



*Our plan –  
Our future*

---

# Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

## 2024 to 2038



### Basic Conditions Statement

### May 2025

Prepared by the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Much Wenlock Town Council

## Contents

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Introduction.....   | 1  |
| 2. | Basic condition (i) - conformity with national planning policy .....                                  | 4  |
| 3. | Basic condition (iv) - contribution to sustainable development.....                                   | 18 |
| 4  | Basic condition (v) - general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan<br>..... | 21 |
| 5  | Basic Condition (vi) - conformity with retained EU obligations.....                                   | 29 |
| 6  | Basic condition (vii) - conformity with the prescribed conditions .....                               | 29 |
| 7  | Conclusion .....  | 30 |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Basic Conditions Statement has been produced to accompany the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan (MWNP).
- 1.2. The relevant legal framework for the preparation and making of neighbourhood plans is supported by the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 and found in the:
  - Town and Country Planning Act 1990: ss. 61F, 61I, 61M-P and Schedule 4B
  - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: ss 38A-C
  - Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (2012 No.637) (as amended)
- 1.3. Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 requires a neighbourhood plan to meet five basic conditions before it can proceed to a referendum. These are:
  - i. Having regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State it is appropriate to make the neighbourhood plan;
  - ii. The making of the neighbourhood development plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
  - iii. The making of the neighbourhood development plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority (or any part of that area);
  - iv. The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, (retained) EU obligations; and
  - v. Prescribed conditions are met in relation to the neighbourhood plan and prescribed matters have been complied with in connection with the proposal for the neighbourhood plan. The prescribed condition is that the 'making' of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).
- 1.4. There are two further basic conditions which are relevant only to the making of a Neighbourhood Development Order and are therefore not considered in this document.
- 1.5. This document sets out how the MWNP meets the Basic Conditions.

## Supporting documents and evidence

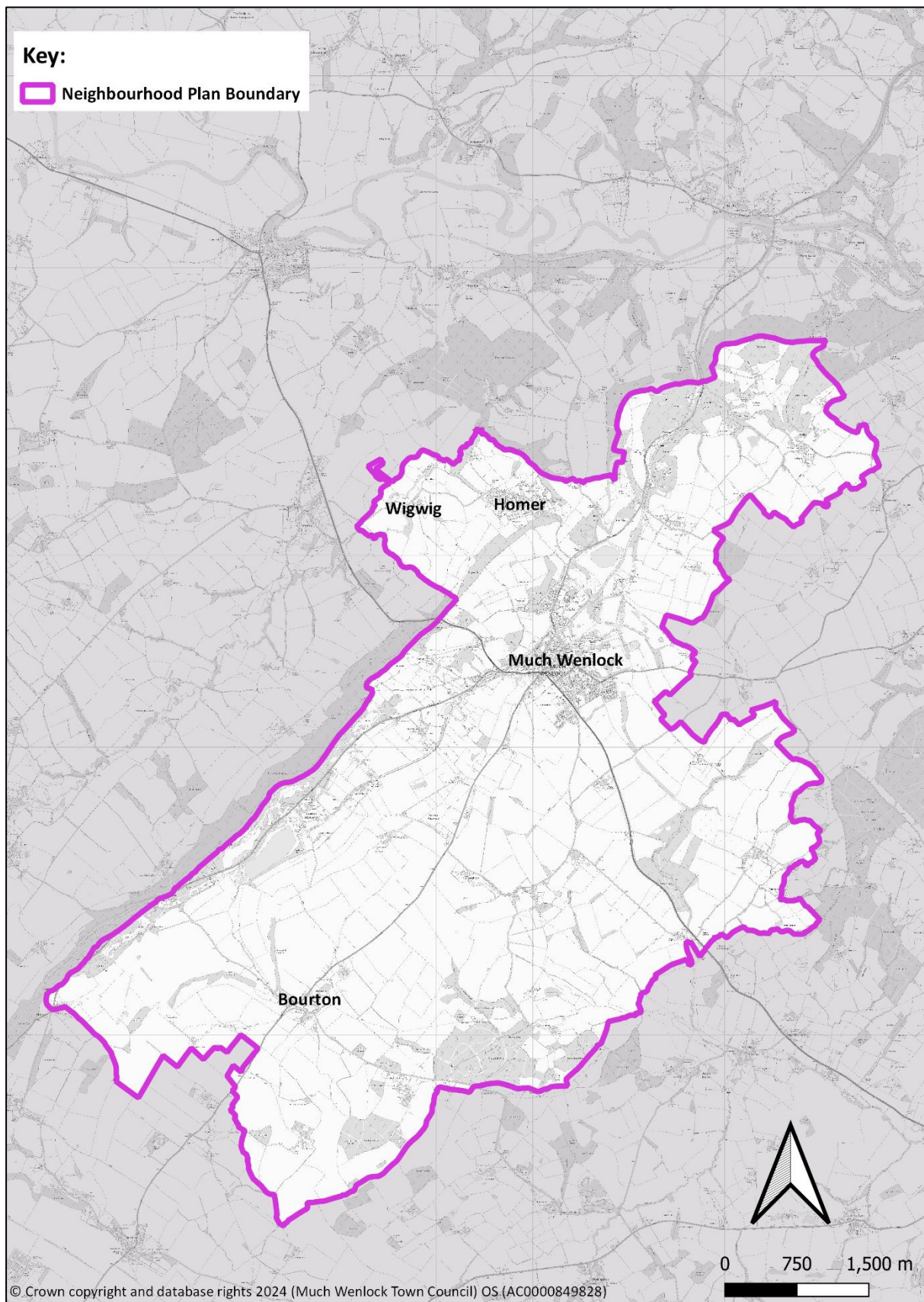
- 1.6. The Submission Version MWNP, with its policies, is supported by a Consultation Statement, this Basic Conditions Statement and an extensive evidence base. It has also been subject to a Screening, organised by Shropshire Council (SC), to ascertain whether it requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment, and the Determination Statement is included as part of the accompanying documentation. Neither were required.
- 1.7. Alongside the planning policies, the MWNP contains a series of projects which fall outside planning policy. These are intended to contribute towards the achievement of the Plan's vision and could form the basis of the principles for the use of any developer funding and other monies arising from other planning obligations. They complement the Neighbourhood Plan document but are not a formal part of the Development Plan.

