detailed centre health checks and audits for the six key designated towns in Harborough District. The study identified a combined floorspace projection for retail and food/beverage upto 2041 of 11,300 sq.m gross. The majority of the floorspace is required in Market Harborough. The leisure expenditure projections indicate there may be potential to accommodate an additional 1,500 sq.m gross of commercial leisure and cultural floorspace by 2041.

B.175 Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism Growth Plan 2018 [\[See reference 189\]](#) sets out how Leicester and Leicestershire will be positioned as a destination for leisure and business tourism. The Plan provides a framework to support Leicester and Leicestershire attracting more leisure and business visitors while encouraging visitors to spend more and stay longer. The Tourism Growth Plan Framework has three strategic priorities which is underpinned by four enablers:

- Strategic Priority 1: Creating a strong, distinctive and visible destination.
- Strategic Priority 2: Improve productivity.
- Strategic Priority 3: Strategic product development.

B.176 The Net Zero Leicestershire Strategy 2023-2045 [\[See reference 190\]](#) outlines a comprehensive plan for the county to transition to net zero carbon

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emissions by 2045. The document acknowledges the pressing challenge of climate change and commits to bold action to mitigate its impacts while promoting sustainable development. Key elements include achieving net zero in County Council operations by 2030, reducing greenhouse gas emissions countywide by 65% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels, and engaging residents, businesses, and organisations in collaborative efforts. The strategy emphasises a just transition, ensuring equitable climate action, and highlights co-benefits such as improved public health, job creation, and biodiversity enhancement. To achieve these goals, the plan focuses on areas like energy efficiency, sustainable transport, renewable energy, waste reduction, and nature conservation. Annual reviews and public consultations aim to ensure accountability and adaptation to evolving circumstances.

B.177 Harborough Renewable Energy Strategy (2024) identifies the potential for different renewable and low carbon energy technologies at all scales within the District and where they are most suitable for development. The study seeks to provide a robust evidence base to underpin planning policies relating to renewable and low carbon energy generation and low carbon development. There is currently 98MW of operational renewable electricity generation capacity across Harborough. The findings of this study show that there is significant technical potential for renewable and low carbon energy within the District. The greatest technical potential lies in the form of ground-mounted solar PV. Onshore wind also has significant technical potential.

B.178 Net Zero Leicestershire Carbon Roadmap 2021 [\[See reference 191\]](#) informs the future development of coordinated climate action by all citizens, businesses, public authorities and other stakeholders across Leicestershire. The conclusions drawn from this research were:

- The net zero carbon 2045 target for Leicestershire cannot be delivered by the council working alone - we need a team effort and we're driving this forward by encouraging our residents and businesses to help shape a cleaner, greener future for the county, and for future generations.
- The pathway to net zero is challenging but feasible if all available policy levers are employed at pace and scale.

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- Investment will be required from all sectors but there are benefits to be accrued for the economy, society, and the environment if the transition is just and fair.
- Net zero should be progressed within the context of other environment objectives to enhance biodiversity and provide resilience.
- Carbon capture and storage should be built into plans but not relied upon, with offsetting carbon used as the last resort.

B.179 The Draft Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy for [\[See reference 192\]](#) is aimed at enhancing and restoring biodiversity across the region. It promotes a landscape-scale approach to nature recovery, addressing critical issues such as habitat loss, species decline, and climate change. Developed collaboratively with various stakeholders, the strategy identifies priority habitats like woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, and urban areas, alongside key species requiring targeted conservation efforts. The strategy aims to integrate nature-based solutions to improve habitat quality, ecological connectivity, and climate resilience. It emphasises community engagement, sustainable land use, and the role of local partnerships in delivering its aims. Specific actions include creating new habitats, improving existing ones, and establishing networks to connect wildlife corridors. It also outlines mechanisms for monitoring progress, ensuring long-term success in fostering a biodiverse and sustainable natural environment.

