

Meeting of West Berkshire District Council

Thursday 16 October 2025

Summons and Agenda



WestBerkshire
C O U N C I L

To: All Members of the Council

You are requested to attend a meeting of
WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
to be held in the
**COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET,
NEWBURY**
on
Thursday 16 October 2025
at 7.00pm

Sarah Clarke.

Sarah Clarke
Executive Director – Resources
West Berkshire District Council

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday 8 October 2025

AGENDA

Part I

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). **(Pages 5 - 6)**

2. **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman to report on functions attended since the last meeting and other matters of interest to Members. **(Pages 7 - 8)**

3. **MINUTES**

The Chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 17 July 2025 and 11 September 2025. **(Pages 9 - 16)**



WestBerkshire
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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#). **(Pages 17 - 18)**

5. PETITIONS

Petitions may be presented to Council. These will normally be referred to the appropriate body without discussion. **(Pages 19 - 20)**

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained in the [Council's Constitution](#). **(Pages 21 - 22)**

7. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Council to agree any changes to the membership of Committees. **(Pages 23 - 24)**

8. MOTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To note Motions which have been presented to previous Council meetings. **(Pages 25 - 26)**

9. UPDATES FROM COMMITTEES

That Council is informed about the meetings held since the last ordinary meeting of Council. The minutes of these meetings will be available on the [Council's website](#). **(Pages 27 - 28)**

- A) The Licensing Committee met on 28 July 2025.
- B) The Personnel Committee has not met.
- C) The Governance Committee met on 29 July 2025 and 30 September 2025.
- D) The District Planning Committee has not met.
- E) The Resources and Place Scrutiny Committee met on 16 September 2025.
- F) The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee met on 11 September 2025.
- G) The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee met on 30 September 2025.
- H) The Health and Wellbeing Board met on 24 September 2025.
- I) The Joint Public Protection Committee met on 6 October 2025.

10. HUNGERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (C4742)

The Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been subject to independent examination. The Examiner has recommended that the NDP with modifications can proceed to referendum (see Appendix C). However, the Examiner's decision is not binding and only West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) can decide if the NDP progresses to referendum. This report provides the evidence for the Council to make that decision. **(Pages 29 - 184)**

11. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2025/26 (C4666)

To provide Council with oversight of the annual Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26 which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board. **(Pages 185 - 244)**

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

To receive any Motions submitted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained in the [Council's Constitution](#). **(Pages 245 - 250)**

13. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Members of the Executive to answer questions submitted by Members of the Council in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules contained in the [Council's Constitution](#). **(Pages 251 - 252)**

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Stephen Chard on telephone 01635 519462.

Council – 16 October 2025

Item 1 – Apologies for Absence

Verbal Item

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 2 – Chairman's Remarks

Verbal Item

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Agenda Item 3.

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 17 JULY 2025

Councillors Present: Tony Vickers (Chairman), Stephanie Steevenson (Vice-Chairman), Adrian Abbs, Antony Amirtharaj, Phil Barnett, Dennis Benneyworth, Jeff Brooks, Nick Carter, Patrick Clark, Heather Codling, Martin Colston, Iain Cottingham, Carlyne Culver, Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot, Denise Gaines, Stuart Gourley, Clive Hooker, Paul Kander, Janine Lewis, Ross Mackinnon, Alan Macro, David Marsh, Geoff Mayes, Tom McCann, Justin Pemberton, Vicky Poole, Christopher Read, Matt Shakespeare, Richard Somner, Joanne Stewart, Louise Sturgess, Clive Taylor, Martha Vickers and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: Sarah Clarke (Executive Director for Resources), Paul Coe (Executive Director for Adult Social Care), AnnMarie Dodds (Executive Director for Children's Services), Joseph Holmes (Chief Executive), Clare Lawrence (Executive Director for Place), Melanie Booth (Group Executive – Liberal Democrats), Thomas Radbourne (Zoom Host), Nicola Thomas (Deputy Monitoring Officer and Service Lead for Legal and Democratic Services), Darius Zarazel (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and Honorary Alderman Tony Linden

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Councillor Jeremy Cottam, Councillor Jane Langford, Councillor Biyi Oloko, Councillor Paul Dick, Councillor Owen Jeffery, Councillor Erik Pattenden, Councillor Laura Coyle, Councillor Dominic Boeck, Honorary Alderman Hilary Cole, Honorary Alderman Graham Bridgman, Honorary Alderman Rick Jones, Honorary Alderman Alan Law and Honorary Alderman Anthony Stansfeld

PART I

1. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported that they had attended 24 events since the Annual Council meeting.

As he attended several different military events, the Chairman discussed the theme of warfare, its fallout, and peace-making. Some of these events included the D-Day Service at Greenham Common, the Annual Armed Forces briefing of our Reserves and Cadets at Sandhurst, the Armed Forces Week flag raising, and a parade for the 200th anniversary of the three Survey Squadrons of the Royal Engineers – notable as the Chairman was a former Military Survey Officer.

In addition, the Chairman also highlighted upcoming plans for a Jubilee Year Walk, starting at Holybrook Linear Park and going into central Reading, as well as a VJ80 celebration where he encouraged people with a connection to the theatre of World War II to attend and share their stories.

The Vice-Chairman added that she had attended the opening of the Northcroft Leisure Centre, with the support of Nitro the Gladiator, and informed Council that the event was a great success.

2. Minutes

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks:

“That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

COUNCIL - 17 JULY 2025 - MINUTES

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Tony Vickers and seconded by Councillor Billy Drummond:

“That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2025 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Janine Lewis declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 10, as she was employed by Cross Country Trains. However, as she believed that this did not prejudice or influence her judgement of the public interest, she determined to remain in the meeting to debate and vote on the item.

4. Petitions

Councillor Antony Amirtharaj and Mr Gary Cheesbrough presented a petition containing 230 signatures relating to the request that Grove Road, Newbury, receive traffic calming measures. They also noted that Speen Parish Council could contribute to any permanent measures.

Councillor Nick Carter presented a petition on behalf of Wokefield Parish Council containing 29 signatures relating to the request that there be a reduction in the speed limit at Grazeley Green from 50 miles per hour to 40. It was noted that the signatories amounted to a significant proportion of local residents.

Councillor Nick Carter also presented a petition of which the majority of 350 respondents agreed to the request that the speed limit in Stratfield Mortimer be reduced from 30 miles per hour to 20.

The Chairman thanked the Members and residents for presenting the petitions and confirmed that officers would review them and confirm within ten working days what action would be taken.

5. Public Questions

Details of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Q&As](#).

As the permitted time for public questions had elapsed, it was agreed that question O, standing in the name of Mr Richard Garvie, would receive a written response.

6. Membership of Committees

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Denise Gaines:

“That Council approve the following changes to the membership of Committees:

- That Ms Catherine Hobbs be appointed to represent the Roman Catholic Church as a co-opted Member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.
- That Mr Tony Wilson be appointed to represent the Church of England as a co-opted Member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.
- That Councillor Alan Macro and Councillor Martin Colston swap positions on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee so that Councillor Macro becomes a full Member of the Committee and Councillor Colston becomes a substitute Member of the Committee.”

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

COUNCIL - 17 JULY 2025 - MINUTES

7. **Motions from Previous Meetings**

There were no motions from previous meetings needing updates.

8. **Updates from Committees**

Council noted the meetings that had been held since the Annual meeting of Council as laid out in Agenda Item 9.

9. **Local Transport Plan 4**

Council considered a report (Agenda Item 10) concerning the Local Transport Plan 4.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Stuart Gourley and seconded by Councillor Nigel Foot: "That Council adopts the Local Transport Plan 2025-2040 (LTP4)."

Councillor Gourley introduced the report and highlighted that the Plan had undergone regular consultation with transport operators, neighbouring authorities, town and parish councils, residents, and the Council's internal Transport Advisory Group.

He went on to provide several highlights of the Plan. These included renewed investment in rural roads, increased standards for road maintenance, tripling the white line painting budget, reducing depths of potholes before they were filled in, rolling out more 20 mile per hour zones, increasing electric vehicle infrastructure, and building on the School Streets programme. Council also noted that the Plan sought to balance the needs of rural and urban infrastructure, and dealt with societal shifts in transport use. In addition, the Plan was a living document which could be amended over its 15-year life, with a scheduled refresh every five years.

Some Members questioned whether residents would be accepting of additional 20 mile per hour zones but were assured that these would only be implemented where it was clear that the local community wanted them.

In addition, some concerns were raised about the e-scooter provision in the Plan, noting that there had been some issues with them in the places where they had been tried. Members agreed that this should be kept under review and potentially looked at through the Council's Policy Development Group.

An error was highlighted on page 85 of the report. As Reading was not a city, Council agreed that this section should be amended.

Members also highlighted several areas where the Plan could be expanded upon, such as over accessibility for the mobility impaired and disabled, better joining up of infrastructure like bus stops and pavements, building on bus services in rural areas, and looking to speed up the process of assessing the need for speed limit changes or traffic calming measures.

Council also noted that work had been done to encourage HGVs not to pass through Newbury and that the Council had been working with the local Member of Parliament to lobby for safety improvements to the slip roads onto the A34 which were considered to be very dangerous.

Although some Members questioned why the feedback from the public consultation was not being treated in the same way as other feedback, such as over three weekly bin collections, overall Council was encouraged that the public were generally supportive of the Plan.

Overall, as Council were satisfied that the LTP4 would bring real improvements to the transport infrastructure to the district and help keep residents safe and healthy, they agreed to approve the recommendations.

COUNCIL - 17 JULY 2025 - MINUTES

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

10. **Monitoring Officer's Annual Report 2024/25 - Conduct and Ethics**

Council considered the annual Monitoring Officer's report about conduct and ethics in the district for 2024/25 (Agenda Item 11).

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Denise Gaines:

"That Council is informed about the contents of the Monitoring Officer's Annual Report 2024/25 – Conduct and Ethics, and that it will be circulated to all Parish and Town Councils in the District for their information."

Councillor Brooks introduced the report and highlighted that it indicated that Member conduct across the period had been positive, with only six complaints being received in relation to District Councillors and only three received in relation to Parish Councillors.

Council highlighted the costs associated with bringing in an independent person to investigate complaints and stressed that, whatever the outcome of the investigation, Members should follow those recommendations.

In addition, it was made clear that there had been no evidence of inappropriate gifts or hospitality received by Members and that if any Member were found to have taken an inappropriate gift, it would be a very clear breach of the Code of Conduct.

Council agreed to note the report.

11. **Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2024/25**

Council considered the annual report of the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2024/25 (Agenda Item 12).

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Heather Codling and seconded by Councillor Patrick Clark:

"That Council is informed about the contents of the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2024/25."

Councillor Codling introduced the report and highlighted that it was the second such annual report produced which outlined the past year's work of the Board. In 2024/25, the Board worked to oversee all the different bodies involved in public health and examined the efficacy of the work being done.

Council noted that the Board planned to be more proactive in changing the direction of health outcomes in the upcoming year, making the meetings more practical and less formal. Members welcomed the desire to make the Board more efficient and thanked them for their work over the past year.

Council agreed to note the report.

12. **Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25**

Council considered the annual report from the Council's Scrutiny Committees for 2024/25 (Agenda Item 13).

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Carolyne Culver and seconded by Councillor Christopher Read:

"That Council is informed about the contents of the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25."

Councillor Culver introduced the report and highlighted that the report was based on the work of the now reorganised Scrutiny Commission and Health Scrutiny Committee.

COUNCIL - 17 JULY 2025 - MINUTES

The Commission had spent a significant amount of time scrutinising the Council's finances over the year, which continued to be a priority with the new Resources and Plance Scrutiny Committee. In addition, they had done extensive work around Children Services and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision.

Members were satisfied that the Scrutiny Commission and Health Scrutiny Committee had effectively held the Executive to account, ensured good governance, and provided meaningful recommendations, despite the majority of seats on those bodies being filled by Members of the Administration.

Council also thanked the Chairman of both bodies for their leadership and effectiveness over the past year, as well as thanking those Officers that supported the Scrutiny function of the Council.

Although the Council now had a new Scrutiny structure, Members were satisfied that the positive work would be continued and expanded into areas such as Local Government Reorganisation, Libraries, and cross-working with other authorities' Scrutiny Committees on areas that involved multiple local authorities.

Council agreed to note the report.

13. Notices of Motion

There were no Motions submitted.

14. Members' Questions

Details of the public and Member question and answer sessions are available from the following link: [Q&As](#).

(The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.11pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

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Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Councillors Present: Adrian Abbs, Dennis Benneyworth, Dominic Boeck, Jeff Brooks, Iain Cottingham, Carlyne Culver, Billy Drummond, Denise Gaines, Clive Hooker, Paul Kander, Jane Langford, Alan Macro, Tom McCann, Erik Pattenden, Justin Pemberton, Richard Somner, Stephanie Steevenson (Vice-Chairman), Joanne Stewart, Clive Taylor, Tony Vickers (Chairman) and Howard Woollaston

Also Present: Paul Coe (Executive Director – Adult Social Care), Joseph Holmes (Chief Executive), Clare Lawrence (Executive Director - Place), Sarah Clarke (Executive Director - Resources), Honorary Alderman Tony Linden, Stephen Chard (Democratic Services Manager), Jake Carpenter (Group Executive (Cons)), Councillor Antony Amirtharaj (attending remotely), Benjamin Ryan (Democratic Services Officer) and Nicola Thomas (Service Lead – Legal and Democratic Services)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Honorary Alderman Paul Bryant, Honorary Alderman Keith Chopping, Honorary Alderman Graham Jones, Honorary Alderman Rick Jones, Honorary Alderman Gordon Lundie, Honorary Alderman Andrew Rowles, Councillor Phil Barnett, Councillor Nick Carter, Councillor Heather Codling, Councillor Martin Colston, Councillor Laura Coyle, Councillor Paul Dick, Councillor Nigel Foot, Councillor Stuart Gourley, Councillor Janine Lewis, Councillor Ross Mackinnon, Councillor David Marsh, Councillor Biyi Oloko, Councillor Vicky Poole, Councillor Matt Shakespeare, Councillor Louise Sturgess and Councillor Martha Vickers

PART I

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

2. **Delegation of powers under Section 91, Local Government Act 1972**

The Council considered a report (Agenda Item 3) concerning whether to delegate power to make orders under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable the continued functioning of Hermitage Parish Council (the Parish). There had been a number of resignations from the Parish recently and as a result was currenting 'inquorate' meaning that it could not undertake its decision making processes. This report sought to temporarily resolve this situation by making temporary appointments to the Parish Council.

MOTION: Proposed by Councillor Jeff Brooks and seconded by Councillor Iain Cottingham:

That the Council:

“Delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Group Leaders, to make an Order to appoint Parish Councillors to ensure that the inquorate Parish Council was made quorate and could continue to act.”

Councillor Brooks acknowledged that the Parish had been going through a difficult time, impacting on both the remaining Councillors and those individuals who had recently took the decision to stand down.

COUNCIL - 11 SEPTEMBER 2025 - MINUTES

The purpose of this item was to appoint two Parish Councillors on a temporary basis to assist the Parish and enable it to function for the benefit of its residents. The individuals proposed were Councillors Heather Codling and Paul Dick, both of whom were Ward Councillors for the area.

Councillor Brooks explained that both Councillors were extremely dedicated and experienced public representatives. Councillor Codling had served on Cold Ash Parish Council for a number of years and Councillor Dick, as a former Secondary Headteacher for many years, had done much for the children and young people of the district, and for their families.

Councillor Dominic Boeck agreed that the two District Councillors had much to offer the Parish. He did however query if they had the necessary time to undertake the role.

Councillor Carolyn Culver explained that while she had not spoken to Councillor David Marsh, the Minority Group Leader, for his view, she echoed her support for Councillors Codling and Dick to be appointed to the Parish. They had already given great service to West Berkshire Council and would do likewise on the Parish.

Councillor Clive Taylor was the Chairman of his local Parish Council and had encountered difficulties with achieving a quorum on occasion. He therefore queried whether two temporary appointments would be sufficient.

Councillor Adrian Abbs felt it would be useful to explain the next steps in the process for the benefit of residents.

Councillor Tony Vickers explained that he had supported Greenham Parish Council when they found themselves in a similar situation with achieving a quorum in the past. Parish councils did a great deal for their local communities and it was important for West Berkshire Council to assist the Parish with moving forward in a positive way.

Councillor Iain Cottingham reinforced that parish and town councils performed a very important role in their local areas, doing a great deal to contribute to local communities. It was therefore crucial to get the Parish back up and running.

Councillor Brooks responded to the points made during the debate. Councillors Codling and Dick had both confirmed their willingness and their ability to support the Parish.

The appointment of Councillors Codling and Dick would result in five Councillors being on the Parish, with a quorum of four. It could then follow that other Councillors could be co-opted onto the Parish. Elections could become necessary dependent on the number of candidates for the roles. It was confirmed that there were 11 positions on the Parish.

The Motion was put to the meeting and duly **RESOLVED**.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 5.45pm)

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

Council – 16 October 2025

Item 4 – Declarations of Interest

Verbal Item

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 5 – Petitions

Verbal Item

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 6 – Public Questions

To Follow

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 7 – Membership of Committees

Verbal Item

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 8 – Motions from previous meetings

Verbal Item

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Council – 16 October 2025

Item 9 – Updates from Committees

Verbal Item

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Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	16 October 2025
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Denise Gaines
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	4 September 2025
Report Author:	Laila Bassett
Forward Plan Ref:	C4742

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been subject to independent examination. The Examiner has recommended that the NDP with modifications can proceed to referendum (see Appendix C). However, the Examiner's decision is not binding and only West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) can decide if the NDP progresses to referendum. This report provides the evidence for the Council to make that decision.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To endorse the Decision Statement on the Hungerford NDP (included in Appendix D) which concludes that the Hungerford NDP, with the inclusion of modifications, meets the Basic Conditions.
- 2.2 Because the modified Plan meets the Basic Conditions, it is recommended that:
- (a) The Plan should proceed to referendum;
 - (b) Upon a successful 'yes' vote at referendum, agreement is sought that the Hungerford NDP is adopted immediately after the votes have been counted so that it becomes part of the Development Plan for West Berkshire; and
 - (c) The authority to make minor alterations and corrections to the Hungerford NDP as set out within the Decision Statement (see Appendix D), prior to its proceeding to referendum, be delegated to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	<p>For the past few years, the Government has had a support programme in place to support the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in the neighbourhood planning process. It should be noted there are three types of neighbourhood plans – NDPs, Neighbourhood Development Orders, and Community Right to Build Orders.</p> <p>This programme enabled LPAs to make claims once a neighbourhood plan has reached certain stage of preparation, for example £20,000 upon the publication of a Decision Statement that set out the intention to send a neighbourhood plan to referendum.</p> <p>Following the Spending Review, the Government announced on 19 June 2025 that the support programme for neighbourhood planning was being withdrawn. However, the Minister for Housing and Planning responded to a Parliamentary Question on 25 June 2025 stating that the Government will “...ensure LPAs can continue to be appropriately funded for their neighbourhood planning function, including funding for neighbourhood planning examinations.”</p> <p>The cost to the council is largely through officer time, and in the organisation of the independent examination and referendum. It is estimated that approximately 100 hours of officer time (direct support and excluding consultation responses) is required to support a community to develop a neighbourhood plan, at a cost of approximately £2,500. This is based on the time given to support the development of the Stratfield Mortimer NDP.</p> <p>The cost of the Hungerford NDP examination was £6,766.44.</p> <p>On average referendums cost £5,000 per ballot box to deliver, plus the officer time associated with arranging the referendum.</p>
Human Resource:	Not applicable
Legal:	<p>An adopted neighbourhood plan forms part of the development plan.</p> <p>The relevant legislation setting out the neighbourhood planning process is included in the Localism Act 2011 and the</p>

	<p>Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p> <p>Qualifying Bodies (ie. Parished / Town Councils in parished areas, and Neighbourhood Forums in unparished areas) have the responsibility for leading the process; however, LPAs have a significant role in assisting certain stages of the process and ensuring that certain criteria are met. The procedure comprises several stages which following submission to the LPA become a statutory function which must undertake public consultation and examination. If the NDP is found to be satisfactory, a local referendum must take place (funded by the LPA) where more than 50% of those voting must agree to it, before the NDP is brought into legal force and becomes part of the development plan.</p> <p>This report has been reviewed by Sharon Armour, Legal Services Manager.</p>			
Risk Management:	Not applicable			
Property:	Not applicable			
Policy:	National planning policy makes provision for the development of neighbourhood planning. An adopted plan forms part of the district's development plan.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		✓		Neutral impact as neighbourhood plans applies to all

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		✓		Neutral impact as neighbourhood plans applies to all
Environmental Impact:	✓			Neighbourhood plans, in particular NDPs, can include policies which seek to protect the environment.
Health Impact:		✓		Not applicable
ICT Impact:		✓		Not applicable
Digital Services Impact:		✓		Not applicable

Council Strategy Priorities:	✓			<p>Having a neighbourhood plan meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling the Climate and Ecology Emergency – policies in neighbourhood plans provide the opportunity to protect and enhance the local environment for generations to come, whilst also increasing a community's resilience to climate change. • A Prosperous and resilient West Berkshire – policies in neighbourhood plans can encourage development which supports a range of good quality local jobs, businesses, and services to meet the needs of local people. Policies can also make decisions on what type of housing is needed and where it should be built. • Thriving Communities with a Strong Local Voice – neighbourhood plans allow local communities to take the lead and enhance their local area, whilst also shaping where and how development takes place.
Core Business:		✓		
Data Impact:		✓		

Consultation and Engagement:	<p>Paula Amorelli: Planning Policy Team Leader</p> <p>Laura Callan: Service Lead – Planning</p> <p>Phillipa Venables: Service Director – Development and Housing</p> <p>Clare Lawrence: Executive Director – Place</p> <p>Sharon Armour: Legal Services Manager</p> <p>Cllr Denise Gaines: Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing</p> <p>The NDP has also been subject to substantial consultation during its production, and independent examination. It will need to pass a referendum of the local community before being adopted.</p>
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4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Since 2018, Hungerford Town Council assisted by community volunteers, has been preparing a NDP. The purpose of the Hungerford NDP is to provide planning policies to guide development in the designated Hungerford Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Area covers the Parish of Hungerford.
- 4.2 The Hungerford NDP has been undergone independent examination, which was carried out by Intelligent Plans and Examinations. The Examiner has issued his final report (see Appendix C) which recommends that, subject to several modifications, the Plan can proceed to referendum.
- 4.3 The Examiner's report is not binding. West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) must determine whether the Hungerford NDP, as modified, meets the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) rights, complies with the definition of a NDP, and the provisions that can be made by a NDP. WBDC must also determine whether the plan should proceed to referendum.
- 4.4 On consideration of the recommendations and modifications contained within the Examiner's report, officers have concluded that the modified plan does meet the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the ECHR guaranteed by the Human Rights Act 1998, complies with the definition of a NDP, and the provisions that can be made by an NDP. Officers recommend that the modified Hungerford NDP should proceed to referendum, and this is set out in a Decision Statement (see Appendix D).
- 4.5 If the Hungerford NDP is successful at referendum, it will be adopted as part of the development plan for West Berkshire the day following the referendum (so as to allow for the possibilities of a legal challenge).

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 The 2011 Localism Act has encouraged communities and local people to come together and shape the future of their local areas through neighbourhood plans. There are three different types of neighbourhood plans – NDPs, Neighbourhood Development Orders, and Community Right to Build orders.
- 5.2 West Berkshire is entirely parished, and legislation requires that neighbourhood plans are developed by Parish and Town Councils assisted by community volunteers. However, there are several parishes within the district which are so small they do not meet the threshold and instead have a Parish Forum, provided they meet the requirements of legislation. In such cases, a Neighbourhood Forum would need to be formed to develop neighbourhood plans. Plans must be in general conformity with national planning policies and the strategic policies of the development plan.
- 5.3 Neighbourhood plans must be subject to consultation, independent examination, and a referendum. If successful at referendum, they form part of the statutory development plan for West Berkshire. In other words, they are used to assist in the determination of planning applications.

Background

- 5.4 Hungerford Town Council, as the Qualifying Body, successfully applied for the designation of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area on 9 April 2018 under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Since the designation of the Neighbourhood Area, Hungerford Town Council alongside its residents, worked together to create a plan and they produced a draft of this in February 2024 which they consulted on.
- 5.5 Following the submission of the Hungerford NDP to WBDC on 31 October 2025, a Legal Compliance Check was undertaken. This concluded that the submission requirements set out in legislation had been met.
- 5.6 Once it had been confirmed that the submission requirements had been met, approval was sought at a meeting of Council on 27 March 2025 for the submitted Hungerford NDP to be published for consultation and then undergo independent examination.
- 5.7 The consultation on the submitted Hungerford NDP took place between 4 April 2025 and 23 May 2025. Following this, WBDC in conjunction with Hungerford Town Council, appointed an independent examiner, Andrew Mead, to review whether the Plan met the Basic Conditions required by legislation and should proceed to referendum. The independent examination of the Hungerford NDP took place between July and August 2025. The Examiner's report was issued on 27 August 2025 and is included within Appendix C.
- 5.8 A NDP will meet the Basic Conditions if:
 - it has had regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State, it is appropriate to make the plan;

- it contributes to the achievement of sustainable development;
- it is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan; and
- it does not breach and is otherwise compatible with EU obligations.

5.9 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) also prescribes the following Basic Condition:

- The making of the neighbourhood development plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017(7).

5.10 The Examiner concluded that with modifications to eight policies plus modifications to refer to the adopted West Berkshire Local Plan Review, the Plan met the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum.

5.11 The Hungerford NDP will guide development in the Parish of Hungerford to 2041. It presents a vision for the area, supported by 21 objectives. The NDP is structured around six key policy themes, encompassing a total of 13 policies:

- Housing: the NDP includes a policy on housing mix, and two residential site allocations at Land at Smitham Bridge Road (approximately 44 dwellings) and Land North of Cottrell Close (approximately 12 dwellings).
- Design and character: comprises three policies focused on design quality, the character of the area, key gateways into and out of Hungerford (including nine identified gateways), and the energy-efficient retrofitting of historic buildings.
- Economy: there is a policy which seeks to maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of Hungerford Town Centre.
- Getting about: contains a single policy promoting key walking and cycling routes.
- Leisure, wellbeing, public safety and learning: addresses the provision of play and youth facilities, the designation of four Local Green Spaces, and the promotion of wellbeing and safety through thoughtful design.
- Climate change and biodiversity: focuses on low-energy, energy-efficient building design and encouraging wildlife-friendly development.

Proposals

5.12 Following the independent examination of the Hungerford NDP and the receipt of the Examiner's report, WBDC is required to make a decision on the next steps. As set out in Part 5 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) these are:

- (a) To decline to consider a plan proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule 4B to the Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (as applied by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)) or a modification proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 act;
- (b) to refuse a plan proposal under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or a modification proposal under paragraph 8 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
- (c) what action to take in response to the recommendations of an Examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 act (as applied by

section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood development plan or under paragraph 13 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act in relation to a proposed modification of a neighbourhood development plan;

- (d) what modifications, if any, they are to make to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 act) or paragraph 14(6) of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
- (e) whether to extend the area to which the referendum is (or referendums are) to take place; or
- (f) that they are not satisfied with the plan proposal under paragraph 12(10) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or the draft plan under paragraph 14(4) of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act.

5.13 In accordance with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), WBDC must produce a Decision Statement that sets out the Council's decision and the reasons for this. This is included in Appendix D.

5.14 The Decision Statement confirms that WBDC is satisfied that the Hungerford NDP, with modifications, meets the relevant legal requirements. The Decision Statement also confirms that the referendum area should not be extended beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area.

5.15 WBDC submitted representations on the pre-submission version of the NDP in August 2024. It also made representations on the submitted NDP in July 2025. Within these representations, it was identified that several minor modifications were required to correct typographical and factual errors. The Examiner's report comments that these amendments are non-material in nature and would not affect the ability of the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions.

5.16 Details of the non-material amendments are included within the Decision Statement (Appendix D) and are also shown in the version of the NDP with modifications (Appendix E).

5.17 Members are asked to:

- (a) Endorse the Decision Statement on the Hungerford NDP which concludes that the Hungerford NDP, with the inclusion of modifications, meets the Basic Conditions;
- (b) Agree that the Hungerford NDP, upon a successful 'yes' vote at referendum, is adopted immediately after the votes have been counted so that it becomes part of the development plan for West Berkshire;
- (c) Agree that authority to make minor alterations and corrections to the Hungerford NDP as set out in Appendix E, prior to its proceeding to referendum, be delegated to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing.

5.18 Officers have been liaising with the Elections Team to determine a date that the referendum could take place should Members endorse the Decision Statement. A provisional date of Thursday 27 November 2025 has been identified.

6 Other options considered

6.1 That the recommendations of the Hungerford NDP independent examiner are not followed, and the plan does not proceed to referendum. There is however no justification for following this approach.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The Examiner's report on the Hungerford NDP recommended that with modifications, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and should proceed to referendum. The Examiner's report is not binding, and it is for WBDC to make the final recommendation.

7.2 Officers have considered each of the Examiner's recommendations and modifications and have decided on an action to take in response to each recommendation and what modifications should be made to the Plan to be satisfied that the Basic Conditions are met. This is set out in the Decision Statement. The Decision Statement concludes that the Hungerford NDP, with the inclusion of several modifications, should proceed to referendum.

7.3 If the majority of those who vote in the referendum are in favour of the NDP (a successful 'yes' vote), WBDC must make the NDP within eight weeks (unless there is a legal challenge) part of the West Berkshire development plan. Officers consider that the NDP should be adopted, as part of the development plan for West Berkshire, as soon as practicable after the referendum.

7.4 Following a successful 'yes' vote at referendum it is proposed that the Hungerford NDP automatically will be adopted by WBDC as part of the development plan and be used in part for the determination of planning applications.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment

8.2 Appendix B – Data Protection Impact Assessment

8.3 Appendix C – Hungerford NDP Examiner's Report

8.4 Appendix D – Hungerford NDP Decision Statement

8.5 Appendix E – Hungerford Neighbourhood NDP with modifications

Background Papers:

None.

Subject to Call-In:Yes: ☐ No: ☒The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval ☒Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☐Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☐Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months ☐Item is Urgent Key Decision ☐Report is to note only ☐**Wards affected:** Hungerford and Kintbury (part of ward affected only)**Officer details:**

Name: Laila Bassett
Job Title: Principal Planning Officer
Tel No: 01635 519 540
E-mail: laila.bassett@westberks.gov.uk

Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	2 September 2025
Version:	1.02	Date Modified:	17 September 2025
Author:	Laila Bassett		
Owning Service	Development and Regulation		

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
1	05/09/2025	Updates made following comments from Philippa Venables, Sharon Armour and Cllr. Gaines	
2	17/09/2025	Update made to paragraph 4.2 following a recommendation provided by Corporate Board	

West Berkshire Council

Equity Impact Assessment

1 Contents

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Place Development and Housing
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	<p>The Council is asked to endorse the Decision Statement on the Hungerford Neighbourhood Development (NDP) Plan.</p> <p>Upon a successful ‘yes’ vote at referendum, agreement is sought from Council that the Hungerford NDP is adopted immediately after the votes have been counted so that it becomes part of the Development Plan for West Berkshire</p>
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The Hungerford NDP has undergone independent examination. The independent Examiner’s report confirms that the NDP complies with human rights legislation and the Basic Conditions required under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This includes that the Plan respects the rights of all individuals and does not discriminate unlawfully.</p> <p>The Hungerford NDP was developed through extensive public consultation whereby feedback was invited from all sectors of the community. Policies within the NDP are designed to promote inclusive development.</p> <p>The overarching vision of the NDP is to make Hungerford <i>“an even better place in which to live, work, study and play”</i>, reflecting a commitment to social equity and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The NDP is inclusive of all members of the community, and proposals do not discriminate against any protected characteristic.</p>
Completed By	Laila Bassett
Authorised By	

Date of Assessment

2 September 2025

Section 2: Detail of proposal**Context / Background**

Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.

Since 2018, Hungerford Town Council assisted by community volunteers, has been preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The purpose of the Hungerford NDP is to provide planning policies to guide development in the designated Hungerford Neighbourhood Area. The Neighbourhood Area covers the Parish of Hungerford.

The NDP will guide development in the Parish of Hungerford to 2041. It presents a vision for the area, supported by 21 objectives. The NDP is structured around six key policy themes, encompassing a total of 13 policies.

The Hungerford NDP has been through independent examination. The Examiner issued his final report which recommends that, subject to several modifications, the Plan can proceed to referendum.

The Examiner's report is not binding. West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) must determine whether the Hungerford NDP, as modified, meets the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) rights, complies with the definition of a NDP, and the provisions that can be made by a NDP. WBDC must also determine whether the plan should proceed to referendum.

On consideration of the recommendations and modifications contained within the Examiner's report, officers have concluded that the modified plan does meet the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the ECHR guaranteed by the Human Rights Act 1998, complies with the definition of a NDP, and the provisions that can be made by an NDP. Officers recommend that the modified Hungerford NDP should proceed to referendum, and this is set out in a Decision Statement.

If the Hungerford NDP is successful at referendum, it will be adopted as part of the development plan for West Berkshire the day following the referendum (so as to allow for the possibilities of a legal challenge).

Proposals

Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.

The Council is asked to endorse the Decision Statement on the Hungerford NDP which concludes that the Hungerford NDP, with the inclusion of modifications, meets the Basic Conditions. Because the modified Plan meets the Basic Conditions, Council are also asked to agree that the NDP proceed to referendum and upon a successful 'yes' vote at referendum, be adopted immediately as part of the Development Plan for West Berkshire.

If the NDP is adopted, it will help guide development and resist proposals that do not align with local priorities. It will also allow Hungerford Town Council to receive 25% of Community Infrastructure funds which can be invested in local infrastructure and community projects.

Evidence / Intelligence

List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.

The NDP is underpinned by a detailed and robust evidence base. The NDP has been subject several public consultations and has undergone independent examination. As part of the independent examination, the Examiner considered the feedback provided through the consultations on the NDP.

Alternatives considered / rejected

Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.

The Council may choose not to follow the recommendations of the Examiner. As set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), following receipt of an Examiner's report, local planning authorities must make decision on the next steps. These include refusing a plan proposal. Having reviewed the recommendations and modifications within the Examiner's report, officers are content that the modified plan does meet the Basic Conditions, is compatible with the ECHR guaranteed by the Human Rights Act 1998, complies with the definition of a NDP, and the provisions that can be made by an NDP.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policies within the NDP will have a positive impact on people of all ages. For example, there are policies which promote a mix of housing types and tenures, and which support the enhancement of play areas and youth facilities.	N/A		

Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policies within the NDP will have a positive impact on those with disabilities as the NDP seeks to deliver well designed, accessible places for all.	N/A		
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This group would not be affected.	N/A		

Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP considers both the built environment and the social infrastructure needed to support those who are pregnant and have young children. By prioritising safe, accessible, and family-oriented development, the NDP will contribute to a more supportive environment for pregnancy and maternity in the community.	N/A		
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. Its policies also promote the provision of new housing. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		

Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		

Religion or Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP seeks to deliver well designed development that reduces crime and improves safety. This should therefore have a particularly positive benefit for people who are more likely to be victims of crime, including people with this protected characteristic. The Plan is inclusive of all members of the community.	N/A		
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Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The NDP includes policies that aim to maintain the visual and historical integrity of Hungerford and its			

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				<p>surrounding rural areas.</p> <p>The plan promotes leisure, wellbeing, public safety, and learning, aiming to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all age groups in rural areas.</p>			
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The NDP promotes a housing mix to meet the needs of the local community, better transport links, and improved access to essential services. These measures will help reduce isolation, support lower-income households, and enable residents to</p>			

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				<p>stay within their communities.</p> <p>The NDP encourages local economic growth through support for small businesses and town centre vitality, while promoting energy-efficient upgrades to older homes to tackle fuel poverty.</p>			
Displaced communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	N/A
Person Responsible for Review	N/A
Authorised By	N/A

Please now forward this completed form to Pamela Voss, Equality and Diversity Officer (pamela.voss@westberks.gov.uk), for publication on the WBC website.

Appendix B

Data Protection Impact Assessment – Stage One

The General Data Protection Regulations require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) for certain projects that have a significant impact on the rights of data subjects.

Should you require additional guidance in completing this assessment, please refer to the Information Management Officer via dp@westberks.gov.uk

Directorate:	Place
Service:	Development and Regulation
Team:	Planning Policy
Lead Officer:	Laila Bassett
Title of Project/System:	Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan
Date of Assessment:	2 September 2025

Do you need to do a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)?

	Yes	No
<p>Will you be processing SENSITIVE or “special category” personal data?</p> <p><i>Note – sensitive personal data is described as “data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person’s sex life or sexual orientation”</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will you be processing data on a large scale?</p> <p><i>Note – Large scale might apply to the number of individuals affected OR the volume of data you are processing OR both</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will your project or system have a “social media” dimension?</p> <p><i>Note – will it have an interactive element which allows users to communicate directly with one another?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Will any decisions be automated?</p> <p><i>Note – does your system or process involve circumstances where an individual’s input is “scored” or assessed without intervention/review/checking by a human being? Will there be any “profiling” of data subjects?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Will your project/system involve CCTV or monitoring of an area accessible to the public?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using the data you collect to match or cross-reference against another existing set of data?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will you be using any novel, or technologically advanced systems or processes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<small>Note – this could include biometrics, “internet of things” connectivity or anything that is currently not widely utilised</small>		

If you answer “Yes” to any of the above, you will probably need to complete [Data Protection Impact Assessment - Stage Two](#). If you are unsure, please consult with the Information Management Officer before proceeding.

Hungerford NDP Examiner's Report

See separate attachment

Hungerford NDP Decision Statement

See separate attachment.

Hungerford NDP with modifications

See separate attachment

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Report on the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2041

An Examination undertaken for West Berkshire Council with the support of the Hungerford Town Council on the October 2024 version of the submitted Plan.

Independent Examiner: Andrew Mead BSc (Hons) MRTPI MIQ

Date of Report: 27 August 2025

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Main Findings - Executive Summary

From my examination of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan (HNP/the Plan) and its supporting documentation including the representations made, I have concluded that subject to the policy modifications set out in this report, the Plan meets the Basic Conditions.

I have also concluded that:

- The Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body – the Hungerford Town Council (HTC);
- The Plan has been prepared for an area properly designated – the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area as shown on the map in Figure 1.1 on page 5 of the Neighbourhood Plan;
- The Plan specifies the period during which it is to take effect: 2024 - 2041; and
- The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area.

I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum on the basis that it has met all the relevant legal requirements.

I have considered whether the referendum area should extend beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates and have concluded that it should not.

1. Introduction and Background

Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan 2024–2041

- 1.1 Hungerford, a historic market town, lies on the crossroads of key transport routes between London and Bath (the A4) and between Oxford and Salisbury (the A338) and with rail connections to the east towards Reading and London and to the west towards Exeter. Set in attractive gently undulating countryside based on the shallow valley of the River Kennet, the whole of the area is within the North Wessex National Landscape. In 2021, the population of Hungerford parish was 5,864.¹
- 1.2 The preparation of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan (HNP), albeit then called Hungerford 2036, was initiated in 2018, following which a Steering Group was formed later the same year. Led by the Steering Group, evidence was collected, consultations were carried out and the final version of the Plan was submitted to West Berkshire Council (WBC) in October 2024.

¹ 2021 Census; paragraph 2.9 of the Plan.

The Independent Examiner

- 1.3 As the Plan has now reached the examination stage, I have been appointed as the examiner of the HNP by WBC with the agreement of the Hungerford Town Council (HTC).
- 1.4 I am a chartered town planner and former government Planning Inspector and have experience of examining neighbourhood plans. I am an independent examiner, and do not have an interest in any of the land that may be affected by the Plan.

The Scope of the Examination

- 1.5 As the independent examiner, I am required to produce this report and recommend either:
- (a) that the neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum without changes; or
 - (b) that modifications are made and that the modified neighbourhood plan is submitted to a referendum; or
 - (c) that the neighbourhood plan does not proceed to a referendum on the basis that it does not meet the necessary legal requirements.
- 1.6 The scope of the examination is set out in Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) ('the 1990 Act'). The examiner must consider:
- Whether the plan meets the Basic Conditions.
 - Whether the plan complies with provisions under s.38A and s.38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ('the 2004 Act'). These are:
 - it has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body, for an area that has been properly designated by the local planning authority;
 - it sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land;
 - it specifies the period during which it has effect;
 - it does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development'; and
 - it is the only neighbourhood plan for the area and does not relate to land outside the designated neighbourhood area.
 - Whether the referendum boundary should be extended beyond the designated area, should the plan proceed to referendum.

- Such matters as prescribed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ('the 2012 Regulations').
- 1.7 I have considered only matters that fall within Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act, with one exception. That is the requirement that the Plan is compatible with the Human Rights Convention.

The Basic Conditions

- 1.8 The 'Basic Conditions' are set out in Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act. In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the neighbourhood plan must:
- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
 - be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations (under retained EU law)²; and
 - meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.
- 1.9 Regulation 32 of the 2012 Regulations prescribes a further Basic Condition for a neighbourhood plan. This requires that the making of the Plan does not breach the requirement of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.³

2. Approach to the Examination

Planning Policy Context

- 2.1 The current Development Plan for the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area, excluding policies relating to minerals and waste development, includes the West Berkshire Council Local Plan Review (LPR) 2023 –2041 adopted in June 2025. The Basic Conditions Statement helpfully includes in Table 4.1 an assessment of general conformity with both the strategic policies of the previously adopted Development Plan, for the period when the HNP was being prepared, and an assessment of HNP policies against the (as was) emerging policies of the West Berkshire Council Local Plan Review 2022 – 2039 (Proposed Submission) (January 2023).

² The existing body of environmental regulation is retained in UK law.

³ This revised Basic Condition came into force on 28 December 2018 through the Conservation of Habitats and Species and Planning (Various Amendments) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018.

- 2.2 The planning policy for England is set out principally in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In addition, the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) offers advice on how the NPPF should be implemented. It should be noted that the latest iteration of the NPPF was published on 12 December 2024. However, paragraph 239 of that version includes transitional arrangements for neighbourhood plans, stating that the revised NPPF only applies to neighbourhood plans submitted after 12 March 2025. As the Plan was submitted to WBC prior to this date, unless otherwise stated, all references in this report read across to the earlier December 2023 NPPF.

Submitted Documents

- 2.3 I have considered all policy, guidance and other reference documents I consider relevant to the examination, as well as those submitted which include:
- the draft Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2041 (October 2024);
 - the Map on page 5 of the Plan which identifies the area to which the proposed Neighbourhood Plan relates;
 - the Consultation Statement (October 2024);
 - the Basic Conditions Statement (October 2024);
 - the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report (December 2023);
 - the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report (February 2024);
 - the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) (January 2024);
 - the Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment (April 2019);
 - the West Berkshire Housing Needs Assessment Update (July 2022);
 - the West Berkshire Density Pattern Book (September 2019);
 - the Hungerford Primary Shopping Areas Evidence Paper (October 2023);
 - the Hungerford Local Green Spaces Justification Paper (undated);
 - the Hungerford NDP Site Assessment Report and appendices (August 2024);
 - all the representations that have been made in accordance with the Regulation 16 consultation; and
 - the responses received on 15 July 2025 from HTC and on 17 July 2025 from WBC to the questions of clarification in my letter of 3 July 2025. Additional responses were also received from two other parties.⁴

Site Visit

- 2.4 I made an unaccompanied site inspection to the HNP area on 23 July 2025 to familiarise myself with it and visit relevant locations referenced in the Plan and evidential documents.

⁴ View all the documents at: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/hungerfordnp>
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Written Representations with or without Public Hearing

- 2.5 This examination has been dealt with by written representations. Although requests for a public hearing were received, I considered a hearing session to be unnecessary as the consultation responses clearly articulated the objections to the Plan and presented arguments for and against the Plan's suitability to proceed to a referendum.

Modifications

- 2.6 Where necessary, I have recommended modifications to the Plan (**PMs**) in this report in order that it meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. For ease of reference, I have listed these modifications separately in the Appendix to this report.

