

**URBAN
VISION
ENTERPRISE**

Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Audley Neighbourhood Plan
Basic Conditions Statement V1.1
June 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Statement

This is a Basic Conditions Statement, prepared to accompany the submission of the Audley Neighbourhood Plan.

The statement explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. The statement includes an equalities assessment, which demonstrates how the Plan meets the public duty relating to equalities. This is a key part of demonstrating compliance with human rights law.

2. Meeting Legal Requirements

2.1 General Requirements

Qualifying Body

The draft plan proposal is being submitted by Audley Parish Council, which is the qualifying body for neighbourhood planning.

Scope and Statutory Process

The draft plan relates to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in planning legislation, policy and guidance. This includes designation of the Neighbourhood Area, screening (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment) and statutory consultation (Regulation 14).

Period of Effect

The draft plan states the period for which it is to have effect in Paragraph 1.2, running from 2024 to the end of 2042.

Excluded Development

The draft plan does not deal with mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Neighbourhood Area

The draft plan proposal relates to the Audley Neighbourhood Area, which coincides with the Audley Parish boundary.

2.2 The Basic Conditions and Human Rights

The Basic Conditions that neighbourhood plans must meet are summarised as follows:

1. must be appropriate having regard to national policy;
2. must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area;
4. must be compatible with EU obligations (environmental impact and habitats).

Regulations specify an additional basic condition that a plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which sets out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

In addition, the plan must meet requirements of human rights law, including the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

The following chapters of this statement deal with the basic conditions and human rights requirements in more detail.

3. Sustainable Development

3.1 Dimensions of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 states that sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives.

The draft neighbourhood plan takes a balanced approach to enabling growth, whilst also considering economic, social and environmental sustainability.

3.2 How Policies Address Sustainable Development

The draft plan proposal seeks to deliver growth and to address sustainability through a set of eleven policies, grouped in chapters as follows.

Chapter 3. Housing

ANP1 Residential Development

Chapter 4. Economy

ANP2 Business and Community Facilities

ANP3 Audley Village Centre (Church Street)

Chapter 5. Design and Heritage

ANP4 Sustainable Design

ANP5 Audley Conservation Area

ANP6 Character of Settlements

ANP7 Heritage

ANP8 Shopfronts

Chapter 6. Green Environment

ANP9 Natural Environment and Landscape

ANP10 Green Infrastructure

ANP11 Local Green Space

Chapter 7. Infrastructure

ANP12 Transport and Active Travel

ANP13 Local Energy Generation

Chapters 3 and 4 of the Neighbourhood Plan deal with growth. Chapters 5 and 6 deal with place and environment. Chapter 7 deals with infrastructure. Together these create a framework for sustainable development.

The **Housing** Chapter and policy sets out locations where housing development will be supported, together with requirements for housing mix and amenities. The Plan

does not undertake housing site allocations, which would require green belt release, so would be a matter for the emerging Newcastle-Under-Lyme Local Plan.

The **Economy** Chapter and policies seek to support local economic opportunities and local facilities, in addition to enhancing the viability and vitality of the village centre.

The **Design and Heritage** Chapter provides protection for the historic environment and seeks to promote sustainable design, taking account of local character.

The **Green Environment** Chapter deals with protection of the natural environment, protection of Local Green Space and green infrastructure requirements in new development.

The **Infrastructure** Chapter deals with transport requirements, including sustainable transport and active travel, and also enables local energy generation.

3.3 Achieving Sustainable Development

Policies dealing with design and natural and historic environments address sustainability, but should not be seen as being in opposition to growth. Achieving the economic potential of the parish depends on maintaining the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work, spend leisure time and invest. Environmental quality is a key factor in achieving sustainable growth.

The policies have been prepared against the context of increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change and the urgent need to address the causes. Climate change is addressed in practical and local ways through the various policies, for example by supporting mixed use, walkable neighbourhoods, active travel and green design.

The policies enabling growth and addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability and infrastructure combine to ensure that the plan will help to achieve sustainable development, taking account of the needs of current and future generations.

4. National Policy and Guidance

4.1 Having Regard to National Policy and Guidance

The draft plan has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 (NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), The National Design Guide and other guidance.