## Key statements

- 1.8. The Neighbourhood Area shares its boundary with that of the Much Wenlock Parish (*Figure 1*).
- 1.9. SC designated the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area on 12 September 2012.
- 1.10. This MWNP replaces the 2013-2036 Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.11. The MWNP sets out planning policies that relate to the development and use of land within the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area only.
- 1.12. The MWNP refers only to the administrative boundary of the parish. There are no other adopted Neighbourhood Plans that cover all or part of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.13. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has prepared the MWNP to establish a vision for the future of the parish. It has engaged with the community to set out how the vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change over the plan period 2024 to 2038.
- 1.14. The Plan does not contain any policies which relate to excluded development as defined by section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.



Figure 1: Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Development Plan designated area



## 2. Basic condition (i) - conformity with national planning policy

- 2.1. To meet this condition, it is necessary to demonstrate that the MWNP has regard to national planning policies and the advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. National policy and guidance are contained within the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') and the Planning Practice Guidance ('PPG').
- 2.2. It should be noted that the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the NPPF, most recently revised in December 2024 (with additional minor revisions in February 2025).

### National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3. The NPPF has 13 key objectives which are:
- Delivering a sufficient supply of homes
  - Building a strong, competitive economy
  - Ensuring the vitality of town centres
  - Promoting healthy and safe communities
  - Promoting sustainable transport
  - Supporting high quality communications
  - Making effective use of land
  - Achieving well-designed places
  - Protecting Green Belt land
  - Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
  - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment
  - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment
  - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals
- 2.4. This Basic Conditions statement explains how the MWNP policies contribute to meeting these objectives, where relevant, and also notes the specific national policies that the Plan is intended to support and supplement.
- 2.5. The existing vision, encapsulated by the line, '**Our Plan, Our Future**' continues to resonate locally having been defined by the desires, concerns and aspirations of local residents and other stakeholders of Much Wenlock parish.
- 2.6. The planning policies are couched within a series of overarching objectives that stem directly from the views and opinions expressed at the consultation events hosted by community volunteers and the on-line survey. The objectives are shown in *Table 1*:

Table 1: MWNP Objectives

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Objective 1: Spatial strategy and housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ developing collaborative partnerships with one or more Housing Associations to bring forward affordable housing on exception and other sites.</li> <li>✓ supporting small-scale infill sites and conversions within the wider parish.</li> <li>✓ actively supporting the redevelopment of brownfield sites.</li> <li>✓ making sure that developments include a suitable mix of housing suited to local needs, including dwellings suited to older residents and those with disabilities. This should include good access and safe or green walking to facilities within the town.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Objective 2: the economy and jobs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ safeguarding existing commercial and employment land-uses.</li> <li>✓ making sure that existing employment sites are kept for employment use wherever possible and appropriate.</li> <li>✓ supporting new/expanded business premises in suitable locations.</li> <li>✓ protecting the vitality of Much Wenlock town centre.</li> <li>✓ supporting new mixed-use developments where an existing commercial site is demonstrated unviable, retaining an element of employment so that where appropriate, people can combine work and home life.</li> <li>✓ encouraging appropriate and sustainable rural tourism activities.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Objective 3: Reducing flood risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ recognising the significance of the designation of Much Wenlock as within a Rapid Response Catchment subject to the Highest Category of flood risk.</li> <li>✓ minimising the impacts of flooding within the town's conservation area, implicit in a worst-case flood scenario, by a catchment wide flood attenuation strategy.</li> <li>✓ making a prior assessment, of any impact on flood risk, a key element in preparing for the implementation of each of the council's policies.</li> <li>✓ restricting new development to locations least likely to increase flood risk.</li> <li>✓ encouraging the development of nature-based solutions throughout the catchment to reduce runoff and to slow the flow of surface water.</li> <li>✓ keeping sites free from development if they have the potential to be used to slow down the flow of surface water through engineering or natural means.</li> <li>✓ making sure that developments minimise the impact on water quality and subsequent health risks particularly during flooding conditions.</li> <li>✓ protecting and improving local water quality.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Objective 4: Transport and movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ supporting plans to improve the infrastructure for local walking, cycling and equestrian transport, in line with the principles of the 20-minute neighbourhoods.</li> <li>✓ making sure that new developments have enough associated off-street car parking to meet current and future needs.</li> <li>✓ safeguard existing off-street public car parking and support additional car parking to</li> </ul>   |

|  |
|--|
| <p>alleviate pressure in the town centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ supporting local and strategic traffic management proposals which reduce the number of HGV/LGV vehicles travelling through the parish in order to minimise their adverse impact.</li> <li>✓ managing new developments so that they do not have an unacceptable traffic impact on local residents.</li> <li>✓ ensuring that traffic impacts at pinchpoint junctions and stretches of road are minimised.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Objective 5: Community well-being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ creating new facilities for families, the elderly and young people.</li> <li>✓ supporting developments or uses associated with a positive visitor experience.</li> <li>✓ protecting existing community buildings and services.</li> <li>✓ providing new public toilet provision to cater for local and visitor needs</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Objective 6: Good quality design, local character and heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ respecting the scale, style and setting of the historic townscapes of Much Wenlock (in particular the unique characteristics of the 'bowl' setting) and Bourton.</li> <li>✓ making sure that in Much Wenlock and Bourton, the use of building materials is in keeping with those used in their respective Conservation Areas. Elsewhere, new developments should use materials which respect their setting and rural environment.</li> <li>✓ ensuring that any development or change be of the highest quality design.</li> <li>✓ ensuring that new developments will include gardens of an appropriate scale to the property.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Objective 7: Green and open spaces, local landscape and wildlife</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ protecting the existing areas of green space within the parish and ensuring that their quality and or multi-functionality is improved. It is important that existing spaces be considered for retrofitting in adaptation for climate change.</li> <li>✓ creating extra areas of high-quality green space are created within new developments.</li> <li>✓ taking opportunities taken to create linkages between sites, address green and pedestrian gaps in existing networks, create of new foot and cycle routes, and wildlife biodiversity corridors.</li> <li>✓ ensuring that new accessible and inclusive green space should exceed or at least meet Shropshire Council's standards for green open spaces, play spaces and allotments. New designated spaces will be welcomed if they meet the required standards.</li> <li>✓ identifying opportunities to increase potential new green and open spaces for enjoyment of the local landscape and countryside are identified.</li> <li>✓ undertaking sympathetic management of the countryside and natural outdoor environment in and around the parish is undertaken to enhance the quality of the landscape, improve local biodiversity and provide other benefits to the community's quality of life.</li> </ul> |

2.7. Underpinning the objectives is the need to ensure that all policies contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change.