3. Procedural Compliance and Human Rights

Qualifying Body and Neighbourhood Plan Area

- 3.1 The HNP has been prepared and submitted for examination by the HTC, which is a qualifying body. The HNP extends over all the area designated by WBC on 9 April 2018. I am satisfied it is the only Neighbourhood Plan for the Hungerford area and does not relate to any land outside the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Plan Period

- 3.2 The Plan period is from 2024 to 2041 as clearly stated on the front cover.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Preparation and Consultation

- 3.3 The Consultation Statement (CS), as illustrated in the timeline on pages 3-4 of the CS, describes the thorough preparation of the Plan with involvement of the public and various stakeholders at the stages of the process. A Steering Group was formed in 2018 early in the preparation process of the Plan. The Hungerford 2036 Plan was renamed the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan in 2022. Methods of communication included the Hungerford 2036 web site and then the HNP web site, press articles, public exhibitions, direct emails, stakeholder consultations and public meetings. The collection of the evidence for the Plan included a call for sites, public consultations in summer 2018, winter 2018/2019 and summer 2021 and a period of gathering further evidence in 2023 leading to a consultation on site options in November 2023.
- 3.4 The pre-submission Plan was published for consultation under Regulation 14 of the 2012 Regulations from 16 February 2024 until 29 March 2024. An overview of the analysis of comments made by WBC, statutory consultees and members of the public are summarised in Appendix A of

the CS, together with the responses of the HTC and any resulting changes to the Plan.

- 3.5 The final version of the Plan was submitted to WBC on 31 October 2024. Consultation in accordance with Regulation 16 was carried out from 4 April 2025 until 23 May 2025. 47 responses were received about the Plan, including those from WBC. I am satisfied that a transparent, fair and inclusive consultation process has been followed for the HNP, that has had regard to advice in the PPG on plan preparation and engagement and is procedurally compliant in accordance with the legal requirements.

Development and Use of Land

- 3.6 The Plan sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land in accordance with s.38A of the 2004 Act.

Excluded Development

- 3.7 The Plan does not include provisions and policies for 'excluded development'.⁵

Human Rights

- 3.8 The Basic Conditions Statement (BCS) notes that the Plan does not breach and is not otherwise incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. I am aware from the CS that considerable emphasis was placed throughout the consultation process to ensure that no sections of the community were isolated or excluded. I have considered this matter independently and I am satisfied that the policies will not have a discriminatory impact on any particular group of individuals.

4. Compliance with the Basic Conditions

EU Obligations

- 4.1 The BCS notes that the Plan was screened for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Due to the development of 56 homes on mostly Grade 2 agricultural land in green field locations, the SEA concluded that there would be minor negative effects on the landscape and on land resources. The SEA also recommended that the Plan could be strengthened by the inclusion of a local heritage policy; a policy in support of electric vehicle charging; a policy setting a higher biodiversity net gain than the statutory minimum of 10%; and a policy supporting connectivity of green infrastructure and green spaces.

⁵ See section 61K of the 1990 Act.

- 4.2 Three European sites are located within 10km of the Plan area: the River Lambourn Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC and the Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC. The HRA screening and the subsequent Appropriate Assessment (AA) concluded that, whereas the HNP has 13 policies, only two had the potential to cause a likely significant effect on the European sites: the residential allocations at HUNG12 Land at Smitham Bridge Road and HUNG13 Land North of Cottrell Close, with the impact pathways to European sites being Water Quantity, Level and Flow, and Water Quality. The policies were found to have a potentially likely significant effect on the European sites with regards to Water Quantity, Level and Flow, and Water Quality.
- 4.3 However, the Berkshire Local Plan Review was subject to an HRA (West Berkshire Local Plan Review HRA, December 2022) which concluded that there would be no significant effects from the development it outlined, given the Water Resource Management Plans that have been prepared by Thames Water. The allocations within the HNP are within the quanta provided for by the West Berkshire Local Plan Review and therefore in combination impacts from this development can be excluded.
- 4.4 The possibility for these developments to impact the European sites via increased surface run-off was considered. However, given that these site allocations are located over 1km away from the SACs in question, and that the relevant policy (now adopted LPR Policy SP6) requires that development minimises surface run off utilising sustainable drainage systems, it was concluded that these developments will not have any negative impacts with regards to surface water run-off. Therefore, it can be concluded that the HNP will not provide any negative impacts on European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The statutory consultees did not dissent from these conclusions.
- 4.5 Having read the SEA and HRA related documentation and other information provided and, having considered the matter independently, I agree with the conclusions. Therefore, I am satisfied that the HNP is compatible with EU obligations as retained in UK law.

Main Issues

- 4.6 Having considered whether the Plan complies with various procedural and legal requirements, it is now necessary to deal with whether it complies with the remaining Basic Conditions, particularly the regard it pays to national policy and guidance, the contribution it makes to the achievement of sustainable development and whether it is in general conformity with strategic development plan policies. I test the Plan against the Basic Conditions by considering specific issues of compliance of all the Plan's policies.
- 4.7 As part of that assessment, I consider whether the policies are sufficiently clear and unambiguous, having regard to advice in the PPG. A neighbourhood plan policy should be drafted with sufficient clarity that a

decision maker can apply it consistently and with confidence when determining planning applications. It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence.⁶

- 4.8 Accordingly, having regard to the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan, the consultation responses, other evidence and the site visit, I consider that the main issues in this examination are whether the HNP policies (i) have regard to national policy and guidance; (ii) are in general conformity with the adopted strategic planning policies; and (iii) would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?

Vision and Objectives

- 4.9 The vision for the HNP is based on issues raised by the community during the initial stages of the consultation process. The succinct vision is described on page 15 of the Plan. A series of objectives under the aims of Housing; Employment and Economy; Getting About; Leisure, Wellbeing, Public Safety and Learning; Our Heritage; and Climate Change and Biodiversity have then been developed to help to achieve the vision and which form the basis for the thirteen specific land use based policies.

Policy HUNG1: Housing Mix

- 4.10 Policy HUNG1 seeks to address the mixture of housing sizes and types and whether affordable or not in developments of 5 or more dwellings. In order to provide the appropriate flexibility within the policy, I recommend that Criterion B should be modified by the inclusion of considerations of location and viability. **(PM1)** The policy would then have regard to national guidance⁷, generally conform with Policy SP15 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG2: Design and Character

- 4.11 Policy HUNG2 requires new development to demonstrate high quality design and layout which respects the local character of Hungerford parish with four principles being described. There is no need for the HNP policies to repeat those from the Local Plan and therefore I shall recommend the deletion of Criterion B. d. concerning parking standards.⁸ In addition, the Local Plan Review is now adopted and so the reference to it being “emerging” in Criterion B. b. should be deleted. **(PM2)** The policy would then have regard to national guidance⁹, generally conform with Policy SP7 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions.

⁶ PPG Reference ID: 41-041-20140306.

⁷ NPPF: paragraphs 60, 63, 65 and 66.

⁸ NPPF: paragraph 16 f).

⁹ NPPF: paragraphs 131, 132 and 135.

Policy HUNG3: Important Gateways into and out of Hungerford Town

- 4.12 Policy HUNG3 seeks to protect important gateways into and out of Hungerford, particularly by mitigating the effects of development by the use of landscaping. Subject to a modification which I shall recommend to Criterion A in order to reduce ambiguity and ensure the necessary clarity, as suggested by WBC in the Regulation 16 representations, the policy would have regard to national guidance¹⁰, generally conform with Policy SP10 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions. **(PM3)**

Policy HUNG4: Retrofitting Historic Buildings for Energy Efficiency

- 4.13 Policy HUNG4 deals with the retrofitting of historic buildings in order to improve energy efficiency. Subject to the recommended inclusion of using timber framed windows “from sustainable sources”, the policy would have regard to national guidance¹¹, generally conform with Policies SP5 and SP9 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions. **(PM4)** The SEA recommended the inclusion of a local heritage policy, but LPR Policy SP9 covers the topic very thoroughly.

Policy HUNG5: Retaining and Enhancing the Vitality and Viability of Hungerford Town Centre

- 4.14 Policy HUNG5 seeks to retain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Hungerford town centre commercial area, the boundary of which is defined on Figure 6.1 and Appendix B of the Plan. Figure 6.1 and Appendix B also define the primary shopping area where the predominant uses are expected to be retail as described in Criterion B of Policy HUNG5. I agree with the Regulation 16 comments of WBC that the frontages of the eastern side of High Street south of Park Street are not as well integrated with the other retail uses on the High Street and that this section should be deleted from the primary shopping area. This modification, which I shall recommend, would then enable Policy HUNG5 to generally conform with Policy SP18 of the LPR. **(PM5)** I am content that the use of the word “supported” is a satisfactory replacement of “required” which was in the pre-submission version of the Plan. With the recommended modification, Policy HUNG5 would also have regard to national guidance¹² and meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG6: Key Walk/Cycle Routes

- 4.15 Policy HUNG6 supports development proposals which would improve walking and cycling in the Plan area. The policy has regard to national guidance¹³, generally conforms with Policy SP19 of the LPR and meets the Basic Conditions. Action G in the Plan supports the introduction of electric

¹⁰ NPPF: paragraphs 131, 132 and 135.

¹¹ NPPF: paragraphs 157, 159 and 196.

¹² NPPF: paragraph 90.

¹³ NPPF: paragraphs 96, 108 and 110.

vehicle charging infrastructure and, in my opinion, satisfies the relevant conclusion of the SEA.

Policy HUNG7: Play and Youth Facilities

- 4.16 Policy HUNG7 encourages proposals which involve the provision of play and youth facilities in Hungerford. The policy has regard to national guidance¹⁴, generally conforms with Policy DM3 of the LPR and meets the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG8: Local Green Spaces

- 4.17 Policy HUNG8 designates four Local Green Spaces (LGS) as listed in the policy and shown on four maps on pages 47 - 50, together with accompanying photographs. LGS designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.¹⁵

The LGS should also be capable of enduring beyond the end of the Plan period.¹⁶

- 4.18 However, in order to be consistent with NPPF paragraph 106, I recommend the replacement of Criterion B with appropriate wording to reflect national policy **(PM6)**. I consider that the LGS meet the designation criteria and, with that amendment, the policy has regard to national guidance, generally conforms with Policy SP10 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG9: Wellbeing and Safety through Design

- 4.19 Policy HUNG9 requires development to be designed to maximise the wellbeing of its residents, visitors and users. Criterion B considers Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). However, LPR Policy SP6 covers this topic in depth, especially when read with the Technical Guidance (DEFRA Non-statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems).¹⁷ Therefore, I shall recommend the deletion of Criterion B. **(PM7)** The policy would then have regard to national guidance¹⁸, would

¹⁴ NPPF: paragraphs 96, 97 and 102.

¹⁵ NPPF: paragraph 106.

¹⁶ NPPF: paragraph 105.

¹⁷ View at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-drainage-systems-non-statutory-technical-standards>.

¹⁸ NPPF: paragraphs 96, 97, 101, 102, 131 and 135.

generally conform with Policy SP7 of the LPR and would meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG10: Low Energy and Energy Efficient Design

- 4.20 Policy HUNG10 considers low energy and energy efficient design. Criterion B includes five measures, a) – e), two of which duplicate policies in the LPR. Measure d) requires a SuDS based drainage system which, as stated above, is catered for comprehensively by LPR Policy SP6. In addition, measure e) aims to minimise water consumption and seeks BREEAM standards.¹⁹ This is provided for in LPR Policy SP5 which then refers to LPR Policy DM7. Therefore, to avoid unnecessary repetition and confusion, I shall recommend the deletion of measures d) and e). **(PM8)** Policy HUNG10 would then have regard to national guidance²⁰, generally conform with Policies SP5 and DM4 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions.

Policy HUNG11: Wildlife Friendly Development

- 4.21 Policy HUNG11 supports proposals which protect existing habitat and species. The policy also requires a minimum biodiversity net gain (BNG) of 10% and seeks wildlife friendly design features incorporated into new development. As sought in the SEA, the policy aims to secure connectivity to the wider green and blue infrastructure networks and green spaces, although there is no evidence in the Plan to justify a BNG exceeding 10%. Nevertheless, the policy has regard to national guidance²¹, generally conforms with Policy SP11 of the LPR and meets the Basic Conditions.

Site Allocations

Policy HUNG12: Land at Smitham Bridge Road

Policy HUNG13: Land North of Cottrell Close

- 4.22 Policy SP3 of the LPR defines Hungerford as a Rural Service Centre. Policy SP12 of the LPR states that in the HNP it will be necessary to identify sites to meet the level of development of approximately 55 dwellings. Therefore, the following sites have been allocated for development in the Plan: Land at Smitham Bridge Road for 44 dwellings and Land north of Cottrell Close for approximately 12 dwellings.
- 4.23 Hungerford is within the North Wessex National Landscape where government advice is that when considering applications for development permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.²² I questioned HTC on whether the

¹⁹ <https://breeam.com/>

²⁰ NPPF; paragraphs 157, 158 and 159.

²¹ NPPF; paragraphs 180 and 185.

²² NPPF; paragraph 183.

terms of paragraph 183 of NPPF are met (see Q3). In my opinion, HTC demonstrated in its response that in terms of the need and impact on the local economy; the potential for developing outside the designated areas or meeting the housing need in some other way; and any detrimental effect on the environment, the allocations in the Plan are appropriate. Therefore, I consider that the terms of NPPF paragraph 183 are met.

- 4.24 I note the suggestion that, using the WBC Density Pattern Book, only 31 dwellings might be developed on Land at Smitham Bridge Road rather than 44. Nevertheless, I am persuaded by the HTC answer to my question Q4 that 44 dwellings is quite an acceptable quantity of dwellings for this allocation and also 12 dwellings is appropriate on Land north of Cottrell Close. Furthermore, Land at Smitham Bridge Road is 2.11ha in area and Land north of Cottrell Close is 0.55 ha and, therefore, the proposed density is consistent with the 20 dwellings/ha sought in LPR Policy SP1 for land within the North Wessex National Landscape.
- 4.25 Representations sought the allocation of Land at Salisbury Road and Land at Folly Dog Field for housing. My question Q2 to HTC queried why these two sites had not been allocated, the answer to which clearly demonstrates the reasoning, including the site assessment process, and from which I have no sound reason to differ. Therefore, I do not accept that that the two omitted sites should have been allocated in the Plan, either as replacements for one or other of the allocated sites or as additions. In any event, given that the LPR housing requirement has been met on the two allocated sites, Land at Smitham Bridge Road and Land north of Cottrell Close, there is no obligation to seek more sites for residential development.
- 4.26 Many representations suggested that, amongst other objections to the allocation, unacceptable highways danger would be caused by the development on Land at Smitham Bridge Road. However, when questioned, WBC stated its confidence that the required sight lines could be achieved from the site and that, although 44 dwellings would generate 26 vehicle movements in total during peak periods, this would not result in a severe impact on highway safety. Therefore, the allocation would have regard to paragraphs 114 and 115 of NPPF in respect of highway safety.
- 4.27 I note the comments about the Marsh Lane allotments but, despite the various environmental objections made in the representations, I am satisfied with the site assessment process in the preparation of the Plan which concluded that the allocations were acceptable. I also note the query about why the allocation on Land north of Cottrell Close should be linked to the adjoining cemetery and agree that such a link has advantages to pedestrians, as outlined in the answer to question Q6 from HTC, which outweighs the possible risk of disturbing the peace and quiet which visitors to the cemetery would wish to enjoy.

- 4.28 Accordingly, I consider that Policy HUNG12 and Policy HUNG13 have regard to national guidance²³, generally conform with Policies SP1, SP3 and SP12 of the LPR and meet the Basic Conditions.

West Berkshire Local Plan Review (LPR)

- 4.29 The submission Plan includes references to the emerging West Berkshire Local Plan Review (LPR) which was adopted in June 2025. Therefore, various updates should be included in the Plan to make it suitable for referendum. Emerging Policy SP18 has become SP15. Other policy references such as SP1, SP6, SP7 and DM4 remain the same, but are no longer “emerging”.²⁴ I recommend that the appropriate modifications should be made. **(PM9)**

Community Actions

- 4.30 The Plan includes Actions A-O within the various sections of the Plan which lists projects which the community is seeking but cannot be delivered through land-use planning policies. Therefore, these are not considered as part of the examination and will not form part of the statutory Development Plan. Nevertheless, they represent aspirations or actions which would benefit the community and demonstrate one of the valuable associated attributes of the neighbourhood planning process.²⁵

Overview

- 4.31 Therefore, on the evidence before me, with the recommended modifications, I consider that the policies within the HNP are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the LPR, have regard to national guidance, would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and so would meet the Basic Conditions.
- 4.32 A consequence of the acceptance of the recommended modifications would be that amendments will have to be made to the explanation within the Plan in order to make it logical and suitable for the referendum. Further minor amendments might also include incorporating factual updates, correcting inaccuracies, typographical and punctuation errors, any text improvements suggested by WBC in their Regulation 16 consultation response and any other similar minor or consequential changes in agreement with WBC. None of these alterations would affect the ability of the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions and could be undertaken as minor, non-material changes.²⁶

²³ NPPF: paragraphs 60, 69, 70 and 71.

²⁴ See answer to question Q1 from WBC.

²⁵ PPG Reference ID: 41-004-20190509.

²⁶ PPG Reference ID: 41-106-20190509.

5. Conclusions

Summary

- 5.1 The Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan has been duly prepared in compliance with the procedural requirements. My examination has investigated whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements for neighbourhood plans. I have had regard to all the responses made following consultation on the HNP, and the evidence documents submitted with it.
- 5.2 I have made recommendations to modify eight of the thirteen policies to ensure the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum.

The Referendum and its Area

- 5.3 I have considered whether the referendum area should be extended beyond the designated area to which the Plan relates. The HNP, as modified, has no policy which I consider significant enough to have an impact beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan boundary, requiring the referendum to extend to areas beyond the Plan boundary. I recommend that the boundary for the purposes of any future referendum on the Plan should be that of the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Concluding Comments

- 5.4 The HTC, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and other voluntary contributors are to be commended for producing a succinct Plan. The Plan is logical, informative and very well illustrated. The Consultation Statement and the Basic Conditions Statement were concise and very useful. The Plan also benefitted from the constructive comments from WBC at the Regulation 14 stage and the helpful responses from the HTC and WBC to my questions. Subject to the recommended modifications, the HNP will make a positive contribution to the Development Plan for the area and should enable the extremely attractive character and appearance of Hungerford to be maintained whilst enabling sustainable development to proceed.

Andrew Mead

Examiner

Appendix: Modifications

Proposed modification no. (PM)	Page no./ other reference	Modification
PM1	Policy HUNG1	Delete Criterion B and substitute: "B. In determining any departure from the recommended mix, regard will be given to: a. any physical or site factors which limit the mix; b. the location; c. if there is clear evidence for the need for a particular type of housing, e.g. specialist older persons' housing such as bungalows; d. site specific viability."
PM2	Policy HUNG2	Delete "emerging" from Criterion B. b. Delete Criterion B. d.
PM3	Policy HUNG3	Delete Criterion A and substitute: "A. Development proposals should conserve and enhance the rural setting of the important gateways into Hungerford. Proposals should include appropriate landscaping which minimises the impact of development upon the open character of the countryside."
PM4	Policy HUNG4	Insert into the second sentence of Criterion B: "Such measures should seek to use timber framed windows from sustainable sources , with alternative materials ...".
PM5	Policy HUNG5	Amend Diagram 6.1 and Appendix B to remove the section south of Park Street and east of High Street from the primary shopping area.
PM6	Policy HUNG8	Delete Criterion B and substitute: "B. Decisions on managing development within the Local Green Spaces should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts. Support will be given to proposals that would enhance the value or significance of the Local Green Space."

PM7	Policy HUNG9	Delete Criterion B.
PM8	Policy HUNG10	Delete Criteria B. d) and B. e).
PM9	Throughout the Plan.	Amend Policy "SP18" to "SP15" . Delete "emerging" from phrases including Policies SP1, SP6, SP7 and DM4.

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WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HUNGERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2039
POST-EXAMINATION DECISION STATEMENT

OCTOBER 2024

Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)

This document is the decision statement required to be prepared under Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). It sets out the Council's response to each of the recommendations contained within the report to West Berkshire District Council of the independent examination of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan ("the Plan") by Independent Examiner, Andrew Mead, which was received by the Council on 27 August 2025.

This decision statement, the independent Examiner's report, and the submission version of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and supporting documents are available to view on the Council's website:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/hungerfordnp>.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), West Berkshire District Council ("the Council") has a statutory duty to assist communities in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans and to take plans through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 sets out the responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.
- 1.2. Following receipt of the Examiner's report, the Council must make a decision on the next steps. As set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) these are:
 - (a) to decline to consider a plan proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) or a modification proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
 - (b) to refuse a plan proposal under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or a modification proposal under paragraph 8 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
 - (c) what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood development plan or under paragraph 13 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act in relation to a proposed modification of a neighbourhood development plan;

- (d) what modifications, if any, they are to make to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or paragraph 14(6) of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
 - (e) whether to extend the area to which the referendum is (or referendums are) to take place; or
 - (f) that they are not satisfied with the plan proposal under paragraph 12(10) of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or the draft plan under paragraph 14(4) of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act.
- 1.3. In accordance with Regulation 18(2) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended), this report forms the Council's Decision Statement and sets out the Council's decision and the reasons for this.

2. Background to the Hungerford NDP

Designation of the Neighbourhood Area

- 2.1. On 9 April 2018, the Council designated the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The plan area covers the parish of Hungerford and lies solely within the West Berkshire Local Planning Authority Area.

Submission of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 2.2. Hungerford Town Council, the qualifying body, submitted the draft Hungerford NDP and supporting documents to the Council on 31 October 2024.
- 2.3. Once a NDP is submitted to a local planning authority, it must be checked to ensure all the submission requirements set out in legislation have been met. This process is known as the Legal Compliance Check. The Legal Compliance Check was completed in January 2025, and this confirmed all the submission requirements had been met.
- 2.4. At a meeting of Council on 27 March 2025, Members agreed that the submitted NDP and its supporting documents could be published for consultation. Members also agreed that following the close of the consultation, the NDP could be sent for independent examination.
- 2.5. The Council publicised the Plan and supporting documents and invited representations during the consultation period which ran from 4 April 2025 until 23 May 2025.

3. Independent examination of the Hungerford NDP

- 3.1. The Council, with the consent of Hungerford Town Council, appointed an independent examiner, Mr. Andrew Mead MRTPI MIQ, to review the NDP and consider whether it should proceed to referendum.

- 3.2. The examination of the Plan took place by way of written representations between July and August 2025.
- 3.3. The Examiner's final report was received on 27 August 2025. The report concluded that subject to modifications, the Hungerford NDP should proceed to referendum. The Examiner also recommended that the referendum area be based on the Neighbourhood Area that was designated by the Council on 9 April 2018.

4. Post examination

- 4.1. Regulations 17A and 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of the examiner following the formal examination.
- 4.2. The Examiner's report is not binding, and it is the responsibility of the Council to ultimately decide if the examiner's suggested recommendations and modifications should be followed or not.

5. Decision and reasons

- 5.1. Having considered the recommendations in the Examiner's report and the reasons for them, the Council, with the consent of Hungerford Town Council, has decided to accept the modifications to the submitted Plan under Paragraph 12(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 5.2. The Council is satisfied that, subject to the modifications which it considers should be made, as set out in Table 5.1 below, that the Hungerford NDP meets the Basic Conditions set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), is compatible with the Convention rights and complies with the provision made by or under 61E(2), 61J and 61L of the said Act.

Table 5.1: Examiner's proposed modifications to the Hungerford NDP

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
PM1	Criterion B of policy HUNG1 (p.20)	<p>Delete Criterion B: and substitute with the following text:</p> <p>B. Any departure from this mix shall only be permitted in the following circumstances:</p> <p>a. Any physical site factors that limit the mix.</p> <p>b. If there is clear evidence for the need for a particular type of housing, e.g., specialist older persons' housing such as bungalows.</p> <p>Substitute the deleted text with the following:</p> <p><u>B. In determining any departure from the recommended mix, regard will be given to:</u></p> <p><u>a. any physical or site factors which limit the mix;</u></p> <p><u>b. the location;</u></p> <p><u>c. if there is clear evidence for the need for a particular type of housing, e.g. specialist older persons' housing such as bungalows;</u></p> <p><u>d. site specific viability.</u></p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The modification was originally identified by the Council in its comments on both the pre-submission (Regulation 14) NDP and the submission (Regulation 16) versions of the NDP.</p> <p>The modification ensures that policy HUNG1 is in general conformity with policy SP15 of the adopted West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041 (LPR) by providing greater flexibility of when the appropriate housing mix may not be appropriate. With the modification, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.
PM2	<p>Criterion B.b of policy HUNG2 (p.22)</p> <p>Criterion B.d. of policy HUNG2 (p.23)</p>	<p>Delete the reference to 'emerging':</p> <p>b. An eclectic mix of styles, range of densities (for major residential developments and aligning with the density requirements of West Berkshire emerging Local Plan Policy SP1), house types (where appropriate) and plot layouts should be used.</p> <p>Delete criterion B.d:</p> <p>Parking should be provided within the development in accordance with</p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The LPR was adopted on 10 June 2025, therefore the reference to the LPR being 'emerging' should be removed.</p> <p>The need for the deletion of criterion B.d was originally identified by the Council in its comments on the submission</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
		West Berkshire District Council parking standards.	(Regulation 16) version of the NDP. This is because there is no need for neighbourhood plan policies to repeat policies in the LPR. The neighbourhood plan when adopted will form part of the development plan. The development plan must be read as a whole.	
PM3	Criterion A of Policy HUNG3 (p.24)	<p>Delete criterion A:</p> <p>A. Development proposals adjacent to the gateways into Hungerford town should demonstrate, where appropriate, how they contribute to creating a gradual transition from rural countryside to urban settlement (and vice versa). Development proposals should avoid creating an overly dense feel and, where appropriate, planting or other natural boundary treatments should be used to mitigate the impact of development and retain the open feel. This could include the use of trees to line the gateway routes.</p> <p>Replace the deleted text with the following:</p> <p>A. <u>Development proposals should conserve and enhance the rural setting of the important gateways into Hungerford. Proposals should include appropriate landscaping which minimises the impact of development upon the open character of the countryside.</u></p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The modification was originally identified by the Council in its comments on both the pre-submission (Regulation 14) NDP and the submission (Regulation 16) versions of the NDP. It was considered necessary for clarity when dealing with planning applications.</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
PM4	Criterion B of policy HUNG4 (p.27)	<p>Insert the following text into the second sentence:</p> <p>B. Where this is to be achieved through measures to reduce heat loss, this could include secondary, double or triple glazing in conservation areas and secondary and slimline double glazing in listed buildings. Such measures should seek to use timber framed windows <u>from sustainable sources</u>, with alternative materials only permitted where it is demonstrated that this would not result in harm to the significance of listed buildings or character and appearance of conservation areas.</p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The modification was originally identified by the Council in its comments on the submission (Regulation 16) version of the NDP. The modification will ensure that the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. With the modification, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.
PM5	Paragraph 6.7 of the supporting text to policy HUNG5 (31), diagram 6.1 (p.30 and Appendix B (p.77) of policy HUNG5	Amend Diagram 6.1 and Appendix B to remove the section south of Park Street and east of High Street from the primary shopping area.	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The modification was originally identified by the Council in its comments on both the pre-submission (Regulation 14) NDP and the submission (Regulation 16) versions of the NDP.</p> <p>The modification is necessary to ensure that policy HUNG5 is in general conformity with policy SP18 of the adopted LPR and has appropriate regard to national policies.</p> <p>Within the glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 'Primary Shopping Frontages' are defined as a <i>"defined area where retail</i></p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
			<p><i>development is concentrated."</i></p> <p>The retail uses on the eastern side of the High Street to the south of Park Street are not as well integrated with the other retail uses on the High Street which fall within the Primary Shopping Area. In addition, the retail uses to the south of Park Street are interspersed with a public house, estate agents, and residential uses.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.7 of the supporting text refers to the extension of the shopping area. To reflect the modifications being made to diagram 6.1 and Appendix B, paragraph 6.7 must be deleted.</p> <p>With the modifications, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.</p>	
PM6	Criterion B of policy HUNG8 (p.51)	<p>Delete criterion B:</p> <p>B. Proposals for built development on these Local Green Spaces will not be permitted unless the proposal is for an ancillary feature, and it can be clearly demonstrated that it is required to support or enhance the role and function of the identified Local Green Space.</p> <p>Replace with the following text:</p> <p><u>B. Decisions on managing development within the Local Green Spaces should be consistent with national policy</u></p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The modification is required in order for the policy to be consistent with paragraph 106 of the NPPF. With the modification, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
		for Green Belts. Support will be given to <u>proposals that would enhance the value or significance of the Local Green Space.</u>		
PM7	Criterion B of policy HUNG9 (p.54)	Delete criterion B: B. Where development is required to mitigate the risk of flooding through use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), these should be designed to be multifunctional and where appropriate, create the opportunity to be enjoyed by residents and/or the community. SuDS should not only be a well integrated and attractive part of a development but it should be designed where possible for use as public open space.	The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation. The modification was originally identified by the Council in its comments on both the pre-submission (Regulation 14) NDP and the submission (Regulation 16) versions of the NDP, and it is required to ensure that the Plan has appropriate regard to national policies. The NPPF at paragraph 16 (f) of the NPPF states that: " <i>Plans should ...f) serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant).</i> " With the modification, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.
PM8	Criterion B.d and B.e of policy HUNG10 (p.57)	Delete criterion B.d: d) Considering predicted future climatic change, all development shall incorporate flood risk mitigation and resilience measures including minimise surface runoff to prevent on-site and off-site flooding by designing	The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation. Criterion B.d includes measures that are already included within the adopted LPR. The NPPF at	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
		<p>suitable SuDS-based drainage system. Where appropriate development should also maximise the use of porous surfaces on open areas such as driveways.</p> <p>Delete criterion B.e:</p> <p>e) Development must be designed to be water efficient and minimise water consumption. Refurbishments and other non-domestic development will be expected to meet BREEAM water efficiency credits. Residential development must not exceed a maximum water use of 105 litres per head per day (excluding the allowance of up to 5 litres for external water consumption) using the 'Fittings Approach' in Table 2.2 of Part G of Building Regulations.</p>	<p>paragraph 16 (f) of the NPPF states that: <i>"Plans should ...f) serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant)."</i></p> <p>The modification to delete criterion B.e was originally identified by the Council in its comments on the submission (Regulation 16) version of the NDP.</p> <p>Policy DM7 (Water Resources and Waste Water) of the Local Plan review requires all new residential developments (including replacement dwellings) to meet the Building Regulation optional higher water efficiency standard of 110 litres per person per day, using the Fittings Approach as set out in table 2.2 of the Building Regulations part G2.</p> <p>Such a requirement was included because West Berkshire lies within one of the driest parts of the country. A growing population and number of households within the District and its primary Water Resource Zone in the Kennet</p>	

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
			<p>Valley, alongside growth within the neighbouring Thames Water resource zones, will place demand pressures on the sustainable supply of water.</p> <p>The amount of available water will be affected by climate change through changing weather patterns and more extreme weather events such as storms, floods and drought. In taking water from rivers and aquifers, their value to the natural environment and people's enjoyment must not be compromised but improved and sustained. Most of the water is abstracted from groundwater aquifers supported by some river extraction, notably the Rivers Kennet and Lambourn. Most is to satisfy public water supply, but a significant proportion is supplied for private supply including agricultural land management, and electricity and industry. Thames Water supplies all of West Berkshire, and the area it serves is classified as being in a 'seriously water stressed' area in the Environment Agency Water Stressed Areas Classification 2021.</p>	

Modification reference	Policy of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Examiner's modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as striketrough)	Decision and justification	Action taken and revised modification
			<p>Whilst policy DM7 is not strategic in nature, it is considered that all developments in West Berkshire district should implement the highest standards of water efficiency in order to place no additional pressure on water scarcity and quality in the river basin catchments of the Kennet and its tributaries and of the Thames and Chilterns South.</p> <p>The modification is required to ensure that the Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>With the modification, the policy meets the Basic Conditions.</p>	
PM9	Throughout the Plan	<p>Amend the reference to Local Plan Review from "SP18" to "SP19".</p> <p>Delete "emerging" from phrases including policies SP1, SP6, SP7 and DM4.</p>	<p>The Council agree with the Examiner's recommendation.</p> <p>The LPR was adopted on 10 June 2025, therefore the reference to the LPR being 'emerging' should be removed, and the policy references in the adopted version of the LPR should be referenced.</p>	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

- 5.3. Several minor modifications have been identified by the Council which are required to correct typographical and factual errors within the Plan. The Examiner's report at paragraph 4.23 comments that "*...further minor amendments might also include incorporating factual updates, correcting inaccuracies, typographical and punctuation errors, any text improvements suggested by WBC in their Regulation 16 consultation response and any other similar minor or consequential changes in agreement with WBC. None of these alterations would affect the ability of the Plan to meet the Basic Conditions and could be undertaken as minor, non-material changes.*"
- 5.4. These modifications, which have been agreed with Hungerford Town Council, do not affect the nature of the Plan. The minor modifications and the justification for them is set out in Table 5.2 below.

Table 5.2: The Council's minor modifications to the Hungerford NDP

Minor modification reference	Chapter / policy / paragraph of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Council's minor modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Reason for modification
MM1	HUNG1 (p.20) HUNG2 (p.22) HUNG3 (p.24) HUNG4 (p.27) HUNG5 (p.31) HUNG6 (p.39) HUNG8 (p.51) HUNG9 (p.54) HUNG10 (p.57) HUNG11 (p.60)	The main policy criteria to be prefixed by a number, with any sub-criteria prefixed by a letter, eg. 1. >>>> a. >>	Both the policy criteria and sub-criteria have letter prefixes albeit distinguished by capitalised and uncapitalised letters. For clarity, the main policy criteria needs to be prefixed by a number, with any sub-criteria prefixed by a letter.
MM2	Actions	All 'Actions' to be renamed as ' <u>Non-policy</u> Actions'	To clearly distinguish between the policies and actions.
MM3	Before each policy	Include a sub-heading before each policy which states 'supporting text', for example: 4. Housing Housing mix Objective B: Ensure that housing development provides a range of house types, sizes and tenures that meets the needs of all age groups and incomes <u>Supporting text:</u> 4.1 Hungerford has a different housing needs mix...	To make clear what the purpose of the text is.
MM4	Paragraph 1.6 (pp.2-3)	1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan represents one part of the development plan [footnote 1] for the neighbourhood area (parish) over the period 2024 to 2041, the other parts relevant to Hungerford Parish being the West Berkshire <u>Local Plan</u>	Factual update. The West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041 was adopted on 10 June 2025. Upon adoption, it superseded the Core Strategy, Housing Site Allocations

Minor modification reference	Chapter / policy / paragraph of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Council's minor modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Reason for modification
	Paragraph 1.7 (p.3)	<p>Review 2023-2041 (adopted 2025) Core Strategy 2006 to 2026 (adopted 2012), the Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (adopted 2017), the saved policies of the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 to 2006 (saved 2007) and the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2022 to 2037 (adopted 2022).</p> <p>4.7 The Core Strategy, Housing Site Allocations DPD and the 2007 saved policies collectively make up the District Local Plan. The current Local Plan plans for development up to 2026 and, in line with the NPPF, must be kept up to date and look ahead over a minimum 15-year period. The Local Plan is therefore undergoing a review to cover the period to 2039. Upon adoption, the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2041 will replace these three documents.</p>	Development Plan Document, and West Berkshire Local Plan 1991-2206 (Saved Policies).
MM5	Paragraph 2.25 (p.11)	At Hungerford Newtown there is Barrow Hill, a schedule <u>ancient monument Scheduled Monument</u> .	Typographical error.
MM6	7 th bullet point, Paragraph 2.26 (p.11)	Welford Park, well known for the snow drops <u>snowdrops</u>	Typographical error.
MM7	Para 3.1 (p.15)	This should be achieved whilst conserving Hungerford's natural and built heritage <u>historic environment</u> and enhancing its strong sense of being a caring community and a fulfilling place to live.	To align with the terminology in the National Planning Policy Framework.
MM8	Paragraph 4.5 (pp.19-20)	4.5 Policy CS4 in the West Berkshire Core Strategy requires development to provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the housing needs of all sectors of the community. This should have regard to the evidence of housing need and demand from Housing Market Assessments and other relevant sources. Similarly, Policy SP18 SP15 in the emerging West Berkshire Local Plan Review requires <u>development proposals to contribute to the delivery of an appropriate mix of dwelling tenures, types and sizes. The</u>	For clarity and factual updates to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.

Minor modification reference	Chapter / policy / paragraph of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Council's minor modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Reason for modification
		supporting text to policy SP15 sets a specific 'base mix' <u>which is taken from it's the West Berkshire</u> Local Housing Needs Assessment Update 2022...	
MM9	Paragraph 4.6 (p.20)	4.6 Emerging <u>West Berkshire</u> Local Plan <u>Review</u> Policy SP15 requires an mix of dwelling sizes reflecting its requirements on all developments of 10 dwellings or more...	Typographical error and factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.
MM10	Paragraph 5.1, final paragraph (p.22)	5.1 The design of new development in Hungerford parish is important. It needs to respect the locally distinctive character. Policy SP7 (Design Quality) of the West Berkshire emerging Local Plan <u>Review</u> requires development to take opportunities...	Factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.
MM11	Paragraph 5.4 (p.22)	5.4 Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not supported by a specific set of detailed design codes, the principles of <u>the West Berkshire</u> emerging Local Plan <u>Review</u> Policy SP7	Factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.
MM12	Paragraph 5.5 (p.22)	5.5 In addition, emerging <u>West Berkshire</u> Local Plan <u>Review</u> Policy SP1 expects...	Factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.
MM13	Paragraph 5.8 (p.23)	Of relevance to this are the entry <u>and exit</u> points into Hungerford along main and smaller routes. These include Bath Road (A4), Charnham Street, the B4192, North Standen Road, Park Street, Salisbury Road and Priory Road. These provide a range of views of the entry <u>and exit</u> to the town as you move from countryside to urban area <u>and vice versa</u> . Most provide a soft, rural feel that only becomes more visually urbanised comparatively close to the main built-up area of the town. It is important that any development retains this soft feel.	For clarity. Gateways are both entry and exit points into and out of Hungerford.
MM14	Paragraph 5.9 (p.24)	The overall setting of the town, with an abundance of trees and shrubs, is important for preserving <u>conserving and enhancing</u> its identity....	Factual update as this terminology is referred to in the Examiner's modification to HUNG3 (see PM3 above).
MM15	Paragraph 5.10 (p.24)	A good first impression is important to this. Engagement between Hungerford Town Council, West Berkshire <u>District</u> Council...	Factual update to reflect the correct name of the local planning authority.

Minor modification reference	Chapter / policy / paragraph of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Council's minor modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Reason for modification
MM16	Paragraph 6.8 (p.32) and Figure 6.2 (p.33)	6.7 Hungerford has three Protected <u>Designated</u> Employment Areas... Figure 6.2 needs to be updated to refer to Designated Employment Areas.	Factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review. 'Designated Employment Areas' is the term used in the Local Plan Review.
MM17	Chapter heading (p.61)	10 <u>RESIDENTIAL</u> SITE ALLOCATIONS	For clarity.
MM18	Paragraph 10.1, 1 st sentence (p.61)	10.1 The Proposed Submission West Berkshire Local Plan Review (January 2023) identified a minimum housing requirement figure <u>of a minimum</u> of 55 dwellings. These dwellings will be delivered through sites <u>residential site</u> allocations within the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area over the plan period.	Factual update to reflect the adoption of the Local Plan Review.
MM19	Figure 10.1 (p.62)	Move the map to after the policy box	To assist in the interpretation of the policy.
MM20	Paragraph 10.9-10.11 (p.63)	10.9 The Shalbourne Brook (Main River), a tributary of the River Dun, flows north eastwards very close to the eastern boundary of the site. The Shalbourne Brook is a chalk river, which is a protected habitat listed in S41 of the NERC Act. A very small part of the eastern boundary of the site is at risk of fluvial flooding from the Shalbourne Brook during a 1 in 100 year flood event, with a small increase in the flood extent during a 1 in 1000 year flood event <u>is situated within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where there is a medium and high risk of flooding.</u> The remainder of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and therefore is at low fluvial flood risk.	Factual update to reflect the changes made by the Environment Agency in March 2025 to Flood Zones.
MM21	First paragraph of policy HUNG12 (p.63)	The site as shown on the Land at Smitham Bridge Road (approximately 2.11 hectares as identified on the Policies Map and on the indicative map in Figure 10.1) will be <u>required to be</u> developed in accordance with the following parameters....	For clarity.
MM22	Policy HUNG12, parameter (d) (p.63)	d. Adequate consideration is <u>Regard must be given to the</u> development guidelines in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan.	For clarity.

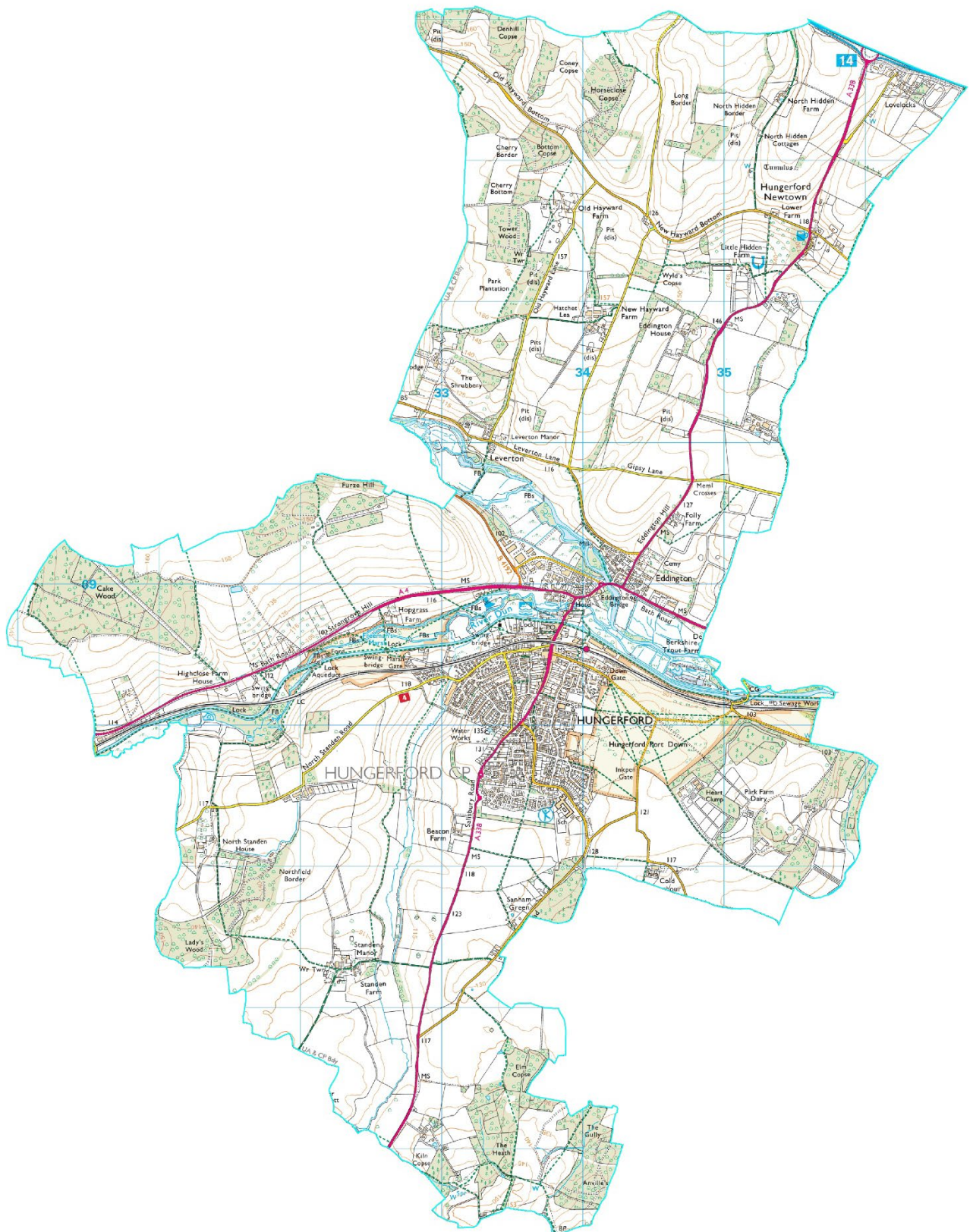
Minor modification reference	Chapter / policy / paragraph of the submitted Hungerford NDP (page no.)	Council's minor modifications (insertion <u>underlined</u> , deletion as strikethrough)	Reason for modification
MM23	Policy HUNG12, parameter (l) (p.64)	l. The provision of high quality public open space <u>in accordance with policy DM44 of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.</u>	This criterion requires high quality open space, yet provides no further detail, for example on standards. To assist in the interpretation of the policy, reference is needed to policy DM44 of the Local Plan Review which provides further details on standards.
MM24	Policy HUNG12, parameter (o) (p.64)	o. The scheme must <u>will</u> be informed by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)...	To ensure consistency with the wording of the other parameters.
MM25	Policy HUNG12, parameter (o) (p.64)	o. The scheme must <u>will</u> be informed by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) which must be able to demonstrate that the presence of any protected habitats and species on the site can be adequately mitigated and/or compensated for.	For clarity.
MM26	Policy HUNG12 (p.64)	Delete criterion q : q. A desk-based archaeological assessment is undertaken.	The Council's Archaeology Team does not consider there to be any below ground archaeological investigation needed here. Criterion q is therefore not required.
MM27	Figure 10.2 (p.65)	Move the map to after the policy box	To assist in the interpretation of the policy.
MM28	First paragraph of policy HUNG13 (p.66)	The site as shown on the Land north of Cottrell Close (approximately 0.55 hectares as identified on the Policies Map and on the indicative map in Figure 10.2) will be required to be developed in accordance with the following parameters...	For clarity.
MM29	Policy HUNG13, parameter (f) (p.66)	Adequate consideration is <u>Regard must be given to the development guidelines in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan.</u>	For clarity.
MM30	Policy HUNG13 New parameter after (m) (p.69)	<u>(x) Development on the site will not adversely affect the SSSI and SAC which are in close proximity to the south of the site. A Habitat Regulations Assessment will be required to accompany any future planning application.</u>	No reference is made to development not adversely affecting the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). As the site is in close proximity to the SSSI and SAC, this additional criterion is required.