B.180 Harborough District Green Wedge Assessment 2024 reviews the Green Wedges within Harborough District. There are currently two Green Wedge designations within Harborough District: Leicester/Scraptoft/Bushby Green Wedge and the Leicester/Thurnby /Oadby Green Wedge. The Green Wedge Assessment found that both Green Wedges strategically achieve the four evaluation functions of the Green Wedge with no recommended changes to their boundaries.

B.181 Harborough Area of Separation Study (2024) provides an evidence base to justify the Areas of Separation to be proposed in the emerging Local Plan and to inform future reviews of Areas of Separation defined in made

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Neighbourhood Plans. A total of ten settlement gaps, two of which are defined as Areas of Separation within the Adopted Local Plan, were assessed.

B.182 Harborough Landscape Character Assessment (2024) provides a up to date strategic district scale framework to guide sustainable development. The Landscape Character Assessment identified and described variations in the character of the landscape; features that make the landscape distinctive; and, helps to guide positive change that conserves, enhances, restores, or creates local landscape character. Ten Landscape Character Types (LCT) are present within the District which share broadly similar patterns of geology, topography, vegetation, and human influences. The LCTs were further subdivided into 26 Landscape Character Areas (LCA).

B.183 Harborough Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2024) considers whether the landscape around a number of the District's settlements as well as strategic development areas has the capacity to accommodate new development without causing significant adverse effects on its landscape character.

B.184 Harborough Green and Blue Infrastructure Study (2024) provides a district wide analysis of Green and Blue Infrastructure in Harborough District. The study identified the location of existing Green and Blue Infrastructure within the District while highlighting opportunities for new Green and Blue Infrastructure and making recommendations towards policies for protection, provision and enhancement of Green and Blue Infrastructure. The study identified many opportunities to improve the GBI resources and networks across Harborough District to benefit communities, businesses and nature. Some of these can be delivered through the Local Plan, others involve communication and collaboration with other stakeholders.

B.185 The Humber River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (2022) [[See reference 193](#)] is a plan to manage significant flood risks in the Flood Risk Areas. The Humber River Basin District is 1 of 10 river basin Districts across England. There are 16 management catchments that make up the river basin District which include many interconnected rivers, lakes,

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groundwater and coastal waters. Harborough is also covered by the Anglian River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (2022) [See reference 194]. The Anglian River Basin District (RBD) covers 27,900km². Within the Anglian river basin District there are 16 flood risk areas for significant risk of flooding from rivers and the sea and 12 flood risk areas for significant risk of flooding from surface areas. Harborough also is covered by the Severn River Basin District Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 to 2027 (2022) [See reference 195]. The Severn is the longest river in England with its River Basin District covers an area of over 21,000km². Within the Severn River Basin District there are five flood risk areas for significant risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea and five flood risk areas for significant risk of flooding from surface areas. These flood risk management plans will help to:

- Identify actions that will reduce the likelihood and consequences of flooding.
- Update plans to improve resilience whilst informing the delivery of existing flood programmes.
- Work in partnership to explore wider resilience measures, including nature-based solutions for flood and water.
- Set longer-term, adaptive approaches to help improve our nation's resilience.

B.186 River Basin Management Plans have been produced for Anglian [See reference 196], Humber [See reference 197] and Severn River Basin District [See reference 198]. River basin management plans describe the challenges that threaten the water environment and how these challenges can be managed.

B.187 As Lead Local Flood Authority, Leicestershire County Council is responsible for the development and delivery of the Flood Risk Management Plan. The Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) (2015) [See reference 199] adopts a collaborative approach to managing local flood risk by working with local partners and stakeholders to identify, secure and optimise resources, expertise and opportunities for reducing flood risk and increasing resilience to flooding.