- 2.8. The seven objectives are shown in *Table 2* alongside the corresponding NPPF objective or objectives that each one seeks to address.
- 2.9. *Table 3* provides further detail by setting out the policies of the MWNP and which specific paragraphs of the NPPF each has had regard to along with a commentary.

*Table 2: Assessment of the MWNP objectives against NPPF (2024) goals*

| MWNP objective  | Relevant NPPF goal  |
|---|---|
| <b>Objective 1: Spatial Strategy and housing</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making effective use of land</li> <li>• Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> <li>• Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</li> </ul> |
| <b>Objective 2: The economy and jobs</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building a strong, competitive economy</li> <li>• Ensuring the vitality of town centres</li> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Objective 3: Reducing flood risk</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Objective 4: Transport and movement</b>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport</li> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Objective 5: Community well-being</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Objective 6: Good quality design, local character and heritage</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving well-designed places</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Objective 7: Green and open spaces, local landscape and wildlife</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</li> <li>• Promoting healthy and safe communities</li> </ul>  |

Table 3: Assessment of how each policy in the MWNP conforms to the NPPF

| Policy Title and Reference                              | NPPF Ref.   | Commentary   |
|---|---|--|
| POLICY MW1:<br>SUPPORTING<br>SUSTAINABLE<br>DEVELOPMENT | 7, 8, 29, 61,<br>73, 82, 83, 84,<br>96, 98, 111,<br>124, 125, 126,<br>129, 130, 135,<br>187 | <p>A core principle of national policy is the need for the planning system to contribute to sustainable development. The NPPF states that plans should support strategic development needs as established in the adopted Local Plan and actively manage patterns of growth.</p> <p>Policy MW1 is an important policy in the context of the Plan. It seeks to ensure that any development is directed to the most appropriate, sustainable locations, where there is easy access to the main village services and facilities. This will help to protect the wider landscape of the parish and safeguard against the coalescence of the individual settlements.</p> <p>It supports the development strategy set out in the adopted Local Plan. While the emerging Local Plan Review has been withdrawn, the evidence base for it remains valid and the MWNP policy is mindful of this and its implications for Much Wenlock. The Steering Group agreed at an early stage not to allocate sites for development (a position discussed and agreed with SC officers) as it was anticipated that there would have been strategic sites allocated at the Local Planning level. In the context of the withdrawn Local Plan and the implications this may have on the pattern of future growth, Policy MW1 is an important overarching policy that seeks to ensure that any future development – including speculative, windfall and future strategic sites - in the parish is planned comprehensively and is sustainably located and delivered. It seeks to embed the principle of walkable neighbourhoods and supports the protection of the natural landscape, which is important in a parish such as Much Wenlock, which contributes to the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (part of which falls within the parish).</p> |

|   |                                 |  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
|   |                                 | <p>The policy supports the reuse of brownfield land where feasible and where this can either safeguard employment or (where not possible) be brought forward as a mixed-use development and seeks to minimise coalescence between the individual communities within the Parish, to retain their distinctive identities.</p> <p>This will contribute to sustainable development by ensuring that development takes place in the most appropriate places.</p>  |
| POLICY MW2:<br>MEETING LOCAL<br>HOUSING NEEDS | 61-66, 71, 73,<br>74, 76, 82-84 | <p>The NPPF sets out that the size, type, and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies. Whilst the MWNP does not seek to allocate housing sites, a position agreed with SC, it does seek to influence the type and mix of housing to be delivered should sites come forward. The evidence base and local engagement reveals a largely ageing population, with a predominance of larger-sized homes within a price band well above the average for the wider geographic area and largely out of reach financially for individuals and couples on lower quartile or even median local salaries.</p> <p>The needs of the rural parish are more defined than those set out of the wider local authority areas as a whole, which includes some more urbanised areas. Policy MW2 therefore seeks to ensure that all residential development proposals are adequately informed by the locally specific Housing Needs Assessment prepared for the parish that drills down to the local level as opposed to relying solely on data prepared at the strategic levels.</p> <p>The policy also seeks to encourage housing designed specifically to meet the needs of older people and people with special needs.</p> |
| POLICY MW3:<br>RURAL EXCEPTION<br>SITES       | 61, 63-65, 82-84                | <p>The NPPF states that in rural areas, planning policies and decisions should be responsive to local circumstances and support housing developments that reflect local needs, including proposals for community-led development for housing. Policy MW3 provides the parameters against which such housing developments should be</p>   |

|   |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
|   |                                   | considered.  |
| POLICY MW4: INFILL DEVELOPMENT AND CONVERSIONS  | 75                                | This policy sets out the criteria against which infill development and conversions of existing properties should be assessed. The policy underlines the need for such development to be in-keeping with local character and provide adequate off-road parking space.   |
| POLICY MW5: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT  | 85, 86, 88, 89, 96, 125           | <p>The policy supports the national aim of building a strong, competitive economy. Protecting existing and providing new space for employment is considered important in Much Wenlock to ensure that there are opportunities locally for work. This will also help to reduce out-commuting, which itself adds to traffic congestion.</p> <p>The NPPF states that planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth. The MWNP recognises that there are few existing commercial employment sites in Much Wenlock. Policy MW5 seeks first and foremost to protect these for commercial use, unless it can be demonstrated that this is no longer viable. The viability test for such sites has been carried forward from the ‘made’ neighbourhood plan. Where unviable, the emphasis is on supporting mixed-use developments, that can demonstrate an element of (compatible) job creation alongside the delivery of homes and other uses.</p> |
| POLICY MW6: PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE AND SETTING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN CENTRE | 88, 90, 96, 98, 101, 103, 131-141 | This policy seeks to support uses that will enable an economically vibrant, mixed-use town centre in Much Wenlock, attracting additional footfall, enhancing its historic setting, improving accessibility and improving overall the look and feel of the public area. It supports a number of national aims, relating to both the vitality of town centres and well-design places, which consider community needs.  |