- 5.5. This Decision Statement confirms that the recommendations proposed in the Examiner's report have been considered and accepted, that the Plan has been altered as a result of it, and that it may now be submitted to local referendum.

6. The referendum area

- 6.1. The Council is in agreement with the Examiner's recommendation that there is no policy or proposal significant enough to have an impact beyond the designated Neighbourhood Area. Any referendum which takes place in due course must be contiguous with the boundary of the designated Neighbourhood Area as illustrated in Figure 6.1 below.

Figure 6.1: Hungerford Neighbourhood Area



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Hungerford Town Council

Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2041

**Referendum Version
September 2024**



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APPENDIX A

List of Nationally Designated Heritage Assets

APPENDIX B

Proposed Extension of Primary Shopping Area Details

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Photos

Front cover photo: Market Day on the High Street. Credit: Moore-Photographics. There are several other photos in the plan from Moore-Photographics which are abbreviated as *M-P.

All other photos have been donated by members of the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan Group.

1 INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the plan

- 1.1 This document represents the Neighbourhood Plan for Hungerford parish for the period 2024 to 2041. The Plan contains a vision for the future of Hungerford and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision.
- 1.2 The Plan builds on the extensive work carried out by the community in the development of the Hungerford 2010+ Plan (2005) and Town Plan Refresh from 2013. These included detailed household survey work, policies and **non-policy** actions for all the main issues. Several of the Town Plan team members are also part of the Neighbourhood Plan team, which has helped to develop a continuity of approach.
- 1.3 The principal purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to guide development within the parish. It also provides guidance to anyone wishing to submit a planning application for development within the parish. The process of producing a plan has sought to involve the community as widely as possible. The different topic areas are reflective of matters that are of considerable importance to Hungerford, its residents, businesses and community groups.
- 1.4 Some of the Neighbourhood Plan policies are general and apply throughout the Plan area, whilst others are site or area-specific and apply only to the appropriate areas illustrated on the relevant map. Nevertheless, in considering proposals for development, decision takers will apply all relevant policies of the Plan when determining planning applications, in addition to the other relevant policies of the development plan which the Plan forms part of.
- 1.5 The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan has identified a number of non-policy actions which have been included in the policies' sections as '**Non-Policy** Actions'. Note however that these non-policy actions are not specifically related to land use matters.



Policy context

- 1.6 The Neighbourhood Plan represents one part of the development plan¹ for the neighbourhood area (parish) over the period 2024 to 2041, the other parts relevant to Hungerford Parish being the West Berkshire **Local Plan Review 2023-2041 (adopted 2025)**

¹ 'Development plan': a document setting out the local planning authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority's area. This includes adopted Local Plans and neighbourhood plans, together with any regional strategies that remain in force.

~~Core Strategy 2006 to 2026 (adopted 2012), the Housing Site Allocations Development Plan Document (adopted 2017), the saved policies of the West Berkshire District Local Plan 1991 to 2006 (saved 2007) and the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2022 to 2037 (adopted 2022).~~

- ~~1.7 The Core Strategy, Housing Site Allocations DPD and the 2007 saved policies collectively make up the District Local Plan. The current Local Plan plans for development up to 2026 and, in line with the NPPF, must be kept up to date and look ahead over a minimum 15 year period. The Local Plan is therefore undergoing a review to cover the period to 2039. Upon adoption, the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2041 will replace these three documents.~~
- 1.8 West Berkshire District Council, as the local planning authority, designated the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area in April 2018. The Neighbourhood Area covers the parish of Hungerford. Hungerford Town Council is the Qualifying Body leading on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and it established the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan (HNP) Steering Group comprising local councillors and members of the community to oversee the process.
- 1.9 The HNP has been prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). The HNP Steering Group has prepared the plan to establish a vision for the future of the parish and to set out how that vision will be realised through planning and controlling land use and development change over the plan period.
- 1.10 The map in Figure 1.1 overleaf shows the boundary of the Neighbourhood Area, which is the same as the administrative boundary of Hungerford parish. Note that the western boundary is also the boundary of Berkshire and the Southeast region.

How is the plan set out?

- 1.11 Each chapter of the Plan covers a different topic. Under each heading there is a justification for the policies, which provides the necessary understanding of the policy, what it is seeking to achieve and, where relevant, how it should be applied. The policies themselves are provided in green boxes.
- 1.12 It is these policies, in combination with the other relevant policies in the development plan, against which planning applications in Hungerford Parish will be determined against. It is advisable that, to understand the full context of any individual policy, each policy is read in conjunction with its supporting text and the relevant evidence documents that have been compiled to underpin the Plan.
- 1.13 The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan has identified local needs and community aspirations that are not met through the planning system, but which are nevertheless important to the community. These needs and aspirations will be met through **non-policy** actions supported by a range of organisations. These **non-policy** actions are set out within blue boxes.



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Monitoring and Review of the Plan

- 1.14 It is not a legislative requirement to monitor, review, and update a neighbourhood plan. However, neighbourhood plans like all planning policy documents benefit from being reviewed and revised from time to time, to reflect changing contexts and changing needs or issues around effectiveness.
- 1.15 Hungerford Town Council, as the Qualifying Body, will maintain and periodically revisit the Plan to ensure relevance and to monitor delivery.

Figure 1.1: Hungerford neighbourhood plan area



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2 LOCAL CONTEXT

History of Hungerford

2.1 **The location:** The attractive town of Hungerford stands at the very western end of Berkshire, near the borders with Wiltshire and Hampshire. It lies in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and forms part of the Great West Way. A walk around the town and its immediate surrounding countryside will reveal the inherent charm of the parish.

2.2 **Its growth through the centuries:** Hungerford can be traced back to the 11th century, and the historic core of the town was laid out as a planned town in the 12th century. Since then, it has grown through the centuries as a rural market town supplying goods and services to the surrounding villages. Much of the town has remained unaltered for generations. This history is being preserved to the this day, through the designation of the Conservation Area. The well preserved burgage plots to the rear of the High Street are also evidence of this history.

2.3 **On key transport routes:** The parish benefitted by lying on key transport routes. The Bath Road (later the A4) passes through the town, and the prosperity of the coaching trade on both the London to Bath and Bristol route and the Oxford to Salisbury route led to its greatest period of prosperity in the 18th and early 19th century.



2.4 The Kennet and Avon Canal was dug through the heart of the town in 1798, and this brought additional prosperity until the railway came in 1847, leading to a modest population decline as large towns like Reading prospered.

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2.5 When the nearby M4 motorway opened in 1971, the town grew again, as it became a popular rural home for commuters to London and other nearer towns and cities.

2.6 **The Town and Manor:** In the 14th century the townspeople were given important rights to the market and fishing by John of Gaunt, who is much celebrated in the town. The Town and Manor of Hungerford (now a registered charity) administers the town common land (over 400 acres) around the town, much of which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Town and Manor also manages the Town Hall and Corn Exchange, the John O'Gaunt Inn and much other property.

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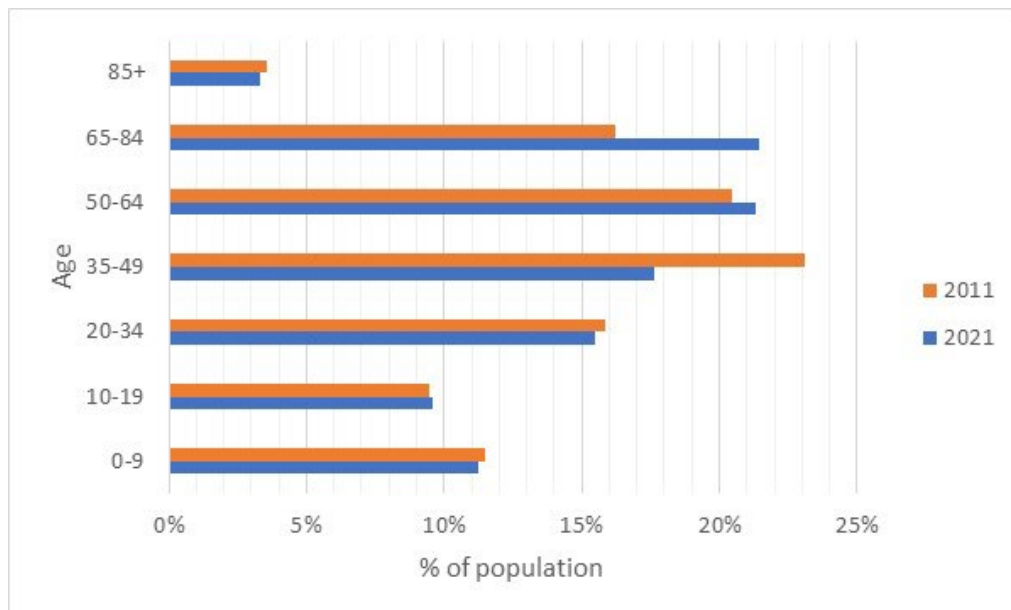
- 2.7 Hocktide – two weeks of events and celebrations which take place after Easter each year are nationally famous. On Tutti Day (the second Tuesday after Easter) the Commoners' Court sits to conclude the financial year, and a celebratory luncheon is held in the Corn Exchange. Hungerford is now the only town in the country still practising these ancient customs.
- 2.8 In 1688, having landed at Brixham on his quest for the throne of England, William of Orange met the commissioners of King James II at The Bear in Hungerford. These successful negotiations led to 'The Glorious Revolution' and to William acceding to the throne as King William III. *M-P



Profile of the community

- 2.9 In 2021, the population of Hungerford parish stood at 5,864 persons and 2,695 households. The population has increased by 97 people (1.7%) since 2011 and households by 95 (3.7%) (sources 2021 and 2011 Census). Whilst this growth is comparatively low (the population of West Berkshire as a whole grew by 5%), there have been some significant changes in the age profile of the population. Figure 2.1 shows that there has been a significant increase in the population of retirement age (65+) yet there has been a correspondingly large decline in the population most likely to form family households with dependent children (aged 35-49). The population of Hungerford is ageing.

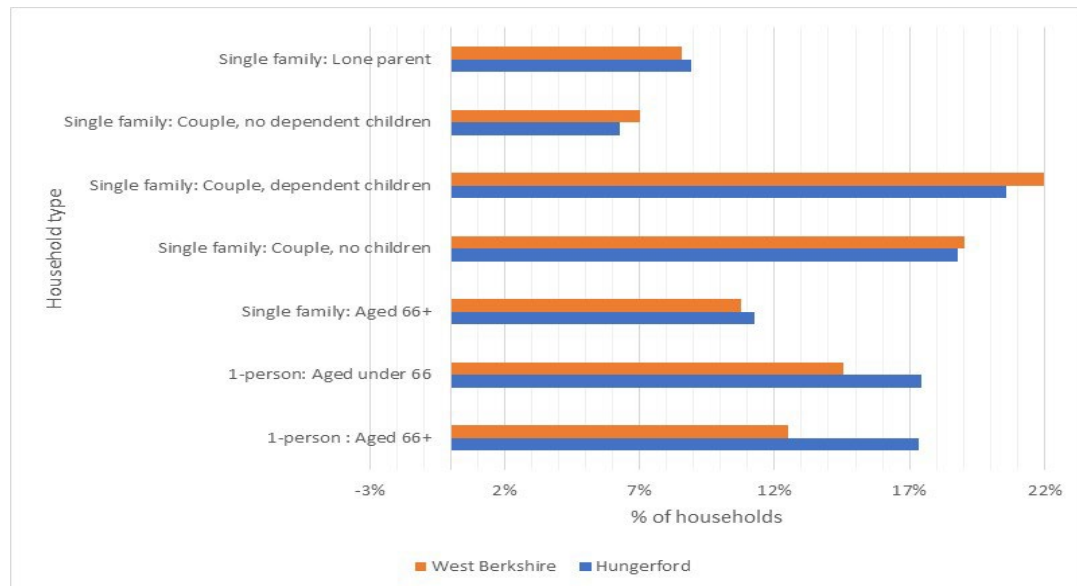
Figure 2.1: Age profile of Hungerford, 2011 and 2021



Source: 2011 and 2021 Census

- 2.10 This is supported by evidence from the 2021 Census on the profile of households. Figure 2.2 shows that whilst the largest share of households in Hungerford are families with dependent children, the proportion of those forming smaller households is very high when compared with West Berkshire as a whole. Couples with no children and single person households account for 54% of households compared with just 46% in West Berkshire.

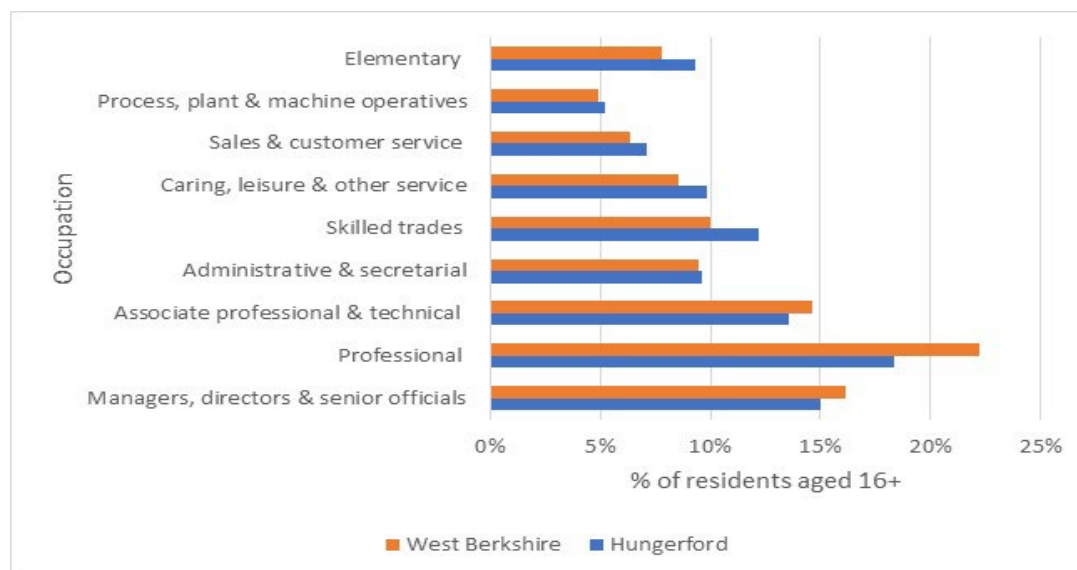
Figure 2.2: Household composition, 2021



Source: 2021 Census

- 2.11 Figure 2.3 shows the types of occupations that people from Hungerford work in. This shows that comparatively lower skilled occupations are strongly represented (compared with West Berkshire), with higher skilled occupations comparatively less well represented. Hungerford is well represented however in skilled trades.

Figure 2.3: Occupations, 2021



Source: 2021 Census

Hungerford parish today

2.12 Hungerford parish is a lively and well-connected area on the boundary between the south east and southwest of England. Economically it tends to look more eastwards, with the pull of Newbury, Reading and London.

2.13 Hungerford is well provided for with schools which serve the local community and villages in the area. There is the Croft Nursery School, the Primary School and John O'Gaunt Secondary School. This provides education from birth to 16 years of age, with sixth form education regrettably withdrawn, although this is available in Marlborough and Newbury.



2.14 Medical facilities are largely provided through the Croft Surgery. After a challenging few years following the Covid-19 pandemic and a shortage of GPs, the Hungerford Surgery team is looking forward to stability and maintaining a high standard of primary care to its 7,500 patients in the town and surrounding areas. The addition of a variety of healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, musculoskeletal physio, mental health practitioner and social prescriber, in collaboration with neighbouring member practices of the West Berkshire Rural Primary Care Network, has given patients better access to a wider range of services.



2.15 Emergency services have a tri service facility that helps to coordinate activities for fire, police and ambulance, which is largely utilised by the fire service. The police force has to cover a large rural area and resource to cover this is a challenge. The fire station is the local base for the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service which provides a well trained and diverse service.

2.16 The town has good transport links. It is at the crossroads of the A4, the old London to Bath route and the A338 between Oxford and Salisbury. Nearby is the M4 and A34 providing excellent access to the rest of the country. Along the High Street which forms part of the A338, there is a tension between high volumes of traffic and local residents and businesses. There is high car ownership and car dependence within the town. Cycle facilities are poor, but walking facilities and footpaths are extensive.

2.17 Public transport is mainly provided by rail along the Thames Valley. There is a rail station with regular services to Reading and Paddington and westwards to Westbury, Taunton and Exeter. The hourly direct service to Paddington was cut in 2021 causing much concern and disruption. The rail station has inadequate parking supply and lacks facilities. Bus services are provided

to Swindon, Marlborough and Newbury, but they struggle with patronage and require subsidies.

- 2.18 There are excellent sporting facilities for the size of the town. The Leisure Centre boasts a 25m swimming pool and covered facilities that are shared with the adjacent secondary school. A professional standard 3G football pitch was constructed in 2023 and there is a successful football club, in the highest league of any club in West Berkshire. There is a cricket pitch with club facilities. The 'triangle field' with clubhouse is mainly used by Hungerford Rugby Club.



- 2.19 Playground facilities are well distributed around the town and maintained to a high standard by the Town Council. A new skate park was constructed in 2023 to replace an older facility at Bulpit Lane.



- 2.20 Outdoor leisure and recreational facilities are available on the Common, the Marsh, the canal and the towpath. There is an extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways which are generally well cared for, with some landowners better than others at maintaining the pathways.
- 2.21 There are several cultural locations that include the town hall, the library and hub, the Croft Hall and Croft Field Project.

Antiques and other shops

- 2.22 Hungerford has been widely known as a centre for antiques since the mid-20th century, and today it has many antique shops and several arcades. There are many other independent retail premises such as a prize-winning bookshop, several jewellers and clothing shops. Each Wednesday morning there is a street market on the west side of the High Street, as shown on the Plan front cover. There are also regular farmers' markets and trade fairs.

Tourism

- 2.23 Tourism is hugely important to the modern town of Hungerford, with visitors enjoying the antique shops, the canal (with its ever-popular trip boat "The Rose of Hungerford"), the nearby Hungerford Common, water meadows and the independent shops. There are two Conservation Areas (in Hungerford



town centre and in Eddington) with many heritage buildings (most of which are nationally listed) and town trails. There are Sustrans cycle routes through the parish and numerous walking routes.

- 2.24 The town is served well by a wide variety of hotels, restaurants and coffee shops.



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- 2.25 The countryside of the parish is beautiful and is entirely within the North Wessex National Landscape. There are rolling hills, woodlands, green fields and chalk streams. There are also a number of farmsteads and estates. At Hungerford Newtown there is Barrow Hill, a ~~S~~Scheduled ancient ~~m~~Monument.

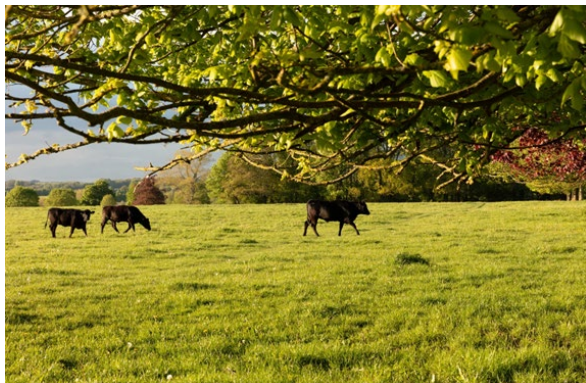
- 2.26 Nearby are several popular tourist destinations:

- Littlecote Roman Villa (recently renovated and displaying one of the largest and finest mosaics in Britain).
- Crofton Pumping Station on the Kennet and Avon Canal (with two historic steam powered beam engines dating from the early 1800s).
- Wilton Windmill (a working flour mill dating from 1821).
- Highclere Castle (made famous as Downton Abbey on the BBC TV series).
- Uffington White Horse (England's oldest chalk horse), and several nearby monuments along the ancient Ridgeway.
- Combe Gibbet and the Wayfarers Walk.
- Welford Park, well known for the ~~snow drops~~ snowdrops.
- Avebury Stone Circle (a Neolithic stone circle – one of the greatest marvels of prehistoric Britain).

The Town and Manor

- 2.27 A key organisation of the town is the Town and Manor. The extensive land holding of the Town and Manor charity has undoubtedly shaped the development of the town over the centuries and continues to do so. Today the charity's land extends to over 400 acres (170

hectares) of which approximately 75 hectares are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The land lies primarily to the north, east and west of the town and this, together with boundaries defined by the railway and the canal, has resulted in most greenfield development over the past 50 years being to the south of the town.



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- 2.28 The estate includes large areas of common land such as the Common Port Down, Freeman's Marsh and the Croft which is the town's registered village green. The land is managed in an environmentally sustainable way for the benefit of local people and visitors to the town using money generated from the charity's assets such as the Fishery, the John O'Gaunt public house and the Town Hall complex. The common land includes land used by the Hungerford Town Football Club, the Cricket Club and the War memorial avenue. This means that these are all well protected.
- 2.29 In addition to the ancient lands, which have been owned for many centuries, the Town and Manor has more recently been able to acquire several substantial parcels of land from owners who wished to see them managed sympathetically and protected from built development. The most recent acquisition in 2018 was a 40-acre site known as Undy's Meadow, lying to the north of the town between Charnham Park road and the River Kennet. The charity is planning to develop a wetland nature reserve on the site.
- 2.30 Figure 2.4 below shows a map of the Town and Manor estate. The areas in green are owned by Town and Manor.

Figure 2.4: The Town and Manor Land Estate, 2023



Credit: Town & Manor of Hungerford

Main issues and challenges in Hungerford parish

2.31 As gathered through feedback from the local community of residents, businesses and community groups, the main issues and challenges facing Hungerford parish can be summarised as:

- Retaining the traditional character of Hungerford while optimising its potential.
- Protecting the Marsh, Common, Canal (including its towpath) and surrounding countryside
- Local and strategic traffic impacts and speeds compromising the local environment.
- Improving the town centre environment.
- Climate change and trying to reduce the parish's carbon footprint.
- Affordable housing for local residents.
- Retaining the mix of independent shops along the High Street.
- Inadequate car parking supply in the town centre, especially on Wednesday mornings when there is the street market.
- Providing more jobs in the town centre and Charnham Park area.
- Improvements to rail station and rail services which have recently been cut back.
- An ageing population which notably impacts on health and education services.
- The challenge of improving pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, including along the Canal towpath.



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3 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision for Hungerford

- 3.1 The vision for Hungerford over the plan period to 2041 is as follows:

Hungerford sits at the heart of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape and is treasured for being an historic market town set within beautiful and accessible countryside and waterways.

The residents of Hungerford seek to work together to embrace constructive change that ensures a vibrant, robust and sustainable economy that will enhance their prosperity and provide an affordable and nurturing environment for current and future generations.

This should be achieved whilst conserving Hungerford's natural and ~~historic environment~~ built heritage and enhancing its strong sense of being a caring community and a fulfilling place to live.



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Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

- 3.2 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as identified through engagement with the community are as follows:

Housing

Aim: Ensure that new housing in Hungerford meets the needs of current and future generations of residents in a way which complements the character of the town and the countryside surrounding it.

Objective A: Allocate sites to meet the housing requirements in the West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2041, where possible making best use of previously developed land and minimising encroachment into the countryside.

Objective B: Ensure that housing development provides a range of house types, sizes and tenures that meets the needs of all age groups and incomes.

Objective C: Seek to ensure that new development respects the character of its neighbourhood whilst embracing high quality design principles and modern energy efficiency standards.

Employment and Economy

Aim: Support growth in the variety of shops, restaurants and businesses in the town and the employment opportunities which they create. Promote Hungerford as an attractive place to live and work (particularly for young people), with good facilities, services and transport links.

Objective D: Encourage businesses and support initiatives, including those which promote a vibrant high street and increase the range of shops, services and eating places in the town for the benefit of residents, tourists and visitors of all ages. Recognise that Hungerford acts as a service centre providing facilities to neighbouring villages.

Objective E: Promote an increase in the number and quality of employment opportunities within and around the town.

Getting About

Aim: Seek improvements to Hungerford's transport infrastructure so that safe, effective, sustainable and efficient travel is available and accessible to all.

Objective F: Minimise the effects of traffic in the town centre and especially the High Street for the benefit of pedestrians and all road users.

Objective G: Increase walking and cycling in the parish.

Objective H: Encourage public transport usage in the parish.

Leisure, Wellbeing, Public Safety and Learning

Aim: Hungerford should offer young people and children a safe, healthy and nurturing environment in which to develop and mature. This will include a full range of educational services and plenty of leisure and sports activities. Develop Hungerford's thriving sports, arts and social community and protect its green, open spaces. Ensure that Hungerford remains a safe, healthy and caring place to live.

Objective I: Protect and maintain existing public playgrounds and open spaces to a high standard and look at ways of increasing the range of facilities provided as the town grows.

Objective J: Support the development of sports, arts, youth clubs, social and leisure facilities, including the widest possible range of activities for young people.

Objective K: Support and develop services which assist and encourage people to maintain their own health.

Objective L: Minimise crime and anti-social behaviour in and around the town and parish.

Objective M: Support and enhance the schools in Hungerford.

Our Heritage

Aim: Conserve and, where practicable, enhance Hungerford's natural and historic environment.

Objective N: Conserve and enhance the character and historic environment of the town and parish.

Objective O: Improve the approaches to the town by road, rail and canal to create favourable first impressions and a soft boundary between the countryside and the town.

Objective P: Protect the landscape around Hungerford and support its conservation.

Objective Q: Enhance the environment of Hungerford High Street and Bridge Street between the Bridge Street/A4 roundabout and the Atherton Road/High Street roundabout.

Climate Change and Biodiversity

Aim: Hungerford will encourage low carbon development to promote lower energy costs, cleaner air and healthier lifestyles, contributing to the well-being of current and future generations. It will also ensure that development enhances the biodiversity of the parish.

Objective R: Reduce carbon emissions with more energy efficient buildings.

Objective S: Ensure new development protects and enhances biodiversity.

Objective T: Support proposals for individual and community scale renewable energy generation provided the benefits outweigh any adverse impacts.


Objective U: Increase resilience to climate change.


4 HOUSING

Housing mix

Objective B: Ensure that housing development provides a range of house types, sizes and tenures that meets the needs of all age groups and incomes.

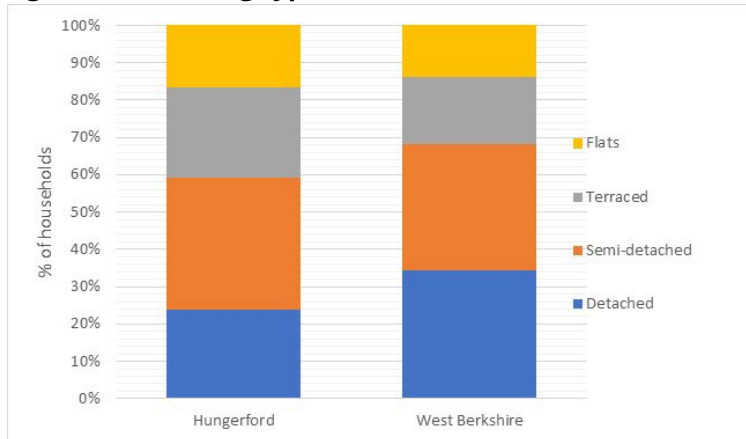
Supporting text

- 4.1 Hungerford has a different housing mix and need to the rest of West Berkshire. As reported in the Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2019², the parish has a much higher proportion of one-person households than West Berkshire which in turn has a higher proportion of families with dependent children. Hungerford has a higher share of older residents while West Berkshire has a higher proportion of younger ones. This is supported by the 2021 Census with 35% of Hungerford's households being single person compared with 27% in West Berkshire; moreover, 20% of Hungerford's population is aged 65 or over compared with 15% in West Berkshire.
- 
- A photograph showing a row of terraced brick houses in Hungerford. The houses are built of red brick with white window frames and doors. A blue car is parked on the street in front of the houses. The sky is overcast.

- 4.2 Over the period 2011 to 2021, the number of households in Hungerford grew by 95 to 2,695. Of this increase, 72 households were housed in properties of at least 3-beds with just 36 in 1- or 2-bed properties. Figure 4.1 shows the breakdown of housing by type in Hungerford in 2021 compared with West Berkshire as a whole. This shows that semi-detached and terraced housing dominates Hungerford's stock. Such housing typically provides the bulk of 2- and 3-bed housing. 60% of Hungerford's stock of properties are at least 3 bedrooms in size.
- 
- A photograph of a semi-detached brick house in Hungerford. The house is built of red brick with white window frames and a white door. There is a small hedge in front of the house. The sky is overcast.

²AECOM (2019) *Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment (HNA)*, for Hungerford Town Council

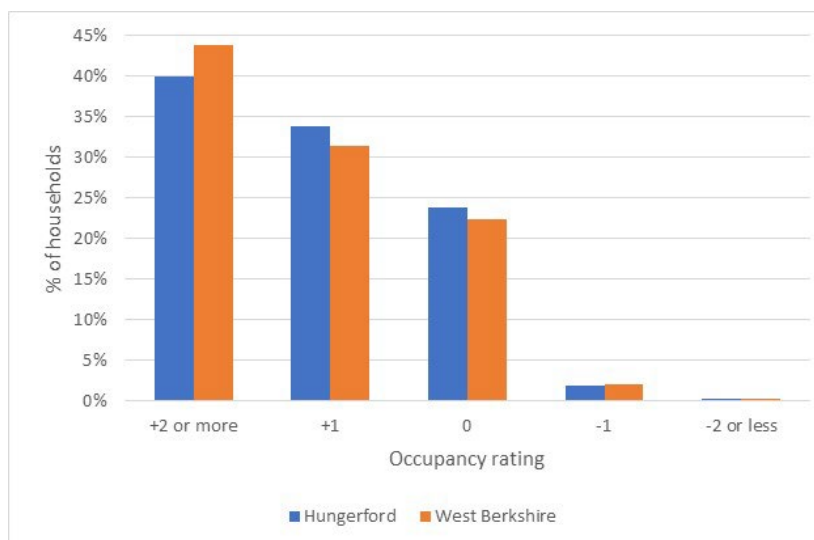
Figure 4.1: Housing type, 2021



Source: 2021 Census

- 4.3 This is not only the case historically but been continuing more recently. Housing development in West Berkshire in recent years has been skewed towards larger housing. Whilst this creates the potential for growth in family households, it does not address the needs of the ageing population; in 2021, 29% of Hungerford's households were aged over 65. The Hungerford HNA forecast that this would increase to 48% by 2036. If one looks at the household profile of Hungerford in 2021, the picture is the same – 62% of households are either single person or a co-habiting couple. These households may choose to have, but do not necessarily require family-sized housing.
- 4.4 This is supported by occupancy rate analysis. Figure 4.2 shows the occupancy rate of houses in Hungerford and West Berkshire in 2021. A +1 or +2 figure means that a house is under-occupied, i.e., it has either 1 or 2 more bedrooms than required by that size of household. Conversely, a -1 or -2 figure means a house is over-occupied, i.e., over-crowded. This shows that Hungerford has significant levels of under-occupation with 40% of households having at least 2 spare bedrooms. Again, this supports the profile of a housing stock that is increasingly not meeting the needs of the changing population.

Figure 4.2: Occupancy rate, 2021



Source: 2021 Census

- 4.5 ~~Policy CS4 in the West Berkshire Core Strategy requires development to provide an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the housing needs of all sectors of the community. This should have regard to the evidence of housing need and demand from Housing Market Assessments and other relevant sources. Similarly, Policy SP18~~**SP15** in the ~~emerging~~ West Berkshire Local Plan Review **requires development proposals to contribute to the delivery of an appropriate mix of dwelling tenures, types and sizes. The supporting text to policy SP15 sets a specific 'base mix' which is taken from its the West Berkshire Local Housing Needs Assessment Update 2022³. However, reflecting the fact that Hungerford has a different housing mix and need to the rest of West Berkshire, the Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2019⁴ recommends a different mix. The Hungerford HNA identifies that the housing types most likely to meet the needs of the Hungerford demographic profile are detached and semidetached houses, with a rising number of flats and maisonettes as the population ages. It goes on to recommend that bungalows should be promoted to meet the demands of a growing elderly population. The recommended split is shown in Table 4.1 below.**

Table 4.1: Mix of housing by size recommended for Hungerford

No. of bedrooms	Recommended split
1	22.7%
2	15.8%
3	29.9%
4	22.1%
5+	9.5%

Source: Hungerford HNA 2019, Table 6-20

- 4.6 ~~Emerging West Berkshire~~-Local Plan ~~Review~~ Policy ~~SP18~~**SP15** requires a mix of dwelling sizes reflecting its requirements on all developments of 10 dwellings or more. However, Hungerford is likely to see a proportion of its growth over the plan period on smaller developments through windfall development. Such developments – which could be up to 9 properties – should still be expected to deliver the housing needed in Hungerford. As such, the requirement to deliver a mix of properties also applies to developments of between 5 and 9 dwellings. Below 5 dwellings there is limited potential to deliver a mix.

POLICY HUNG1: HOUSING MIX

1. To address the identified housing needs in Hungerford, developments of 5 dwellings or more should provide a mix of dwelling sizes (market and affordable) and types that reflect the requirements of the Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment 2019 or any successor document or other appropriate local evidence.
2. ~~Any departure from this mix shall only be permitted in the following circumstances:~~
 - a. ~~Any physical site factors that limit the mix.~~

³ Icen (2022) *West Berkshire Updated Housing Needs Assessment Update*, for West Berkshire District Council

⁴ AECOM (2019) *Hungerford Housing Needs Assessment*, for Hungerford Town Council

- b. ~~If there is clear evidence for the need for a particular type of housing, e.g., specialist older persons' housing such as bungalows.~~
- 2. **In determining any departure from the recommended mix, regard will be given to:**
 - a. any physical or site factors which limit the mix;
 - b. the location;
 - c. **if there is clear evidence for the need for a particular type of housing, e.g. specialist older persons' housing such as bungalows;**
 - d. **site specific viability.**

Rural Exception Sites

- 4.7 Rural Exception Sites are small-scale affordable housing developments that are next to an existing settlement boundary, in a designated rural area. Affordable housing built on Rural Exception Sites is retained as affordable housing for people with a local connection to the parish in perpetuity. Hungerford Parish is eligible for Rural Exception Site schemes, and Penny Farthing Close off Smitham Bridge Road is one such site in Hungerford.
- 4.8 However, it is important that local affordable housing need is demonstrated through an up-to-date Housing Needs Survey before a Rural Exception Site scheme can proceed. There are mechanisms in place to ensure that once homes are built it is local people who benefit from these new homes.

NON-POLICY ACTION A: Rural Exception Sites

Support the introduction of rural exception sites provided:

- a. the homes on the scheme meet a demonstratable local need for affordable homes from people with a local connection to the parish, which is established from an up-to-date Housing Need Survey; and
- b. the scheme is designed to respect the character of the local area including the countryside setting and
- c. residents meet the requirements of the Local Connections Policy to be defined by Hungerford Town Council, and which may be limited to the following conditions: (i) current resident of the parish; (ii) immediate family is resident of the parish; (iii) employment in the parish for a minimum of three years.

5 DESIGN AND CHARACTER

Objective C: Seek to ensure that new development respects the character of its neighbourhood whilst embracing high quality design principles and modern energy efficiency standards.

Supporting text

- 5.1 The design of new development in Hungerford parish is important. It needs to respect the locally distinctive character. Policy SP7 (Design Quality) of the West Berkshire ~~emerging~~ Local Plan **Review** requires development to take opportunities that are available for conserving and enhancing the character, appearance and quality of an area and the way it functions.
- 5.2 There are two Conservation Areas within the town boundary. A large one covering the town centre and a smaller one at Eddington. A significant feature in the town are the well preserved burgage plots to the rear of the High Street, mostly 11 yards wide.
- 5.3 Hungerford does not have a homogenous style of design. The Conservation Areas have been effective in demonstrating how different buildings can sit alongside one another and represent good quality design. Hungerford's community has a desire to see this eclectic mix of styles continue, provided quality is maintained. In particular within the context of new development outside the town centre and Conservation Areas, the concern is twofold: that large developments will seek homogeneity of design and that parking and movement, if not properly managed, can erode the character of Hungerford's neighbourhoods. Ensuring that a high quality of design is achieved is crucial.
- 5.4 Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not supported by a specific set of detailed design codes, the principles of ~~the~~ West Berkshire ~~emerging~~ Local Plan **Review** Policy SP7 – which itself references the National Design Guide – are reinforced with respect to these specific local issues of diversity and movement.
- 5.5 In addition, ~~emerging~~ **West Berkshire** Local Plan **Review** Policy SP1 expects residential development to achieve a net density of 30 dwellings per hectare, with higher densities achievable in Hungerford town centre. Further guidance is provided by the West Berkshire Density Pattern Book⁵.

⁵ David Lock Associates (2019) *West Berkshire Density Pattern Book*, for West Berkshire Council

POLICY HUNG2: DESIGN AND CHARACTER

1. Development should demonstrate high quality design and layout which respects the local character of Hungerford parish.
2. In delivering high quality design, development proposals must demonstrate the appropriate use of building design, layout, materials and features. The following principles should be considered as part of design proposals:
 - a. Development should integrate with and enhance the form of its existing surroundings, with all connections including road patterns ensuring permeability for cyclists and pedestrians where appropriate.
 - b. An eclectic mix of styles, range of densities (for major residential developments and aligning with the density requirements of West Berkshire emerging Local Plan Policy SP1), house types (where appropriate) and plot layouts should be used.
 - c. Building heights and rooflines should provide diversity of frontage, scale and form, with building heights that are not materially higher than the prevailing height of surrounding buildings unless it can be demonstrated that a taller building could complement or enhance the local character.
 - d. ~~Parking should be provided within the development in accordance with West Berkshire District Council parking standards.~~

Landscape and Town approaches

Objective O: Improve the approaches to the town by road, rail and canal to create favourable first impressions and a soft boundary between the countryside and the town.

Objective P: Protect the landscape around Hungerford and support its conservation.

Supporting text

- 5.6 The parish of Hungerford is entirely within the North Wessex National Landscape. The predominantly rural area includes arable fields, meadows, different types of woods, Hungerford Common, the Marsh, pockets of designated landscape such as Chilton Park and Hungerford Park, Standen Manor and Eddington. There are also several historic farmsteads.
- 5.7 The purpose of this National Landscape designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. It is a national designation and, therefore, represents a significant level of protection from inappropriate development. Nevertheless, this does not prevent all development and it is important that the growth and change of Hungerford over time continues to respect the role of the National Landscape.
- 5.8 Of relevance to this are the entry **and exit** points into Hungerford along main and smaller routes. These include Bath Road (A4), Charnham Street, the B4192, North Standen Road, Park Street, Salisbury Road and Priory Road. These provide a range of views of the entry **and exit** to the town as you move from countryside to urban area **and vice versa**. Most provide a soft, rural feel that only becomes more visually urbanised comparatively close to the main built-up area of the town. It is important that any development retains this soft feel.



Bath Road and Priory Road gateways – good examples of a rural feel with significant landscaping

- 5.9 The overall setting of the town, with an abundance of trees and shrubs, is important for ~~preserving~~ **conserving and enhancing** its identity. In this regard, its gateways are key to this. Any development that might occur in the future along the gateway routes into and out of Hungerford therefore needs to ensure that the transition from rural countryside to urban settlement is gradual, avoiding dense, bulky buildings with large, bare walls as the first built development one sees on entering the town. Development can achieve this through effective landscaping buffers along boundaries, including lining the gateway routes with trees, and through ensuring that development avoids creating an overly dense feel close to the gateways.
- 5.10 Equally significant gateways to Hungerford are the routes in along the Kennet and Avon Canal. Whilst not subject to the same levels or types of traffic as the road routes, it is important that the impression of Hungerford by those travelling along the Canal is a positive one. These users tend to be tourists who, if they feel compelled to stop in Hungerford, will increase spending in the local area. A good first impression is important to this. Engagement between Hungerford Town Council, West Berkshire **District** Council, the Canal and River Trust and Sustrans would help to shape ideas for positive improvements.
- 5.11 The gateways are shown on Figure 5.1.

POLICY HUNG3: IMPORTANT GATEWAYS INTO AND OUT OF HUNGERFORD TOWN

~~A. Development proposals adjacent to the gateways into Hungerford town should demonstrate, where appropriate, how they contribute to creating a gradual transition from rural countryside to urban settlement (and vice versa). Development proposals should avoid creating an overly dense feel and, where appropriate, planting or other natural boundary treatments should be used to mitigate the impact of development and retain the open feel. This could include the use of trees to line the gateway routes.~~

1. Development proposals should conserve and enhance the rural setting of the important gateways into Hungerford. Proposals should include appropriate landscaping which minimises the impact of development upon the open character of the countryside.