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- The LFMRS assists in developing a greater understanding of local flood risk by improving local knowledge and the understanding of local flood risk.
- It also adopts a sustainable approach to reducing local flood risk, using tools that are economically viable, deliver wider environmental benefits and promote the wellbeing of local people.
- The LFMRS helps to reduce the harmful consequences of local flooding to communities through proactive actions; that enhance preparedness and resilience to local flood risk and contribute to minimising community disruption.
- It also aims to mitigate and manage flood risk relating to development through the promotion of sustainable drainage systems and supporting the development of local policies and guidance.
- Through the LFMRS the financial viability of flood related schemes is secured, through the development of appropriate policies and assessment tools to by establishing flood risk management measures that provide value for money whilst minimising the long-term revenue costs. Seeking to use natural processes where possible or source the costs of any maintenance from the financial beneficiaries of the development further improves the viability of the activities.
- The LFMRS also encourages flood management activities by private owners of ordinary watercourses and flood defence structures, as well as limiting the development of constrictions on ordinary watercourses.

B.188 Space for Wildlife – the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026 **[See reference 200]** has three main components:

- To promote the restoration, management and creation of BAP priority habitats.
- To promote the creation of new wildlife habitat in the wider countryside.
- To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system.

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B.189 Harborough District Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024) provides a comprehensive and robust evidence base on flood risk issues to support the review and update of the Harborough District Local Plan. The SFRA identifies the key areas of flood risk across Harborough District which includes from fluvial, surface water, groundwater, sewers and reservoir inundation.

B.190 Joint Water Cycle Scoping Study (2024) – the joint water cycle study covers Blaby District Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. The aim of the Water Cycle Study is to provide the local authorities with sufficient information of the water environment to inform site selection. The study assesses the potential issues relating to future development within the whole of the study area and the impacts on water supply, wastewater collection and treatment and water quality. The Water Cycle Study is required to assess the constraints and requirements that will arise from potential growth on the water infrastructure.

B.191 The Draft Harborough District Economic Development Strategy 2024–2031 aims to foster sustainable growth and prosperity in the district by leveraging its natural assets, strategic location, and diverse economy. It prioritises a collaborative approach involving local businesses, community organisations, and regional stakeholders. Key goals include supporting education and skills development, enhancing infrastructure, promoting sustainable practices, and boosting local businesses' competitiveness. The strategy is guided by four ambitions: Thriving People, focusing on health, education, and job opportunities; Thriving Places, enhancing the economic vitality of towns and rural areas; Thriving Enterprises, increasing productivity and investment; and Thriving Environment, promoting sustainable development and green growth. The strategy emphasises inclusivity, resilience, and adaptability to global and local challenges, ensuring that all residents benefit from economic improvements.

B.192 The Harborough Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2020 [\[See reference 201\]](#) is to identify the needs and guide the investment and funding which will be required up to 2031. The Strategy considers the demand for indoor sports

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facilities larger than 3 court badminton hall size, in addition to swimming pools, leisure centres, fitness gyms, indoor netball and tennis, indoor bowls and other built facilities for indoor sport. In addition, the Council's Community Partnerships Team has prepared a study of Village and Community Halls through out the District which is included as a section in the Strategy.

B.193 The Harborough District Council Open Spaces Strategy 2021 [See reference 202] considers the provision and use of 8 typologies of open space but does not consider outdoor sport as this is dealt with by the Playing Pitch Strategy. Additionally, the provision of cemetery and burial grounds is considered in detail as part of the Cemetery and Burial Ground Strategy for the capacity of cemeteries, but the typology is included here for accessibility, quality, value, and amount of provision. Detailed audits have been undertaken on 299 sites selected using agreed criteria in accordance with Green Flag audit guidelines.

B.194 Harborough Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 [See reference 203] covers up to 2031. The Strategy will also help the Council and its partners to:

- Understand provision needs now and in the future.
- Determine planning applications.
- Ensure that the management and maintenance of sports facilities is appropriate and sustainable.
- Prioritise local authority capital and revenue investment, including S106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Prioritise and support bids for external funding to assist in the delivery of sporting infrastructure.
- Identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities.
- Contribute to the aims and objectives of improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.