|  |                      |  |
|--|----------------------|--|
|  |                      |  |
| POLICY MW7:<br>PROMOTING<br>SUSTAINABLE<br>RURAL TOURISM                                       | 85, 88, 89           | The policy takes a positive approach to the future of the tourism activity in the town and wider parish. It will help to support a prosperous rural economy, recognising the sensitive needs of the parish, in terms of where development is most sustainable and how it can minimise its (negative) impact on the environment.  |
| POLICY MW8:<br>VISITOR<br>ACCOMMODATION<br>IN RURAL AREAS                                      | 85, 88, 89           | The policy supports the national ambitions of supporting a diverse rural economy, but seeks to ensure that, in the context of visitor accommodation, this does not lead to unintended residential accommodation, which would be located in unsustainable locations. The policy largely builds on the evidence base prepared for the emerging Local Plan. Although that Local Plan has now been withdrawn, the evidence base remains valid  |
| POLICY MW9:<br>SUPPORTING<br>FLEXIBLE<br>WORKSPACES AND<br>OPPORTUNITIES<br>FOR<br>HOMEWORKING | 85, 86               | The policy supports new ways of working, as endorsed in national policy. This is particularly important in a parish such as Much Wenlock, which has limited local employment and a high reliance on out-commuting.   |
| POLICY MW10:<br>FLOODING AND<br>DRAINAGE   | 161-164, 170-<br>182 | Flooding is a significant issue in Much Wenlock that is well documented. Policy MW10 supports the national aim of ensuring that planning policy and decision-making takes full account of all climate impacts. Notably, it adds locally specific criteria to ensure that any new development is planned for in a way that will reduce its vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change notably by avoiding areas at risk of flooding. Whilst not a policy requirement, it supports the use of pre-commencement conditions to ensure that flooding is actively addressed in advance of development. It |



|  |                                       |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
|  |                                       | also supports a range of non-planning mechanisms to address both the causes of flooding and its drainage.   |
| Policy MW11:<br>SUSTAINABLE<br>DRAINAGE DESIGN<br>AND MANAGEMENT                 | 161-164, 170-<br>182                  | The policy has a close relationship with Policy MW10. It sets out criteria against which development should be considered in terms of provision of adequate drainage infrastructure, supporting multifunctional drainage systems that can be maintained in the long-term.   |
| POLICY MW12:<br>IMPROVING<br>WALKING, CYCLING<br>AND EQUESTRIAN<br>OPPORTUNITIES | 96, 105, 109-<br>111, 115-117,<br>135 | <p>This policy supports the NPPF objective of encouraging sustainable modes of transport by encouraging the improvement of movement routes within the parish that would enable people to access local facilities and the wider countryside more easily and directly by foot (and, to a lesser extent by bike), rather than relying on less sustainable modes of transport. It also considers accessibility for those less mobile. Equestrian movement in the parish is fairly popular and this is also considered, particularly in terms of access to the wider surrounding countryside and in the context of there being fewer bridleways. The policy seeks to ensure that development proposals would link up to the movement route network and that existing public rights of way are protected, maintained and, where feasible, enhanced, to encourage greater and safer usage. It follows the 'walkable' neighbourhood concept, as promoted by a number of national bodies including the Town and Country Planning Association.</p> <p>The policy is supported by a series of associated projects and intervention areas which would improve the network that could be discussed with the Highways Authority and landowners.</p> |
| POLICY MW13:<br>PUBLICLY<br>ACCESSIBLE<br>PARKING                                | 109, 110,<br>112, 113                 | Whilst the MWNP supports sustainable transport (public transport/active travel) where possible, it is inevitable that a rural location such as Much Wenlock, with no railway station, will have a significant reliance on car usage. This is the case for residents and also those visiting the town and wider parish. The provision of adequate off-street public car parking is therefore considered important in offering a genuine  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  |   | choice of transport modes. Policy MW13 seeks to achieve this by safeguarding what exists and supporting the provision of new space, notably to include EV charging points and cycle parking.  |
| POLICY MW14:<br>MITIGATING<br>VEHICULAR<br>IMPACTS AT<br>JUNCTIONS AND<br>PINCHPOINTS                              | 96, 109, 110,<br>111, 115,<br>116, 117, 118 | The policy supports the national aim of ensuring that development proposals fully and carefully consider their impacts on highway safety and/or the road network generally. It provides locally specific examples of where challenging highways have already been identified, to ensure that development proposals can inform their potential impact on these areas and how these will be mitigated.  |
| POLICY MW15:<br>IMPROVING<br>OPPORTUNITIES<br>FOR COMMUNITY<br>AND CULTURAL<br>FACILITIES, SPORT<br>AND RECREATION | 96, 98, 101,<br>103, 104                    | The NPPF encourages policies that contribute to healthy, inclusive communities. The parish benefits from a range of local facilities, which are valued by the community. The policy supports the provision of new/improved facilities as evidenced by the community engagement and provides a series of parameters against which these should be considered, to ensure their impacts on the environment are mitigated. These could form the basis of an infrastructure improvement plan for the parish. |
| POLICY MW16:<br>RESISTING THE LOSS<br>OF PUBLIC HOUSES   | 88, 96, 98                                  | The policy provides particular support for the ongoing provision of public houses in the parish. This is a sector under threat but one which is important, for instance supporting social interaction and community wellbeing, as supported at the national level.  |
| POLICY MW17:<br>PUBLIC TOILET<br>PROVISION   | 88, 96, 98                                  | The provision of public toilets, including accessible toilets, is important in a parish such as Much Wenlock, which has an aging population and a significant number of outside visitors passing through. In line with national policy, Policy MW17 supports the development of accessible local and community facilities.  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| POLICY MW18:<br>CHARACTER AND<br>DESIGN OF<br>DEVELOPMENT | 96, 109, 131-<br>141                           | <p>National policy actively encourages neighbourhood planning groups to develop policies that achieve well-designed places that reflect local aspirations, and which are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of the area's defining characteristics. Policy MW18 contributes to this aim by ensuring that development in the parish is designed to respect local character within the parish and in the context of the setting of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.</p> <p>Underpinning the policy is the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines, which form an integral part of the MWNP and provide detailed guidance tailored to the local circumstances. It is an integral part of the neighbourhood plan and will inform the development of any future sites.</p>   |
| POLICY MW19:<br>ENERGY EFFICIENCY<br>AND DESIGN           | 161-169, 182                                   | <p>Policy MW19 supports the national objective of designing development to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Notwithstanding the fact that such matters are largely controlled by the Building Regulations, the policy (supported by the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines) identifies a series of design features which would be strongly supported where they are incorporated into development. This includes features aimed at reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and energy loss that should be incorporated into both new development and installed retrospectively into existing, often historic buildings.</p> <p>The policy also provides support for community-scale energy schemes with locally specific criteria against which they should be considered. This is particularly important given the National Park setting.</p> |
| POLICY MW20:<br>CONSERVING<br>HERITAGE ASSETS             | 135, 202,<br>203, 207,<br>208, 212-218,<br>219 | <p>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment is a key aim of national policy. The parish has a wealth of heritage assets, some of which are already protected by way of national designation. Policy MW20 plans positively for the conservation and enjoyment of this heritage. It also identifies 21 non-designated heritage assets that are considered to have historic value at the community level.</p>  |