2. The important gateways into Hungerford town are on the following approaches:

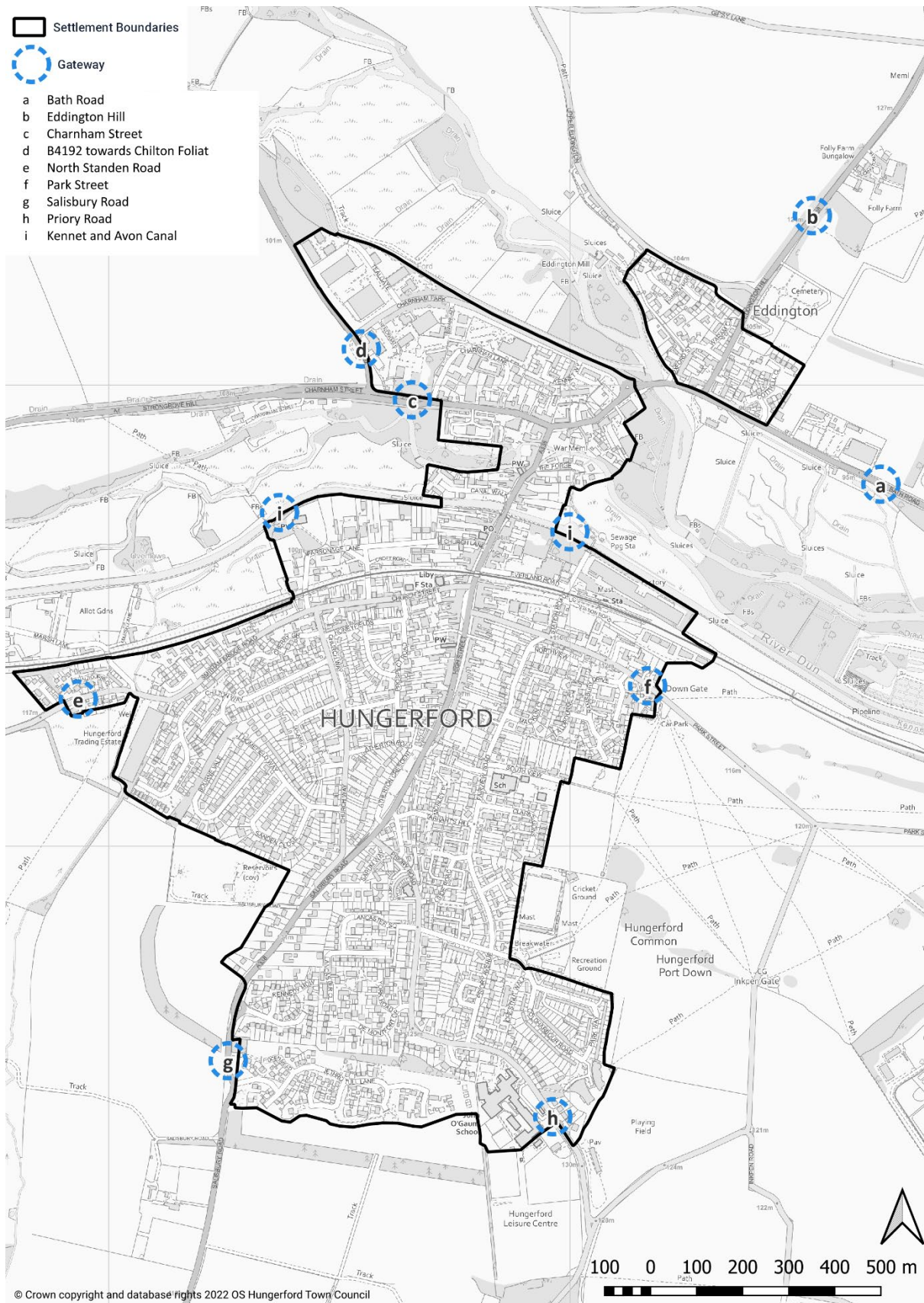
- a. Bath Road
- b. Eddington Hill
- c. Charnham Street
- d. B4192 (towards Chilton Foliat)
- e. North Standen Road
- f. Park Street
- g. Salisbury Road
- h. Priory Road
- i. Kennet and Avon Canal

- 5.12 One other gateway into the town is provided from the railway station. This is a slightly different issue to other gateways, in that it is situated within the built-up area of the town as trains pull into and out of Hungerford station. Environmental improvements either side of the railway line by the railway operator and Network Rail would greatly enhance the visual appearance of this gateway.

NON-POLICY ACTION B: CONSERVATION OF HUNGERFORD'S LANDSCAPE

Support the charities and agencies which are responsible for the conservation of the landscape around Hungerford.

Figure 5.1: Important gateways into Hungerford town



Heritage

Objective N: Conserve and enhance the character and historic environment of the town and parish.

Supporting text

- 5.13 The parish of Hungerford has a significant history, much of which is still evident today. This is demonstrated by the list of nationally designated heritage assets contained in Appendix A.
- 5.14 The main Conservation Area in the town was designated in 1974 and covers much of the town centre and there is a smaller one at Eddington. West Berkshire has started a project to re-appraise the Conservation Areas in the district. Most of the work is being done by local people with assistance from West Berkshire District Council and Hungerford has a group of people that are interested in doing this job. Preparations are now being made to collate the existing background information and create the base document, in advance of doing the 'footwork' necessary to review the two Conservation Areas in Hungerford Parish. Once this work has been completed and the appraisal formally adopted it will outline the items of special interest particular to that Conservation Area and proposals for its preservation and enhancement. It will then act as a framework that guides future development in the Conservation Area.
- 5.15 In addition, Hungerford parish has 139 listed buildings, all grade II listed and three of these have grade II* status. The vast majority of the listed buildings are located along the High Street. It also has one scheduled monument, the bowl barrow on Barrow Hill in Hungerford Newtown. These listed buildings and monuments already have a protected status through Local Plan policy.
- 5.16 A particular issue in Hungerford is the quality of refurbishment of listed buildings and the Conservation Area. It is important that the energy efficiency of buildings is maximised, but this has often been used as justification for replacement features, particularly windows, that are not considered in keeping with the heritage of the building in question. It is now possible to source energy efficient wooden window frames and other replacement features in similar materials that are sympathetic to heritage concerns. These should be used unless there is clear justification why not.
- 5.17 There are a number of buildings in Hungerford which, whilst not worthy of national listing, do have local heritage merit. These 'non-designated heritage assets' can be identified and, where appropriate, added to the West Berkshire Local List of Heritage Assets.



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POLICY HUNG4: RETROFITTING HISTORIC BUILDINGS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

1. The sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures in historic buildings will be encouraged, including the retrofitting of listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas, provided that it safeguards the historic characteristics of these heritage assets. A whole building approach is encouraged.
2. Where this is to be achieved through measures to reduce heat loss, this could include secondary, double or triple glazing in conservation areas and secondary and slimline double glazing in listed buildings. Such measures should seek to use timber framed windows **from sustainable sources**, with alternative materials only permitted where it is demonstrated that this would not result in harm to the significance of listed buildings or character and appearance of conservation areas.
3. The sensitive retrofitting of solar panels in the Conservation Area is encouraged, provided they are of a design that integrates well with the existing architecture and does not compromise the visual integrity of the Conservation Area.

5.18 Other heritage objectives O, P and Q are covered elsewhere in the plan: O & P earlier in Section 5 and Q in Section 6. These objectives specifically look to address improvements to the public realm of Hungerford town and also the heritage landscape character of the approaches to the town.



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NON-POLICY ACTION C: IDENTIFY NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Undertake a review of non-designated heritage assets (buildings of heritage merit which are not nationally listed) and seek their addition to the West Berkshire Local List of Heritage Assets.

6 ECONOMY

Hungerford Town Centre

Objective D: Encourage businesses and support initiatives, including those which promote a vibrant high street and increase the range of shops, services and eating places in the town for the benefit of residents, tourists and visitors of all ages. Recognise that Hungerford acts as a service centre providing facilities to neighbouring villages.

Objective Q: Enhance the environment of Hungerford High Street and Bridge Street between the Bridge Street/A4 roundabout and the Atherton Road/High Street roundabout.

Supporting text

- 6.1 Hungerford town centre (see Figure 6.1) has been at the heart of Hungerford's role as a market town for many centuries. It has always thrived and continues to do so despite the changing ways that modern communities use their town centres. It will be important that Hungerford continues to adapt to the needs of the community. Hungerford is also a tourist venue which brings significant spending into the town. It is vital that this continues to be nurtured so that local shops, restaurants and facilities which rely on this trade can prosper.
- 6.2 A town centre strategy for Hungerford has been prepared by West Berkshire District Council⁶ in partnership with Hungerford's stakeholders and local residents. The purpose of the study is to develop a set of ideas that will enable Hungerford Town Centre to adapt and respond to the continuing changes in what is demanded of a town centre. This has been informed by the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6.3 The key issues that the Town Centre Strategy proposes projects to address align closely with a number of the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives:
- Encouraging tourism by promoting Hungerford's heritage.
 - Encouraging visitors to stay longer and explore more of the town centre.
 - Promoting the use of the canal and green spaces for recreation and leisure.
 - Integrating community facilities within the town centre.
 - Reducing the impact of traffic on the High Street.
 - Increasing opportunities for independent cafes, restaurants, retail and other start-up businesses.
 - Improving space for indoor and outdoor markets and events.
 - Improving walking routes to the High Street from car parks and the railway station.
 - Enhancing arrival to the town centre.

⁶ New Masterplanning, Urban Movement and Hemingway Design (2023) *Hungerford Town Centre Strategy: Final Draft*, for West Berkshire District Council

- 6.4 The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to endorse specific projects in the Town Centre Strategy. However, there is a common desire to address the issues that were identified through the survey work that was used to inform the Strategy. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide an appropriate policy framework to realise this.
- 6.5 Convenient and adequate car parking is important to the success of the town centre. On Wednesdays when it is market day there is an under supply, which is a classic market town problem with the street market taking up parking at the very time when there is most demand. Queuing traffic from the Tesco car park regularly extends onto the High Street which blocks the main road. Additional short stay off street parking would be welcomed.



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- 6.6 In order to protect the retail uses in Hungerford, it is important that the main retail area – signified by the Primary Shopping Areas – is retained for mainly retail uses. The existing uses provide a good balance of shops and services which underpin the heart of the town centre. If these ground floor units are lost to other uses then it will harm the vitality of the town as a whole.
- ~~6.7 As part of the development of the Plan, the Primary Shopping Areas have been reviewed. On the eastern side of the High Street, the Primary Shopping Areas has been extended to incorporate a number of shops and services that are integral to the success of the town centre. More detail of this extension is provided in Appendix B. Figure 6.1 shows the full extent of the extended Primary Shopping Area.~~



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Figure 6.1: Hungerford Town Centre

POLICY HUNG5: RETAINING AND ENHANCING THE VITALITY AND VIABILITY OF HUNGERFORD TOWN CENTRE

1. To secure the ongoing vitality and viability of Hungerford Town Centre Commercial Area, proposals which protect, enhance and promote a diverse range of main town centre uses – including retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural and community – will be encouraged.

Primary Shopping Areas

2. To maintain the vitality and viability of the Hungerford Town Centre Commercial Area, the predominant uses in the primary shopping areas, as shown on the Policies Map, are expected to be retail (Use Class E(a)). Proposals for non-Class E uses will only be permitted where they do not result in a disproportionate concentration of non-Class E units that would be harmful to the vitality and viability of Hungerford Town Centre.

Temporary uses

Not all temporary uses require planning permission. Where planning permission is required:

3. The use of premises for main town centre uses on a temporary basis will be encouraged in the Hungerford Town Centre. Such uses include 'pop up' shops and cultural, creative and leisure uses introduced on a temporary basis or for specific events.
4. Such uses must demonstrate that they will not have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring uses (noise, odour, waste, servicing, highways and parking).

Public realm

5. Proposals which enhance the quality and accessibility (specifically for pedestrians and disabled users) of the public realm in Hungerford Town Centre will be supported.

NON-POLICY ACTION D: HUNGERFORD TOWN CENTRE

- i. Work with West Berkshire District Council, local businesses and business groups to deliver the main initiatives which promote a vibrant high street.
- ii. Enhance Hungerford High Street and Bridge Street between Charnham Street and Atherton Road by slowing traffic and improving the pedestrian and cycling environment.

iii. Support the introduction of additional off street short stay car parking within easy reach of the town centre.

Employment

Objective E: Promote an increase in the number and quality of employment opportunities within and around the town.

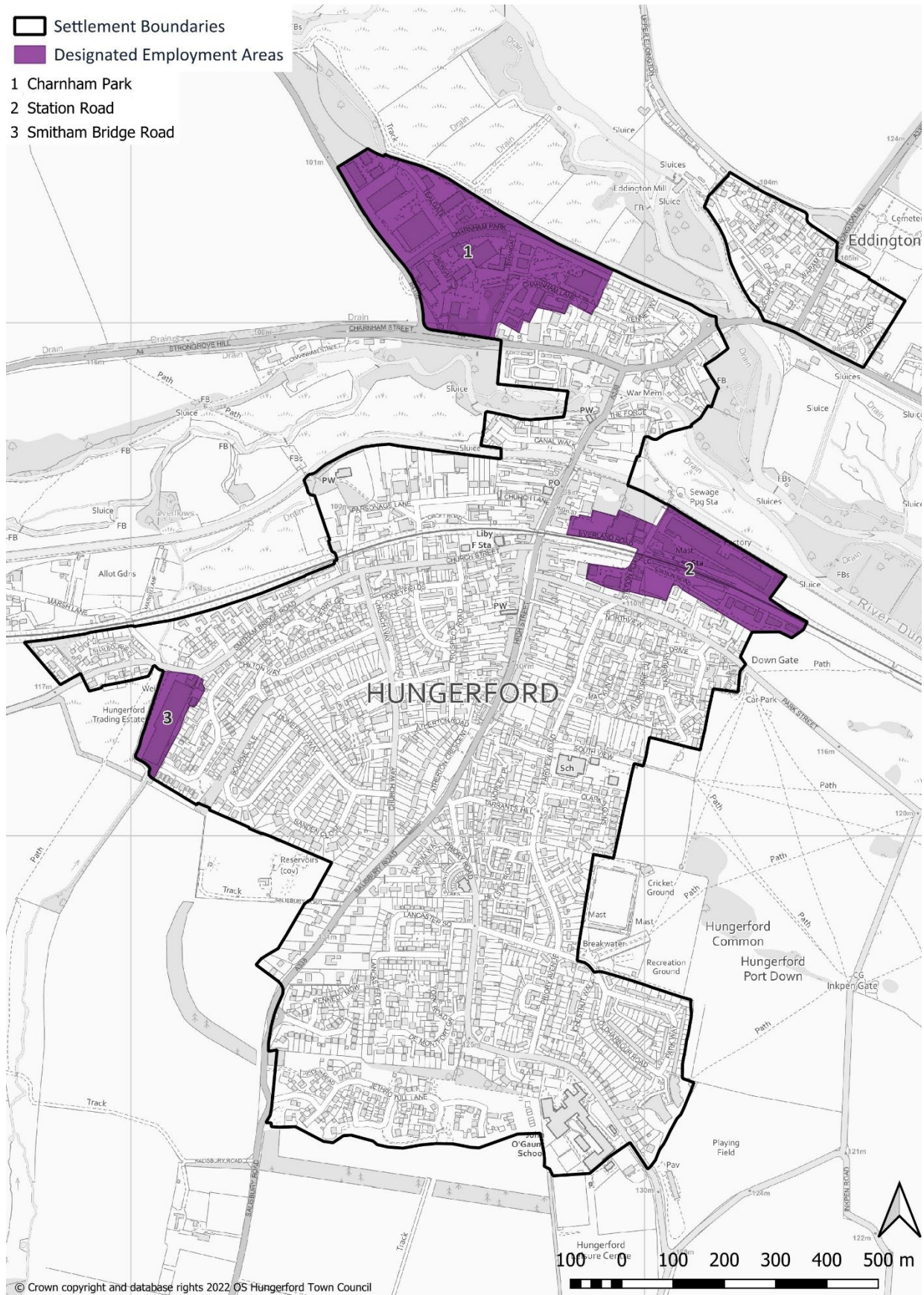
Supporting text

- 6.7 Hungerford has three ~~Protected~~ **Designated** Employment Areas, at Charnham Park, Station Road and Smitham Bridge Road (see Figure 6.12). These are the main centres for traditional office and light industrial employment in the town. West Berkshire Local Plan policy protects these areas from loss of employment use. For Hungerford to thrive it is important that these centres are successful but that other opportunities to provide a wide range of employment within the town and, where appropriate, the wider parish are also taken.



- 6.8 The Station Road employment area has some significant access difficulties for goods vehicles. The junctions of Park Street with the High Street and Station Road are particularly constrained and sub-standard. Those sites north of the railway also require crossing the railway line at the level crossing. Relocation of the employment uses which generate heavy goods vehicle movements to and from this area would be welcomed.

Figure 6.12: Protected ~~Protected~~ Designated Employment Areas



- 6.9 There is a need to provide space, ideally on flexible terms, for micro-businesses to help establish new businesses in the town. The Barrs Yard area was set up as a mixed use enterprise centre with small units with some retail. Since this time it has become almost entirely retail. Several employment sites have been set up outside of Hungerford town in farm or equestrian buildings such as at Leverton to the north of the town. Figure 6.32 shows six locations known about, although it is acknowledged that there are likely to be several others; evidence from archaeology officers at West Berkshire District Council is that there are over 20 historic farmsteads in the parish. Some of these which provide employment have developed informally and offer starter unit type facilities. However, key concerns with these sites are goods vehicle access along narrow lanes and car dependence for access to employment and visitors. There are business and access advantages in having a concentrated location within the town which could form an enterprise hub or centre.
- 6.10 Tourism is important for the town as referred in Section 2 (para 2.23) and there is considerable potential to develop this further. The High Street, the burgage plots, Bridge Street and Charnham Street still retain much of the historic integrity. It is surrounded by beautiful and unspoilt countryside in the National Landscape. There is the canal and excellent road and rail links which suggests that the town should be a greater draw for visitors.

NON-POLICY ACTION E: EMPLOYMENT IN HUNGERFORD

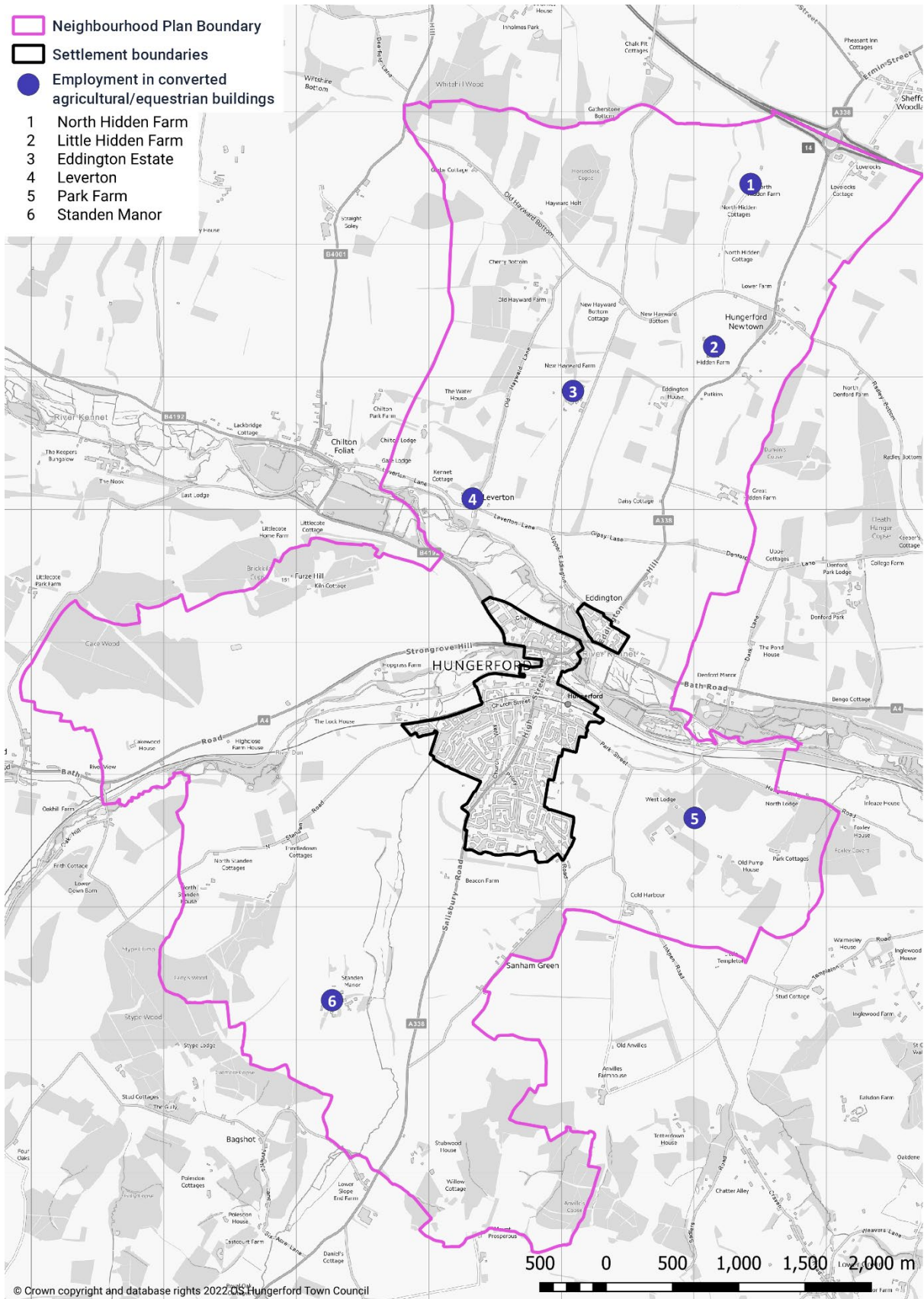
- i. Work with local businesses, business groups and West Berkshire District Council Economic Development Team to promote an increase in the number and quality of employment opportunities within the town.**
- ii. Encourage the relocation of occupiers of the Station Road employment area sites which generate heavy goods vehicle movements via Park Street to more appropriate locations.**
- iii. Investigate the establishment of an additional enterprise centre for the town.**
- iv. Ensure employment uses at farm or equestrian buildings address the impacts of traffic and especially heavy goods vehicles.**

NON-POLICY ACTION F: TOURISM IN HUNGERFORD

- i. Promote Hungerford as an historic market town for visitors.**
- ii. Consider a review of the allocation of road space to provide drop-off and parking facilities for coaches in order to align with the requirements of the Town Square project.**
- iii. Work with local organisations to promote Hungerford as a tourist destination such as the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Visit Newbury and the Great West Way.**

- iv. Continue to emphasise Hungerford's role in the antiques trade, historical surroundings, the canal and the 'Great West Way' initiative.**

Figure 6.32: Employment in Converted Agricultural /Equestrian Buildings



7 GETTING ABOUT

Objective F: Minimise the effects of traffic in the town centre and especially the High Street for the benefit of pedestrians and all road users.

Objective G: Increase walking and cycling in the parish.

Objective H: Encourage public transport usage in the parish.

Supporting text

- 7.1 In terms of trying to positively influence future patterns of movement into and around Hungerford town, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to focus on making improvements for pedestrians and cyclists in order to encourage more walking and cycling. Linking the new housing allocations, as well as the existing parts of the town, into a network of safe walking and cycling routes is vital to encourage more walking/cycling and less use of the car. Such improvements have a range of benefits including:
- Providing genuine alternatives to the private car as a means of accessing key shops and services, the schools and other community facilities.
 - Providing health benefits through increased walking.
 - Reducing congestion at busy times by encouraging children to walk to and from school and people to walk to the shops rather than jumping in the car for a short journey.
 - Providing a safer environment for the community of Hungerford, including vulnerable users.
- 7.2 To help address this, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to improve access to safe and high-quality walking and cycling routes. A series of Key Walk/Cycle routes has been identified where improvements will have the greatest potential to increase levels of walking and cycling and at the same time reduce pollution and improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Figure 7.1 shows the seven pedestrian routes with potential for improvement (the Key Walk Routes) and how they link up the important, regular destinations (the 'main trip attractors') where residents make regular local journeys. It also shows how many parts of the town are within 300m of these main trip attractors.
- 7.3 Cycle routes with potential for improvement are indicated on Figure 7.2. Most are on road as segregation is rarely possible in the historic street layout. Note also the National Cycle Route No. 4 that routes through the parish in an east to west direction and through the town centre. This is also identified as a key route on Figure 7.2. The NCR route 4 is planned to divert to the canal towpath following improvements, as part of a joint project by Sustrans, the Canal and River Trust and West Berks Council.
- The improvement of these routes for pedestrians and cyclists will be particularly important as development comes forward. This includes ensuring that where possible footways have street lighting and are wide enough to accommodate all users, including disabled users, and

that crossings are provided as necessary. Where appropriate traffic calming and improvements to enhance pedestrian and cyclist priority will also be supported.

Figure 7.1: Key Walk Routes

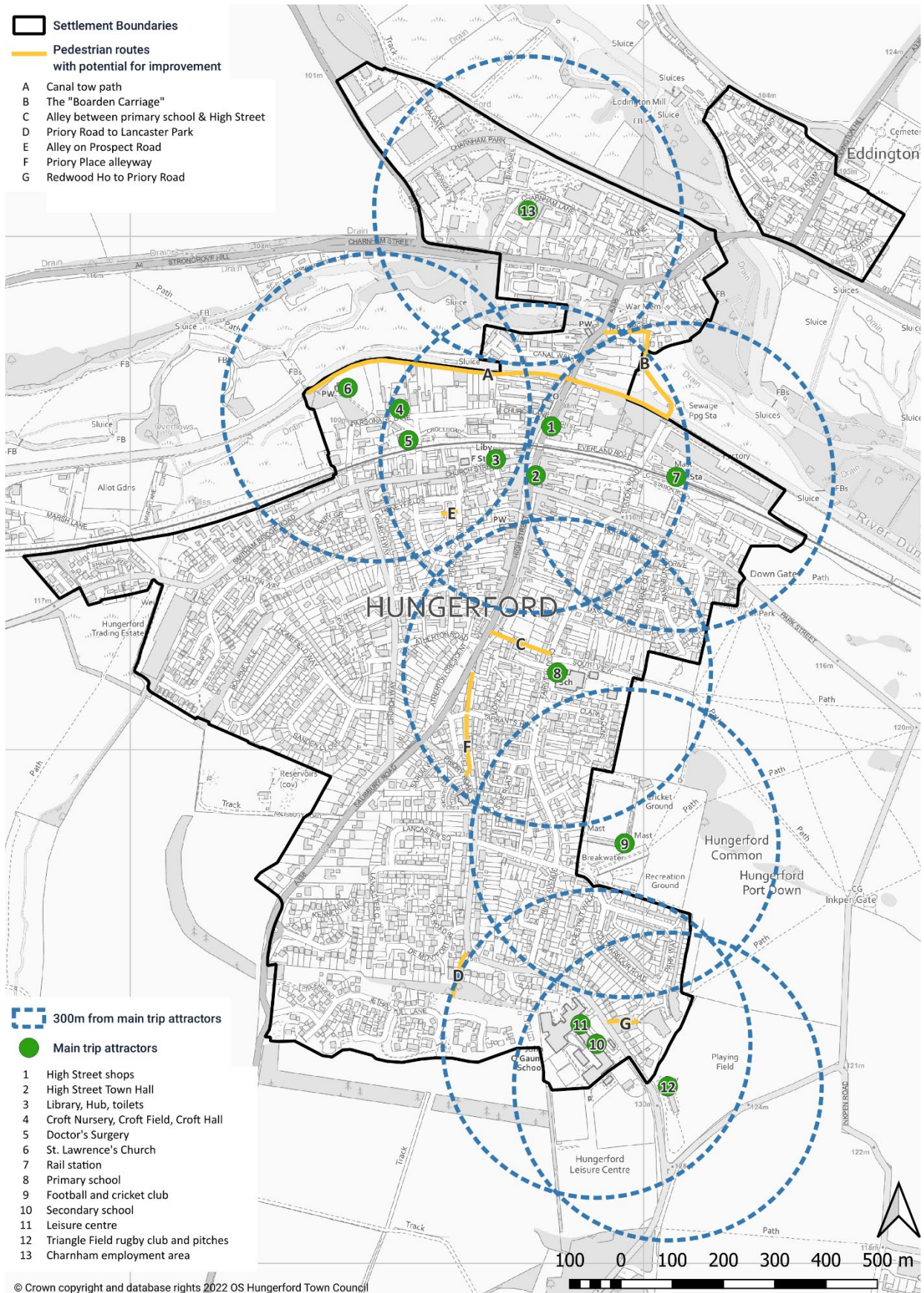
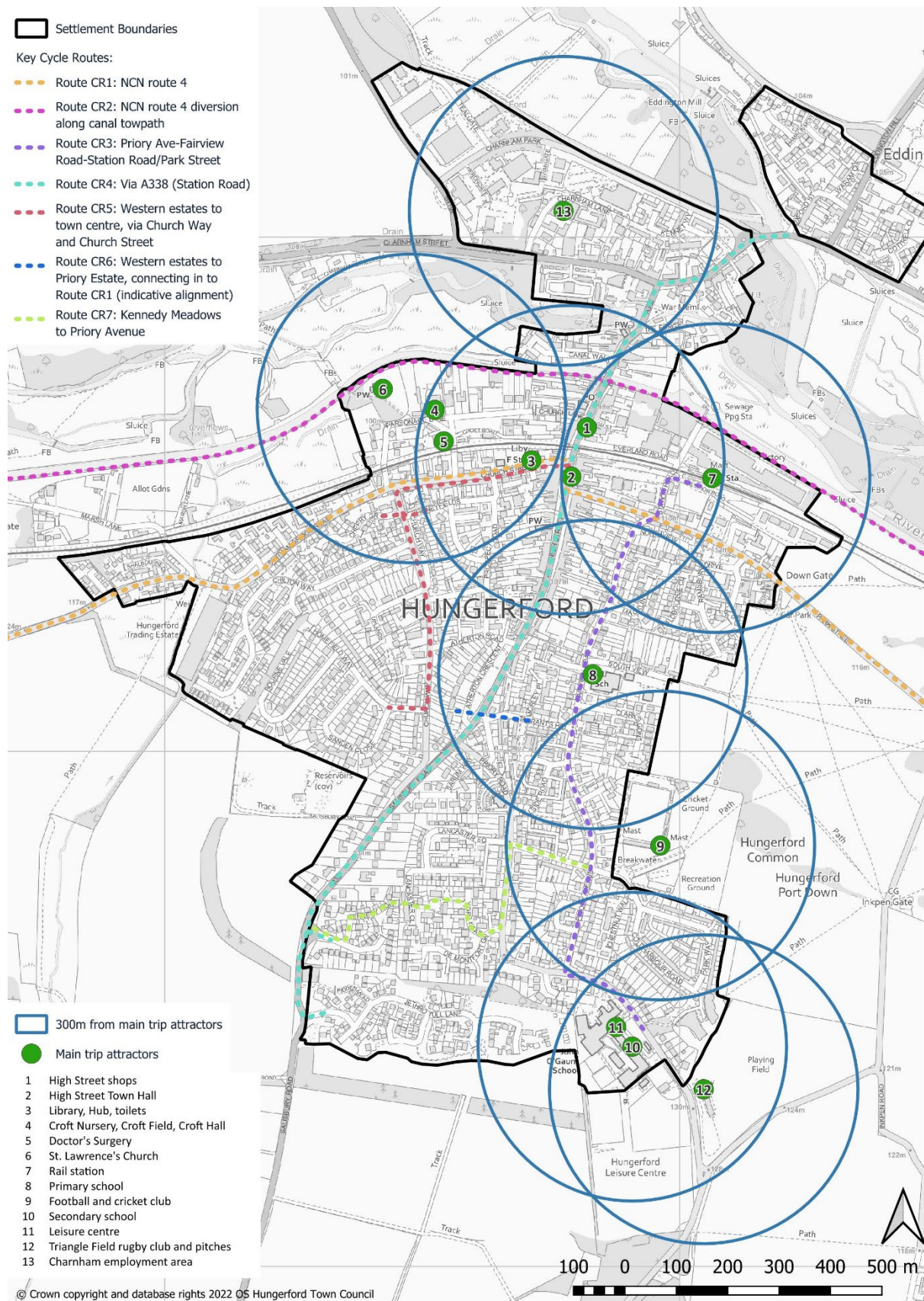


Figure 7.2: Key Cycle Routes



POLICY HUNG6: KEY WALK/CYCLE ROUTES

- 1. Development proposals which would improve cycling and walking in the Neighbourhood Plan area will be supported. In particular, provision of segregated cycle and pedestrian routes will be strongly supported. Such routes should also ensure that access by disabled users, the blind and deaf and users of mobility scooters is secured.**
- 2. To ensure that residents can access public transport facilities, schools, leisure and other important facilities serving Hungerford, where practicable development proposals should ensure safe and continuous pedestrian routes that connect to the Key Walk/Cycle Routes shown on the Policies Map and Figures 7.1 and 7.2.**
- 3. Proposals to enhance the identified Key Walk/Cycle Routes such as those to the canal towpath will be supported.**
- 4. Development proposals should not have an unacceptable impact on the safety and accessibility of Key Walk/Cycle Routes. Development proposals should provide a strategy to mitigate the impact of additional traffic movements on the safety and flow of pedestrian and cycle access on the identified Key Walk/Cycle Routes. Developer contributions will be required to mitigate against any detrimental impact that additional usage may have on existing routes.**
- 5. Development proposals within or close to Hungerford Town Centre Commercial Area that are designed to reduce dependence on car use are strongly encouraged.**

- 7.4 Hungerford benefits from having a rail station with a direct service to London Paddington and routes to the southwest. However, in recent years the direct service has been significantly cut back and facilities at Hungerford Station need improvement. The number of car parking spaces at the station has reduced recently with the Oakes site no longer being available so there is a significant shortfall which is impacting on other car parks in the town. The poor state of the rail station and the reduced service is despite it being an important transport hub for a wide hinterland, being one of only a few stations in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. As the station sign says, Hungerford is at the 'Heart of the Area of Outstanding Beauty'⁷.
- 7.5 HGVs cause problems associated with their size on country lanes and the historic town layout. This is especially the case along Park Street and its junctions as referred to in the Employment Chapter – a particularly common example is where such vehicles turn from the High Street into Park Street and hit buildings on the corner. On a number of narrow and bendy country lanes 'rat-running' is taking place with excess speed and HGVs are causing hazardous situations and verge damage when they meet on-coming traffic. An example is the use by oversized vehicles of Lower Denford, with regular reports of damage to its bridges.

⁷ Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was the former title for what are now referred to as 'National Landscapes'.

- 7.6 As vehicles transition from petrol and diesel to electric (EVs) there will be a reduction in traffic noise and local air quality benefits. However, battery charging infrastructure is required to enable residents and visitors to charge their vehicles.

NON-POLICY ACTION G: TRAFFIC IMPACTS IN HUNGERFORD

- i. **Work with West Berkshire District Council Highways Team to explore possible schemes to minimise the effects of traffic in the town centre and especially the High Street for the benefit of pedestrians and all road users.**
- ii. **Work with the local train operator to improve the rail services and facilities at Hungerford Station by:**
 - a. **Improving rail station facilities to include a warm waiting room with toilets.**
 - b. **Providing addition rail station long stay car parking.**
 - c. **Bringing back 60-minute frequency off-peak direct services between Hungerford and London Paddington.**
 - d. **Enhancing rail services to the West Country and support the Kennet & Avon Rail Partnership which aims to provide regular services between Westbury and Reading.**
- iii. **Discourage the use of Park Street by heavy goods vehicles.**
- iv. **Discourage goods vehicle and rat-running traffic from unsuitable country lanes. Also endeavour to slow this traffic to improve highway safety. These lanes include:**
 - a. **Roads through the Common (Park Street, Inkpen Road & Hungerford Road).**
 - b. **Old Hayward Bottom between the A338 and B4001.**
 - c. **Upper Eddington between the A338 and Leverton Lane.**
 - d. **Leverton Lane and Gipsy Lane between the A338 and B4192.**
 - e. **Inkpen Road through Sanham Green and Hornhills between the Triangle Field and the A338.**
- v. **Support the introduction of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.**



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8 LEISURE, WELLBEING, PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEARNING

Play facilities

Objective I: Protect and maintain existing public playgrounds and open spaces to a high standard and look at ways of increasing the range of facilities provided as the town grows.

Objective J: Support the development of sports, arts, youth clubs, social and leisure facilities, including the widest possible range of activities for young people.

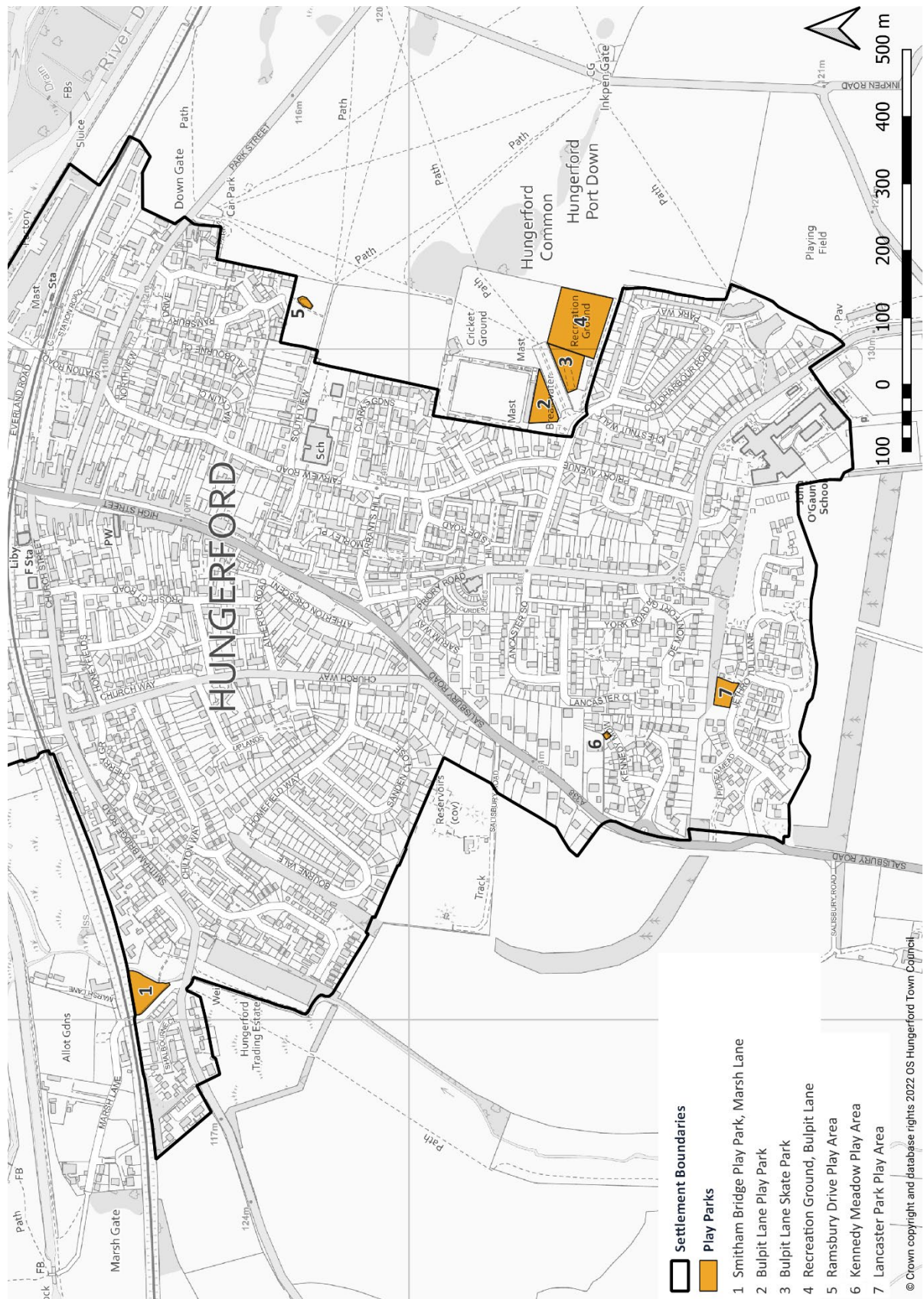
Supporting text

8.1 Play facilities in the town are provided at the following locations as shown on Figure 8.1:

- Bulpit Play Area
- Bulpit skate park
- Smitham Bridge Play Area
- Ramsbury Drive Play Area
- Kennedy Meadows Play Area
- Lancaster Park Play Area



Figure 8.1: Existing play facilities



- 8.2 Most of the above are in good condition and an annual survey is carried out and appropriate maintenance undertaken. The Bulpit play area is the largest and oldest and most years replacement of at least one feature takes place. Maintenance funding would be welcomed to enhance and improve some of the facilities. The skate park refurbishment undertaken in 2023 was part funded by developer contributions. Similarly, contributions will be sought from the site allocations to ensure that the existing play facilities are of a modern standard and provide sufficient play space for the growing population of the town.

POLICY HUNG7: PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES

Development proposals that involve the provision of play and youth facilities to serve the community of Hungerford are strongly encouraged.

NON-POLICY ACTION H: MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY PLAY FACILITIES

- i. Maintain existing public play areas and open spaces used for informal play to a high standard.**
- ii. Where appropriate, provide accessible equipment/facilities for older residents on play areas.**

Leisure and sports facilities

Objective J: Support the development of sports, arts, youth clubs, social and leisure facilities, including the widest possible range of activities for young people.

- 8.3 The Town is well provided for with sports and leisure activities. The main facilities are as follows as shown on Figure 8.2:

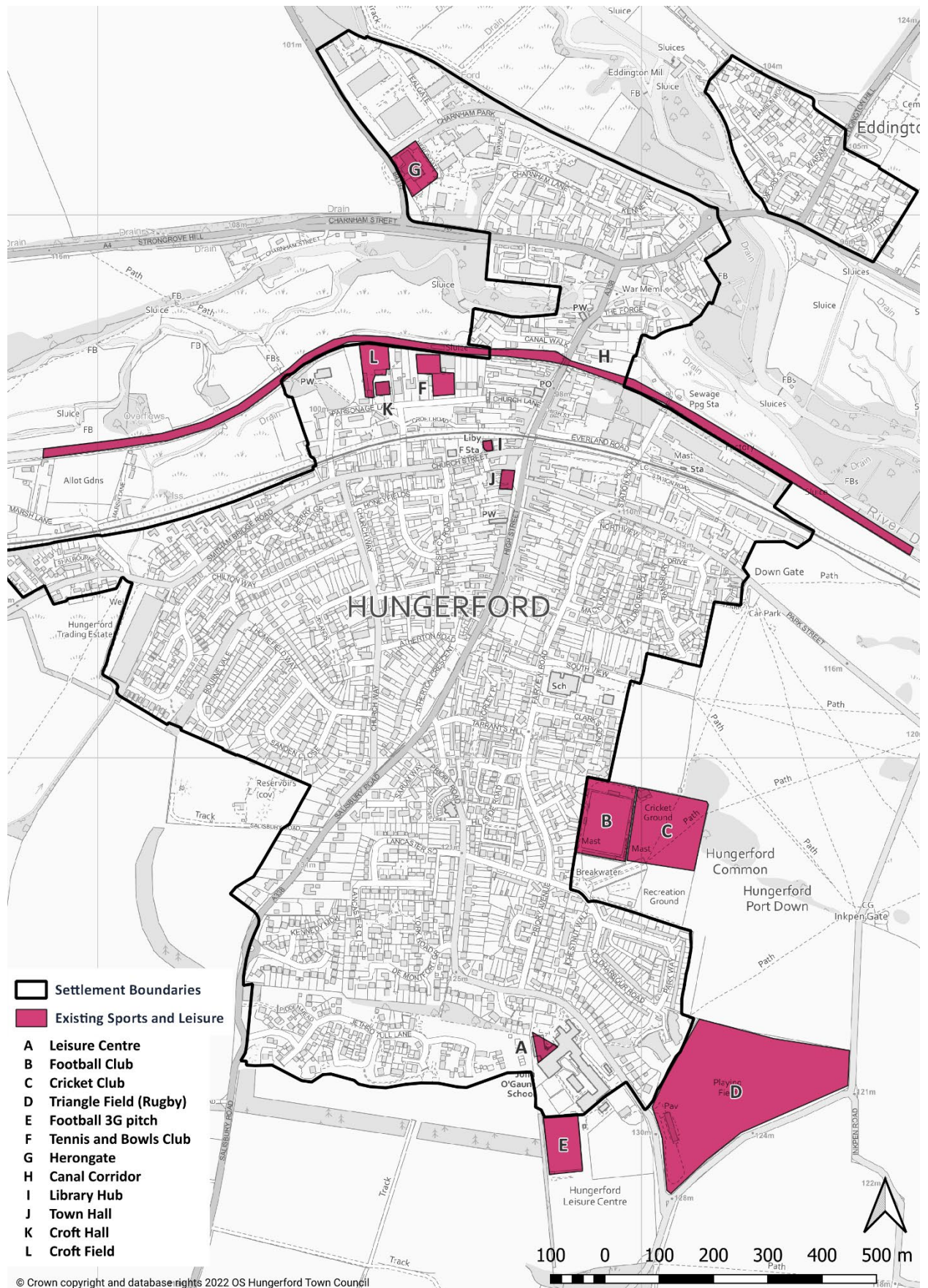
- Hungerford Leisure Centre, which includes a 25m swimming pool, gym and a sports hall.
- Hungerford Town Football Club, this has a small stadium and is currently in the 7th tier of English football.
- The Cricket Club with pavilion.
- The Triangle Field with club house. This has two rugby pitches and is the home of the rugby club. There are two other pitches mainly used for football.



- The football 3G pitch. A pitch was installed in 2023 in the John O' Gaunt school grounds. This is a full sized pitch largely funded by the Football Association.
- Herongate with a swimming pool, squash courts, a gym and other indoor facilities.
- Hungerford Tennis and Bowls Club.
- Canal corridor which facilitates boating, water sports, walking, cycling and other activities.
- Library and hub facilities, which is now run as a charity and includes the Town Council Office.
- The Town Hall, a key building in the town on the High Street with three rooms available.
- The Croft Hall, an arts and craft building with a hall where events regularly take place.
- The Croft Field, which includes a building that was refurbished in 2023 and a field popular for fetes. There is also a scouts hut on the Field.