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B.195 Market Harborough Transport Strategy 2017 – 2031 [\[See reference 204\]](#) presents the overriding findings of a study jointly funded by Leicestershire County Council and Harborough District Council concerning the transport network in and around the settlement of Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The report makes recommendations for the promotion of a medium to long term (up to 2031) highway orientated transport improvement strategy for Leicestershire.

B.196 Lutterworth Town Centre Masterplan 2021: The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd [\[See reference 205\]](#), Mott MacDonald and Intali were commissioned by Harborough District Council to prepare a Vision and Masterplan for Lutterworth Town Centre in January 2019 (to be referred to as the Masterplan). The remit of the Masterplan is to ensure the future viability and vitality of the town centre and secure its role as a local destination for retail, leisure and hosting community networks and events. The Masterplan will also form part of the evidence base that will inform the implementation of relevant policies for the Harborough Local Plan (2019) and future versions of the Local Plan. The Masterplan process was paused during 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic but was re-started during early 2021.

B.197 Market Harborough Town Centre Masterplan 2022 [\[See reference 206\]](#): The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd, Mott MacDonald and BE Group were commissioned by Harborough District Council (HDC) to prepare a Vision and Masterplan for Market Harborough Town Centre from summer 2019 (to be referred to as the Masterplan). The remit of the Masterplan is to ensure the future viability and vitality of the town centre and secure its role as a local destination for retail, leisure and hosting community networks and events. The Masterplan will also form part of the evidence base that will inform the implementation of relevant policies for the Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031, (adopted in April 2019), and future Local Plans. The Masterplan process was paused during 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic but was restarted during late 2021.

B.198 Harborough District Council Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 – 2030 [\[See reference 207\]](#): Harborough District Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. This followed on from many years working on action

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plans devised as part of the Local Government Association initiative; “Climate Local”, which Harborough District Council committed to in 2013. Climate change is a cross cutting issue, with implications across the council’s priorities.

B.199 Harborough District Council Rural Strategy 2023-2028 [\[See reference 208\]](#): The rural strategy sets out how working together to overcome challenges, rural proof future policies to realise the unique opportunities to enhance well-being and prosperity across the District.

B.200 Harborough District Council Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 [\[See reference 209\]](#) will support the Council to work with partners and the community to improve health and wellbeing through taking action on the wider factors that contribute to health and wellbeing - ensuring that we utilise our collective resources effectively.

B.201 Corporate Plan 2022 – 2031 Harborough District Council [\[See reference 210\]](#) shows how the District Council will help to ensure that the council are a place that stands out, not only in Leicestershire, but also nationally as an area where residents can have a good quality life and where businesses and communities continue to thrive. The Corporate Plan is the council’s overarching strategic document. It is the only plan which covers the full range of the council’s responsibilities and is an important tool to set out our ambitions for the District and help focus our efforts and resources on the right things. This is even more important in the context of constrained budgets, increases in demand and continuous change.

B.202 A Strategy for Housing and the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2019-2024 [\[See reference 211\]](#) is the core document setting out Harborough District Council’s approach to meeting local housing needs. The strategy highlights the key housing issues facing the local community in the short and long term and identifies what we are doing to tackle these issues. This strategy combines a traditional five year Housing Strategy with a five year Homelessness Prevention Strategy and a five year Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy. This recognises the complexity and interdependency between homelessness, the local housing market and the supply of affordable homes.

Surrounding Development Plans

B.203 Rugby Borough Council adopted the Rugby Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 on 4th June 2019. The adopted Local Plan and Policies Map now form the statutory development plan for Rugby Borough Council, setting out strategic planning policies and detailed development management policies. The Local Plan allocates for 12,400 additional homes and 208 ha of employment land. The Council has started reviewing the Local Plan. A call for sites ran alongside the Issues and Options consultation between 31 October 2023 and 02 February 2024. All sites are currently being assessed as part of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

B.204 Blaby District Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2013 sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and core policies for the spatial planning of the District up to 2029. The Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted by Blaby District Council in February 2013. It is the first part of the Local Plan and sits alongside the Local Plan Delivery Development Plan Document (DPD) adopted on 4 February 2019. The Local Plan (Core Strategy) states how the Council proposes to accommodate the need for new homes, jobs and infrastructure that is required in the District. The Local Plan (Core Strategy) sets a housing requirement of 8,740 and proposes development at two strategic employment sites while enabling development at a number of smaller employment sites.