|  |                        |   |
|--|------------------------|---|
|  |                        | The policy takes a proactive approach to supporting development proposals in the Much Wenlock and Bourton Conservation Areas, in a way that will enhance them.  |
| POLICY MW21:<br>LOCAL GREEN SPACE  | 106-108, 153<br>to 160 | The NPPF enables communities to designate spaces that are demonstrably special to them as Local Green Space. The policy identifies eight such spaces in the parish. It provides the justification as to how each meets the NPPF criteria. This will ensure that these spaces are protected against inappropriate development.   |
| POLICY MW22:<br>RECREATIONAL<br>OPEN SPACE AND<br>PLAY SPACE                                   | 96, 98, 103,<br>104    | This policy seeks to ensure that adequate provision of recreational open space is provided within development proposals as appropriate. This will support the national aim of ensuring access for all to a network of high-quality open spaces, recognising the impact this has on physical and mental health and well-being.   |
| POLICY MW23:<br>GREEN AND BLUE<br>INFRASTRUCTURE<br>AND DELIVERING<br>BIODIVERSITY NET<br>GAIN | 135, 136,<br>187-195   | <p>This policy supports the national objective of ensuring that development contributes to and enhances the natural environment and biodiversity. It maps out, at the parish level, components of wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation through protecting designated and non-designated landscape assets. The policy is supported by an extensive biodiversity profile of the parish, that has been developed by a local ecologist.</p> <p>In line with the Environment Act, the policy requires developments to deliver a biodiversity net gain of at least 10%, although at least 20% is encouraged in line with advice from the Wildlife Trusts. Where this cannot be achieved on-site, there is a desire for it to be delivered within the Parish in the first instance.</p> |

|  |                           |   |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| POLICY MW24:<br>LANDSCAPE AND<br>ENVIRONMENT         | 135, 136,<br>187-195      | The policy identifies environmental designations in the parish, but also a range of non-designated features that are typical of the landscape here and which should be both protected and encouraged. The policy identifies, at a local level, the significant landscape features, such as trees, woodland and hedgerows that are particularly important within the parish context. These features should be retained and, where possible enhanced. The policy also provides guidance to applicants on how they can best incorporate open space within development as well as wildlife-friendly features. |
| POLICY MW25:<br>DARK SKIES                           | 96, 131, 135,<br>187, 198 | The policy supports national policy in limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.   |
| POLICY MW26:<br>COMMUNITY AND<br>RENEWABLE<br>ENERGY | 105, 161-169,<br>187      | In the context of a national drive for renewable energy generation, the policy takes a proactive approach to shaping how such proposals should be considered locally, to ensure that they contribute positively to the local community, environment and heritage.   |

### 3. Basic condition (iv) - contribution to sustainable development

- 3.1. The NPPF states in paragraph 7 that *‘the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.’*
- 3.2. For the MWNP, sustainable development has provided the fundamental basis of each of its policies. The National Planning Practice Guidance advises that *‘sufficient and proportionate evidence should be presented on how the draft neighbourhood plan ... guides development to sustainable solutions’* (Planning Practice Guidance, Paragraph: 072 Reference ID: 41-072-20140306).
- 3.3. Table 4 summarises how the overarching ambitions and policies in the MWNP contribute towards economic, social and environmentally sustainable development, as defined in the NPPF. Many of the ambitions of the MWNP overlap the three strands of sustainability, so for the purposes of this document, the most relevant strand has been taken to illustrate conformity.

Table 4: Assessment of the MWNP ambitions and policies against sustainable development

|   |
|---|
| <b>Deliver economic sustainability</b>  |
| <b>NPPF definition – ‘to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.’</b>   |
| <b>MWNP Objectives:</b><br><b>Objective 2: The economy and jobs</b>   |
| <b>NP Policies:</b><br>Policy MW5: Commercial development<br>Policy MW6: Protecting and enhancing the role and setting of Much Wenlock town centre<br>Policy MW7: Promoting sustainable rural tourism<br>Policy MW8: Visitor accommodation in rural areas<br>Policy MW9: Supporting flexible workspaces and opportunities for homeworking   |
| <b>Commentary:</b><br>The Plan includes five policies aimed at encouraging a strong rural economy. These recognise the rural setting of the parish and the town itself and the need to retain both a viable town centre as well as continued opportunities for wider employment opportunities, including commercial activity and more modern ways of working. Tourism is an important sector locally and the policies seek to support this in a way that is sustainable and does not lead to unintended consequences.<br>In these ways, the Plan seeks to contribute to building a sustainable economy. |
| <b>Deliver social sustainability</b>  |
| <b>NPPF definition – ‘to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and</b>  |