Figure 8.2: Existing sports and leisure facilities



- 8.4 There is potential to expand facilities, especially to accommodate the needs of the youth sections of sports clubs. The Football Club require new changing room facilities for the club juniors. Also, the Youth Council are keen to have more flexible covered areas and specifically have requested a table tennis hall.



NON-POLICY ACTION I: EXPANDING HUNGERFORD'S FACILITIES

Explore ways of increasing the range of facilities provided as the town grows.

NON-POLICY ACTION J: SUPPORTING YOUTH SPORT

Support youth clubs and the junior sections of local sports clubs. To include support for a junior football changing facilities and a table tennis hall.

Local green spaces

Objective I: Protect and maintain existing public playgrounds and open spaces to a high standard and look at ways of increasing the range of facilities provided as the town grows.

Supporting text

- 8.5 Green spaces are important to Hungerford and the town benefits from several of these within easy reach of residents. Notably there is the Common Port Down to the east and Freeman's Marsh to the west, both owned and managed by the Town and Manor charity. By virtue of the charity's duty to protect and preserve these assets, they are already protected from development along with the Memorial Avenue and the Croft.



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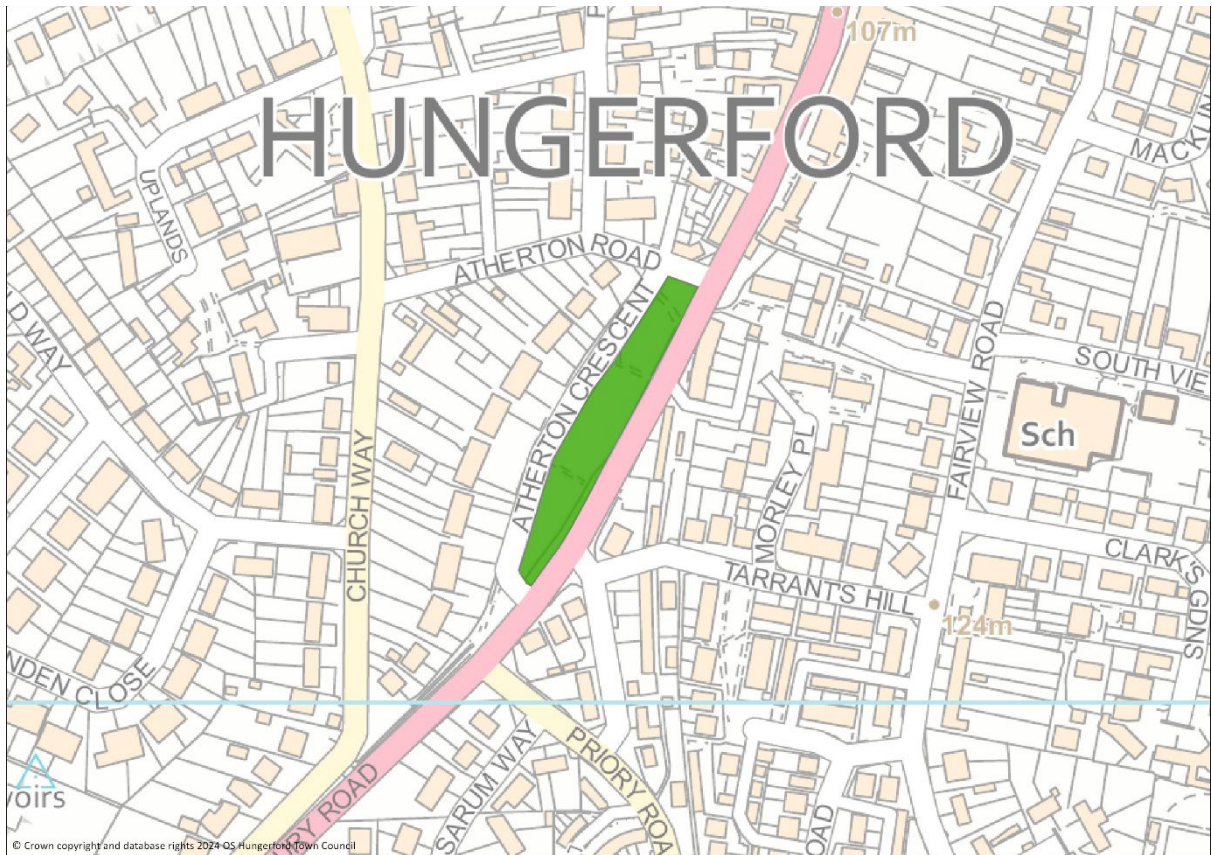
8.6 Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Neighbourhood Plans have the opportunity to designate Local Green Spaces which are of particular importance to them. This will afford protection from development other than in very special circumstances. Paragraph 106 of the NPPF says that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

8.7 The following four areas are considered to fulfil all of the criteria of the NPPF:

- Atherton Crescent green space.
- The canal wharf.
- Land adjacent to Smitham Bridge play area.
- Lancaster Park green spaces.

Atherton Crescent



- 8.8 Atherton Crescent green space is an important frontage to the Crescent on the southern approach to the town centre Conservation area. The Crescent constructed in the early 20th century is set out in a curve that fronts the green space which is essential for the setting of the dwellings. There are a number of significant established trees. In spring the green area is renowned for its carpet of daffodils that are a delight for all those passing through or living in the area. It is enjoyed by residents and others for picnics and dog walking



The canal wharf



- 8.9 The canal wharf is an area to the north of the canal just west of the town bridge. It has several benches, including the first 'friendship bench' in Hungerford and a gentle south facing slope. It functions as a small park and is well used especially at lunch times by residents, employees and visitors. The Rose of Hungerford, a narrow boat offering trips during the summer season, also sets off and returns from the wharf.



Land adjacent to Smitham Bridge Play Area



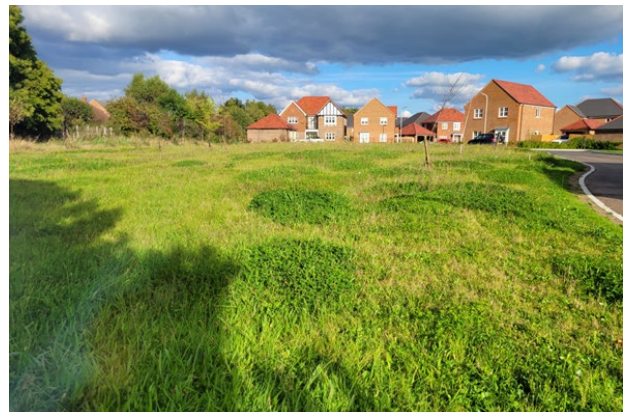
- 8.10 The land adjacent to the Smitham Bridge play area is a plain grassed area that is also next to the Shalbourne Brook chalk stream. It plays an important role in preserving the setting of the Brook and providing a green open space for informal leisure to serve the population in the west of the town.



Lancaster Park green spaces



- 8.11 Lancaster Park is Hungerford's most recent development and benefits from several green spaces which help to retain its character and setting on the edge of the town within the National Landscape. It contains a popular play park and areas for informal leisure.



POLICY HUNG8: LOCAL GREEN SPACES

- 1. The following areas shown on the Policies Map are designated as Local Green Spaces:**
 - a. Atherton Crescent green space**
 - b. The canal wharf**
 - c. Land adjacent to Smitham Bridge play area**
 - d. Lancaster Park green spaces**
- ~~2. Proposals for built development on these Local Green Spaces will not be permitted unless the proposal is for an ancillary feature, and it can be clearly demonstrated that it is required to support or enhance the role and function of the identified Local Green Space.~~
- 2. Decisions on managing development within the Local Green Spaces should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts. Support will be given to proposals that would enhance the value or significance of the Local Green Space.**

Health and wellbeing

Objective K: Support and develop services which assist and encourage people to maintain their own health.

- 8.12 The health and wellbeing of the community in Hungerford is fundamental to its prosperity. This does not only mean access to medical services to address ill health but access to nature and the development of local resilience in matters such as food supply as a way of preventing ill health. Many communities thrive by ensuring that development is embedded into its natural environment with care and in a way that enables its residents to gain the benefits of living in that environment.
- 8.13 Relevant to this is the Environment Act 2021 which requires all development other than at the smallest householder scale to deliver a net biodiversity gain. In other words, it must ensure that there is more biodiversity – at least 10% more – once the development is complete as compared with what is there prior to development. This represents a challenge, particularly for greenfield development, and all avenues to enhance biodiversity need to be considered.
- 8.14 One area where this can be achieved is through the design of green spaces in developments. This means not only the private gardens of houses but the communal green spaces that stitch a development together. Often these spaces are simply laid to grass with limited planting to provide basic landscape buffers. However, the opportunities to reimagine these spaces as places rich in biodiversity and as spaces where people will want to gather and share in their community are substantial. As a minimum, major development that must address flood risk through the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) should be encouraged to design

these so they become havens for wildlife and have amenity value, providing a place for residents and others to enjoy and be closer to nature and green infrastructure.

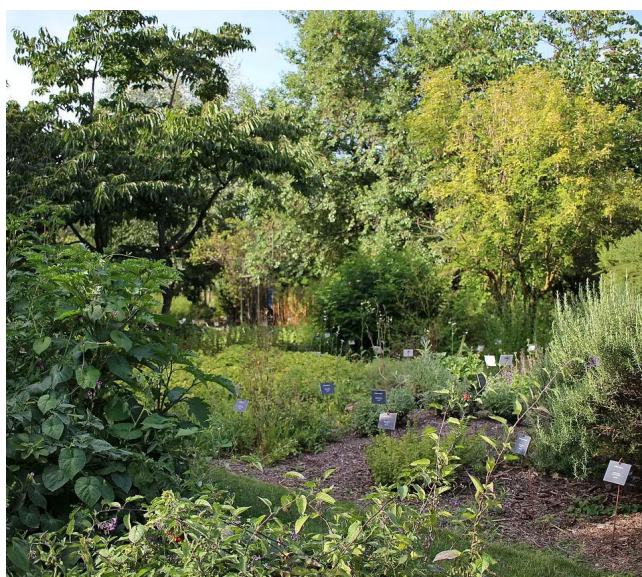


Examples of multi-functional SuDS provision

Credit: Pinterest

Credit: Open House London

- 8.15 Communal spaces also offer the opportunity for community food growing and planting of biodiversity-rich habitats. Food growing in a more natural way that mimics nature – forest gardening – is distinct from allotments which provide more formal growing areas often away from where people live. Such growing can be done by the community that lives there on their doorstep, with this approach having the added advantage of requiring less upkeep.



Examples of forest gardening

Credit: Regenerative Farmers of America

Credit: Ourwildgarden.com

Public Safety

Objective L: Minimise crime and anti-social behaviour in and around the town and parish.

Supporting text

- 8.16 Hungerford has a relatively low crime rate statistically. But, there is crime that notably includes burglaries and traffic incidents. Speeding traffic has become a significant issue and the Common now benefits from a 30mph speed limit. The Town Council has recently introduced some Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), which has helped reduce speeds.
- 8.17 Development should actively seek to demonstrate, through its design, how it will minimise the opportunities for crime to occur. One commonly used framework for this is the Police's 'Secured by Design' framework⁸.



NON-POLICY ACTION K: CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- i. Work in partnership with the police on crime prevention initiatives, such as CCTV.
- ii. Retain the emergency services building (tri service building shown in photo, known as the 'tri-station'), encourage its full use by all forces and support improvement and/or expansion of the facility.
- iii. Reduce traffic speeds by encouraging more enforcement by the police, introducing more Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and trialling of 20mph zones.

⁸ <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/design-guides>

POLICY HUNG9: WELLBEING AND SAFETY THROUGH DESIGN


1. Development should be designed to maximise the wellbeing of its residents, visitors and users. The landscaping and layout of green infrastructure and spaces should demonstrate that all opportunities have been taken to create a high quality environment that people can actively engage with. This should be supported by an appropriate ongoing programme of maintenance, secured through a Section 106 agreement.
- ~~2. Where development is required to mitigate the risk of flooding through use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), these should be designed to be multi-functional and where appropriate, create the opportunity to be enjoyed by residents and/or the community. SuDS should not only be a well-integrated and attractive part of a development but it should be designed where possible for use as public open space.~~
2. Development is encouraged to design green spaces that not only create and enhance habitats for wildlife but create the opportunity for food growing, e.g. food forests.
3. Development proposals must demonstrate, through their design, how they will minimise the opportunities for crime to occur.

Schools

Objective M: Support and enhance the Schools of Hungerford.

- 8.18 Hungerford is a focal point for children's services. The Nursery school not only provides basic educational needs, but is also a centre for a number of parent and children activities offering support and help in learning, development and health areas.
- 8.19 The Croft Nursery School is a successful and popular facility which has had challenges to its funding in recent years. Ensuring that there remains an inflow of young families with children so that pupil demand remain high is important for the future.



- 8.20 Hungerford Primary School is a larger than average primary school currently catering for the needs of about 360 children across 14 classes across two per year group. There are two separate buildings that make up the school and both were originally built in 1910. The school has extensive grounds, a forest school area, an outdoor gym area and large playing fields that back onto Hungerford Common. Approximately 27% of the children have a special educational need and about 30% are classed as disadvantaged.
- 
- 8.21 John O'Gaunt Secondary School has a growing number pupils and has classes from years 7 to 11 (ages 11 to 16). It no longer has a sixth form, but operates as part of the Excalibur Academies Trust group of schools which includes St John's at Marlborough (which has a sixth form). Many of the students are from villages and hamlets surrounding Hungerford and the school offers a wide range of facilities including drama, art and sports in addition to core academic subjects.
- 8.22 Many residents feel that there is not enough provision for young people in Hungerford. Whilst there may be room for improvement in some areas, this view also may be in part due to a lack of publicity. It is important that clubs and organisations maintain a high profile, making information on their activities and facilities available to the general public.

NON-POLICY ACTION L: SCHOOLS

- i. Ensure the Croft Nursery School continues to operate.**
- ii. Support the development of facilities at Hungerford Primary School and John O'Gaunt Secondary School.**
- iii. Encourage the development of a youth council linking up youth with organisations in the town.**

9 CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Sustainable design

Objective R: Reduce carbon emissions with more energy efficient buildings.

- 9.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 committed the UK to an 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050. In June 2019, an announcement was made by Government to reduce this further to almost 100% by 2050. This will be a major task that will require everyone to be engaged, from households and communities, to businesses and local and national government.
- 9.2 In 2016, the residential sector alone accounted for over 16% of the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions (source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). The total emissions from all building types will therefore be much greater. Standards for environmentally sustainable homes and developments are established through Building Regulations and West Berkshire Local Plan policies. However, in order for built development to make a meaningful contribution towards achieving net zero by 2050, development needs to go as far as it possibly can. New developments are required to meet Local Plan policy or, if feasible encouraged to exceed Local Plan Policy requirements. Or, at very least, to ensure that new properties are designed so that they are ready to receive the technologies that are crucial to minimising their energy use, e.g. underfloor heating to increase the effectiveness of heat pumps, buildings orientated south to maximise the potential from solar panels if installed.

Flooding and heating

Objective U: Increase resilience to climate change

Supporting text

- 9.3 Flooding associated with more extreme weather events linked to climate change needs to be planned for. The town is in the Kennet valley and benefits from the Marsh to the west which functions as a sponge to absorb much of the water. But with more extreme weather and other areas such as Denford being prone to flooding, risks are increasing. Where possible, hard surfaces with faster run-off should be discouraged and the use of porous surfaces encouraged. For example, when adding a driveway, ensure the surface is porous.
- 9.4 It is the responsibility of a developer to make proper provision for surface water drainage to ground, water courses or surface water sewer. It must not be allowed to drain to the foul sewer, as this is the major contributor to sewer flooding.
- 9.5 More extreme heat during the summer periods is also forecast and ensuring all buildings are well insulated reduces overheating in the summer as well as keeping them warmer during the winter.

NON-POLICY ACTION M: MINIMISING FLOOD RISK, DAMAGE AND OVER-HEATING

- i. **Encourage the use of porous surfaces where possible to minimise the speed of run-off that contributes to flooding.**

- ii. **Keep the flood risk emergency action plan up to date and ensure its proposals include materials that are readily available such as sand bags, sand and signage.**
- iii. **Encourage the installation of high levels of insulation in existing buildings to reduce over-heating during hotter periods and to keep warmer during the winter.**

POLICY HUNG10: LOW ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENT DESIGN

1. **Proposals for new development, including the construction of new buildings and the redevelopment and refurbishment of existing building stock, must demonstrate how the design of buildings and site layouts minimise consumption of energy, water, minerals, materials and other natural resources in order to minimise carbon emissions.**
2. **All developments will demonstrate how they have been designed to incorporate measures to adapt to climate change. The following measures shall be incorporated into development:**
 - a) **Wherever possible, new buildings shall be orientated to maximise the opportunities for natural lighting, heating and ventilation; and reducing exposure to wind and other elements;**
 - b) **Proposals involving both new and existing buildings shall demonstrate how they have been designed to maximise resistance and resilience to climate change, for example by including measures such as solar shading, thermal mass, efficient heating and ventilation, green and brown roofs, and green walls. Durable materials should also be considered in both internal and external areas which are at risk of high volumes of traffic/through-flow from occupants; and**
 - c) **As part of a development landscaping scheme, consider where appropriate the use of native trees and other planting, to provide shading for amenity areas, buildings and streets. The landscape design should also consider connecting and supporting habitats to thrive and where possible to be resilient to predicted changed climatic change ;and**
 - d) ~~Considering predicted future climatic change, all development shall incorporate flood risk mitigation and resilience measures including minimise surface runoff to prevent on-site and off-site flooding by designing suitable SuDS-based drainage system. Where appropriate development should also maximise the use of porous surfaces on open areas such as driveways.~~
 - e) ~~Development must be designed to be water efficient and minimise water consumption. Refurbishments and other non-domestic development will be expected to meet BREEAM water efficiency credits. Residential development must not exceed a maximum water use of 105 litres per head per day (excluding the allowance of up to 5 litres for external water consumption) using the 'Fittings Approach' in Table 2.2 of Part G of Building Regulations.~~

Community scale energy generation

Objective T: Support proposals for individual and community scale renewable energy generation provided the benefits outweigh any adverse impacts.

- 9.6 The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive in principle of proposals to provide community-scale energy generation schemes that serve the community of Hungerford. The importance of maximising both energy generation from renewable sources and the ability to withstand outside influences on the market for energy has increased substantially in recent years. The Neighbourhood Plan does not designate any specific sites for a community energy scheme, nor does it express a preference for any particular type of provision (e.g. solar, water, wind, combined heat and power). Policy DM4 in the West Berkshire Emerging Local Plan [Review](#) provides the supportive policy framework for such provision, subject to it being in a suitable location and not causing harm to residential amenity. Hungerford Town Council will work with any interested landowners to explore the potential for such provision.

NON-POLICY ACTION N: PROVIDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Work with landowners to explore the delivery of community scale renewable energy generation projects.

Wildlife-friendly design

Objective S: Ensure new development protects and enhances biodiversity.

Objective P: Protect the landscape around Hungerford and support its conservation.

Supporting text

- 9.7 The design of individual buildings and of neighbourhood scale green and open spaces, including private gardens, will help to ensure that existing habitats present in Hungerford can thrive and a range of new habitats can be created. This is in line with the requirement of the Environment Act 2021 for all new development (excluding small householder proposals) to achieve net biodiversity gain of at least 10%.
- 9.8 Planting is an important aspect of development and habitat creation. Not only does a well-considered planting scheme provide high quality landscaping, it is a fundamental aspect of enhancing biodiversity that otherwise would be lost. Planting schemes should ensure that tree species should be carefully selected to be responsive to landscape and historic character and to suit the planting location⁹. Planting should not simply consist of trees but a range of shrubs and grasses too and should seek to include native species.

⁹ See 'Right Tree in the Right Place for a Resilient Future' by Forest Research - <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/ftth/urban-tree-manual/>

- 9.9 Other creative ways of providing habitats can be designed easily into developments of any size (see image below).



A bin store with green roof and habitat features

Credit: Green Roof Shelters

- 9.10 Protecting species present in the area is also important. Examples of the simple solutions that well-thought out design can easily incorporate are:

- Integral swift bricks and bat boxes under the eaves of the new houses, or sited in other locations away from windows and doors, can create vital new nesting and roosting sites to support populations of birds and bats. Hungerford has a long tradition of swifts in the town during the summer and support of this population with more swift bricks would be welcomed. Swift bricks are also considered a universal nest brick for small bird species. Swift bricks should be installed in new developments including extensions, in accordance with best-practice guidance such as BS42021 or CIEEM¹⁰ which require at least one swift brick per home on average for each development. Existing nest sites for building-dependent species such as swifts and house martins should be protected, as these endangered red-listed species which are present but declining in the area return annually to traditional nest sites. Mitigation should be provided if these nest sites cannot be protected.
- Boundaries between dwellings can be made hedgehog friendly by including pre-cut holes for hedgehogs to more effectively move across neighbourhoods to forage.
- New planting schemes can support bees and other pollinators by including nectar-rich plants.

¹⁰ <https://cieem.net/resource/the-swift-a-bird-you-need-to-help/>



Bricks that allow birds to nest

Credit: Pinterest



Hedgehog-friendly fencing

Credit: Pinterest

- 9.11 Development is encouraged to be informed by the full list of considerations in Natural England's 'Green Infrastructure Framework 2023'¹¹.

POLICY HUNG11: WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT

1. Development proposals that protect existing habitats and species, including hedgerows and mature trees will be supported. In particular, developments required to deliver measurable biodiversity net gain (a minimum of 10%) that propose the removal or reduction of existing habitats will be expected, where possible, to deliver biodiversity net gain on site. Where on-site provision of net gains is not possible, off-site habitat improvements should be made as close to the proposed development as possible.
2. The incorporation of design features into new development that encourages local wildlife and biodiversity to thrive will be supported. This includes the use of green roofs, swift bricks and hedgehog-friendly fencing.
3. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should be designed to retain trees, shrubs and hedgerows of arboricultural, habitat and amenity value on-site and to conserve and enhance connectivity to the wider green and blue infrastructure networks and green spaces. Where practicable, any new planting should consist of native species of trees, shrubs and grasses and be designed in a way that would allow their use as stepping stones for wildlife. Any new planting should recognise the need for support through an appropriate ongoing programme of maintenance.

NON-POLICY ACTION O: WILDLIFE FRIENDLY PROPOSALS

Support organisations to provide wildlife friendly schemes, such as the Town and Manor's planned wetland nature reserve at Undy's Meadow.

¹¹ <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

10 RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATIONS

Objective A: Allocate sites to meet the housing requirements in the West Berkshire Local Plan Review to 2041, where possible making best use of previously developed land and minimising encroachment into the countryside.

Supporting text

- 10.1 The ~~Proposed Submission~~ West Berkshire Local Plan Review (January 2023) identified a ~~minimum~~ housing requirement figure of a **minimum** of 55 dwellings. These dwellings will be delivered through ~~sites~~ **residential site** allocations within the Hungerford Neighbourhood Area over the plan period. The process to determine which sites are selected for allocation has been by the HNP Steering Group and informed by consultation with the local community. The following sites are allocated for residential development within the Neighbourhood Plan:
- Land at Smitham Bridge Road – for approximately 44 dwellings (Policy HUNG12).
 - Land north of Cottrell Close – for approximately 12 dwellings (Policy HUNG13).
- 10.2 The process of identifying, assessing and selection which sites were allocated in the Plan is explained in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which accompanies the Neighbourhood Plan¹².
- 10.3 For each policy, the site allocation is identified on an indicative site map. The dwelling numbers are indicative, and actual numbers will be determined during the planning application process through detailed design work in accordance with the parameters set out in policies HUNG12 and HUNG13 and other relevant policies, having regard to the particular characteristics of the site and its surroundings.

Land at Smitham Bridge Road

- 10.4 The site is 2.11 hectares and is currently pasture land. It slopes down to the south east, therefore screening will be important on the eastern side to minimise the visual impact of the neighbouring commercial uses.
- 10.5 The site is allocated to deliver approximately 44 dwellings and should reflect the required mix in Policy HUNG1 as well as the affordable housing requirements in the West Berkshire Local Plan.
- 10.6 Access to the site will be from North Standen Road, with this having been identified through consultation with the Local Highway Authority. Pedestrian and cycle connections are required. North Standen Road is an identified gateway into the town (see Policy HUNG3), therefore it is expected that the gradual transition from countryside to town is not impacted by the proposed development. The site access will specifically need to be designed to appropriately respect the North Standen Road gateway into the town. This should include a footway connection from the site to the existing footway heading eastwards from Penny Farthing

¹² AECOM (2024) *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Hungerford Neighbourhood Plan: Environmental Report*, for Hungerford Town Council

Close. During construction it is important to minimise the impacts of construction traffic along Church Street and Smitham Bridge Road.

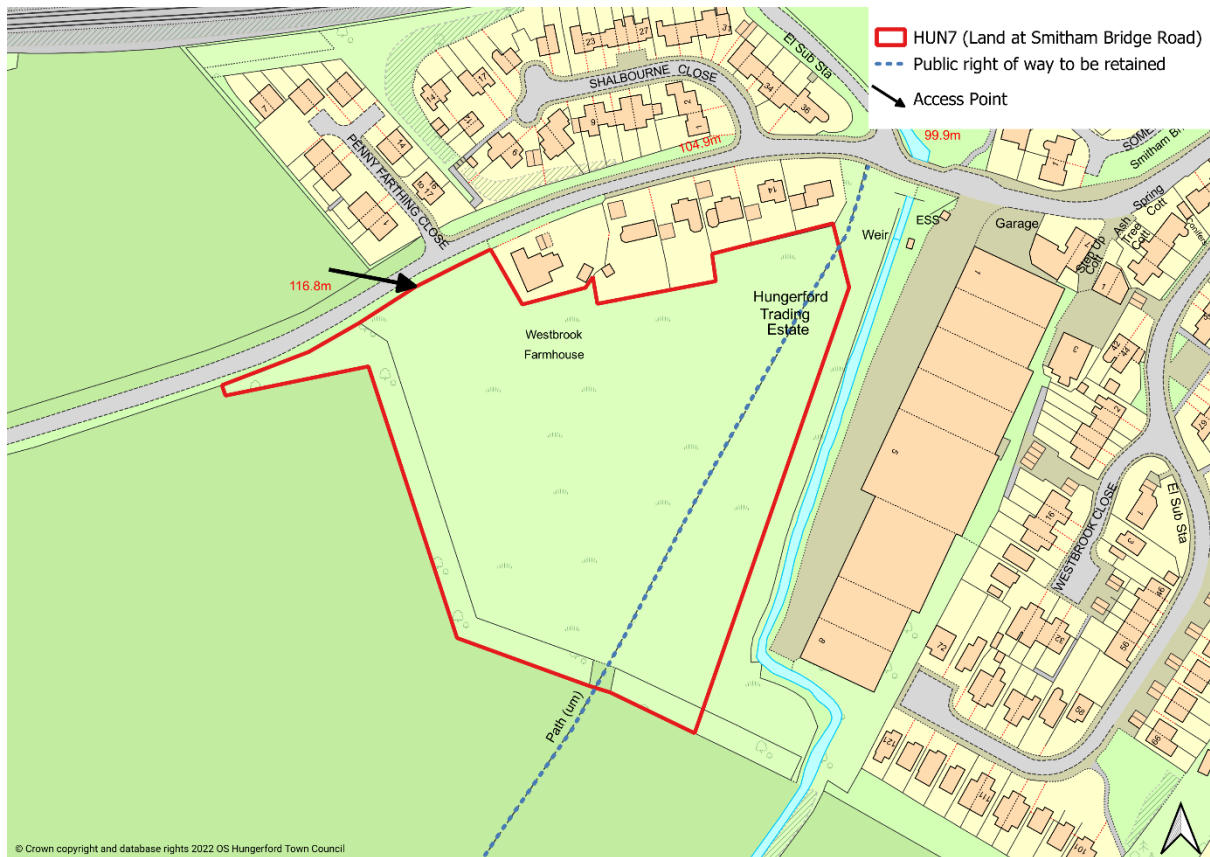
- 10.7 There is an existing Public Right of Way (HUNG/46/1) which must be retained along its current route on the eastern side of the site. This provides linkages to Smitham Bridge Road and the countryside to the south of the site. In order to provide safe pedestrian access into Hungerford town centre, this Public Right of Way should be upgraded so that it is capable of year-round use, including after dark by way of suitable lighting. Section 106 contributions should be secured following engagement with the Local Highway Authority to ascertain the most appropriate scheme of amendments.
- 10.8 The site is located within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (previously known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or AONB). The primary purpose of National Landscape designation is to 'conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area', and this is set out within the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2004. A 2011 Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA) concluded that development on the site would result in little harm to the natural beauty of the National Landscape, subject to specified protection and enhancement measures. The recommendations of the LSA have been incorporated into the policy. Development will also be further informed by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- 10.9 The Shalbourne Brook (Main River), a tributary of the River Dun, flows north eastwards very close to the eastern boundary of the site. The Shalbourne Brook is a chalk river, which is a protected habitat listed in S41 of the NERC Act. ~~A very small part of the eastern boundary of the site is situated within Flood Zones 2 and 3 where there is a medium and high risk of flooding is at risk of fluvial flooding from the Shalbourne Brook during a 1 in 100 year flood event, with a small increase in the flood extent during a 1 in 1000 year flood event.~~ The remainder of the site is within Flood Zone 1 and therefore is at low fluvial flood risk.
- 10.10 Surface water flood risk at the site follows the route of the Shalbourne Brook, with a flow path draining in a north westerly direction along the eastern-most part of the site during a 1 in 30 year and greater rainfall events.
- 10.11 Development must be avoided within the areas at risk of flooding, and a Flood Risk Assessment must accompany any future planning application. Further information on Flood Risk Assessment is set out within the Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and within the supporting text to policy SP6 of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review.
- 10.12 A desk top assessment of the site by the Thames Valley Environment Research Centre, which helped inform the preparation of WBDC's Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, identifies that development has a medium risk of adverse nature conservation impacts. Therefore, an appropriate Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) will need to inform development. The EcIA will ensure that any designated sites and/or protected habitats and/or species are not adversely affected.

POLICY HUNG12: LAND AT SMITHAM BRIDGE ROAD

~~The site as shown on the~~ Land at Smitham Bridge Road (approximately 2.11 hectares as identified on the Policies Map and ~~on the indicative map~~ in Figure 10.1) will be **required to be** developed in accordance with the following parameters:

- a. The provision of approximately 44 dwellings.
- b. It provides a mix of dwelling sizes in accordance with Policy HUNG1.
- c. The design of the dwellings respects the character of the surrounding area and protects North Standen Road's role as a gateway into Hungerford (Policy HUNG3).
- d. ~~Adequate consideration is~~ **Regard must be** given to the development guidelines in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan.
- e. The scheme will be developed in accordance with the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2011) and will include the protection and enhancement of the following features:
 - i. the hedgerow along North Standen Road; and
 - ii. views from the west through ensuring that no rooftops are visible over the hedgerow.
- f. The development design and layout will be further informed by a full detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
- g. The existing Public Right of Way HUNG/46/1 that runs through the site should be retained. Subject to agreement with the Local Highway Authority, developer contributions should be sought so that it is capable of everyday use all year-round and has suitable lighting for use after dark. Such lighting must be designed to protect the amenity of neighbouring residents and preserve the special qualities of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.
- h. Access to the site will be provided from North Standen Road. This should respect the role of North Standen Road as a gateway to the town.
- i. A footway will need to be provided from the development to the existing footway on North Standen Road (east of Penny Farthing Close).
- j. Provision of a Transport Statement.
- k. Provision of a Construction Traffic Management plan to help minimise construction traffic impacts along Church Street and Smitham Bridge Road.
- l. The provision of high quality public open space **in accordance with policy DM44 of the West Berkshire Local Plan Review**.
- m. A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be required due to a small part of the eastern boundary of the site falling within Flood Zones 2 and 3, and because of the risk of surface water flooding on the eastern part of the site. Development must be located away from these areas. A Surface Water Drainage Strategy will also be required. The FRA and the Surface Water Drainage Strategy should demonstrate wider betterment through measures which can be put in place to contribute to a reduction in flood risk downstream.
- n. Contributions towards improvement of the Smitham Bridge Play Park.
- o. The scheme ~~must~~ **will** be informed by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) which must be able to demonstrate that the presence of any protected habitats and species on the site can be adequately mitigated and/or compensated for.
- p. The potential hydrological impacts of development on the Freemans Marsh SSSI are fully assessed and appropriate mitigation provided if required.
- q. ~~A desk-based archaeological assessment is undertaken.~~

Figure 10.1: Indicative map of land at Smitham Bridge Road



Land north of Cottrell Close

Supporting text

- 10.13 The site is 0.55 hectares and is currently pasture land. It slopes down to the south/south west, therefore development will need to take care not to be overly visible from Hungerford Common.
- 10.14 The site is allocated to deliver approximately 12 dwellings and should reflect the required mix in Policy HUNG1 as well as the affordable housing requirements in the West Berkshire Local Plan.
- 10.15 Vehicular access will be via Cottrell Close and it is expected that development will ensure safe pedestrian access can be achieved through to Cottrell Close. During construction it is important to minimise the impacts of construction traffic. To maximise accessibility and permeability by sustainable modes, a footway link should also be provided between the site and Eddington Hill via the cemetery. Any footway should remain open to the public through the site.
- 10.16 To the west of the site lies a grade II listed building (the Hermitage) as well as the Eddington Conservation Area. The development design and layout will need to be informed by a Heritage Impact Assessment. Following advice from WBDC's Archaeology Team, an archaeological desk-based assessment, and potentially further site evaluation is required to determine the archaeological significance of the site.
- 10.17 A requirement for an Ecological Impact Assessment has been included to increase emphasis on the requirement of national policy and legislation to mitigate for effects on habitats.

POLICY HUNG13: LAND NORTH OF COTTRELL CLOSE

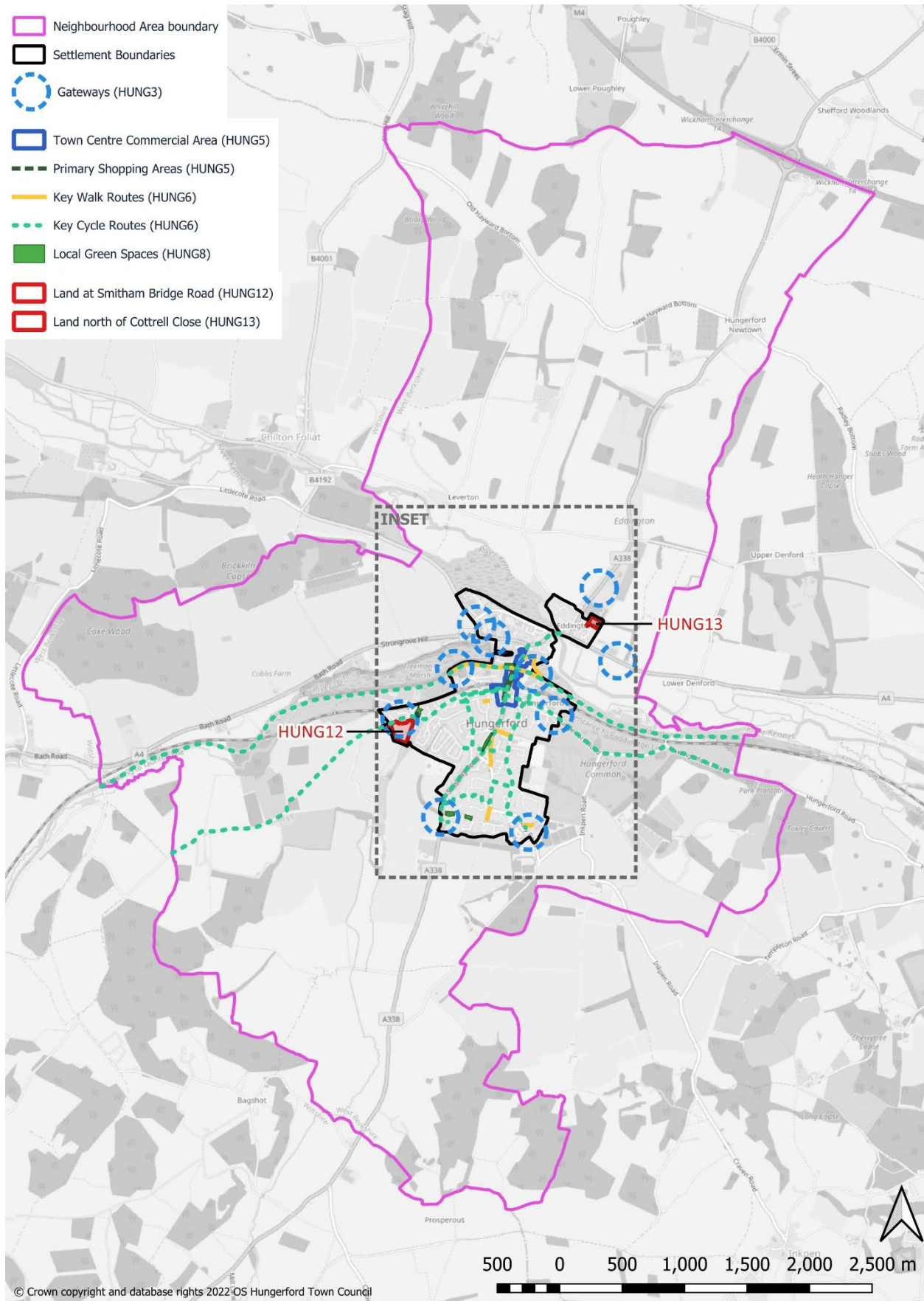
The site as shown on the ~~Land north of Cottrell Close (approximately 0.55 hectares as identified on the Policies Map and~~ **on the indicative map** in Figure 10.2) will be **required to be** developed in accordance with the following parameters:

- a. of the provision of approximately 12 dwellings.
- b. It provides a mix of dwelling sizes in accordance with Policy HUNG1.
- c. The design of the dwellings respects the character of the surrounding area and minimises the impact on views from Hungerford Common.
- d. The scheme will be developed in accordance with the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2011) and will include the protection and enhancement of the following features:
 - i. The retention of the mature planting around the site and provision for tree planting internally;
 - ii. Provision of soft edge on the eastern boundary; and
 - iii. Careful design to respect the site's semi-rural location.
- e. The development design and layout will be further informed by a full detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
- f. ~~Adequate consideration is~~ **Regard must be** given to the ~~development guidelines in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Management Plan.~~
- g. Access to the site will be provided from Cottrell Close with footpaths provided to connect the site to existing footways.
- h. Provision of a Construction Traffic Management plan to help minimise construction traffic impacts through Cottrell Close.
- i. Provision of a pedestrian connection to the neighbouring cemetery with a footway between the site and the A338 Eddington Hill.
- j. **Development on the site will not adversely affect the SSSI and SAC which are in close proximity to the south of the site. A Habitats Regulations Assessment will be required to accompany any future planning application.**
- k. Development will be informed by a Heritage Impact Assessment due to the proximity of the Hungerford Conservation Area and a grade II listed building.
- l. Development will be informed by an archaeological desk-based assessment as a minimum and field evaluation if required to assess the historic environmental potential of the site.
- m. The scheme will be informed by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) which must be able to demonstrate that the presence of any protected habitats and species on the site can be adequately mitigated and/or compensated for.
- n. A Habitats Regulations Assessment must accompany the application and assesses the potential for likely significant effects on the Kennet and Lambourn Valley Floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) via surface and groundwater flows.