Chapter 2 of the NPPF deals with achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives, set out in Paragraph 8.

Paragraph 11a) states:

all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects;

This principle has underpinned the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which has the following aims:

- 1. To help ensure that future development is sustainable and meets local needs whilst protecting the rural character and Green Belt of the Parish.*
- 2. To help ensure that development is well designed.*
- 3. To protect important Local Green Spaces.*
- 4. To prevent coalescence and merging of the seven key villages and hamlets within the Parish.*
- 5. To protect important historic landmarks and heritage within the Parish.*
- 6. To enhance and support community and recreational facilities that are well maintained, sustainable and meet local needs.*
- 7. To support existing and new local businesses in the Parish so that they are sustainable and meet local needs.*
- 8. To protect footpaths, greenways and bridleways/cycle paths promoting active travel.*
- 9. To promote the Parish as an attractive and sustainable place to live, work and play.*
- 10. To help in achieving Net Carbon Zero status by 2050.*

Chapter 3 of the NPPF deals with plan-making. Paragraph 16 requires plans to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, to be prepared positively (aspirational but deliverable); to be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement and contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, to be accessible through digital tools and to serve a clear purpose and avoid duplication.

The policies of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan have been written to provide a clear framework for decisions, in response to Paragraph 16.

Paragraph 29 requires neighbourhood plans not to promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies. This is dealt with in greater detail in Part 5 of this statement. The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable growth and development.

The Neighbourhood Plan is based on a range of evidence, in line with planning practice guidance. This includes background evidence and analysis reports on a range of social, economic and environmental matters.

4.2 NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF was revised in December 2023 and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan policies and the NPPF chapters.

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
<p>Chapter 5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p>	<p>1, 9</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>The Plan supports housing development in existing settlements and sets design and infrastructure requirements, in addition to considering environmental factors.</p>
<p>Chapter 6: Building a strong, competitive economy</p>	<p>1, 7</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP2: Business and Community Facilities Policy ANP3: Audley Village Centre (Church Street) Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape</p> <p>The Plan supports proportionate economic development, supporting local economic opportunity and local community facilities.</p> <p>Design of development is important in creating positive image and quality of environment, both crucial in attracting investment and employment.</p>
<p>Chapter 7: Ensuring the vitality of town centres</p>		<p>Policy ANP3: Audley Village Centre (Church Street)</p> <p>The plan seeks to promote the vitality of Audley village centre.</p>
<p>Chapter 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities</p>	<p>2, 3, 6, 8</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP2: Business and Community Facilities Policy ANP3: Audley Village Centre (Church Street) Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
		<p>Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP11: Local Green Space Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>The Plan supports sustainable development and expansion of local facilities, whilst also seeking to protect green spaces and infrastructure.</p> <p>Design requirements ensure that development supports community interaction and active travel.</p> <p>Local Green Space is designated, meeting the requirements of Paragraphs 105 and 106.</p>
Chapter 9: Promoting sustainable transport	1, 6, 7, 8, 9	<p>Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>The policies promote sustainable transport and active travel, and ensure that development creates a safe and convenient environment for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders.</p>
Chapter 11: Making effective use of land	1, 2, 10	<p>All policies</p> <p>Collectively the policies support mixed use, a walkable neighbourhood, use of brownfield land, and environmentally responsible design.</p>
Chapter 12: Achieving well-designed places	2, 5, 9	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP8: Shopfronts Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
		<p>The plan includes design policies, with a focus on quality of place, movement, character and green design. Emphasis is placed on pedestrian convenience and permeability and connectivity.</p> <p>Policies are informed by the National Design Guide in addition to other standards, such as ‘Building for a Healthy Life’.</p>
<p>Chapter 13: Protecting Green Belt Land</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP2: Business and Community Facilities Policy ANP3: Audley Village Centre (Church Street)</p> <p>The plan supports residential and commercial development within the existing built settlements and does not promote inappropriate development in the Green Belt.</p>
<p>Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p>	<p>1, 3, 9, 10</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP2: Business and Community Facilities Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel Policy ANP13: Local Energy Generation</p> <p>Climate change is a key theme running through the Neighbourhood Plan. It supports carbon reduction, mixed use neighbourhoods and active travel. It promotes green design, in addition to protecting green infrastructure.</p>
<p>Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>	<p>1, 3, 4</p>	<p>Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP11: Local Green Space Policy ANP13: Local Energy Generation</p> <p>The Plan explicitly seeks to protect the natural environment, with ANP9 as a key policy.</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
Chapter 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	1, 2, 4, 5, 9	<p>Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements</p> <p>Policies address design and character, including more specific character requirements for the Conservation Area.</p>