|   |
|---|
| <b><i>by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being.'</i></b>   |
| <p><b>MWNP Objectives:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 1: Spatial strategy and housing</b></p> <p><b>Objective 4: Transport and movement</b></p> <p><b>Objective 5: Community well-being</b></p>  |
| <p><b>NP Policies:</b></p> <p>Policy MW1: Supporting sustainable development</p> <p>Policy MW2: Meeting local housing needs</p> <p>Policy MW3: Rural Exception Sites</p> <p>Policy MW4: Infill development and conversions</p> <p>Policy MW12: Improving walking, cycling and equestrian opportunities</p> <p>Policy MW13: Publicly accessible parking</p> <p>Policy MW14: Mitigating vehicular impacts at junctions and pinchpoints</p> <p>Policy MW15: Improving opportunities for community and cultural facilities, sport and recreation</p> <p>Policy MW16: Resisting the loss of public houses</p> <p>Policy MW17: Public toilet provision</p> <p>Policy MW22: Recreational open and play space</p>   |
| <p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>The NPPF underlines the importance of supporting strong, vibrant, inclusive and healthy communities by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations and by creating a high-quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.</p> <p>The MWNP has been developed following community engagement to understand local priorities to contribute to this national objective. Whilst the Plan does not seek to allocate homes at this time (as it had been considered and agreed with the local planning authorities that this would have been adequately addressed through the emerging Local Plan process), it does focus on the type, mix, size, tenure and affordability of housing that should be supported in the parish, based on the findings of the local housing needs assessment, which offers a more nuanced picture compared to the wider strategic area.</p> <p>The Plan includes policies to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services to address the community's needs.</p> <p>A key principle of the MWNP is to support the sustainable location of new development. It supports active travel principles, whereby residents and visitors should have the opportunity to walk, "wheel", cycle and ride safely if they choose. This will support healthier lifestyles and could also help to reduce local traffic on the roads.</p> <p>In these ways, the Plan aims to support social sustainability.</p> |
| <b>Deliver environmental sustainability</b>   |
| <b><i>NPPF definition – 'to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy,'</i></b>   |
| <p><b>MWNP Objectives:</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3: Reducing flood risk</b></p>   |

**Objective 6: Good quality design, local character and heritage**

**Objective 7: Green and open spaces, local landscape and wildlife**

**NP Policies:**

Policy MW10: Flooding and drainage  
Policy MW11: Sustainable drainage design and management  
Policy MW18: Character and Design of development  
Policy MW19: Energy efficiency and mitigating climate change  
Policy MW20: Conserving heritage assets  
Policy MW21: Local Green Space  
Policy MW22: Recreational open and play space  
Policy MW23: Green and blue infrastructure and delivering biodiversity net gain  
Policy MW24: Landscape and environment  
Policy MW25: Dark skies  
Policy MW26: Community and renewable energy

**Commentary:**

Policies to celebrate, protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the parish is an important element of the MWNP and conforms to the national aims set out in the NPPF.

A locally distinctive Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Area Design Guidelines has been developed and forms an integral part of the plan, underpinning many of the policies. It sets out expectations including in relation to local character, design, biodiversity and environmental considerations.

In terms of local character, the plan seeks to consolidate all those elements that make the parish – and its individual settlements distinctive. Alongside existing designations, this includes the identification of non-designated heritage assets and locally important views and viewpoints.

The Plan maps out the green spaces and corridors locally that form a network of habitats, with a view to encouraging their protection, improvement and connection. Natural features distinctive to the parish are identified, to encourage their protection and for inclusion in the design of new development. In addition, a series of Local Green Spaces, considered to be demonstrably special to the community, are designated.

The Plan emphasises the need to promote more sustainable modes of transport in order to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions, while supporting healthy lifestyles.

Flooding is a significant problem in the parish and a section of the Plan is dedicated to ensuring that planning policy as far as possible addresses this, which will only worsen in the context of the changing climate.

In these ways, the Plan seeks to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment of the neighbourhood area.

- 3.4. As demonstrated in *Table 3*, the strategic objectives of the Plan are considered to comprise a balance of social, economic, and environmental goals. The policies in the Plan demonstrably contribute to sustainable development.

#### **4 Basic condition (v) - general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan**

- 4.1 The policies of the MWNP must be in general conformity with the adopted strategic policies of the [Shropshire Core Strategy \(adopted 2011\)](#) and the [Site Allocations and Management of Development \(SAMDev\) Plan](#) (adopted 2015).
- 4.2 The Shropshire Development Plan also comprises a series of 'made' neighbourhood plans and other supplementary planning guidance.
- 4.3 SC has been working on a review of their Local Plan, which had reached Examination stage. The Inspector wrote to SC on [17 February 2025](#) to set out concerns about the soundness of the plan. SC issued a [letter on 13 March 2025](#), setting out their intention to withdraw the Plan from Examination, a decision which will need to be approved at Full Cabinet, likely July 2025.
- 4.4 The SC [Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2025](#) notes agreement that "the evidence base supporting the draft Local Plan (2016-2038) is a material consideration in decision making on relevant planning applications, to support the implementation of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This will include planning applications for new development on sites proposed to be allocated in the submitted version of the Local Plan (2016-2038). This evidence base has been drawn on to inform policies of the MWNP.
- 4.1. It is confirmed that there are no policies in the strategic documents relating to minerals and waste that are of relevance to the MWNP.
- 4.2. *Table 5* sets out which adopted Development Plan policies each MWNP policy conforms to, where strategic policies are prefixed with 'Core Policy' or 'Strategic Policy'.