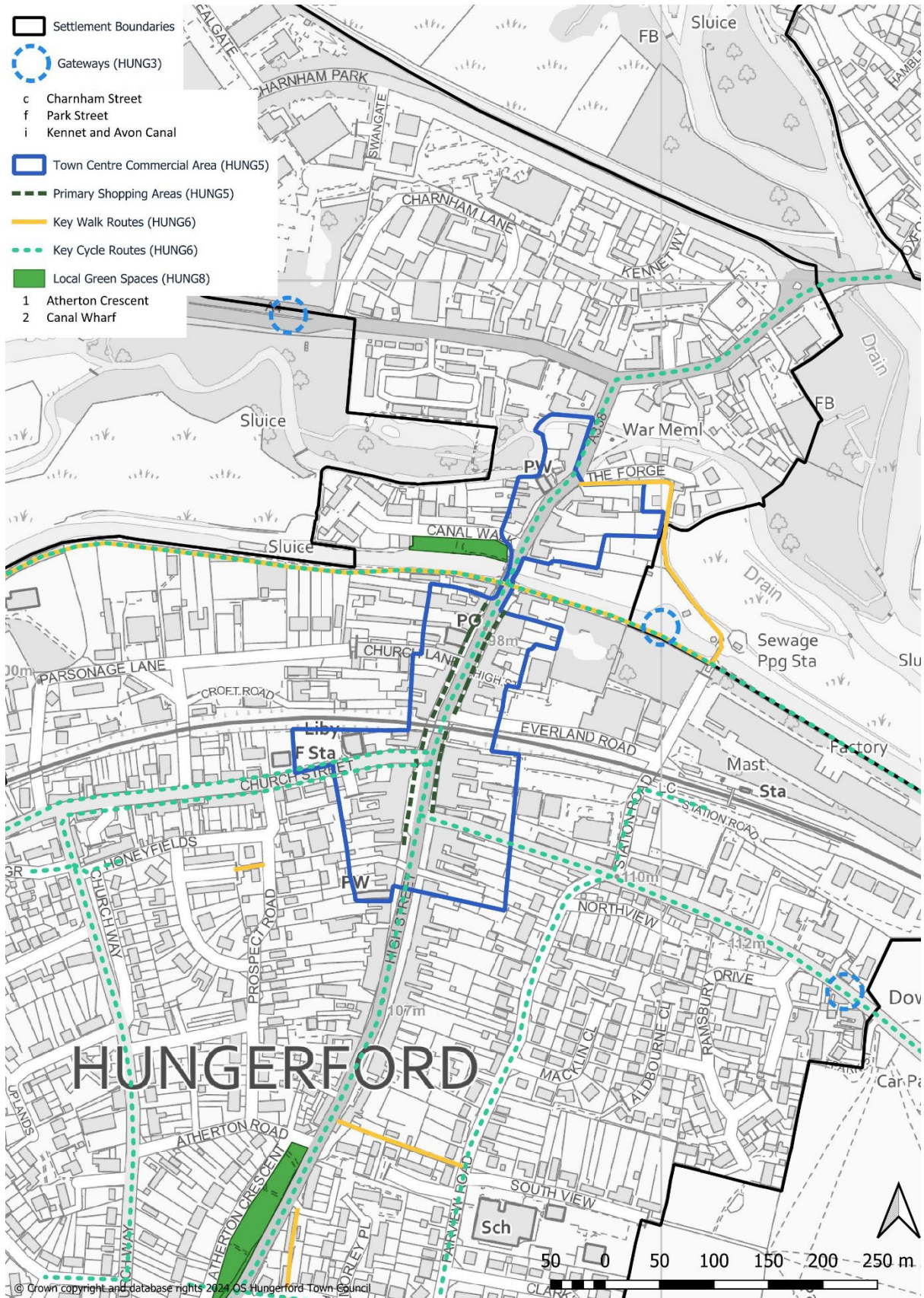
Figure 10.2: Indicative map of land north of Cottrell Close



11 POLICIES MAPS



INSET MAP



APPENDIX A

List of Nationally Designated Heritage Assets

List Entry Name	Heritage Category	Grade	Location
BRIDGE OVER RIVER KENNET	Listing	II	BRIDGE OVER RIVER KENNET BATH ROAD EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
2, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	2 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
3A, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	3A BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
4, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	4 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
9, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	9 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
10, BRIDGE STREET, 10, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	10 BRIDGE STREET 10 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
11, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	11 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
12, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	12 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
13, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	13 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
14, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	14 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
THE OLD MALTHOUSE	Listing	II	THE OLD MALTHOUSE 15 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
The John O'Gaunt Inn	Listing	II	The John O'Gaunt Inn 21 Bridge Street Hungerford RG17 0EG Hungerford West Berkshire
UNDY'S FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	UNDY'S FARM HOUSE CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
21, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	21 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
23, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	23 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
26, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	26 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
27 AND 28, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	27 AND 28 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
29 AND 30, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	29 AND 30 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
THE RED LION	Listing	II	THE RED LION 16 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
THE BEAR HOTEL	Listing	II	THE BEAR HOTEL CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
RIVERSIDE	Listing	II	RIVERSIDE 1 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
2, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	2 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
5, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	5 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
18, CHURCH CROFT	Listing	II	18 CHURCH CROFT Hungerford West Berkshire
22, CHURCH STREET	Listing	II	22 CHURCH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
20, CHURCH STREET	Listing	II	20 CHURCH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
BRIDGE OVER CANAL AT DUN MILL	Listing	II	BRIDGE OVER CANAL AT DUN MILL DENFORD Hungerford West Berkshire
BRIDGE OVER RIVER KENNET AT DUN MILL	Listing	II	BRIDGE OVER RIVER KENNET AT DUN MILL DENFORD Hungerford West Berkshire

List Entry Name	Heritage Category	Grade	Location
MILESTONE 100 METRES SOUTH OF ENTRANCE TO FOLLY FARM	Listing	II	MILESTONE 100 METRES SOUTH OF ENTRANCE TO FOLLY FARM EDDINGTON HILL Hungerford West Berkshire
FOLLY FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	FOLLY FARM HOUSE EDDINGTON HILL Hungerford West Berkshire
BARN TO NORTH WEST OF FOLLY FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	BARN TO NORTH WEST OF FOLLY FARM HOUSE EDDINGTON HILL Hungerford West Berkshire
BARN TO WEST OF FOLLY FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	BARN TO WEST OF FOLLY FARM HOUSE EDDINGTON HILL Hungerford West Berkshire
1, HIGH STREET, 1, CANALSIDE	Listing	II	1 HIGH STREET 1 CANALSIDE Hungerford West Berkshire
3 AND 4, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	3 AND 4 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
7 AND 8, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	7 AND 8 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
14, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	14 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
16, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	16 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
17, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	17 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
18, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	18 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
19, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	19 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
TOWN HALL	Listing	II	TOWN HALL HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
24, HIGH STREET	Listing	II*	24 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
25, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	25 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
26 AND 27, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	26 AND 27 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
28, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	28 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
WILTON HOUSE	Listing	II	WILTON HOUSE 33 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
34, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	34 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
35A, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	35A HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
35, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	35 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
36 AND 37, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	36 AND 37 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
38, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	38 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
39, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	39 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
53 AND 54, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	53 AND 54 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
100 and 101, High Street	Listing	II	100 and 101 High Street Hungerford Hungerford West Berkshire
103, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	103 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
104, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	104 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
108, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	108 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
109 AND 110, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	109 AND 110 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
120, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	120 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
128, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	128 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
130, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	130 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire

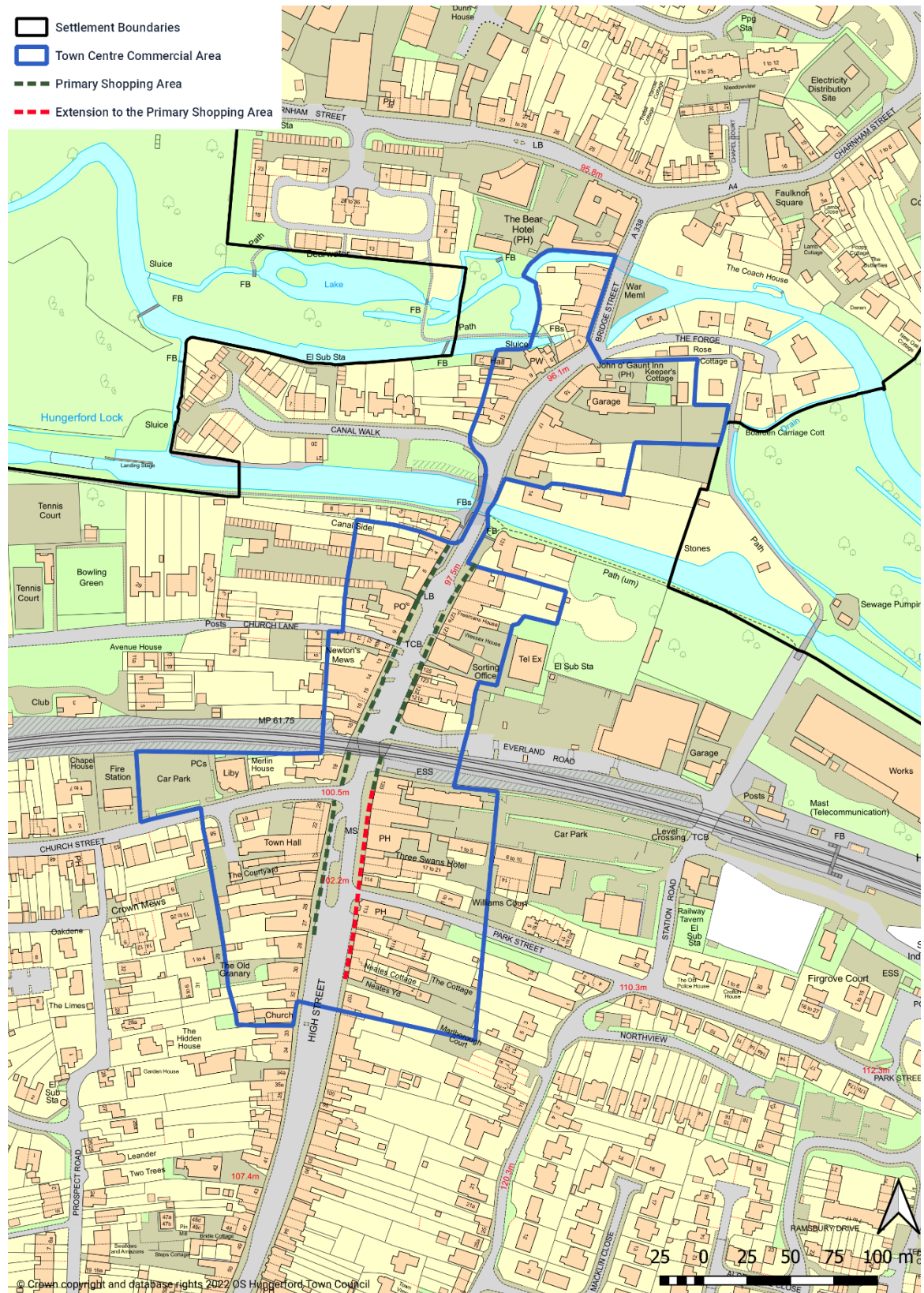
List Entry Name	Heritage Category	Grade	Location
CHILTON LODGE	Listing	II*	CHILTON LODGE LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
STABLE BLOCKS AT CHILTON LODGE	Listing	II	STABLE BLOCKS AT CHILTON LODGE LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
TERRACE AND STEPS TO SOUTH OF CHILTON LODGE	Listing	II	TERRACE AND STEPS TO SOUTH OF CHILTON LODGE LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
VILLAGE STOCKS	Listing	II	VILLAGE STOCKS LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
1-10 Leverton	Listing	II	1-10 Leverton Hungerford RG17 0TA LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
PAVILION ON RIVER KENNET	Listing	II	PAVILION ON RIVER KENNET LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
THE YEWS	Listing	II	THE YEWS NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
LILAC COTTAGE THE RETREAT	Listing	II	THE RETREAT LILAC COTTAGE NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
NORTH HIDDEN FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	NORTH HIDDEN FARM HOUSE NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
NORTH HIDDEN COTTAGE	Listing	II	NORTH HIDDEN COTTAGE NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
THE KENNELS	Listing	II	THE KENNELS OLD HAYWARD BOTTOM Hungerford West Berkshire
OLD HAYWARD FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	OLD HAYWARD FARM HOUSE OLD HAYWARD LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
BUCKLAND HOUSE	Listing	II	BUCKLAND HOUSE OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
GRANARY AT OLD HAYWARD FARM, 10 METRES NORTH OF FARMHOUSE	Listing	II	GRANARY AT OLD HAYWARD FARM 10 METRES NORTH OF FARMHOUSE OLD HAYWARD LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
11, OXFORD STREET, EDDINGTON	Listing	II	11 OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
ROBINSON TOMB 8 METRES TO SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH	Listing	II	ROBINSON TOMB 8 METRES TO SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
CHEST TOMB 1 METRE SOUTH OF ROBINSON TOMB AND 10 METRES FROM SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH	Listing	II	CHEST TOMB 1 METRE SOUTH OF ROBINSON TOMB AND 10 METRES FROM SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
WESTALL TOMB 12 METRES SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH	Listing	II	WESTALL TOMB 12 METRES SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH EAST CORNER OF CHURCH PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
WHALE TOMB 13 METRES SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH CORNER OF CHURCH	Listing	II	WHALE TOMB 13 METRES SOUTH EAST OF SOUTH CORNER OF CHURCH PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
THE OLD VICARAGE	Listing	II	THE OLD VICARAGE 3 PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
MILESTONE ON WEST SIDE 50 METRES SOUTH OF ENTRANCE TO BEACON FARM	Listing	II	MILESTONE ON WEST SIDE 50 METRES SOUTH OF ENTRANCE TO BEACON FARM SALISBURY ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
GREAT HIDDEN FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	GREAT HIDDEN FARM HOUSE WANTAGE ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire

List Entry Name	Heritage Category	Grade	Location
STORE 300 METRES WEST OF GREAT HIDDEN FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	STORE 300 METRES WEST OF GREAT HIDDEN FARM HOUSE WANTAGE ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
EDDINGTON HOUSE	Listing	II	EDDINGTON HOUSE WANTAGE ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
K6 TELEPHONE KIOSK OUTSIDE POST OFFICE	Listing	II	K6 TELEPHONE KIOSK OUTSIDE POST OFFICE HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
KENNET AND AVON CANAL DUN MILL LOCK AT SU 352683	Listing	II	KENNET AND AVON CANAL DUN MILL LOCK AT SU 352683 Hungerford West Berkshire
85 AND 86, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	85 AND 86 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
STANDEN OLD FARMHOUSE AND COTTAGE	Listing	II	STANDEN OLD FARMHOUSE AND COTTAGE Hungerford West Berkshire
MILESTONE AT NGR SU 3319 6898	Listing	II	MILESTONE AT NGR SU 3319 6898 BATH ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
THE HERMITAGE	Listing	II	THE HERMITAGE WANTAGE ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
EDDINGTON MILL (MILL HOUSE AND MILL)	Listing	II	EDDINGTON MILL (MILL HOUSE AND MILL) Hungerford West Berkshire
MILESTONE 250 METRES NORTH OF HOLLYTREE COTTAGE	Listing	II	MILESTONE 250 METRES NORTH OF HOLLYTREE COTTAGE SALISBURY ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
8, OXFORD STREET, EDDINGTON	Listing	II	8 OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE	Listing	II*	CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE PARSONAGE LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
LITTLE HIDDEN FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	LITTLE HIDDEN FARM HOUSE WANTAGE ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
LINDEN COTTAGE	Listing	II	LINDEN COTTAGE OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
BARN AT NORTH HIDDEN FARM	Listing	II	BARN AT NORTH HIDDEN FARM NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
LOWER FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	LOWER FARM HOUSE NEWTOWN Hungerford West Berkshire
12, OXFORD STREET, EDDINGTON	Listing	II	12 OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
9 AND 10, OXFORD STREET, EDDINGTON	Listing	II	9 AND 10 OXFORD STREET EDDINGTON Hungerford West Berkshire
PEDESTRIAN GATE AND PIERS TO CHILTON LODGE ON BASE 300 METRES EAST OF MAIN ENTRANCE	Listing	II	PEDESTRIAN GATE AND PIERS TO CHILTON LODGE ON BASE 300 METRES EAST OF MAIN ENTRANCE LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
THE BOTHY	Listing	II	THE BOTHY LEVERTON Hungerford West Berkshire
THREE SWANS HOTEL	Listing	II	THREE SWANS HOTEL 116 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
129, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	129 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
131, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	131 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND PORCHES AT NUMBER 131	Listing	II	PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND PORCHES AT NUMBER 131 131 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
42, High Street	Listing	II	42 High Street Hungerford West Berkshire

List Entry Name	Heritage Category	Grade	Location
84, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	84 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
102, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	102 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
107, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	107 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL	Listing	II	CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
2, FAULKNER SQUARE	Listing	II	2 FAULKNER SQUARE Hungerford West Berkshire
2, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	2 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
5, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	5 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
6, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	6 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
13, HIGH STREET	Listing	II	13 HIGH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
29, CHURCH STREET	Listing	II	29 CHURCH STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
1, FAULKNER SQUARE	Listing	II	1 FAULKNER SQUARE Hungerford West Berkshire
THE LAMB	Listing	II	THE LAMB CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
1, CHURCH LANE	Listing	II	1 CHURCH LANE Hungerford West Berkshire
20, Bridge Street	Listing	II	20 Bridge Street Hungerford RG17 0EG Hungerford West Berkshire
2 AND 3, CANALSIDE	Listing	II	2 AND 3 CANALSIDE Hungerford West Berkshire
22, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	22 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
24, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	24 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
25, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	25 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
4, CHARNHAM STREET	Listing	II	4 CHARNHAM STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
16, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	16 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
CANAL BRIDGE	Listing	II	CANAL BRIDGE BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
1, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	1 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
3, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	3 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
5, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	5 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
7, BRIDGE STREET	Listing	II	7 BRIDGE STREET Hungerford West Berkshire
MILESTONE ON NORTH SIDE AT SU 3467 6588	Listing	II	MILESTONE ON NORTH SIDE AT SU 3467 6588 BATH ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
STANDEN MANOR	Listing	II	STANDEN MANOR Hungerford West Berkshire
HOPGRASS FARM HOUSE	Listing	II	HOPGRASS FARM HOUSE BATH ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
1-8, CHARNHAM COURT	Listing	II	1-8 CHARNHAM COURT Hungerford West Berkshire
MILESTONE ON NORTH SIDE 200 METRES EAST OF HIGHCLOSE FARM	Listing	II	MILESTONE ON NORTH SIDE 200 METRES EAST OF HIGHCLOSE FARM BATH ROAD Hungerford West Berkshire
Bowl barrow on Barrow Hill, Hungerford Newtown	Scheduling	n/a	Hungerford West Berkshire
LITTLECOTE HOUSE	Park and Garden	II	LITTLECOTE HOUSE Hungerford West Berkshire

APPENDIX B

Proposed Extension of Primary Shopping Area Details [deletion of map]



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Youth Justice Plan 2025/26

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	16 October 2025
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Heather Codling
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	11 July 2025
Report Author:	Dave Wraight
Forward Plan Ref:	C4666

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Council oversight of the annual Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26 which is submitted to the Youth Justice Board.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Council are requested to agree and formally endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2025/2026. The Youth Justice Support Team is a statutory service with contributions from partners including Police, Probation and Health, as such the plan has been formed in conjunction with those partners and been through a consultation process with the Youth Justice Management Group and the Building Communities Together Partnership where those partners are present.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	The Youth Justice Support Team has funding from a number of sources including the Local Authority (£498,590), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (£81,443 to be confirmed), Probation (£41,085), Youth Justice Board (£194,346) and payments in kind through seconded staff from Police (£63,146) and Health (£75,739).
Human Resource:	The Youth Justice Support Team contains employees of the Local Authority alongside seconded staff from other agencies all co-located forming a multi-agency team to provide youth justice services as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998,

	a staffing chart is found in the appendices of the Youth Justice Plan.			
Legal:	Section 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides a duty on the local authority after consultation with relevant person and bodies to formulate and implement a plan setting out how youth justice services are to be provided and funding and how the youth offending teams are to be composed and funded, how they operate and what functions they are to carry out. In addition, there is statutory guidance Youth Justice Plans: guidance for Youth Justice services dated January 2025. This sets out the minimum information required in our plan.			
Risk Management:	The Youth Justice Support Team have responsibilities to supervise and manage children who pose a risk of causing serious harm and risk of reoffending in the community. The team work in partnership with Thames Valley Police and other partners to manage and mitigate those risks utilising risk management frameworks including Risk Management Forum and MAPPA.			
Property:	The Youth Justice Support Team is based at Merchant House.			
Policy:	The Youth Justice Plan outline is determined by the Youth Justice Board in their guidance to provide national consistency.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	X			The Youth Justice Plan explores disproportionality in the youth justice system and proposes measures that seek to monitor and address those areas of over representation.

B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	X			The Youth Justice Plan explores disproportionality in the youth justice system and proposes measures that seek to monitor and address those areas of over representation.
Environmental Impact:		X		No specific environmental impact
Health Impact:	X			The seconded health staff provide a service to children who often do not access health care, therefore this approach enhances their access to health services and improved health outcomes
ICT Impact:		X		No specific ICT impact
Digital Services Impact:		X		No specific Digital Services Impact
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The Youth Justice plan supports two of the Councils strategic priorities: A fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all and Thriving communities with a strong local voice.
Core Business:	X			The Youth Justice Plan interfaces with a number of council focuses as contained in the Building Communities Together plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Serious Violence Plan, work to reduce suspension and exclusion and many others.
Data Impact:		X		No specific data impact

<p>Consultation and Engagement:</p>	<p>The Youth Justice Plan has been created in consultation with children, young people and parents who use Youth Justice services. Staff and volunteers at the YJST have contributed to the plan. The Youth Justice Management Group and the Building Communities Together Partnership have both been consulted – these partnerships include the statutory partners Police, Health, Probation and others including the voluntary sector.</p>
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4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The plan should address how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.
- 4.2 The Youth Justice Plan is attached as Appendix B. The plan has been produced in consultation with a wide number of stakeholders and with the partnership oversight groups Youth Justice Management Group and the Building Communities Together Partnership. It has been formulated using the Youth Justice Board guidance 2025/2026 to ensure compliance.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

- 5.1 The Annual Youth Justice Plan serves as a roadmap, guiding the efforts of the partnership to support children, young people and their parents to maximise their life chances away from the criminal justice system. The Youth Justice partnership have a strong track record of working collaboratively to address issues in the community and create opportunities for children and young people to thrive.
- 5.2 The Youth Justice Support Team was inspected by HMI Probation in 2023 and judged to be outstanding. In March 2025 the Youth Justice Board indicated that the YJST had been moved to Quadrant 1 noting that this was a light touch oversight given the strengths and performance of the team.

Background

- 5.3 The partnership recognise that much of what is planned can only be delivered with others, be that our statutory partners such as the Thames Valley Police, Health, Probation or other key organisations in the voluntary and education sectors. The Youth Justice Plan is designed to build on the partnerships already in place, to develop our joint arrangements further and to ensure that we target our shared efforts and resources

into approaches that work and produce real, lasting outcomes for children and families in West Berkshire.

- 5.4 The Youth Justice Plan represents an unwavering commitment to transform the lives of children in West Berkshire. It is recognised that children involved in the youth justice system tend to have experienced more challenges and trauma than many of their peers, a cohort profile is included in this plan. This plan sets out the progress against the actions from the previous year, key performance indicators and sets out the plan for the coming year.
- 5.5 The priorities outlined in the plan include: Enhancing Early Intervention and Prevention by expanding and evaluating the use of prevention letters, increase school-based interventions through the Positive Intervention Programme. Strengthening evidence-based reflective practice by using evidence-based tools. Improve Out-of-Court Disposals and diversion by fully implementing and evaluating the Youth Deferred Prosecution and strengthening Joint Decision-Making Panels. Maintaining strong approaches to public protection and risk management. Support for Education, Training, and Employment outcomes and strengthening our multi-agency approach to reduce exclusions and improve attendance. Elevating victim engagement and restorative practices by benchmarking and auditing victim-related practices and taking appropriate action.
- 5.6 Contained within the plan is detailed information on the profile of the children who come to the attention of the police, year by year there are fluctuations and changes in those demographics. The detailed profile information contained in the plan enables the partnership to tailor approaches to the prevention of offending, targeting resources to address areas of concern.

Proposal

- 5.7 The Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 has been discussed and endorsed by the Youth Justice Management Group and the Building Communities Together Partnership. It is proposed that members agree the Youth Justice Plan.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 The youth justice plan could not be endorsed or be rejected and rewritten, however, this course of action is not recommended given the wide consultation and engagement that has already taken place in the development and creation of the attached plan.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 It is recommended that the Council agree and formally endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2025/2026.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment
- 8.2 Appendix B – Youth Justice Plan 2025/2026

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval ☒

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☐

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☐

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months ☐

Item is Urgent Key Decision ☐

Report is to note only ☐

Officer details:

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West Berkshire Council Equity Impact Assessment

TEMPLATE

March 2023

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	People Directorate, Children's Services, Youth Justice Support Team
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Members are requested to agree and formally endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2025/2026.
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	It is a new plan, replacing the Youth Justice Plan for 2024/2025
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	Each Local Authority area partnership has a duty to produce an annual youth Justice plan that will identify how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending. The Youth Justice plan does not seek to bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage groups or individuals. The plan recognises where there is over representation of certain groups in the youth justice system and seeks to address that disproportionality and over representation.
Completed By	Dave Wraight
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	25/06/2025

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out. The plan should address the functions assigned to a YJS, including how services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce reoffending.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>It is proposed members agree and endorse the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 alongside the existing agreement of the Building Communities Together Partnership and the Youth Justice Management Group. The Youth Justice Plan sets out in detail the specific actions that will be taken during the course of the year.</p>
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our</p>	<p>The Youth Justice Support Team sought the views of children, volunteers, staff, Youth Justice Management Group and partner agencies in the production of the YJ plan. Each child receiving an intervention and every volunteer were asked their views using a 'what should the team be doing in 2025/26' questionnaire. They rated their top 5 areas and there was a box to add additional suggestions.</p> <p>The comments, feedback and priorities have been incorporated into the plan to give it shape and direction.</p> <p>There is a large amount of data used to shape the plan including demographic information, cohort profile information and data relating to offending all of which have been used to form the basis of the plan.</p>

Equity Impact Assessment

ability to deliver our climate commitments.	
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The plan has been through a number of iterations and been refined following feedback from the different partners and stakeholders. The option of not doing a plan would place the Local Authority Partnership in breach of its duties under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and therefore has not been considered.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan seeks to appropriately divert children aged 10-17 years old away from the criminal justice system.		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan outlines the work to monitor and address racial disproportionality in the justice system		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The plan recognises proportionately more female children in the YJ system locally than nationally and seeks to tailor responses accordingly		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Equity Impact Assessment

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Areas of deprivation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	It is recognised that proportionately more children in the justice system come from areas of deprivation therefore the plan seeks to address issues of poverty, education and employment		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group
Displaced communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are more children from the GRT community than others therefore specific work is undertaken to address this overrepresentation		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group
Care experienced people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children in care are over represented In the Justice system, protocols and practices are in place to divert them and reduce the impact. Children in		Service Manager, YJST	Quarterly Performance Monitoring at YJ Management Group

Equity Impact Assessment

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
				care go on to become Care Leavers.			
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	
Person Responsible for Review	
Authorised By	

EDI employee related EQiA's should now be sent to Human Resources hrenquiries@westberks.gov.uk

Youth Justice Plan 2025-2026

Youth Justice Plan

Service	West Berkshire Youth Justice Support Team
Service Manager	Dave Wraight
Chair of YJS Board	AnnMarie Dodds

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Introduction

The Annual Youth Justice Plan is a strategic blueprint that charts the course for our collective efforts to support children, young people, and their families—ensuring they have every opportunity to realise their full potential. As a committed and experienced partnership, we have a proven history of working collaboratively to tackle the root causes of offending, address systemic inequalities, and create positive, sustainable opportunities for children to thrive within our community.

Guided by the Youth Justice Board’s national commitment to a 'Child First' approach, the West Berkshire Youth Justice Support Team (YJST) has embraced this ethos. This child-centred philosophy places the rights, needs, and aspirations of children and young people at the heart of service delivery.

Our partnership acknowledges that meaningful impact cannot be achieved in isolation. The work we undertake depends on strong, collaborative relationships with statutory agencies such as Thames Valley Police, Health, and Probation, alongside vital contributions from voluntary sector organisations and educational partners. This Youth Justice Plan is designed to strengthen those connections further, enhance joint delivery mechanisms, and align our shared resources towards interventions that are proven to work—delivering measurable, long-lasting change for children, young people, and families in West Berkshire.

Above all, this plan reflects our unwavering commitment to transforming the lives of children in the justice system. We understand that many of these children have faced significant adversity, trauma, and disadvantage—realities that are acknowledged and reflected in the profile data included in this plan. In response, we remain steadfast in our efforts to deliver responsive, trauma-informed services that prioritise prevention, diversion, and relationship-based practice. Through this plan, we set out the progress made over the past year, track key performance indicators, and outline a clear, ambitious pathway for the year ahead—one that aspires to see every child and young person in West Berkshire live a life free from crime and full of possibility.

Vision and strategy

The West Berkshire YJST is committed to delivering an innovative, child-centred approach to youth justice, grounded in prevention, equity, and meaningful partnership. Our strategic vision is to:

- Work proactively with the wider Council, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership to identify and address risk factors linked to poor outcomes—including children’s offending—at the earliest possible stage. We aim to ensure that high-quality, evidence-informed services are in place to prevent offending and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

- Place the best interests of children at the heart of everything we do, recognising their distinct needs, rights, capacities, and potential. Our approach is child-focused, trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate, and rooted in strong, supportive relationships. We are committed to helping children build positive futures and realise their full potential as active, valued members of society.
- Tackle disproportionality across the youth justice system, ensuring that every child is treated fairly, equitably, and with dignity—regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances.
- Champion early intervention, prevention, and diversion, promoting a childhood free from unnecessary involvement in the formal justice system. We actively work to reduce the criminogenic stigma associated with justice system contact and support children to engage with pro-social opportunities instead.
- Strengthen multi-agency support for families, working alongside partners to ensure that parents and carers are equipped with the tools, guidance, and confidence they need to nurture strong, healthy relationships and positively influence their children's behaviour.
- Embed children's voices and lived experiences into all aspects of our work, ensuring that services are shaped by meaningful collaboration with children and their carers. We are committed to fostering active participation and wider social inclusion as core components of our practice.
- Collaborate with the Building Communities Together Partnership, local Courts, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and the Local Criminal Justice Board, to uphold the rights of victims, protect communities, and build public confidence in a youth justice system that is fair, restorative, and responsive.
- Promote children's individual strengths, interests, and aspirations, supporting the development of a positive, prosocial identity. Our goal is to create the conditions for long-term desistance, safer communities, and fewer victims of crime.

Governance, leadership, and partnership arrangements



The YJ Management Board and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) form one Building Communities Together Partnership (BCT) chaired by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority. The grouping of these partnerships in such a way allows the group to take a strategic approach to crime and disorder issues. The partnership has representation from Health, Public Health and Wellbeing, Probation, Police, OPCC, Fire Service, Children and Family Services, Adult Services, Registered Social Landlord, Voluntary Sector and council members amongst others. The Partnership agrees resource priorities including the YJST, agrees responses to relevant national and local policy development, and monitors performance by exception reporting. Since the YJST was formed, the BCT partnership has delegated the operational management to the YJ Management Group.

The YJ Management Group meets quarterly, chaired by the Director of Children's Services. All statutory partners are represented at a senior level and Building Communities Together. The Terms of Reference of the YJ Management Group include overseeing the development and implementation of the Youth Justice Plan; considering resource and workload issues; receiving reports in relation to audits of effective practice; diversity and disproportionality; approving policies and protocols. The group also ensures that Public Protection and Safeguarding issues are addressed at each meeting. In July 2024 the YJ Management Group took part in a development event with input from the Youth Justice Board in addition to workshops to develop and enhance the groups effectiveness.

The YJ Management Group takes responsibility for monitoring overall performance of the YJST with a Performance Management Report taken to each meeting. The YJ Management Group holds the YJST to account regarding the timely submission of data, compliance with

secure estate placement information, completion of standards for children audits and oversight of Critical Learning Reviews following community safeguarding and public protection incidents. Where there are areas of under-performance further multi-agency action plans are developed and agreed by the YJ Management Group with implementation monitored. Any issues that require a strategic response are escalated to the BCT Partnership. The group have benefitted from the attendance of parents, victims and young adults who have worked with the YJST giving their feedback and insight into the work of the team, areas of strength and areas of development. During the last year the YJ Management Group received the following additional reports and presentations by team members:

- Victim Audit Findings
- 'Who's In Charge' Parenting Programme report
- Summer Holiday Activity Review
- Adolescent Female Violence and aggression Report
- Supervision Audit
- Drugs in schools policy
- October Half Term Activity Review
- First Time Entrants Analysis
- Reflective Review
- Audit – APIS Report
- Annual feedback report
- February Half Term Activity Report
- Implementing PDAT Report
- HMIP Inspection Programme presentation

Each of these reports and consequent recommendations are considered by the YJST Management Group, with the YJST Manager held to account for the delivery of the actions. This is also an opportunity for team members to receive direct feedback from the Management Group and strengthen the relationship between both.

Line management of the YJST sits with the Service Director of Children and Family Services, the YJST Manager is a member of the Service Manager Team within Children and Family Service, also being responsible for managing Early Help services, co-chairing EMRAC (Exploitation, Missing Risk Assessment Conference) and the Channel Panel. This positioning, with governance through the Building Communities Together Partnership and line management within Children and Family Services enables the YJST to be strategically positioned in the most appropriate place - straddling welfare and justice. The Director of Children's Services also sits on the overarching boards.

West Berkshire Council Strategy 2023-2027 has five priorities: *A Fairer West Berkshire with opportunities for all* – vulnerable children and families supported at early stages to prevent the need for more critical or statutory services, solutions are identified to prevent homelessness, supported to access the mental health services that they need, good education attainment results. *Thriving communities with a strong local voice* – Encourage and support our local



communities to take the lead in driving what is important to them, Help our residents lead fulfilled and active lives, Work with partners and the local communities to enhance our main towns and large villages, Help our villages to remain vibrant long term. These elements of the strategy are embedded in the Youth Justice Plan.

The YJST Partnership ensures that the prevention of children offending and re-offending are key to the Youth Justice Plan and are strongly linked to other planning frameworks including the Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029 from the OPCC. The plan focusses on protecting communities, people and property, with specific targets that impact children ranging from early intervention in schools to addressing serious violence. The Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board has a set of objectives and priorities: Improving services for Victims and Witnesses, increasing public confidence in the Criminal Justice System and reducing reoffending with a number of specific actions that are delivered by the partnership affecting children. As noted the YJ Management Group reports to the BCT Partnership and feeds into the development of the partnership strategy. Progress against actions and performance targets is monitored, with exception reporting. The Operational Manager attends the Police partnership TTCCG meetings, Knife Crime and Serious Violence and Mini MAPS meetings to respond to local crime and anti-social behaviour and address emerging problems.



The YJST Service Manager attends the Berkshire Local Criminal Justice Group, reporting to the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). Thames Valley YJS Managers share the representation at the LCJB sub-groups. The YJST Service Manager chairs the LCJB Children's Board and sits on the LCJB. There is direct representation by the Reading YJS Manager representing the Thames Valley YJS Managers at the MAPPA Strategic Group (Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements), Wokingham YJS Manager representing at the Disproportionality Group and West Berkshire YJS Service Manager at the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel.

Communication with the courts is through the Youth Court User Group with a Youth Panel magistrate a member of the YJST Management Group.

YJST Managers continue to contribute to key groups such as the Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC), Life Chances Team Meetings for Children in Care, Children and Young People Voluntary Sector Meeting and Young Persons Housing Panel. In addition, the YJST Manager is a member of the Children's Prevention and Early Help Partnership, Independent Scrutiny and Impact Group and Child Exploitation Strategic Group.

The YJST Partnership has effectively ensured that the needs of children who offend are on the agenda across criminal justice and children's welfare partnerships and are therefore able to input into relevant planning processes.

In terms of staffing the YJST has the following:

- Service Manager 0.6 fte
- Operational Manager
- Assistant Team Manager
- Two social work posts one at senior level
- Two YJST Officer posts
- Turnaround Worker
- Restorative Justice and Volunteer Coordinator
- Information Analyst 0.6 fte
- Probation Link Officer 0.7 fte
- Teacher 0.6 fte
- Seconded Police officer
- CAMHS Health and Justice Physical Health Nurse 0.27 fte
- CAMHS Health and Justice Advanced Mental Health Professional 0.33 fte
- CAMHS Health and Justice Speech and Language Therapist 0.2 fte
- Apprentice Business Assistant
- Business Support Officer

The YJST comprises of full time and part time staff, 15 female staff and 2 male staff with one post in recruitment phase. All the staff who hold cases have been trained in Universal Safeguarding, Child Exploitation, ACE's, Trauma Informed Practice, Assessment Planning and Intervention (APIS), Prevent and Restorative Justice. A comprehensive and ongoing training programme is in place to ensure continued professional development for the staff group.

Local context – West Berkshire

Profile of the Community Resolution, Turnaround and Prevention Cohort



Profile of the Out of Court Disposals Cohort



Profile of Court Disposals Cohort



Progress on previous plan:

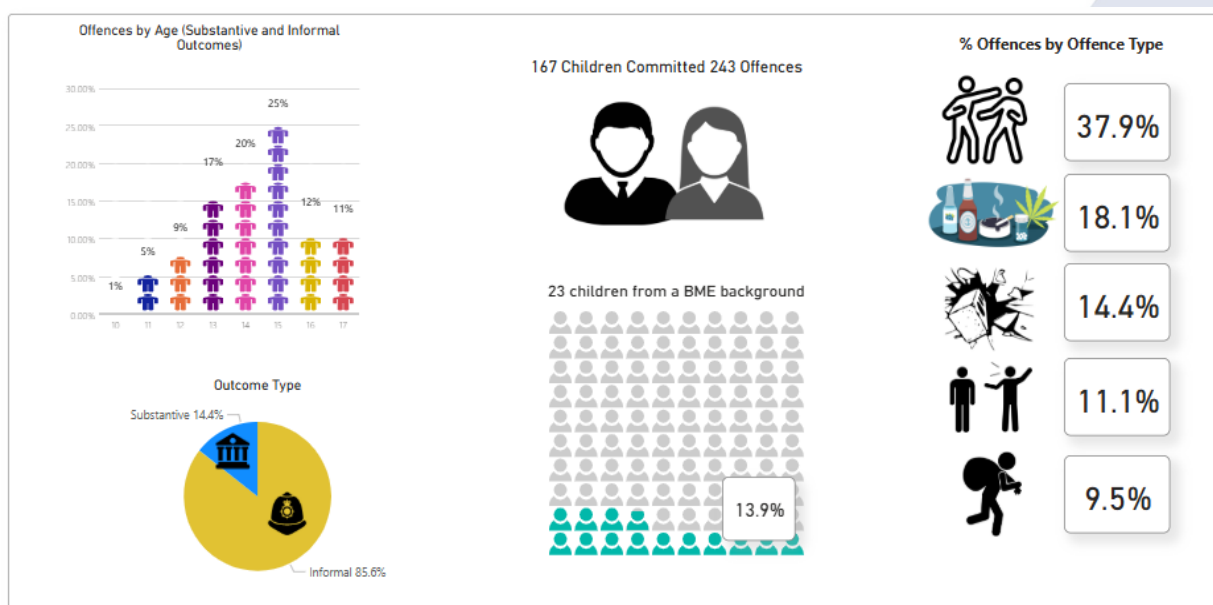
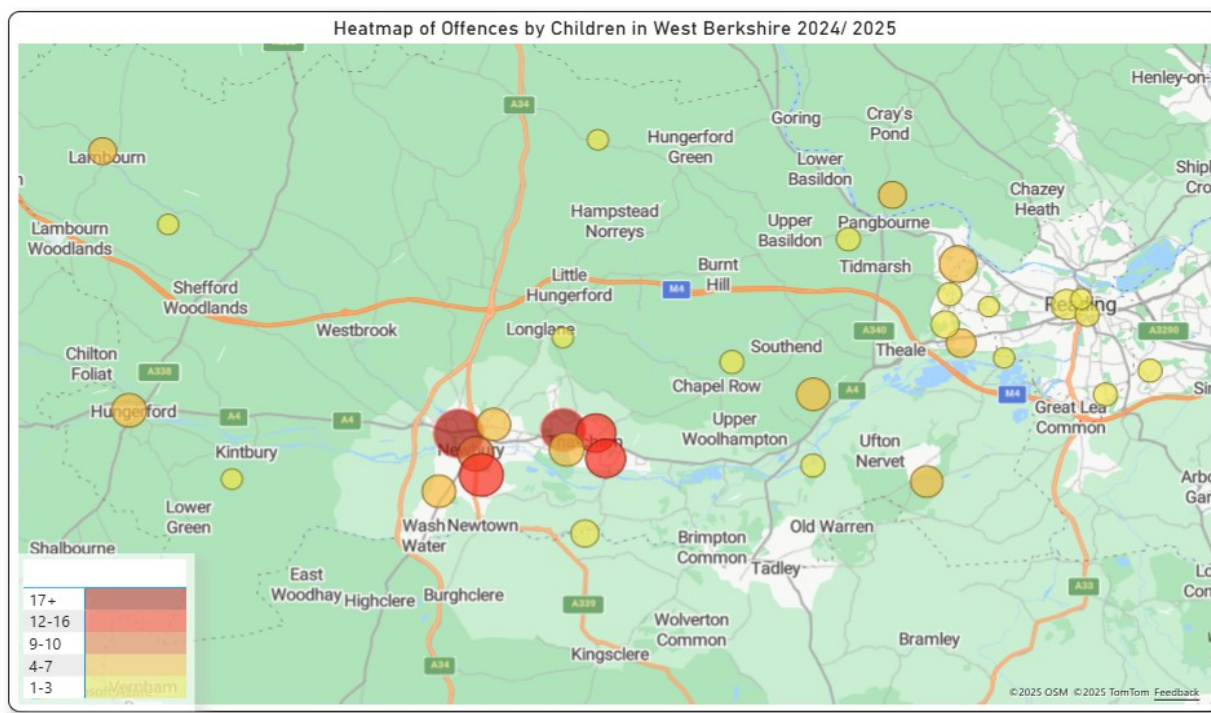
The Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 set out a number of targets to be carried out across the partnership, these were pulled together in one action plan. There were 35 targets set out in last year's plan, the Service Manager provides an update on the action plan which is overseen and scrutinised by the Management Group via quarterly reporting. A RAG rated action plan and members of the team attend the Management Group meetings to present their reports of work undertaken. Throughout the year some targets were reprioritised due to staff vacancies and changes within the partnership actions.

Key achievements of the last year have been;

- The introduction of Act Now – OPCC funded one year project to support children in police custody for serious violence and weapon offences
- Introduction of Joint Decision-Making Panels (JDMP), partnership panel to make outcome decision for children
- Outcome 22 and deferred caution – development work continued, and this outcome is available in Thames Valley from April 2025
- Implementation of the National Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PDAT)
- Development of child friendly assessment and plans
- AQA awards – 18 children achieved certification for their achievements
- AQA awards have been used to create opportunities for children not in full time education.

- Turnaround funding has been used to create opportunities for children and families to integrate into their local communities, access to half term activities and spending time together
- First Aid – the Nurse and Police Officer delivered basic first aid courses to children, they receive an AQA award upon successful completion
- Arts awards – partnered with City Arts to provide children the opportunity to create and submit art to the Koestler Award
- Youth Café at the local youth centre has been used to meet children in the community and introduce them to universal services
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) forum led by Forensic Physiologist offered reflection and advice to led practitioners and arranged by YJST
- National Girls Forum – over 80 YJS teams across England and led by YJB to learn from research and good practice
- Reflective practice; 7 direct observations, 3 assessment reflections and 6 reflective practice forums throughout 24/25
- Parenting - Increase in parenting referrals and attendance at Who's in Charge (WiC) group
- YJST team members continue to deliver specialist inputs to the parenting group and Volunteers training sessions; such as sleep training, GRT cultural awareness and child first briefing.
- Social Work student successfully undertaking her final year placement.
- Implementation of Communication Tools resource created by Speech and Language Therapist to support communication friendly interventions and practice
- Implementation of communication passports to support the voice of the child in ensuring their needs are known by all professionals who work with them
- The Nurse has delivered 14 vaccinations to children that have missed routine childhood vaccinations
- Health cards – the nurse has introduced these to enable staff to prioritise, be aware and have an understanding of individual children's allergies/health conditions ensuring that children, when in our care, are always supported and safe
- Health screening for all children open to YJST, providing early identification of any unmet needs
- Continued positive professional relationship with the courts

Performance over the previous Year:



In 2024, there was a 14.4% increase in the number of children receiving either an informal or substantive outcome, rising from 146 in 2023 to 167 in 2024. This follows a 15.6% decrease the previous year, with the total number of children in 2024 still lower than in 2022. The increase is due to a 27.7% rise in children receiving informal outcomes, while those receiving substantive outcomes decreased by almost a third (31.3%), from 32 in 2023 to 22 in 2024.

Of the 22 children given a substantive outcome, 14 were First Time Entrants to the youth justice system, a further decrease of 46.2% from 2023. Of these FTEs, 6 (42.9%) had previously received a Community Resolution compared to 65.4% in the previous year. Conversely, the number of young people receiving either a first informal or formal outcome (First Time Offender) increased by 28.9% from 97 in 2023 to 125 in 2024.

Offences leading to a Community Resolution increased by 23.3% from 159 in 2023 to 196 in 2024. This follows a 17.2% decline in the previous reporting period. There has been a decline in the number of offences leading to a substantive outcome from 63 in 2023 to 47 in 2024.

Offence Type

In 2024, the most prevalent offences leading to either a substantive outcome or a Community Resolution were:

- **Violence against the Person: 37.9% (92 offences)**
- **Drugs: 18.1% (44 offences)**
- **Criminal Damage: 14.4% (35 offences)**
- **Public Order: 11.1% (27 offences)**

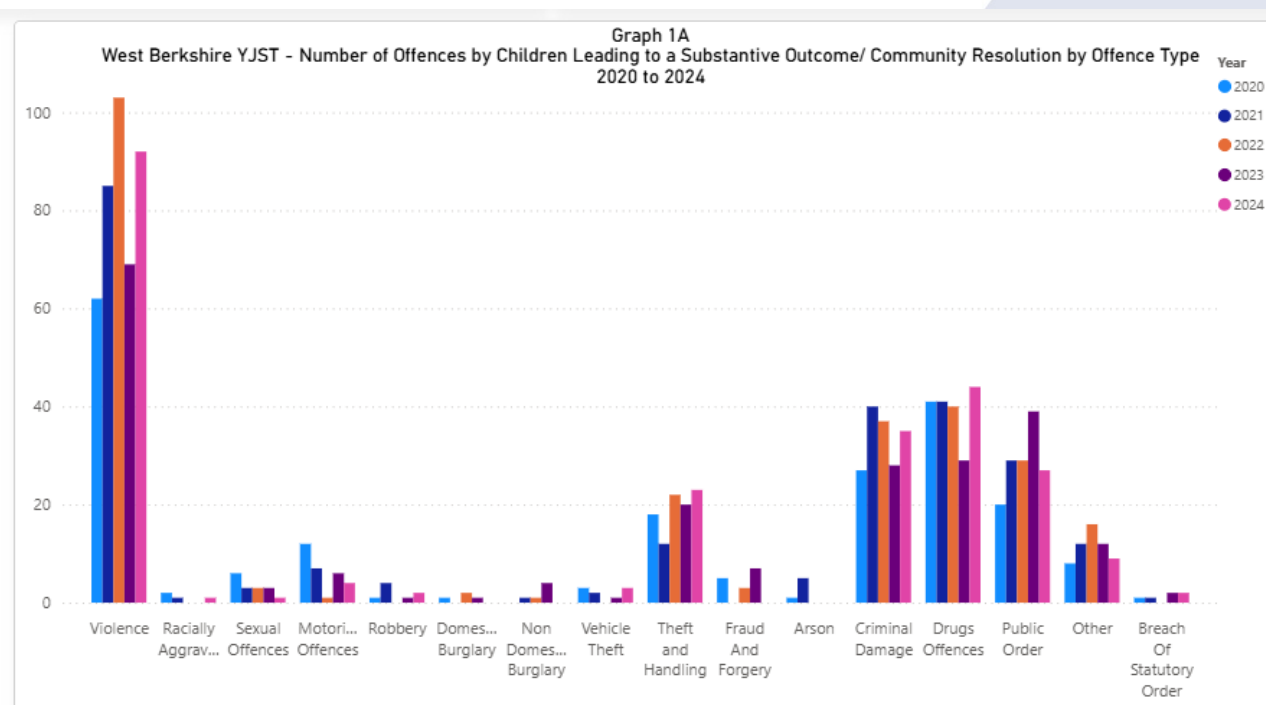
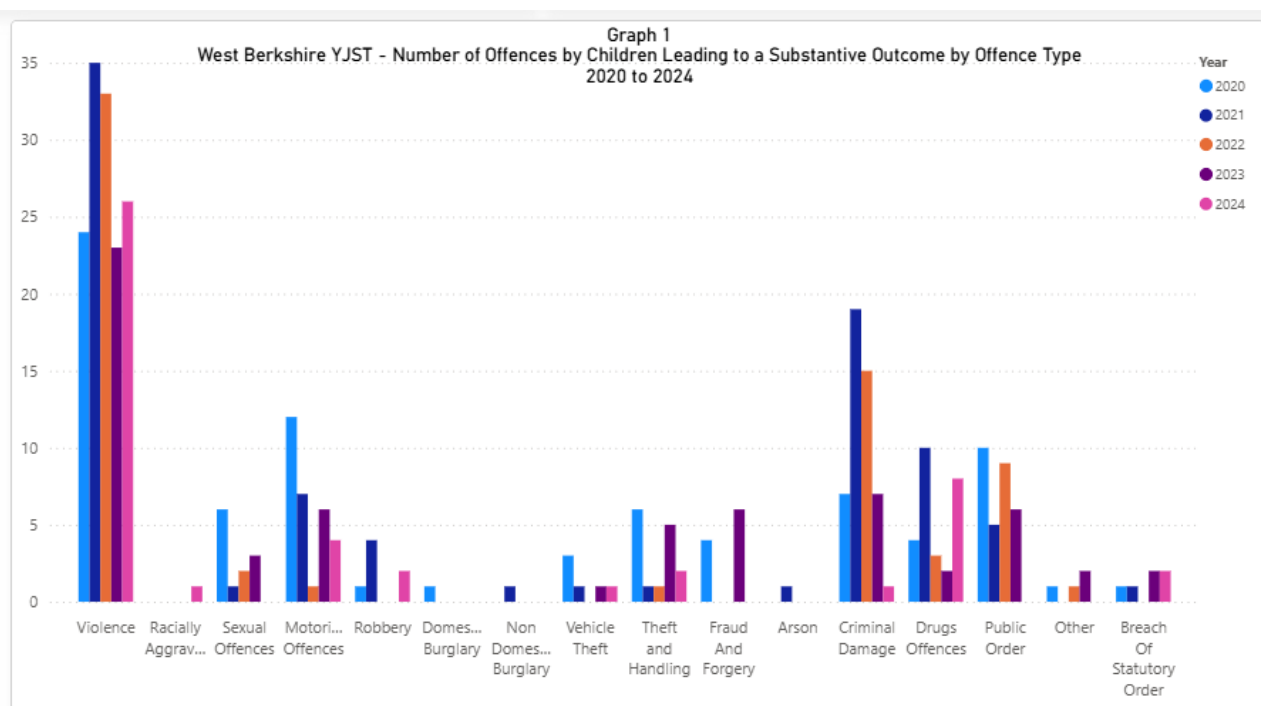
Violence against the Person remains the most prevalent offence category, increasing by 33.3% from 2023 to 2024. This follows a decline of a similar margin in the previous year. The number of children committing violent offences has increased, but by a lower rate (15.3%), indicating that more children are committing multiple violent offences.