B.205 Work is currently underway on the new Local Plan. The New Local Plan will set out a strategy for how the District will grow and change over the next 15 years and beyond. The New Local Plan, when adopted, will replace the current Local Plan (the Core Strategy and Delivery DPDs). A Regulation 18 consultation was held on the New Local Plan between January and March 2021. A review of the Local Plan timescales and housing targets has been undertaken, following changes to the national planning system. The planning policy reform through the December 2024 NPPF includes an increase in new mandatory housing targets for Blaby District. The Regulation 19 Local Plan is now planned to be consulted on by July 2025.

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B.206 Leicester City Council lies to the north west of Harborough District. The Core strategy was adopted in July 2014 and sets out the spatial planning strategy for the city and objectives and policies for new development. A number of 'saved' policies from the city of Leicester Local Plan 1996-2016 currently still form part of the development plan. A housing need of 25,600 homes between 2006 and 2026 was identified. Employment provision was proposed at three sites across Leicester: Ashton Green, Science Park and City Centres. This equates to a total of up to 10 ha of employment land and 30,000 sqm of B1(b) and 50,000sqm of B1(a).

B.207 Leicester City Council submitted the Leicester Local Plan 2020-2036 for examination on the 26th September 2023. For Leicester, the local housing need is 2,464 dwellings per annum with the local plan identifies a target of 1,296 dwellings per annum. Therefore, about 20,730 homes will be delivered over the plan period, with the remaining housing need being apportioned as agreed amongst the Leicestershire authorities. A need of 65 ha of employment land was identified with approximately 23 ha to be delivered outside of Leicester City.

B.208 Oadby and Wigston Borough lies to the west of Harborough District. The Borough of Oadby and Wigston Local Plan was adopted on 16th April 2019. The Local Plan sets out the Vision, Spatial Objectives, Spatial Strategy and Planning Policies for development for the entire Borough area, for the period up to 2031. The most up to date Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment illustrates an Objectively Assessed Housing Need for the Borough of 148 new homes per annum up to 2031. In relation to employment land, the objectively assessed need was 1 ha of B1a/b and 4 ha of small scale B8 employment land.

B.209 Oadby & Wigston Borough Council undertook a public consultation on the Regulation 18A Issues and Options Consultation Draft New Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 3rd September 2021 and 29th October 2021 and has now published the Local Plan Issues and Options (Regulation 18A) Statement of Consultation. The Preferred Options (Regulation 18B) Draft Local Plan undertook public consultation 3rd April to 15th May 2024. The next round of public consultation is due to take place in spring 2025 on the

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Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan (Reg 19). The new Local Plan will cover the period up to 2041 and will identify site allocations for housing and employment development and boundaries for designations such as Green Wedges, Local Green Spaces and Open Spaces.

B.210 Charnwood Borough lies to the north of Harborough District. The adopted Local Plan for Charnwood is made up of the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy (2015) and the saved policies from the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan (2004). The Local Plan proposed to deliver 13,940 new homes and 75 ha of employment land between 2011-2028.

B.211 The new Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 was submitted for examination in December 2021 and hearing sessions concluded in Feb 2023. The consultation on the proposed Main Modifications takes took place between Wednesday July 17 and 5pm on Wednesday September 4, 2024. The Charnwood Local Plan provides a strategy to accommodate the development required to support growth in the borough up to 2037. Upon adoption, the new plan will replace the Charnwood Local Plan 2011 to 2028 Core Strategy. Between 2021 and 2037, 1,111 homes are required to be built annually. The majority of those homes, around 10,603, will come from existing planning permissions which have yet to be built. Additionally, a total of 154.8ha of employment land will be allocated. The Council is currently working to progress various work streams in response to the Inspectors' Letter.