Table 5: Relevant strategic policies

| Policy Title and Reference                     | Adopted Shropshire Policy   | Commentary   |
|--|---|--|
| POLICY MW1: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS3, CS4, CS5, CS8; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD1, MD7a, and b, S13 | <p>The adopted strategic planning policies set out the development strategy and level of growth to be accommodated across the broader geographic area. They define the settlement policy boundaries within the neighbourhood area and how each settlement should be considered in planning terms.</p> <p>The MWNP itself does not allocate sites as these were to be progressed at the strategic level via the emerging Local Plan. These, combined with windfall allowance, were anticipated to deliver the level of growth required at the local level to meet local housing need, while contributing to the strategic need. In the context of the emerging Local Plan likely to be withdrawn, this policy is very important in setting out the criteria against which any speculative sites should be considered in the parish, alongside any future allocated ones or windfall.</p> <p>As such, Policy MW1 provides a spatial strategy for the parish, aligning to the strategic policies in terms of safeguarding the natural environment and limiting the impact of development on the environment and areas susceptible to flooding. It adds additional local detail, for instance by promoting the walkable neighbourhood concept, to ensure that all new development is planned in a sustainable way.</p> |
| POLICY MW2: MEETING LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS        | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS11; SAMDev Plan (2015): S13                                      | <p>The MWNP is not seeking to allocate sites, a position agreed with SC planning officers. Nevertheless, there may be sites coming forward, for instance as windfall or speculative development. Policy MW2 seeks to ensure that housing proposals contribute to meeting the specific housing needs of the parish in terms of size, tenure, affordability, and the needs of people at different stages of their lives. It adds additional local detail to the evidence compiled at the strategic level, drawing on</p>   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   |   | the evidence in the Much Wenlock Housing Needs Assessment.  |
| POLICY MW3: RURAL EXCEPTION SITES   | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS11; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD7a, S13          | The policy adds additional local detail to SC policy in relation to how any rural exception sites should be considered as they might come forward in Much Wenlock parish.   |
| POLICY MW4: INFILL DEVELOPMENT AND CONVERSIONS  | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS3, CS4; SAMDev Plan (2015): S13, MD3; | The policy seeks to ensure that any infill in the parish contributes positively to local character and provides adequate parking space, a particular issue in Much Wenlock parish.  |
| POLICY MW5: COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT  | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS13, CS14; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD9, S13     | Policy MW5 supports the overall thrust of the SC policies in terms of supporting the economy and encouraging diversification, including of rural businesses. The previous (made) MWNP allocates 0.72 hectares of land at Stretton Road for employment use. In the subsequent years, this site has not been brought forward for such use. Policy MW5 therefore includes criteria relating to non-viability of such uses – including on this site - which, if met, could proactively open them up to mixed uses. The policy is considered to offer an additional layer of flexibility for the parish, based on local circumstances. |
| POLICY MW6: PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE AND SETTING OF MUCH WENLOCK TOWN CENTRE | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS15; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD10a, MD10b       | This is an important policy, which seeks to enable the continued vitality of the town centre in Much Wenlock. It supports a mix of uses, sets out criteria against which changes of use should be considered, and provides guidance on how development proposals can contribute to improving the public realm. This will benefit both residents and visitors to the parish. It aligns with strategic policy in terms of setting out how Much Wenlock, as a Key Centre, can practically deliver the aspirations of Policy CS15   |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| POLICY MW7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE RURAL TOURISM                              | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS16; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD11           | The policy takes a proactive approach to supporting sustainable tourism, which is an important sector in Much Wenlock. It supports the strategic policies in this area, providing additional detail in terms of the sorts of tourism infrastructure that would be supported and how these should be considered in planning terms to maximise their sustainability.   |
| POLICY MW8: VISITOR ACCOMMODATION IN RURAL AREAS                             | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS16; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD11           | This is an important policy in the MWNP, seeking to limit the development of owner-occupied second homes outside the development boundary. This is a growing issue in the parish. Any tourism-related development in the countryside will only be accepted if the design is of exceptional quality, meaning that any subsequent change from holiday use would still result in exceptionally designed development. The policy builds on a policy and supporting evidence that had been drafted for the emerging LPR, but which is now likely to be withdrawn. |
| POLICY MW9: SUPPORTING FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMEWORKING | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS13, CS14; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD9, S13 | The policy supports strategic policy in terms of promoting Shropshire as a place for a range of business types to start up, invest and grow. In particular there are opportunities to support those working from home locally, or requiring business start-up units, and the policy would support this.  |
| POLICY MW10: FLOODING AND DRAINAGE   | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS18; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD2            | Reducing flood risk is an important element of strategic policy. Policy MW10 supports this, with additional information setting out criteria against which proposals should be considered in relation to the situation in Much Wenlock, which is severe. There are links across to the Sustainable Design policies.  |
| Policy MW11: SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT                      | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS18; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD2            | The policy provides detail on how to incorporate adequate sustainable drainage in an area at high risk of flooding. It builds on the existing policy in the made neighbourhood plan, supporting strategic aims too.  |