- Ninety of the ninety-two offences have a YJB Gravity level of 3, two have a gravity level of 5.
- A lower proportion of offences led to a substantive outcome (28.3%) compared to 33.3% in 2023.
- The most common violent offence remains Assault by Beating (62 offences).
- Four children committed seven offences of violence against an emergency worker.
- Three children received outcomes for possessing a knife blade/sharp pointed article in a public place compared to five in the previous year.

Drug offences recorded a sharp increase of 51.7%, from 29 in 2023 to 44 in 2024, now representing 18.1% of all offences. This follows a decline in the previous reporting year. The number of children committing drug offences increased by a lesser rate of 24.1%. An increased proportion of offences led to a substantive outcome in 2024, rising from 6.9% in 2023 to 18.2% in 2024. Of the 44 offences committed, 40 relate to possession of a class B drug and 4 to the supply of a class B or class A drug.

Following a decline of 24.3% in 2023, the number of **criminal damage** offences committed by children increased by a similar percentage, up 25% from 28 in 2023 to 35 in 2024. The proportion of offences leading to a substantive outcome declined from 25% in 2023 to 2.9%. Notably, one child committed five of the seven offences that led to a substantive outcome in 2023.

To summarise, a 27.7% increase in children receiving an informal outcome has directly contributed to the overall 14.4% increase in the number of children entering the youth justice system which follows a significant decrease in the previous reporting year. Correspondingly, the number of offences committed by children increased by 9.5% to 243 with the average number of offences per offender remaining at 1.5. Please refer to Graphs 1 and 1A.



Children Committing Crime

Following a decline in 2023, the number of children entering the youth justice system has increased by 14.4% from 146 in 2023 to 167 in 2024.

Boys:

- In 2024, 117 boys committed 169 offences, an increase of 18.2% and 9%, respectively. However, the number of male offenders remains lower than 2022 and at a similar level to 2021. The number of offences leading to a substantive outcome continues to decrease and now represent 19.5% of outcomes compared to 29.7% in the previous year. Offences by offender has decreased from 1.6 to 1.4 and is lower than that of the female cohort.
- Offences of violence by boys increased by 62.2% from 37 in 2023 to 60 in 2024. This is lower than the 2022 rate. While the number of offences leading to a substantive outcome remains the same as the previous year at 23, they now represent 23.3% of outcomes compared to 37.8% in 2023.
- Drugs offences committed by boys has increased by 48.1% overall. 20% of male drug offences lead to a substantive outcome compared with 3.7% in 2023, potentially reflecting an increase in seriousness of drugs offending.

Girls:

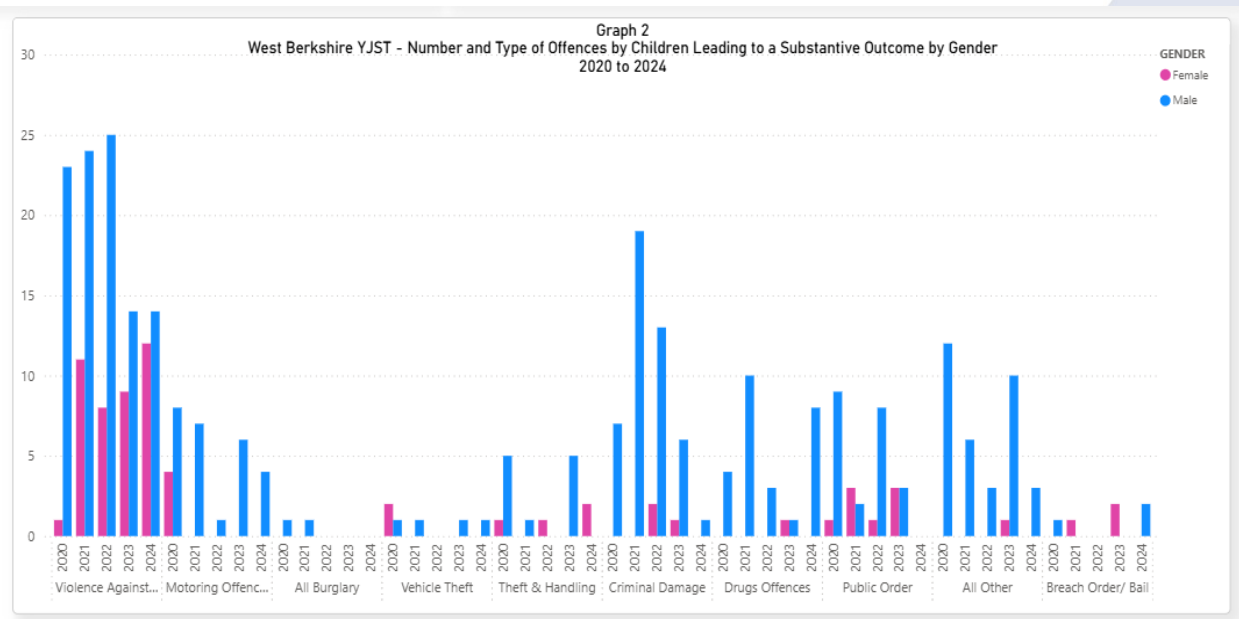
- The number of female offenders has marginally increased by 3 from 47 in 2023 to 50 in the current period. With a higher increase in boys, the proportion of females in the cohort has declined from 32.2% to 29.9% of offenders. Of note, females commit more offences per offender at a rate of 1.5 versus 1.4 for boys.
- The distribution of girls' offences by offence type has not changed significantly with the number of violent offences remaining the same as 2023 (32) and representing 43.2% of all offending. The proportion of the violent offences leading to a substantive outcome has increased from 28.1% in 2023 to 37.5% in 2024. There have been small increases in Theft and Handling (13), Criminal Damage (8) and Drugs offences (4).

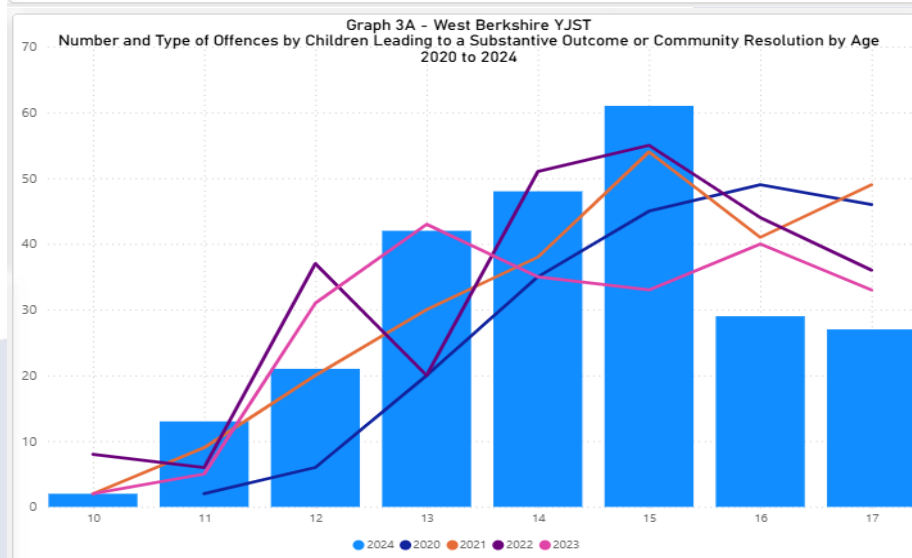
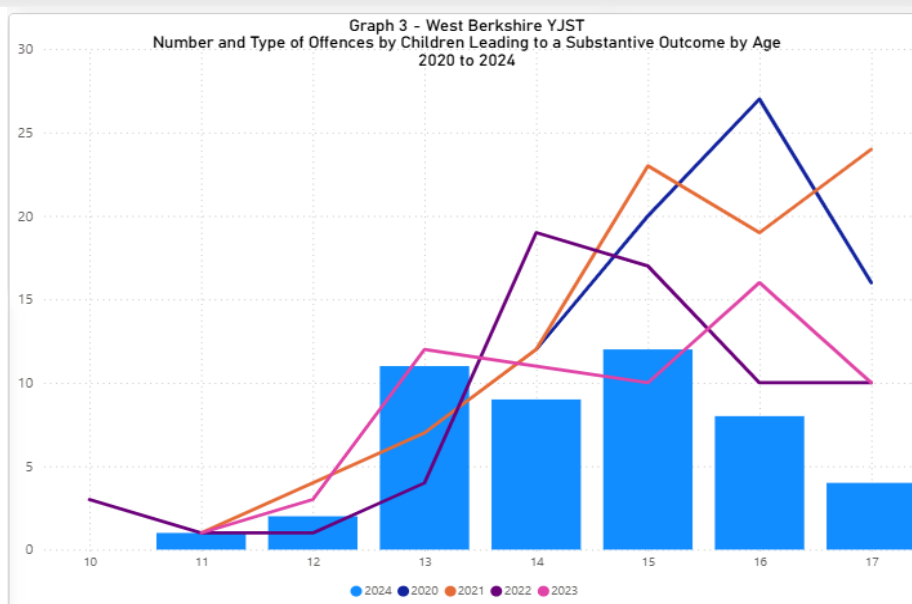
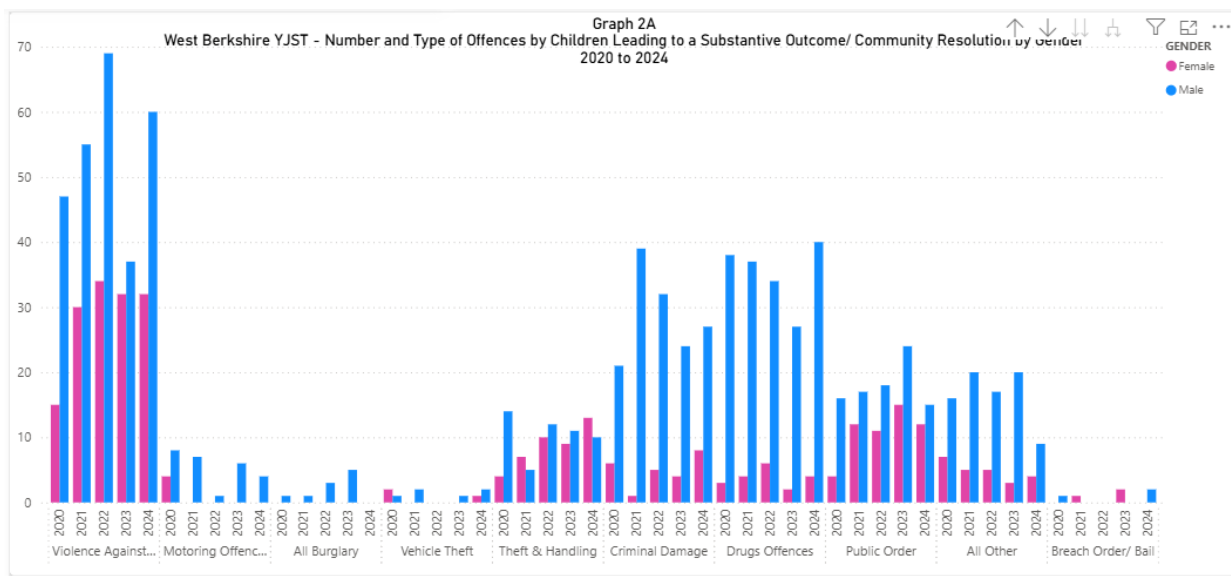
Age:

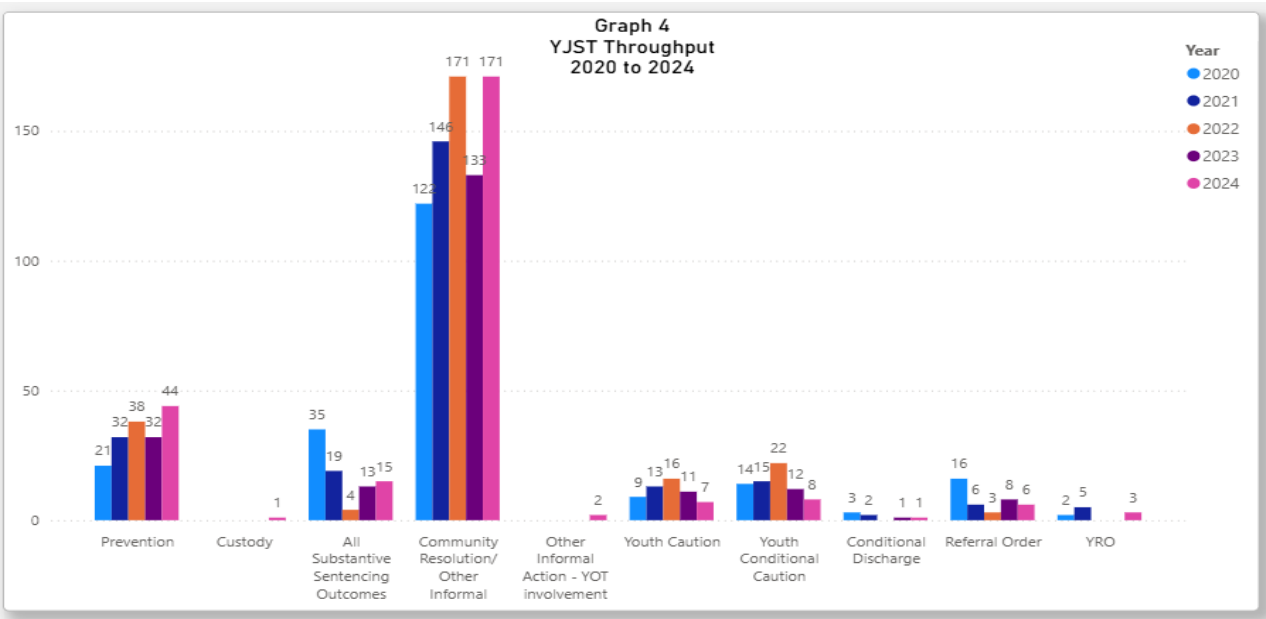
- The peak age for receiving either a formal or informal outcome has increased from 13 in 2023 to 15 in the current reporting period, which is more in keeping with previous years with the peak age sitting at 15/16. In the 15-year-old group, 44 children committed 25.1% (61) of all offences. 2024 has also seen a spike in offences committed by 11-year-olds with 9 children committing 13 offences.

- The peak age for offences leading to a substantive is 15. The age at which children receive an informal outcome increases with each age group, peaking at 15 and falling sharply at the ages of 16/17.
- The peak age of offending for girls is within the 13-15 years age group with 56 offences committed and representing 75.7% of all offending. All female substantive outcomes fall within this group. The peak age for boys is 15, up from 13 in the previous period with this age group now committing 24.9% of all male offences.
- The youngest offenders were 11 years old for boys (6) and 10 years old for girls (2).
- Violent offences were committed by children in all except the 10-year-old age group with girls more likely to commit offences between the ages of 13-15 and boys peaking at a similar age but represented across the age ranges.

The detailed demographic information combined with the offence type data and the profile date enables the youth Justice Support Team to target intervention and support in a more effective manner understanding the cohort better.







Risks and Issues:

Challenges, issues and risks are monitored via the quarterly YJST Management Group. These include;

- Financial pressures: there remains pressures across all budgets both within the Local Authority and in the wider partnership. There have been changes in the bidding process that the Youth Justice Service can utilise.
- Education for children: there is a high level of suspension and exclusion from school within West Berkshire. Poor attendance of children in education remains a significant risk factor to offending.
- Turnaround project funded by the MoJ will end in March 2026, this creates less resources for supporting children at the point of arrest and when the police take no further action. Consideration throughout this year will be required to seek to absorb this type of work into the work of the team.
- There continues to be significant increase in girls who offend, 31% is above the national average of 14% (2023-24)
- HMIP inspection of West Berkshire YJST in December 2022 recommended the partnership works together to secure a seconded Probation Officer, this continues to be a challenge, however there have been significant mitigations in place to address the identified needs.
- Thames Valley Police has changed the model of policing from one that is co-terminus with the Local Authority to one that covers three Local Authorities – there is a risk that there will be a reduction of resources or dilution of focus on West Berkshire.
- Local Authority devolution is on the horizon and will affect how and where services are delivered in the future.

- There is significant change in wider Children's Services with the implementation of Family Help reforms – this is both a risk and opportunity to ensure that vulnerable children receive the right support at the right time by the right person.
- There are changes taking place with the development of the Violence Prevention Partnerships and Young Futures Panels – the timeframe for the implementation creates a risk for the delivery of this duty.

Child First:

The work of the YJST is unpinned by the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) Child First Principles which are set out below:

As children	Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
Building pro-social identity	Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
Collaborating with children	Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
Diverting from stigma	Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

Source: [PowerPoint Presentation \(yjresourcehub.uk\)](https://www.yjresourcehub.uk/)

Voice of the child/feedback:

The YJST sought the views of children and volunteers in the production of the YJ plan. Children receiving an intervention and volunteers were asked their views using a 'what should the YJST focus on in 2025/26 survey. They picked their top four priorities and there was a box to add additional suggestions.

Children said -

The top three areas that were most important were:

1. Preventing children from committing crime
2. Helping Children stay in education and do well
3. Supporting children with positive activities / community events

Volunteers said –

The top three areas that were most important were:

1. Helping Parents to support their children
2. Address serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding
3. Helping children stay in Education and do well.

Volunteers added additional suggestions which included access to substance misuse support.

In addition to those areas the YJ Management Group recognised the following areas would also benefit from attention:

1. Supporting children from groups which are over represented
2. Diverting children to outcomes that don't damage their future
3. Work with families, particularly younger siblings

The YJST seeks ways to support children to provide feedback about the service they receive at the YJST and we support children working with the YJST to engage in wider forums/opportunities to have their voices heard. These include:

- Children and their parents are invited to provide feedback in reviews of their intervention, their views on the service lead to changes in the intervention delivery and any themes are considered to change wider service delivery
- All children who work with the YJST, and their parents are invited to complete a confidential questionnaire at the end of their intervention and the Service Manager reviews all of these and makes amendments to services if required – last year a total of 37 questionnaire's (21 children and 16 parent) were received. An annual report is written for the Management Group that captures that feedback
- Groups take place on an occasional basis focusing on specific topics, these allow in-depth exploration of a topic with a group of young people and subsequent actions taken
- All young people are informed of the complaints process at the start of the intervention, and sign to say that this has occurred
- All parents completing parenting courses with the YJST provide feedback on their experience of the group work
- All victims of crime involving children in the YJST are asked for feedback on services provided by the YJST, particularly restorative interventions.

Resources and services

The YJST is funded from a variety of sources, as outlined in the table below, The Secretary of State under their power in section 41 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has the power to make grants to local authorities for the purposes of the operation of the youth justice system and the provision of youth justice services. There are certain grant conditions attached to this funding, West Berkshire YJST complies with all the conditions as set out in the grant conditions documents.

The YJST uses the Local Authority funding, Youth Justice Grant, partner contributions and available additional grants to deliver youth justice services with the aim of reducing the number of children in the youth justice system and preventing further offending.

The YJST is active in seeking to use other funding beyond the core funding to extend the opportunities to support and engage with children at an appropriate time. These opportunities include:

Turnaround – funding from the Ministry of Justice is secure until March 2026, during this year decisions will be made about any future funding of the project. The YJ Information officer is part of a national evaluation of the scheme which will inform any future funding arrangements.

Act Now – the initial funding is in place until November 2024, however, through careful use of resources and collaboration with Turnaround, the reach has been extended until March 2026. West Berkshire YJST will work with other YJS and the OPCC to look at future funding opportunities for this scheme.

Violence Prevention Partnership – Thames Valley is a Violence Reduction area and as such has funding directed towards this area of work. Under the auspices of the OPCC there is funding being directed to each Local Authority to develop and implement initiatives to prevent offences of violence, as such the YJST is involved with the Building Communities Together Partnership to utilise this funding in the ongoing prevention of serious violence.

YJ Management Group Development:

New members of the YJ Management Group liaise with the either the Service Manager or Chair of the Management Group to receive an induction into the role of group member. A comprehensive induction pack is provided to each of the members of the group detailing their roles, responsibilities and contribution. The YJ Management Group has the responsibility for the YJST governance, strategically leading across relevant partners to ensure a high-quality service is provided to all children and victims. During the past year the management group have received reports and presentations on a range of work undertaken by the team, alongside partnership updates and performance reports. The YJB has provided input on their Oversight Framework to support the understanding of the group members.

During 2024 there were changes in the membership of the Youth Justice Management group, with a number of long-standing participants finishing their partnership roles. Therefore, in July 2024 a development session took place to provide training, deepen understanding and contextualise the functions of the Youth Justice Management Group as a foundation for the group to further develop its governance function for the Youth Justice System locally.

Workforce Development:

The YJST recognises that our most important asset is our staff therefore we place a very high importance on recruiting, inducting, training and retaining our staff. The YJST take an individual, operational and strategic approach to workforce development. Individual level – annual appraisals take place identifying individual professional development, ensuring any professional registration requirements are met, such as social work registration. Operational level – There is a range of learning activities and events that take place throughout the year to ensure the team reflects on practice and new guidance. These include reflective forums, learning from audits and benchmarking of national reports to improve the work with children, families and victims. Strategic level – National and Partnership updates provide us an

opportunity to continue to develop our approach and services. Such as, the introduction of the Prevention and Diversion Assessment tool. The continued focus on Child First and integration in policy.

The training plan for 2025/26 builds on the training delivered over the previous years and professional backgrounds of the team. In the past year bespoke training was delivered – implementing the prevention and diversion assessment tool and follow up quality assurance work, social work practice education development, neurodiversity, child first in practice, speech and language resources and case specific reflective learning. One team member completed their Assessed and Support Year in Employment (ASYE) and one business administration apprenticeship was completed. Training and development that is planned for 2025/26 includes, Appropriate Adult and MAPPA refresher training, health led training, AIM3 intervention, Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate, cognitive bias and police leadership training. Development activities will also include learning from HMIP inspection reports and any National publications. The team offer development and training opportunities to partners and agencies to deepen their understanding and approach to children in the justice system.

Evidence-based practice and innovation:

West Berkshire YJST is a small team therefore doesn't usually attract wider services to undertake evaluation and randomised control samples as required by academics. However, there are a number of areas of emerging practice and innovation that have been piloted in the locality.

- Health packs – The Nurse created health packs following research about health inequalities in oral health and her own findings from health assessments with children. These include dental care with information on how to brush your teeth as evidence shows that poor dental hygiene affects physical and mental health.
- Food hampers – following a number of children attending sessions hungry the Nurse suggested food be readily available to children. Food hampers are now in both rooms where children attend, they can help themselves and there are bags to take food away with them. YJ Officers can also take food hampers to children at home or in the community.
- First aid – The YJ Police Officer and Nurse have partnered to deliver basic first aid training with children. This is open to all children, and they gained AQA award recognising their completion and achievement.



- Communication passports and a range of resources – the Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT) regularly delivers training to the team. This year a SLC pack is available to all workers with a range of resources to support their work with children. Communication Passport training has taken place so YJ Officers can create passports and these are overseen but the SaLT, creating more time for direct intervention by the SaLT.

- Positive activities for children – A booklet has been updated providing children with information on a range of community clubs and organisations. This is provided to all children open to YJST at their initial session to support community integration.

Standards for children

There has been no national requirement to complete a formal self-assessment against the Standards for Youth Justice Services, the last being in 2023 against Standard 2: work in court. In February 2025 the YJB published a report with the findings of the national audit submission. The report underscores the importance of ensuring that children receive fair treatment and appropriate support during court proceedings and provides valuable insights into areas where improvements can be made to improve the experiences of children at court. The Assistant Team Manager has undertaken observations of court staff throughout this year as a commitment to ensuring good quality practice is undertaken.

Each year the YJST sets out a number of internal audits to assess the work of the YJST against standards for children, HMIP standards and codes of practices. All audits are written into a report and presented for scrutiny at the Management Group meetings, all actions are overseen by the Group.

The action plan enclosed with the YJ Plan sets out the planned internal auditing for the coming year.

Service Development

There are not any recent HMIP inspections or critical learning reviews that require service development. However, during the last year we completed an internal reflective learning review following a child being sentenced to custody following several breaches of a Community Order.

Reflective learning review: The first section of the reflective review was specifically for YJST staff who worked directly with the child and allowed the participants to talk through their involvement across the timeline. The second part included additional external partners and reflected on what went well, what was a challenge and what steps needed to be taken next. The review highlighted a range of positive, learning/reflective/questions along with some areas of development. The learning review and seven action points was presented to the Management Group for scrutiny in January 2025.



There are a number of themes that our action plan will focus on; these include:

1. Enhance Early Intervention and Prevention

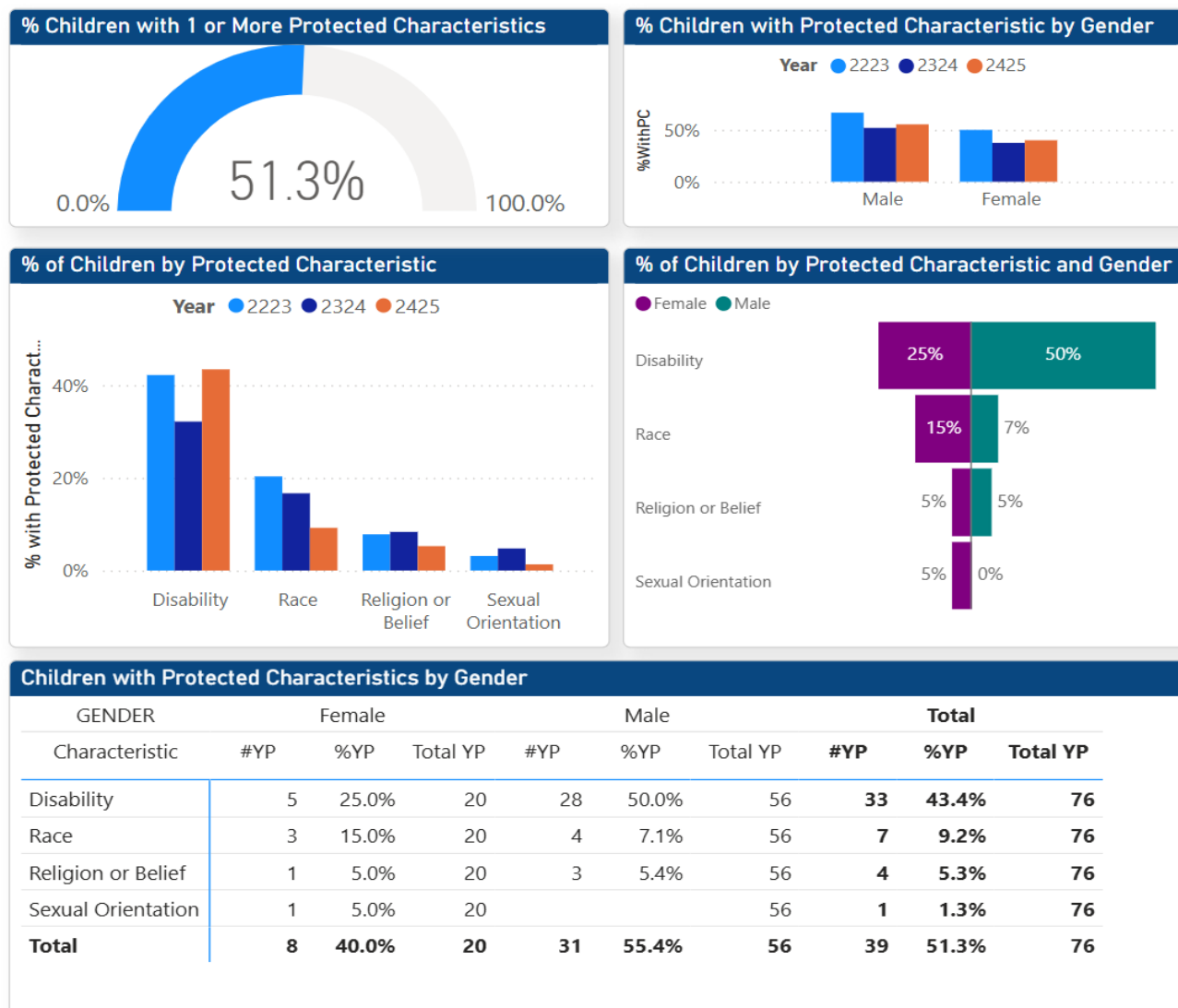
- Expand and evaluate the use of prevention letters through Mini-Maps, and targeted education (e.g., E-bike misuse).
- Increase school-based interventions through the Positive Intervention Programme (PIP).

2. Strengthen Evidence-Based and Reflective Practice

- Support staff in using evidence-based tools (YEF Toolkit, What Works Centre).
 - Promote reflective practice through structured discussions and learning from inspections.
3. Improve Out-of-Court Disposals and Diversion
 - Fully implement and evaluate Youth Deferred Prosecution (YDP).
 - Maintain and strengthen Joint Decision-Making Panels (JDMP) for consistency.
 4. Advance Public Protection and Risk Management
 - Deliver and evaluate responses to violent offences (e.g., “Act Now”).
 - Conduct audits and training to improve risk assessment and MAPPA engagement.
 5. Promote Inclusion, Equity, and Cultural Competence
 - Conduct disproportionality audits and monitor protected characteristics.
 - Deliver culturally competent training to staff and support to underrepresented communities.
 6. Support Education, Training, and Employment Outcomes
 - Strengthen multi-agency approach to reduce exclusions and improve attendance.
 - Broaden engagement through AQA awards and revised safer schools policy.
 7. Embed Health and Wellbeing Support
 - Train staff on trauma, communication needs, and first aid.
 - Evaluate and roll out communication passports.
 8. Elevate Victim Engagement and Restorative Practices
 - Benchmark and audit victim-related practices.
 - Increase feedback from victims and improve initial contact processes.

National Priority areas and KPIs:

Children from group which are over- represented:



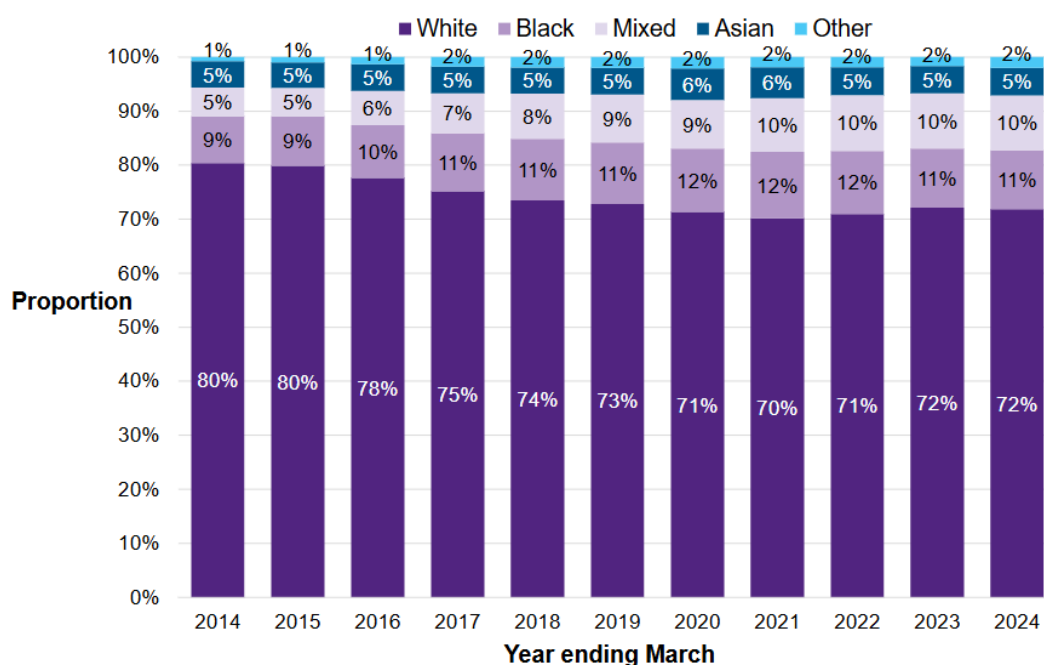
The YJST monitor the caseload of children involved with the YJST in addition to those who have come into contact with the police through other reasons for example stop and search or children who are excluded. Where areas of over representation or disproportionality are identified, the YJST partnership seeks to understand the drivers for this over representation and address those with those who have the power to make changes.

There were 23 children from a GRT/ethnic minority background who committed 32 offences representing 13.8% of the offending population and 13.2% of all offences committed respectively. Of the 32 offences committed, 15.6% resulted in a substantive outcome, compared with 19.9% of offences committed by young people from a white background. In terms of seriousness of offending, 50% of offences committed by children from a GRT/ethnic minority background are categorised with gravity 3 or above compared with 53% for children

from a white background. The annual school census for secondary schools showed that the proportion of GRT/ethnic minority pupils in the general West Berkshire secondary population was 14.6% in 2023. The GRT/ethnic minority population is therefore marginally underrepresented in the youth justice system in West Berkshire.

Statistics produced by the Youth Justice Board show that 28% of **children receiving a caution or sentence** in England and Wales in 2024 were of ethnic minority. This compares to 4.5% of children in West Berkshire in 2024. Of note this uses the Ethnicity 5+1 groupings which classifies children from a GRT background as white. See graph below.

Proportion of children receiving a caution or sentence by ethnicity, England and Wales, years ending March 2014 to 2024



In 2024, 29.9% of children receiving either an informal or substantive outcome locally were female. Of these, 22.7% received a caution or sentence. This is higher than the national average of 15% in 2024, which itself has risen from 14% in 2023—suggesting a national trend of increasing female involvement in the youth justice system.

- In 2024/25, 76 children engaged with an intervention with the Youth Justice Service (YJST). Of these, 39 children (51.3%) were identified as having 1 or more Protected Characteristics. This compares to 46.4% in 2022/23 and 60.9% in 2021/22.
- Males are more likely to be identified as having a Protected Characteristic than females – 55.4% versus 40%
- Disability is the most common Protected Characteristic (43.4%). This has increased from 32.1% in 2022/23 but is a similar level to 2021/22 (42.2%). Boys were twice as

likely as girls to have disability as a Protected Characteristic (50% vs. 25%).

- The proportion of children with race as a protected characteristic has declined from 16.7% to 9.2%. In the current cohort, 15% of girls were identified with this characteristic, compared to 7.1% of boys, reversing the trend of the previous two years.
- 5% of girls were identified with sexual orientation as a Protected Characteristic. No boys in the 2024/25 cohort were identified with this characteristic.

Policing:

West Berkshire YJST sits within the Thames Valley Police (TVP) area, from 7th May 2025 the West Berkshire Local Policing Area (LPA) moved to a Berkshire West Local Command Unit (LCU). The YJ Police Officer will be managed under the newly formed Harm Reduction Unit.

Previously there have been strong links with officers of all ranks within the LPA, such as schools officer, safeguarding police officers with children who are at risk of exploitation, police sergeant within the anti-social behaviour meetings, police inspectors overseeing knife crime and neighbourhood problem solving.

There have been strong partnerships with the Criminal Justice Team which include the Youth Justice Unit – OOCR decision makers and the YJ Police Officer was managed through the CJT and there are regular joint supervisions.

The YJST Service Manager has links with the LCU Chief Inspector and Superintendent who sit as part of the Management Group and Management Board. The Service Manager has wider links through the local criminal justice board and partnership meetings such as OOCR scrutiny panel and Children's Board.

Strengths:

- Strong engagement at LCU and TVP level
- Joint problem-solving approach to individual children and wider issues
- Grant funding by the OPCC to address ASB and prevention of offending
- The Service Manager sits on the LCJB and chairs the LCJB children's board and sits as a YJS manager on the OOCR Scrutiny panel, placing them at a strategic level within the partnership
- Joint OOCR decision making panels have commenced this year creating a robust oversight for decisions

Challenges/risks:

- TVP restructure and moving away from LPA to Local Command Units model – this could impact on the strong local partnership approach with resources covering a larger area, dilution of West Berkshire within a larger policing area
- There is a proposal to reduce the capacity of the YJST full time seconded Police Officer under the LCU arrangement

FTEs per 100,000 10-17 year olds: Outturn Jan 23 – Dec 23 = 146, Outturn Jan 24 – Dec 24 (latest figures) = 79

A first-time entrant (FTE) is a child receiving a formal police or court disposal for the first time, thus entering the youth justice system. A First Time Offender (FTO) is a child who receives either a first informal or substantive outcome within the period.

The YJST in conjunction with the Thames Valley Police introduced a prevention scheme in September 2018 enabling the police to identify young people who displayed behaviour below a criminal threshold but that without support may become a first-time entrant. In addition, a Drug Diversion Scheme was launched in West Berkshire to direct young people caught in possession of illegal drugs to a substance misuse service that can educate, treat and support those young people rather than use the formal criminal justice system.

In terms of national reporting the measure in relation to FTEs is per 100,000 10–17-year-olds. From Q1 2023/24 the MoJ are no longer providing quarterly data updates from PNC. The YJB now derives the FTE data from quarterly case level data YJS submissions.

The most recent measure for January 2024 to December 2024 is 79, a 45.9% decrease from the previous year's outturn. This is significantly lower than the national (160) and regional (142) outturns. There has been a further rise in First time Offenders, increasing by 9.1% from 110 in 2023/2024 to 120 in 2024/2025.

The YJST has undertaken further local analysis of FTEs and FTOs during 2024.

In addition to the key FTE and FTO measures, the quarterly graphs also show a four-quarter moving average. For FTE, this shows no significant spikes over recent quarters with a gradual decline. Conversely, The FTO moving average shows more fluctuation over time, stabilising in recent quarters, although with a gradual upturn.

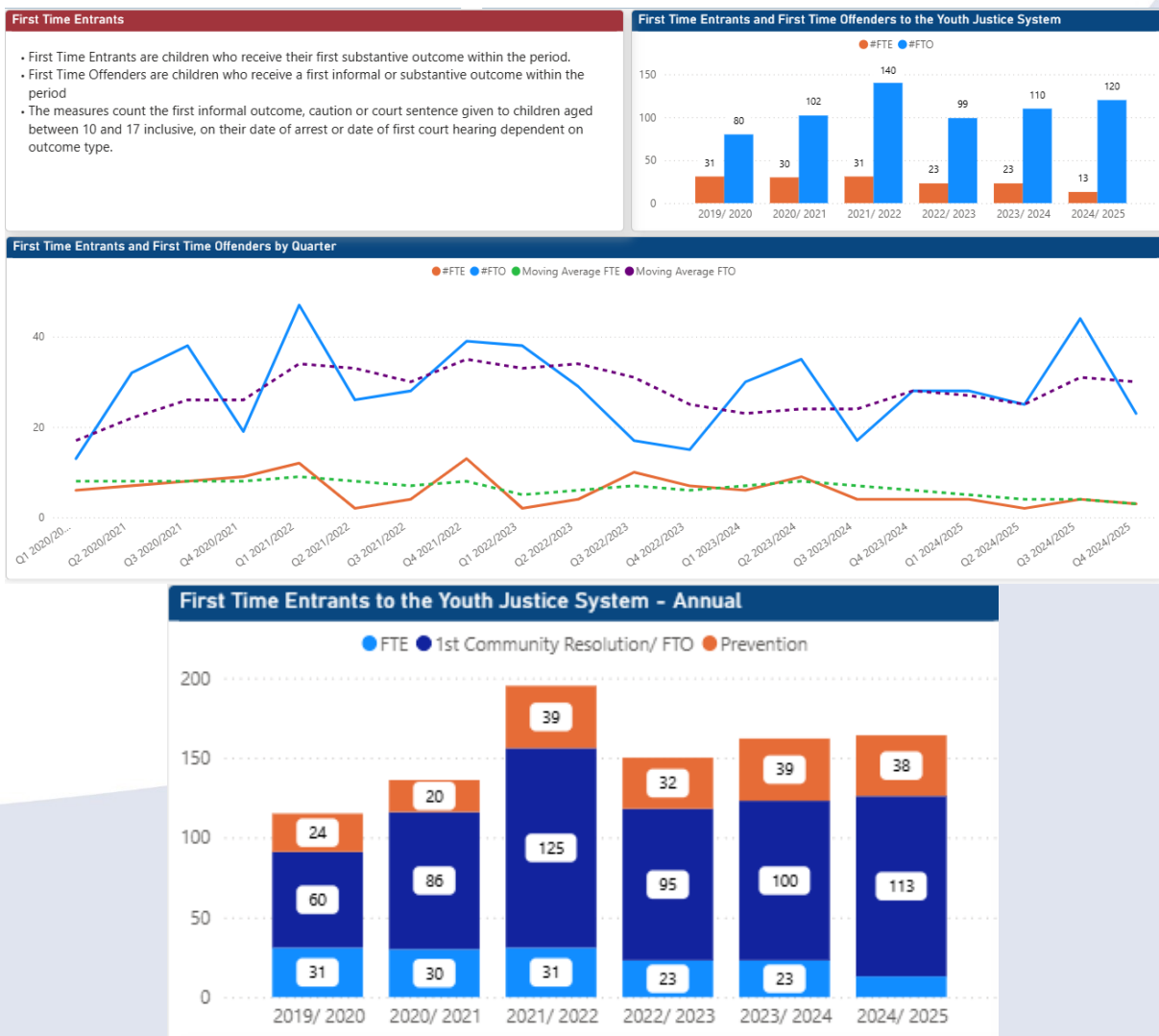
FTE (First Time Entrants)

- In 2024/25 there were 13 FTEs, a reduction of 43.5% from the previous reporting period. Of these, 46.2% had previously received an informal outcome, compared to 56.5% in 2023
- 11 of the 13 FTEs (84.6%) received an out-of-court disposal in the form of a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution and 2 children received a Referral Order.
- The peak age for becoming an FTE has declined from 15-16 to 14 for the current cohort and this is representative of both boys and girls.
- 23.1% of children are from a GRT/ethnic minority background, compared with 17.4% in 2023. However, the number of children has decreased from 4 to 3.
- The cohort records the lowest number of girls (1) in recent reporting years with boys now representing 92% of the cohort.