B.212 Melton Borough lies to the north of Harborough District. The Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 was adopted on 10th October 2018. It sets out the Council's policies for the use and development of land across the whole of the Borough and replaces the saved policies from the 1999 Melton Local Plan. The Melton Local Plan seeks to meet a housing land requirement of 6,125 dwellings between 2011 and 2036. Additionally, there is a need for 50.75 ha of employment land up to 2036. Work is currently underway on the Local Plan. In June 2023, the Council undertook a Call for Sites to identify additional employment land within the Borough. Melton Borough Council consulted on the Melton Local Plan Update Issues and Options from Monday 6th November 2023 until Sunday 7th January 2024.

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B.213 Rutland lies to the north east of Harborough District. The Rutland Local Plan was adopted on 11th July 2011. The adopted Local Plan sets out the planning policies for Rutland up to 2026 and is made up of three development plan documents (DPDs):

- Core Strategy DPD
- Site Allocations and Policies DPD
- Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD

B.214 Rutland County has a housing requirement of 3,000 homes with an employment land requirement of 5 ha between 2010-2026.

B.215 The Rutland Local Plan 2018 to 2036 was withdrawn after being submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination on 3rd February 2020. Work is underway on the Rutland's new Local Plan which must allocate sites to meet housing and employment needs. A call for Sites was undertaken in February 2022. The new Local Plan underwent Issues and Options consultation from June to September 2022. The Regulation 18 Preferred Options Draft Local Plan was out for consultation between November 2023 and January 2024. The new Local Plan proposes to deliver 1,375 dwellings and 40.9 ha of employment land up to 2041.

B.216 Corby and Kettering now form part of North Northamptonshire Council which lies to the east of Harborough District. The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (JPU) was formally established in October 2004 by Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire Councils, together with Northamptonshire County Council. The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) is the strategic Part 1 Local Plan for Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough covering a period up to 2031. It outlines a big picture to be developed in more detail through the Part 2 Local Plans prepared by the District and Borough Councils. The North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was adopted on 14th July 2016.

B.217 The Kettering Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan was formally adopted on 1st December 2021. The housing requirement for Kettering area between 2011-31

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was 10,400 with an employment target of 8,100 jobs. Approximately, 2,835 jobs will be within the service industry. The Part 2 Local Plan for Corby was formally adopted on 29th September 2021. The housing requirement for Corby is 9,200 dwellings between 2011-2031. Corby has an employment creation target of 9,700 jobs up to 2031.

B.218 North Northamptonshire Council is currently reviewing its Local Plan, extending the plan period to 2041. Consultation on the Issues and Options was undertaken Spring 2022. The Council is currently working towards publishing a Draft Plan for consultation, this was planned for June 2024, however there has been timetable slippage.

B.219 The Daventry area part of West Northamptonshire Council lies to the south of Harborough District. West Northamptonshire Council was formed on 1st April 2021 through the merger of the three non-metropolitan Districts of Daventry, Northampton, and South Northamptonshire. The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of the area up to 2029, including strategic policies for steering and shaping development. The Daventry Local Plan (Part 2) Local Plan 2011-2029 was adopted on 20th February 2020. Building on the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, it was prepared to help further guide planning decisions in the Daventry area and forms part of the Development Plan for the District. Between 2011 and 2029, a total of 12,730 homes will be delivered with a minimum net increase of 28,500 jobs.

B.220 West Northamptonshire Council is preparing a new plan for the area. This will replace the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and guide development in the period up to 2041. A consultation on spatial options for the Plan took place between 11th October and 24th December 2021. This was the second stage in preparing the new Plan (after the Issues Consultation in 2019). Consultation on a Regulation 18 Draft Plan ran between 8th April and 2nd June 2024, It is proposed that a final draft of the Plan will be consulted upon in early 2025.