|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| POLICY MW12:<br>IMPROVING WALKING,<br>CYCLING AND EQUESTRIAN<br>OPPORTUNITIES   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS7;<br>SAMDev Plan (2015):<br>MD8 | Strategic policy states that a sustainable pattern of development requires the maintenance and improvement of integrated, accessible, attractive, safe and reliable communication and transport infrastructure and services. These need to provide a range of opportunities for communication and transport which meet social, economic and environmental objectives by improving accessibility, managing the need to travel, offering options for different travel needs and reducing the impacts of transport. Policy MW12 supports this, mapping out the network of movement routes at the local level and embedding the need for new development to prioritise 'connectivity' to this in order to encourage active travel and a shift away from reliance on e.g. motor vehicles for shorter journeys. The policy is underpinned by a series of specific interventions to the movement network that would enable greater accessibility for users. |
| POLICY MW13: PUBLICLY<br>ACCESSIBLE PARKING                                     | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS7;<br>SAMDev Plan (2015):<br>MD8 | Notwithstanding the aims of Policy MW12, in a rural parish such as Much Wenlock, with no railway station, inevitably there is a higher-than-average reliance on cars. This is particularly the case for visitors to the area. The policy seeks to safeguard existing public car parking space and would support new provision that would serve the High Street, and which can be provided sustainably. The installation of EV charging points and cycle parking in such locations will assist in encouraging a shift to less polluting forms of transport. This supports the strategic policies in offering options for different travel needs and reducing the impacts of transport.  |
| POLICY MW14:<br>MITIGATING VEHICULAR<br>IMPACTS AT JUNCTIONS<br>AND PINCHPOINTS | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS7;<br>SAMDev Plan (2015):<br>MD8 | SC's policies that it is important that development should only take place where there is sufficient existing infrastructure capacity. Policy MW14 identifies, from a transport perspective, where the capacity issues are particularly heightened and seeks to encourage development proposals to actively consider and address their impacts on the specific junctions noted.  |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| POLICY MW15:<br>IMPROVING<br>OPPORTUNITIES FOR<br>COMMUNITY AND<br>CULTURAL FACILITIES,<br>SPORT AND RECREATION | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS8,<br>CS9; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD8         | SC policy recognises that as a predominantly rural area, Shropshire is familiar with threats of closure to, and loss of, its post offices, schools, pubs, village shops and phone boxes, to name but a few. Policy MW15 seeks to protect existing community facilities, while supporting improvements to these and new ones as necessary. It is supported by an audit of local facilities, with information about how each might be further supported or expanded. Additional facilities cited by the community are noted, with the policy encouraging applicants to engage with the Town Council and community to inform their proposals. |
| POLICY MW16: RESISTING<br>THE LOSS OF PUBLIC<br>HOUSES  | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS8,<br>CS9; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD8         | In line with Policy MW15, this policy focusses specifically on safeguarding public houses, which contribute positively to the local community and the local economy. There have been closures over the years and the policy supports the continued use of such premises as public houses (or similar /commercial uses where possible.  |
| POLICY MW17: PUBLIC<br>TOILET PROVISION   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS8,<br>CS9; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD8;        | The need for public toilet provision in Much Wenlock, both for residents and visitors, was highlighted in the engagement. This includes the provision of accessible facilities where possible.   |
| POLICY MW18:<br>CHARACTER AND<br>DESIGN OF<br>DEVELOPMENT   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS6,<br>CS17; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD12, MD13 | The policy supports the landscape- and heritage-led approach endorsed by SC. The policy is underpinned by the Much Wenlock Parish Design Guidance and Codes, which form an integral part of the plan. These have been reviewed by SC and provide additional local detail to the strategic policies on the matter of design.  |
| POLICY MW19: ENERGY<br>EFFICIENCY AND<br>DESIGN   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS6;<br>SAMDev Plan (2015):<br>MD2              | The policy supports the strategic policy which seeks to create sustainable places, by designing development to a high quality using sustainable design principles, to achieve an inclusive and accessible environment which respects and enhances local distinctiveness, and which mitigates and adapts to climate change. It sets out specific criteria to optimise sustainable design.   |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| POLICY MW20:<br>CONSERVING HERITAGE<br>ASSETS   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011):<br>CS17; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD13      | SC policy states that development will identify, protect, enhance, expand and connect Shropshire's environmental assets, to create a multifunctional network of natural and historic resources. It seeks to ensure that wherever possible, proposals avoid harm or loss of significance to designated or non-designated heritage assets, including their settings. Policy MW20 supports these aims and identifies 21 non-designated heritage assets. It also provides additional detail on the management and enhancement of the historic environment, including within the two conservation areas. |
| POLICY MW21: LOCAL<br>GREEN SPACE   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011):<br>CS17; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD12      | Eight local green spaces are designated in the policy, supporting the strategic aim of supporting environmental which provide multifunctional benefits, such as opportunities for informal recreation for local communities and tourists; improving health and community wellbeing, sense of place and identity, social cohesion, increasing biodiversity value and maintaining air quality.  |
| POLICY MW22:<br>RECREATIONAL OPEN<br>SPACE AND PLAY SPACE                                   | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS8;<br>SAMDev Plan (2015):<br>MD8, MD12  | Strategic policy seeks to facilitate the timely provision of additional facilities, services and infrastructure to meet identified needs. It encourages development which appropriately conserves, enhances, connects, restores or recreates natural assets, particularly where this improves the extent or value of those assets which are recognised as being in poor condition. Within Much Wenlock, there is an identified shortfall in play space and Policy MW22 seeks to ensure that where practicable, development proposals address this.  |
| POLICY MW23: GREEN<br>AND BLUE<br>INFRASTRUCTURE AND<br>DELIVERING<br>BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN | Shropshire Core<br>Strategy (2011): CS5,<br>CS17; SAMDev Plan<br>(2015): MD12 | The policy provides additional local detail to the Local Plan policies, mapping out the green (and blue) infrastructure of the parish and supporting its conservation and improved connectivity. The policy supports an uplift to the required 10% minimum biodiversity net gain, something which was being considered as part of the LPR and is supported nationally by the Wildlife Trusts. The policy also supports the reuse of disused quarry workings with a focus on biodiversity and community use.   |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| POLICY MW24: LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENT      | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS5, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12     | Strategic policy supports proposals which contribute positively to the special characteristics and local distinctiveness of an area. Policy MW24 identifies some of the key natural features of the parish – both designated and non-designated - which contribute to this and sets out how they should be managed. For instance, the clauses relating to trees support the aim of creating a minimum 20% tree canopy across the parish, which is supported by SC officers.  |
| POLICY MW25: DARK SKIES                     | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD12          | Strategic policy seeks to protect and enhance the diversity, high quality and local character of Shropshire’s natural, built and historic environment, and does not adversely affect the visual, ecological, geological, heritage or recreational values and functions of these assets, their immediate surroundings or their connecting corridors. The dark skies enjoyed in Much Wenlock parish contribute significantly to this and Policy MW25 sets out how light pollution can be limited in order to help safeguard this resource. |
| POLICY MW26: COMMUNITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY | Shropshire Core Strategy (2011): CS1, CS6, CS17; SAMDev Plan (2015): MD8 | Strategic policy supports the need for development proposals to contribute positively to mitigating the negative impacts of climate change. There is some guidance within strategic policy in terms of renewable energy schemes, and MW26 adds additional detail in light of this emerging as a key national aim.  |

## **5 Basic Condition (vi) - conformity with retained EU obligations**

- 5.1 The MWNP, and the process under which it was made, conforms to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (EU 2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).
- 5.2 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Shropshire Council, as the responsible authority, determined in November 2024 that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required as the MWNP's policies – individually or collectively - are unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 5.3 The [SEA Screening Statement](#) is contained within the evidence base submitted alongside the Submission Version MWNP.

## **6 Basic condition (vii) - conformity with the prescribed conditions**

- 6.1 Under Directive 92/43/EEC, also known as the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC 'on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora'), it must be ascertained whether the MWNP is likely to breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Assessments under the regulations are known as Habitats Regulations Assessments ("HRA"). An appropriate assessment ("AA") is required only if the Plan is likely to have significant effects on a European protected species or site. To ascertain whether it is necessary to undertake an assessment, a screening process is followed.
- 6.2 Shropshire Council, as the responsible authority, determined in November 2024 that the MWNP is unlikely to have significant impact on European sites and therefore does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.
- 6.3 In addition to conforming to its EU obligations, the MWNP does not breach and is not otherwise incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- 6.4 The [HRA Screening Statement](#) is contained within the evidence base submitted alongside the Submission Version MWNP.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1. The relevant basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the TCPA 1990 are considered to be met by the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan and all the policies therein. It is therefore respectfully suggested to the Examiner that the MWNP complies with Paragraph 8(1) (a) of Schedule 4B of the Act.