- Violence continues to be the main offence type for which a young person becomes an FTE representing 47.6% of all FTE offences. There has been an increase in children becoming an FTE due to drugs offences, with 3 children committing 6 offences and all receiving an out-of-court disposal.

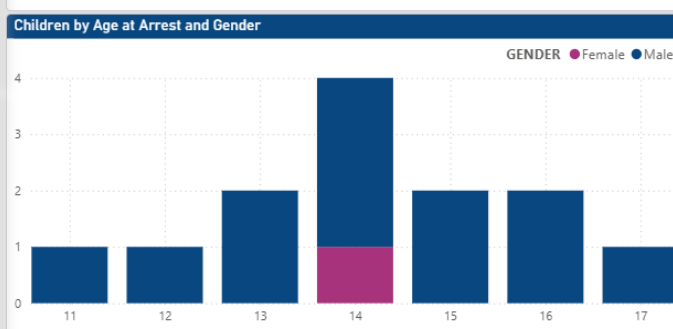
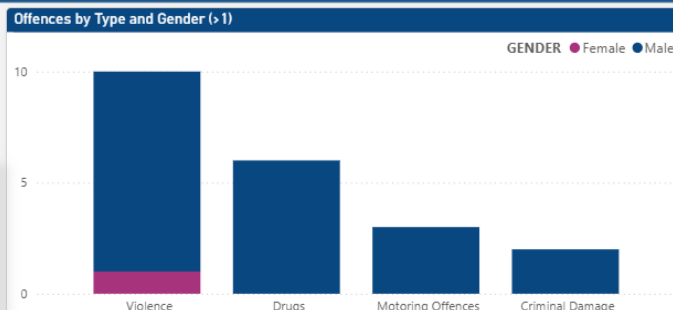
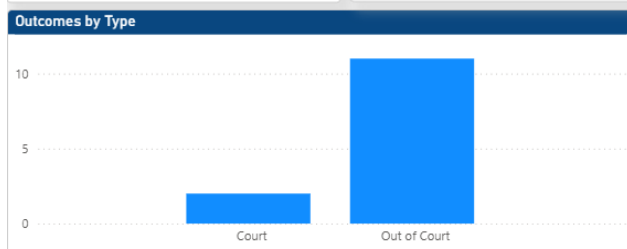
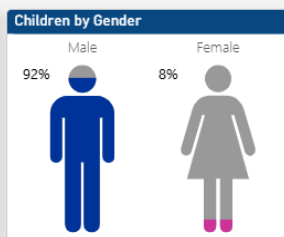
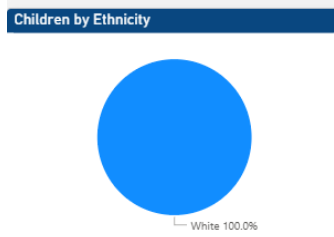
FTO (First Time Offenders)

- In 2024/25, there were 120 FTOs, an increase of 9.1% from the previous period.
- Compared to FTEs, a higher proportion of young people receiving a first outcome are girls (26.7%) although this has declined from 37.3% in 2023/24.
- The highest proportion of FTOs are in the 14/15 age band (40.8%). For girls, the peak age is 15 (28.1%) and for boys the peak is 14 (22.7%)
- The FTO cohort sees an increase in the proportion of children from a GRT/ethnic minority background from 6.4% in 2023/2024 to 16.7% in the current period
- Violence and drugs are the most prevalent offences overall and for boys while girls are more likely to become an FTO for offences of violence, drugs and theft and handling.



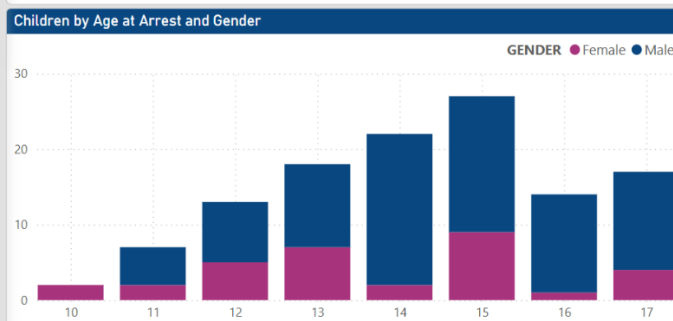
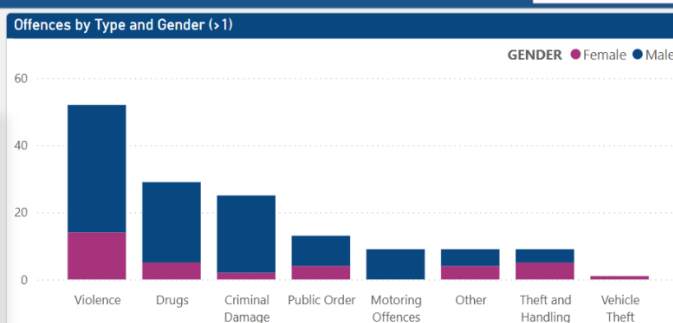
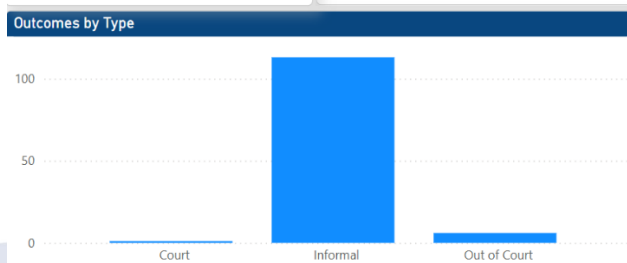
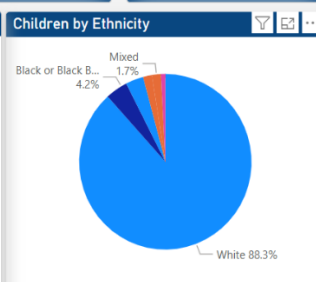
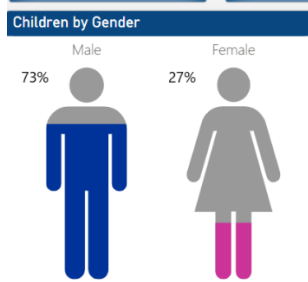
FTE Overview - 2024/25

# Children	# Outcomes	Prev CR	# Offences
13	13	6	21



FTO Overview - 2024/25

# Children	# Outcomes	# Offences
120	120	147



Prevention:

The YJST have worked in partnership with other agencies to prevent children entering the youth justice system. Where Thames Valley Police identify children behaving in an anti-social manner which and has the potential to escalate into the criminal space, they write a

'prevention letter' to the parents outlining the specific behaviour that is causing concern, which is hand delivered and explaining that they will be notifying the YJST who will be in contact. The letter is also sent to the YJST who allocate a worker to undertake a home visit. During the visit the YJST worker undertakes a brief assessment with the view to delivering an intervention. In 2024/2025 there were 40 prevention letters issued, with 8 successful interventions taking place and 3 open at the time of this plan.

The YJST also work in partnership with secondary schools and the TVP safeguarding team delivering the Positive intervention Programme (PiP) aimed at working with students who have committed offences in school but are not being formally processed through the criminal justice system, or there are behavioural concerns identified, and exclusion maybe considered. When a pupil is referred, they are allocated a worker either in the Police Safeguarding Team or YJST who will undertake one to one work within the school setting to address the presenting behaviour and support them with their education. In 2024/2025 there were 44 children referred to PIP along with a group work session. 3 children did not engage, and 2 children were not offered a service following review of the information. 84.5% did not go on to offend. In relation to exclusions one child was permanently excluded and one child moved to another after PiP involvement.

Turnaround:

The YJST received Turnaround grant funding from the MoJ in December 2022 for a three-year project to provide early help style voluntary assessments and intervention to children - offering voluntary, needs driven, family focused support to children to de-escalate their behaviour and get their lives back on track. Since the commencement of this grant we have offered children early engagement with support at the point of arrest, having been released under investigation or released on conditional bail. There is a referral route from children service when police have attended the home and taken no further action. Our target number of children to successfully complete interventions were 36; we completed 41 interventions with 3 children going on to reoffend receiving formal outcomes within 12 months of closure.

Act Now:

Act Now is a one year PCC funded project to address serious violence. A Youth Worker will response to children in police custody within 90 minutes of the call and the service runs 7 days per week from 9am-10pm. It has been recognised that intensive and speedy intervention can help children to move away from / address problematic areas of their lives. Act Now will offer earlier intervention to children, providing an opportunity for them to reduce or avoid involvement in the criminal justice system. YJST will supply data to the OPCC and support the evaluation of the pilot.

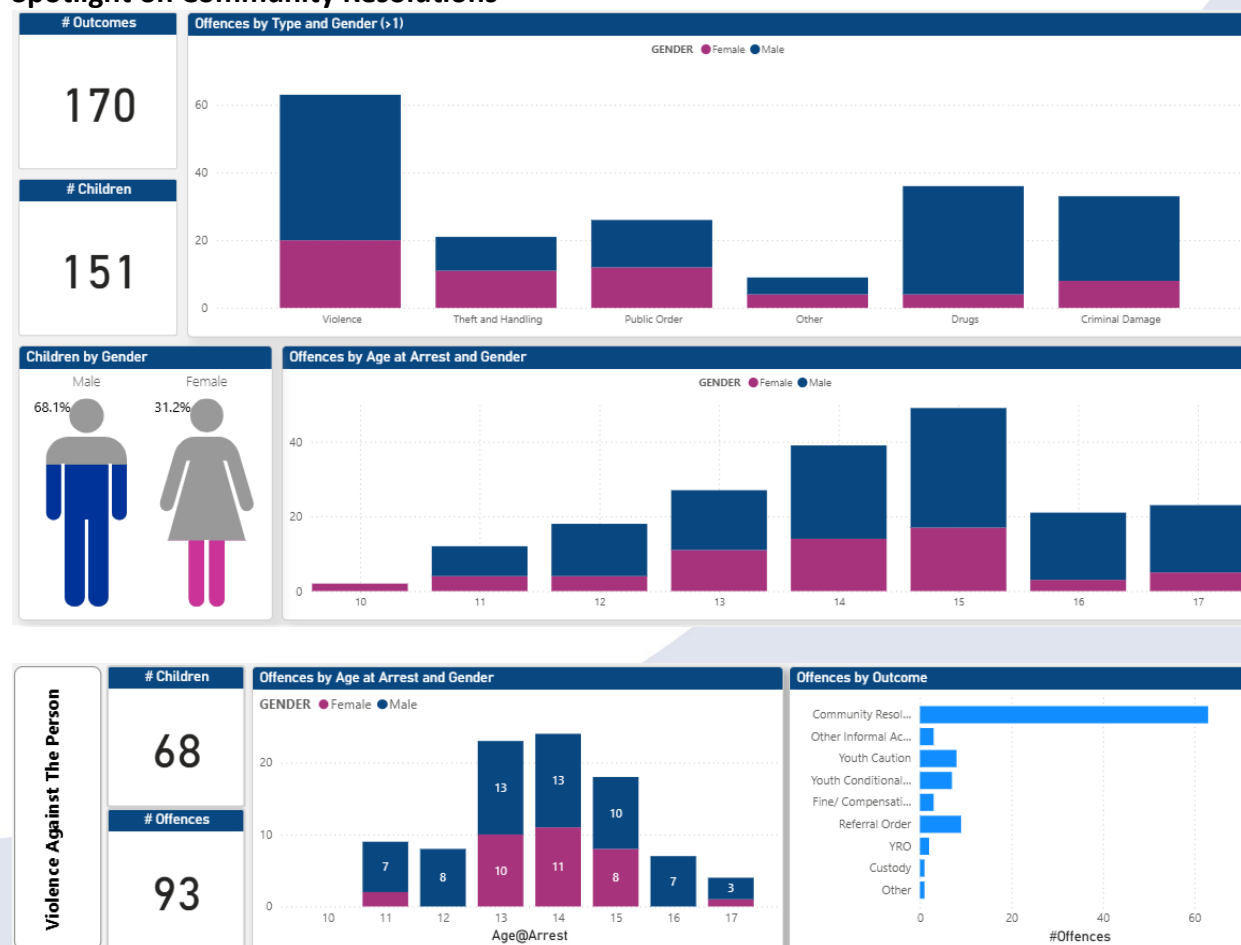
Diversion:

Thames Valley Police use Community Resolutions as an informal disposal diverting children away from the formal criminal justice system. It is primarily used by officers on the street dealing with low level offending. Officers check their data systems to ascertain if a child has

been subject to a previous disposal, it can be given to children and young people who have had no previous contact with the criminal justice system. If a previous Community Resolution has been given, then the decision is deferred to be made between the TVP Youth Justice Unit and the YJST through joint decision-making panel. West Berkshire YJST should be notified of all Community Resolutions and triage them all to consider voluntary intervention. 172 Community Resolutions (CR) and 35 Drugs Diversion were issued between April 2024 and March 2025. 111 offered YJST intervention of which 55 (50%) accepted the service, this is a slight increase since last year. Children receiving a drugs diversion are referred to the Edge, substance misuse service for six sessions of education and harm minimisation, 43% engaged in this intervention.

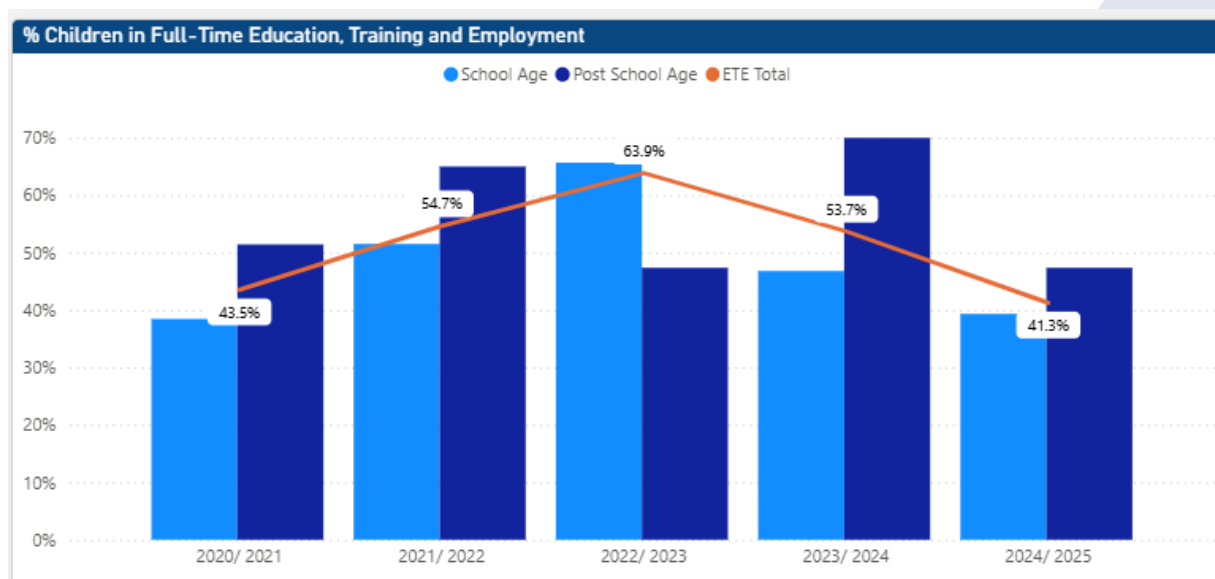
The YJST Manager sits on the Thames Valley Out of Court Scrutiny Panel which has oversight of all the out of court resolutions. The YJST Senior Social Worker acts as YJST decision maker and she has presented examples of West Berkshire joint decisions at the scrutiny panel.

Spotlight on Community Resolutions





Education:



29.2% of children completing a substantive intervention were in full time education or employment at the end of their order. This increases to 41.3% when including informal interventions.

The YJST continues to maintain a priority focus on supporting children to access and maintain fulltime ETE. Termly problem-solving meetings are held with colleagues from different educational establishments and those with oversight of the system, identifying solutions to increase attendance and attachment with education. The YJ Teacher receives daily exclusions

reports and works closely with the Education Attendance Officers and Exclusions Officer to identify early support if necessary.

YJST report on the number of hours offered and accessed, as well as whether there has been any improvement or deterioration during the course of the intervention, this enables the YJ Management Group to have an informed overview of YJST performance and address strategic issues or blockages.

The Prevention Intervention Programme (PIP) is now embedded within schools. There have been good links made with key leaders within schools to promote this approach and information is sent regularly to ensure schools remain aware of the support on offer. The teacher has positive partnership links with a range of professionals offering support in schools including, Youth Workers, virtual school, targeted sports and mental health support workers. There is good communication to ensure there is not duplication in services being offered to children within schools.

The YJST is a centre for AQAs, providing the opportunity for children to gain certificate of achievements where relevant and beneficial. This year five children were awarded AQA awards.

Restorative Justice and Victims:

West Berkshire YJST recognises the importance of providing a high-quality service to victims of youth crime. The YJST Restorative Justice and Volunteer Coordinator (RJVC) strives to achieve this by working with victims delivering restorative justice practices and reparation. Restorative Justice is a standard agenda item on the fortnightly team meeting; this allows for regular briefings and updates to all staff about RJ and victim work. Part of the RJVC role is to co-ordinate the volunteers, offering support and training opportunities, ensuring continued involvement with the YJST and participation in Referral Order panel meetings process.

The YJST will continue to offer direct support to victims of youth crime. This may include gaining an impact statement which can be incorporated during victim awareness sessions with children that have caused the harm, a letter of explanation (where appropriate), shuttle mediation between the victim and children, preparing and facilitating face-to-face restorative meetings, one-to-one intervention sessions covering protective behaviours and keeping safe (when under the age of 18) and regular updates to the victim on the progress of the children. After the victim's case has been closed they may be sign posted or referred to other services for example; SAFE- who support young victims of crime and Help After Harm- for all victims of crime. A closing letter summarising the support offered / received is also sent, along with a feedback form. After annually reviewing the process of initial contact, we are continuing initial contact via letter, which includes a YJST victim leaflet and the victim codes of practice handout. The victim will then be contacted via the telephone a week after the letter has been sent. This continued practice seems to have so far been successful as a higher number of victims are more responsive to telephone calls. An audit of victim cases is undertaken annually to evaluate the effectiveness of communication.

This annual audit focused on the period of January 2024 to January 2025. During this period the YJST received 163 YOT1's with an offence that had an identified victim, 59 provided consent for the YJST to make contact. The VLO attempted contact with all victims. Despite numerous attempts 26 victims did not respond to the initial letter or subsequent telephone calls so their cases were closed. 13 victims were happy with the contact made by YJST but did not want any ongoing support. 2 received letters of explanation only. These figures show an increased number of YOT1's were received, however the police received a decreased number of victims providing consent.

Referral Orders:

Referral Orders are supported by trained volunteers who chair the panels in a restorative manner. Two panel members work together with the child and parent/carer and the YJST Officer to get to know the child and agree a contract of intervention to be carried out during the length of the Referral Order. At each panel meeting feedback is gained from the panel members and the child, this feedback is used to inform future panel member training events and improve services to children, collated feedback is detailed below.

Total number of RO starting April 2024	5			
Initial Panels	Review	Breach	Extension	Final
5	4	0	2	0

Panel members:

- All feel they have enough time during the pre-meet to discuss actions and are confident to ask for more if needed.
- All feel their interactions with the other panel members, child and parents were good. One parent did require support to understand the panel process and the work that will be carried out with their child.
- All feel they are now adopting a more child first approach.
- All feel they are getting to know the child better and have noticed their engagement improve during the review panels.

Children:

- All panel members introduced themselves and explained the expectations of the meeting.
- All children felt they were given the opportunity to speak.
- All children felt they were listened to and heard by the panel members

Serious Youth Violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding:

It is important to recognise that the national KPI measure is different from the Thames Valley Police area agreed definition and data collection. During 2024-25 there were four children who committed six offences of Robbery, Violence against the person and Drugs supply. There

were a range of outcomes from Community Resolution, Youth Condition Caution and Court Orders. One child breached their Court Order several times and was resentenced for the original offence to a Detention and Training Order. No child was overseen by MAPPA for these offences.



The AssetPlus/PDAT assessments are used to assess the risk of that children present to others reducing this risk is a focus of the work the YJST undertakes with partners and children. For all children who present high or very high risk safety concern for others are overseen by the Operational Manager at monthly multi-agency case planning forums.

The AssetPlus/PDAT also assesses for vulnerability to the child through the Safety and Wellbeing assessment. As part of the assessment sexual and criminal exploitation is assessed. For all children where concerns are highlighted a screening tool is completed with them and submitted to EMRAC (Exploitation, Missing Risk Assessment Conference) via the Operational Manager.

There is mandatory requirement to report all serious incidents to the YJB who meet the specific requirements, YJS are then required to consider critical learning reviews to examine the circumstances surrounding the offence and any opportunities that the YJS had to intervene earlier. West Berkshire have not had any children meet this threshold and no reviews took place this year.

Children involved in the Youth Justice System have experienced higher levels of childhood trauma and adversity than many other in the community, see profile on pages 5-7. Research around the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) supports a relationship-based trauma informed approach to the work undertaken with them. Safeguarding children is a crucial role of the YJST and this is assessed through AssetPlus/PDAT assessments.

The YJST is represented on the Thames Valley wide Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP) Board by the Head of Youth Offending Service for Oxfordshire, who represents all Thames Valley YJS's at this forum. The YJST is committed to being active partners in the delivery of the

Serious Violence duty alongside the VPP in Thames Valley. The YJST is an active member of the Serious Violence Steering group working with the Community Safety Partnership to implement the local requirements of the SV Duty. The YJST remains engaged with TVP and partners to address knife crime and serious violence attending the fortnightly meetings to ensure services are provided early.

The YJST remains an active member in a number of partnership meetings, the Operational Manager attends EMRAC (exploitation, missing and risk assessment conference), TTCG (police led) and Mini-Maps (ASB), Knife crime and serious violence meeting, with attendance at all meetings. This enables the YJST to share intelligence with colleagues and direct resources at emerging issues that impact on public safety. The YJ Police Officer continues to support the provision of a high volume of intelligence. The YJ Police Officer reviews any notifications triggered by an alert system set up for all open YJST children and the LPA daily briefing, he alerts the Operational Manager so issues can be addressed in a timely fashion. The Operational Manager attends the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) meetings and ensures information is shared regarding children turning 18 years old.

There remains a focus from the YJST Operational Manager to ensure all members of the team are trained in safeguarding, Child Exploitation, Prevent and County Lines. The Service Manager is the co-chair of Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC) panel and the YJST Operational manager attends to facilitate the information sharing in relation to children working with YJST. The YJST are members of the Channel Panel, one child has been overseen by Channel and one child is currently being assessed. Over the past year the YJST has attended all the relevant Child Protection Initial and Review conferences.

Detention in Police Custody:

Thames Valley Police lead on Children in Custody meeting and chaired by the Chief Inspector responsible for the TVP custody suite and is undertaken bi-monthly. Membership includes a Milton Keynes YJ data lead, Youth Justice Manager, Chief Inspection Crime Manager, Custody Inspector, Criminal Justice and Custody Strategy Sergeant, out of hours (EDT) team managers from across TV, and the appropriate adult coordinator for Berkshire. This meeting sets out to review all children who have entered one of the custody suites, reviews individual decisions on detention, remand or release and sets to identify any patterns. This also has a focus for reviewing section 38(6) of PACE 1984 to ensure the procedure is followed. Actions are set and follow up for individual cases and learning is disseminated and use to improve practice and outcomes.

West Berkshire YJST has a duty system of trained staff to provide appropriate adult services during office hours and has support from the Emergency Duty Team out of hours. The YJST Manager and Police Officer provides training for both internal and external staff (including independent children's homes in the area) to ensure there is consistent knowledge to keep children safe in custody. The YJST appropriate adult guidance is updated every three years or when there is a policy change.

Use of custody and constructive resettlement (including remand):

There has been one custodial sentence to Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) during this past year and no remands. The data published by the Youth Justice Board uses a custody rate per 1,000 10-17 year olds in West Berkshire. With one custodial sentence given during the period the outturn for Jan 2024 – Dec 2024 is 0.06. This compares to a regional rate of 0.06 and a national rate of 0.10.

	2014 - 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025
Total number of custodial sentences	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

One child received a Youth Rehabilitation Order with Intensive Supervision and Surveillance requirement. There is not a dedicated ISS team to facilitate or manage these interventions and this falls to the YJ Officers with support from the whole team to ensure up to 25 hours per week, including weekend contacts, are covered. This child had a significant amount of breaches and received a stand-alone Court Order, however after 7 months there was no other option than a Detention and Training Order. He was resentenced for previous serious violent offences and breach of Community Orders, serving the first three months in custody. During this period there was good engagement in education achieving English and Maths qualifications, interventions took place with the YJST which supported an identity shift. This child successfully completed his DTO without any further breach or offending.

Working with families:

All YJST team members receive a wider range of training opportunities, this includes child to parent violence. We have professionals with additional parenting training, STOP and Who's in Charge (WiC) enabling us to support parents individually and in groups. During this year 29 parents successfully engaged with the WiC group, which is an 8 week programme run during each school term.

The Supporting Families service was within the YJST Service Managers portfolio, therefore providing a good link across services. The Supporting Families Parenting Worker was hosted at the YJST enabling joint work with families. The YJST Assistant Team Manager also sat within the virtual Supporting Families team and has access to the range of professionals who support families, such as the DWP employment advisor and housing officers. The Supporting Families programme ended in March 2024 and we look forward to working alongside colleagues as new provision is created.

Priorities for 2025-26

The team's priorities are outlined in the following action plan.

First Time Entrants – Prevention and Diversion

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
A reduction in the number of children causing ASB through their use of E-scooters and E-bikes	YJ Police officer to deliver targeted information and education to children who are identified as using E-bike and E-scooters antisocially with the Thatcham area.	YJ Police Officer	July 2025
An effective and evidence based scheme for reducing ASB and offending among children	Evaluate the effectiveness of the prevention letter scheme and refine the approach based on outcomes and feedback.	Operational Manager	October 2025
A reduction in the number of children coming to the attention of the police for offending at school.	Increase school-based interventions through the Positive Intervention Programme (PIP) for children offending in a school setting	YJ Teacher/ YJ Police Officer	December 2025
Reduce the number of children entering the criminal justice system by promoting a childhood away from the justice system	Fully implement and evaluate the use of Youth Deferred Prosecution YDP (Outcome 22) including data collection and feedback loops.	TVP and YJ Manager	March 2026
Support the reduction in criminalisation of children by reducing first time entrants	Maintain and strengthen the Joint Decision-Making Panels (JDMP) to ensure fair and consistent out-of-court decisions through embedding new guidance and facilitating practice observation and reflection.	Operational Manager/ Senior Social Worker	July 2025 February 2026
Drug diversion work delivered is effective at engaging with children	Undertake an evaluation of the drug diversion work presented to the YJ Management Group	The Edge	December 2025

Reducing reoffending - enhancing life choices

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Interventions with children are effective and make a difference.	Support YJ staff to use evaluated evidence based practice through the YEF toolkit, YJB Resources Hub and What Works Centre.	Operational Manager & ATM	6 monthly review
Bespoke offence specific interventions are effective at changing behaviour	Pilot and evaluate the use of the Virtual Reality Headsets when addressing specific behaviours.	SYV Coordinator	March 2026
PDAT are effective assessments leading to greater insight for children and parents into their behaviour	Evaluate the learning from HMIP inspections covering PDAT and the learning derived from sharing assessments with any learning shaping practice development	Operational Manager and ATM	As reports are published
Turnaround scheme is effective at reducing reoffending	YJ Information Officer to be involved in the national impact evaluation of Turnaround	Information officer and MOJ	October 2025
YJS requirement for the provision of Appropriate Adults is suitable and meets high standards	Monitor and report on the use of Appropriate Adults and any use of PACE 1984 Section 38(6) transfers	Service Manager	March 2026

Public Protection and violence prevention

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Meet the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty and reduce serious violence among children	Collaborate with the BCT and OPCC in the development of Prevention partnership and Young Futures Prevention Hub	BCT, YJ Managers and SV Coordinator	Review each quarter
Ensure that the assessment and management of risk is of high quality and protects the public	Undertake an audit addressing the assessment and management of risk, reporting findings to the YJST Management Group	Operational Manager	December 2025
MAPPA arrangements locally provide effective oversight of MAPPA nominals	YJ Case managers to attend bespoke MAPPA training addressing children and MAPPA	YJST Staff	July 25

Safeguarding, vulnerabilities and well being

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
All children to have access and information about leisure activities and support services to increase wellbeing.	Update the positive activities booklet and promote those activities among young people.	YJST Case managers	May 2025
Children on the cusp of the justice system are supported through an Early Help offer	YJST to be involved in the development of the Early Help and Family Help offer to ensure that children in the justice system are supported	Service Manager	October 2025
Ensure that the assessment and management of safety and wellbeing is of high quality and protects the public	Undertake an audit addressing the assessment and management of safety and wellbeing, reporting findings to the YJST Management Group	Operational Manager	December 2025

Education, training and employment

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Reduce the numbers of children suspended from school	Promote the use of the Positive Intervention Programme (PIP) as a means of reducing suspension and for pupils at risk at the various West Berkshire education forums	YJST Teacher and TVP Schools P Officer	Bi-monthly
Increase attendance at school thus reducing the likelihood of offending	Support Education Attendance Team in seeking to increase attendance of severely absent pupils	YJ Officers	Throughout year
Increase the recognition of children on their achievements.	Broaden the use of AQA and creative awards to engage children not in full-time education and promote prosocial identity.	YJST Teacher	Termly
Children receive fewer suspensions and reduced timetables.	Strengthen the multi-agency education panel to address persistent absence, educational packages and	YJST Teacher/ Operational Manager	Termly

	exclusions among YJST involved children		
Children engage with learning opportunities	Collaborate with Berkshire Youth to identify and support children struggling in a school setting reducing suspension and increasing engagement	Operational Manager, YJST Teacher, Berkshire Youth	Termly

Health

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Children are better able to engage in verbally mediated interventions.	Staff training on specific techniques to support children in sessions with particular focus on speech, language and communication	Speech and Language Therapist	September 2025
Volunteers have increased understanding of the use of communication passports	Communication passports training is delivered to all YJ volunteers	Speech and Language Therapist	December 2025
Communication passports are used effectively to support children's engagement and participation	Continue to roll out and evaluate the use of communication passports and tools for children with speech and language needs	Speech and Language Therapist	July 2025
Children are equipped to respond when first aid is required	Deliver basic First Aid training as a first responder to children	YJST Nurse/ YJ Police Officer	School holidays and quarterly term time
YJST to work with children in a trauma informed manner	Staff refresher training on the Trauma Recovery Model to be delivered	Mental Health Worker	January 2026

Strengths based approach

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
YJST practice is continually developing and improving	Review and benchmark YJST Practice against recently published research and thematic inspection findings	YJST Managers	When reports are published

YJ Volunteers understanding and knowledge of Child first principles are enhanced	Child first training is delivered for volunteers	Assistant Team Manager	July 2025
YJST practice is continually developing and improving through the use of feedback	Annual feedback report to the Management Group to consider changes to service provision.	Service Manager	January 2026
Parents are supported and equipped to parent their children	Expand access to parenting programmes like “Who’s in Charge” and STOP parenting.	Parenting workers	April 2025 September 2025 January 2026
Children engage in prosocial activities reducing the likelihood of offending	Promote community-based diversion activities during school holidays to reduce idle time and risk of offending.	YJ Officers	School holidays
Children in the justice system receive recognition for their achievements	Create an exhibition of children’s work in collaboration with local arts space	YJST Teacher and victim worker	March 2026

Responding to cohort – diversity and disproportionality

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Female children avoid over criminalisation and do well in West Berkshire.	Deliver training for Thames Valley Police around responding to female aggression and violence	Assistant Team Manager/YJ Police Officer	October 2025
YJST staff are culturally competent when working with children from diverse communities	Develop culturally competent training for staff to better support children from GRT and ethnic minority backgrounds	Diversity Champion/ Operational Manager	January 2026
YJST delivers targeted work in light of the cohort of children that are open.	Conduct regular disproportionality audits to identify over-represented groups and inform targeted interventions	Information Officer	6 monthly
Building on and maintaining positive relationships with our Gypsy Roma Traveller	Provide support and outreach to Gypsy Roma Traveller communities via EMTAS which includes	Assistant Team Manager	November 2025

families so they can access support	appropriate adult information		
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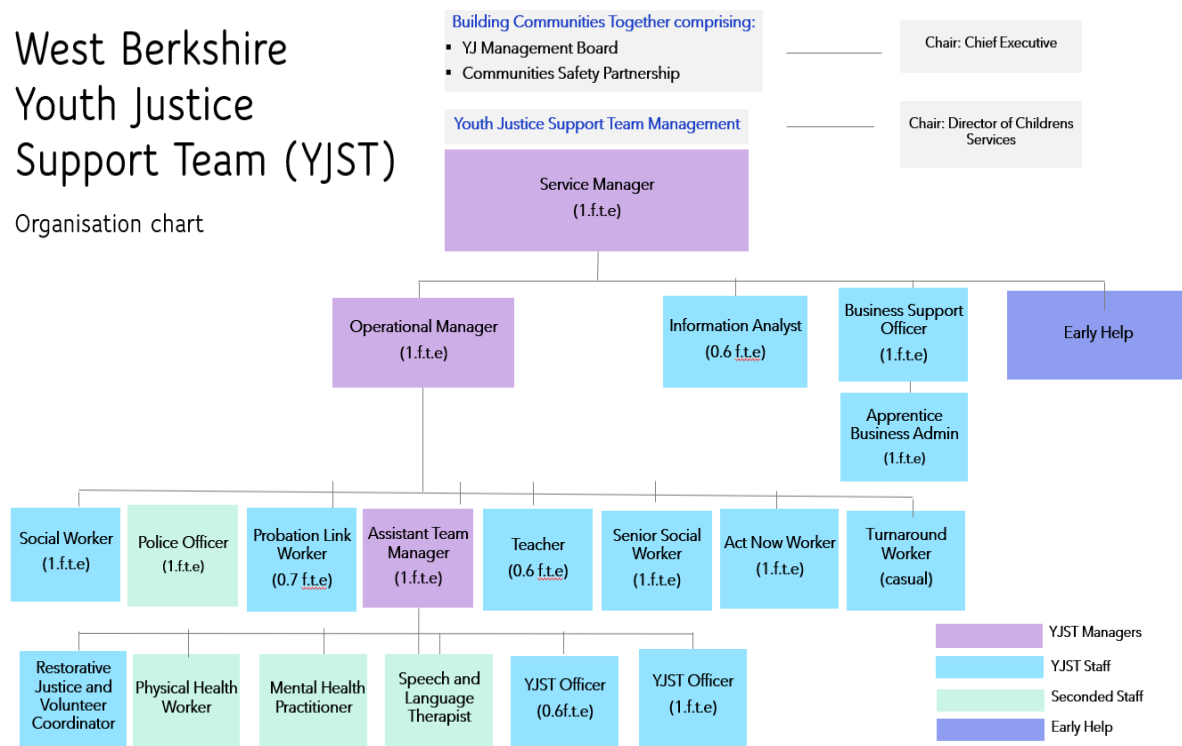
Victims and restorative approaches

Outcome sought	Action	By Whom	By When
Victim of crime work is of the highest quality	Benchmark YJST victim practice against national HMIP inspection findings	Victim Worker and ATM	As reports are published
The views, needs and concerns of victims of crime are appropriately captured in PDAT assessments	Undertake a Dip Audit on victim elements of PDAT assessments to address any quality issues.	Victim Worker	Monthly
Increase victim engagement from initial contact	Work with TVP to review initial victim contact prior to decision making to increase victim engagement and satisfaction with the support on offer.	Victim Worker, JDMP and Assistant Team Manager	February 2026
Support offered to victim of crime is of a high quality	Undertake and audit of restorative justice practices to identify quality and victim satisfaction.	Assistant Team Manager	January 2026
The YJ Management Group have clear oversight of victim work and drive the agenda for victim support	Increase the awareness, scrutiny and oversight of the YJ Management Group through greater visibility of victim work and relevant issues.	Service Manager and Victim Worker	October 2025

Appendix One:

West Berkshire Youth Justice Support Team (YJST)

Organisation chart



The YJST consists of 15 female staff and 2 male staff. 16 White British, 3 members of staff have disabilities.

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Item 12: Notice of Motions

Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on the 16 October 2025

- (a) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Adrian Abbs:

Modify the Experimental Traffic Order for Newbury Town Centre -
Amendment and trial of alternative traffic flow model for Newbury Northbrook Street,
Park Way and Wharf Road

This Council notes the ongoing experimental traffic order restricting vehicle access to Newbury High Street from 10:00am to 11:00pm. While intended to foster pedestrian safety, economic support of business and environmental benefits, the current closure may inadvertently limit accessibility for key demographics and constrain local trade, particularly during evening hours.

This motion proposes an alternative trial scheme that:

1. **Permits One-Way Vehicular Flow:**

Allow traffic to enter Newbury Bartholomew St in a single south-to-north direction via Northbrook Street, with return access facilitated through Park Way. This flow maintains a controlled environment while improving connectivity and reducing congestion on feeder roads.

2. **Alternative of traffic return via A339**

If for some reason it is not possible to use Park Way and Warf Road as the North to south route then the A339 can be designated as the route from North to south in the town.

3. **Introduces Short-Stay Parking Incentives:**

Establish free short-stay parking bays—limited to 15-30 minutes—along designated sections of the Bartholomew Street and Northbrook Street. These locations would be monitored via time-discs or possibly digital enforcement mechanisms to ensure turnover.

Rationale and Community Benefit:

- **Economic Revitalisation:**

Offering limited-time free parking encourages brief shopping visits and supports “in-and-out” transactions critical to retailers.

- **Cultural and Nightlife Engagement:**

Enhanced evening access and short-stay flexibility promote casual dining, entertainment, and spontaneous engagement with nightlife—key to nurturing a vibrant town centre.

- **Inclusion and Accessibility:**
Facilitates visits by older residents, families with young children, and individuals with limited mobility, who may be disadvantaged under the current arrangement.
- **Better correlation with Time of Year**
As winter comes pedestrian traffic is likely to fall and easier access to shops, restaurants and event locations gains greater value.
- **Environmental Monitoring:**
The trial should run concurrently with environmental and traffic flow assessments to ensure impacts remain within sustainable thresholds.

This Council urges officers to explore feasibility, consult stakeholders including residents and local businesses, and prepare a report outlining implementation logistics, costs, and KPIs for review within three months.

(b) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Justin Pemberton:

Making a clear commitment to communities in the east of the district and seek to protect them from being moved to the neighbouring Reading Borough Council

Council notes that the wards of Pangbourne, Theale, Tilehurst and Purley, Tilehurst Birch Copse and Tilehurst South and Holybrook have historically always been part of West Berkshire or its predecessor Authorities. Council Members believe that West Berkshire Council must make clear its commitment to the communities of the above-mentioned wards and seek to protect them from being moved to neighbouring authorities, as Reading Borough Council is currently seeking to do.

Council notes that the affected wards contain individual communities and villages with unique characteristics. Several are self-sufficient in that they contain shopping centres, hospitality services, leisure facilities and centres of employment. Council notes that the areas affected by Reading Borough Council's proposal have never been part of Reading Borough Council, and that our eastern communities have long been part of West Berkshire – with links which date back to 1894, when Council came together under Bradfield Rural District Council. Council does not believe that these areas will be served well by becoming part of a more metropolitan-focused local authority.

Council also recognises that many of the services provided to these residents by West Berkshire Council are of higher quality than those provided by Reading Borough Council to their residents, and that residents value this. But in any event, Council does not agree with Reading Borough Council's proposal to absorb the above-mentioned wards and therefore reaffirms its commitment to these wards and to resist any such attempts – in the strongest possible terms.

Council therefore resolves to request that:

- The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Local Government Reorganisation write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Reading Borough Council to inform them that we strongly oppose Reading Borough Council's proposal and to ask them not to press on with their proposal to incorporate any part of West Berkshire into Reading Borough as part of the reorganisation process.
- The Leader and Portfolio Holder write to the MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire informing her of the Council's strong opposition to Reading's proposal to extend their boundary to include any part of West Berkshire.
- The Leader write to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Local Government and Homelessness (MHCLG) to seek assurance that the current geography of West Berkshire will remain intact in whatever new Unitary Authority area is decided upon at the end of the reorganisation process.

(c) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Jeff Brooks:

For Council to commit to the installation of sprinklers or other Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS) in the Council's own building stock when constructing new buildings, significant extensions and relevant refurbishment of existing buildings

This Council:

Recognises that sprinklers and other Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS) save lives, protect property, reduce the impact of fire on the environment, reduce interruption to business and improve safety for individuals in the community in general and firefighters.

Supports the National Fire Chiefs' Council position on sprinklers and will write to Central Government to express support for the creation of a legal requirement to fit sprinklers or AFSS in buildings.

Commits to the installation of sprinklers or other AFSS within its own building stock when constructing new buildings, significant extensions and relevant refurbishment of existing buildings or as a retrofitted solution when undertaking major refurbishments of existing buildings where the extent of the refurbishment makes the fitting of sprinklers viable.

Promotes and supports the installation of sprinklers or other AFSS for all new or refurbished buildings and particularly those that present the most significant risk to the occupants, public and firefighters and will do this through planning application and building control processes.

(d) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Ross Mackinnon:

That where a decision is made contrary to the majority of residents' opinions via a public consultation, then an explanatory statement should be made explaining the reasons for doing so

1. This Council considers that individual members, the Executive, and the Council itself should always be honest and transparent with, and accountable to, the residents of West Berkshire.
2. This Council notes with approval that the foreword to the Liberal Democrats' manifesto for the 2023 West Berkshire Council elections included the following commitment:

“A Liberal Democrat administration will be one that listens to you, and gives you a real say in the decisions that affect our area.”

3. This Council recognises that in the event that:
 - i. residents are asked for their views on a particular proposal or policy via a public consultation, and
 - ii. residents' responses indicate a majority either for their approval or for their disapproval of that proposal or policy, and
 - iii. following the consultation process the relevant decision-making body (Council, Executive or Individual Executive Member) makes a decision not in accordance with the majority of residents' responses, then

there is a risk that public trust in the Council, the public's feeling that they are listened to, and the public's feeling that they have a real say in the decisions that affect our area, will be diminished.

4. This Council therefore considers that in the event a decision is made contrary to the majority of residents' opinions expressed via a public consultation, then a statement should be published on the Council's public website no more than 14 days after the making of the decision, written by:

the Chairman of Council in respect of a Council decision, or

the Leader of the Council in respect of an Executive decision, or

the relevant Individual Executive Member in respect of an Individual Executive Member decision,

clearly informing residents that a decision has been made contrary to the majority of residents' opinions expressed via a public consultation, and explaining the decision-maker's rationale for making that decision not in accordance with that majority of residents' opinions.

(e) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor David Marsh:

That Council resolves to review its own investments and request that those of the Berkshire Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza

West Berkshire Council recognises its responsibility to ensure that public money, including its own investments and those of the Berkshire Pension Fund, is used in a manner consistent with our values of peace, human rights, and respect for international law.

Council notes with grave concern the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the verdict of the United Nations commission of inquiry that a genocide of the Palestinian people, as defined by international law, is taking place (“killing members of a group, causing them serious bodily and mental harm, deliberately inflicting conditions calculated to destroy the group, and preventing births”).

Council notes that a number of local authorities in the UK are supporting the divestment of pension funds from companies which are facilitating serious breaches of international law by, for example, supplying military technology to Israel or financing illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Council therefore resolves to:

Review its own investments and request that those of the Berkshire Pension Fund are reviewed to identify any direct or indirect holdings in companies that are supplying arms, military technology, or logistical support which enable breaches of international law in Gaza.

Work with its asset managers to take steps to end such investments and strongly request, through its representative, that the Berkshire Pension Fund does the same.

Report back to Council within three months on progress made.

Council – 16 October 2025

Item 13 – Member Questions

To Follow

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