5. Local Policies

5.1 General Conformity with Strategic Local Policies

General conformity relates to the policies of the neighbourhood plan taken as a whole, considered against adopted strategic local policies taken as a whole.

The draft plan proposal has been drafted against the context of strategic local policies and do not undermine, and help to achieve, the spatial strategy set out in:

*Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026
(adopted October 2009)*

5.2 Policy Comparison

The following table compares the strategic policies of the Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026 with the relevant policies of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan.

<p>Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026</p>	<p>Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan</p>
<p>Policy CSP1 Design Quality</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP6: Character of Settlements Policy ANP7: Heritage Policy ANP8: Shopfronts Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>These policies will ensure that new development is well designed to respect the character, identity and context of the Neighbourhood Plan area’s unique settlement pattern, rural setting, townscape, landscape and heritage.</p>
<p>Policy CSP2 Historic Environment</p>	<p>Policy ANP5: Audley Conservation Area Policy ANP7: Heritage</p> <p>These policies deal explicitly with local character and heritage.</p>
<p>Policy CSP3 Sustainability and Climate Change</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP2: Business and Community Facilities Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel Policy ANP13: Local Energy Generation</p> <p>These policies encourage development which positively addresses the impacts of climate change and delivers a sustainable approach in terms of location, design and environmental impacts.</p>
<p>Policy CSP4 Natural Assets</p>	<p>Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP9: Natural Environment and Landscape</p>

<p>Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Core Spatial Strategy 2006-2026</p>	<p>Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan</p>
	<p>Policy ANP10: Green Infrastructure Policy ANP11: Local Green Space Policy ANP13: Local Energy Generation</p> <p>These policies protect, maintain and enhance the quality and quantity of the neighbourhood area’s rural, green and natural environment.</p>
<p>Policy CSP5 Open Space/Sport/Recreation</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development Policy ANP4: Sustainable Design Policy ANP11: Local Green Space Policy ANP12: Transport and Active Travel</p> <p>These policies should help ensure that open space, sports and leisure assets are maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan lists improved sports facilities, for example tennis and basketball courts, rugby and 4G football pitches, a gym and swimming pool and new off road cycle routes and bridleways, as priorities for the use of planning infrastructure monies.</p>
<p>CSP6 Affordable Housing</p>	<p>Policy ANP1: Residential Development</p> <p>Where there is an affordable housing requirement, this policy requires that it is tenure blind (of a similar design and specification to market housing). The neighbourhood plan does not seek to amend the thresholds or proportions for affordable housing.</p>

5.3 Emerging Local Policy

There has been consultation on a replacement Local Plan, relating to Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough only. This was subject to Regulation 18 consultation in the Summer 2023.

The Parish Council made representations on the Local Plan, in particular relating to employment and housing site allocations. The Parish Council objected to the allocation of employment site AB2, in particular.

The outcome of the consultation is not known, but it is understood that the Regulation 19 consultation should happen shortly. This will provide greater clarity on strategic sites.

The evidence base underpinning the replacement Local Plan has been taken into account in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. EU Obligations

6.1 Screening

The draft plan was screened by Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council to determine whether full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) were required. This included consultation with national statutory bodies.

Newcastle-Under-Lyme issued reports in January 2023, including the following extracts:

Habitats Regulations Assessment Audley Neighbourhood Plan Screening Document 2022 V2.4a

7. Conclusion

7.1 As a result of the assessment above, it is considered unlikely that any likely significant effects on European sites would occur from the implementation of the Audley Neighbourhood Plan. This is because the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate specific sites for development and there are no logical or obvious pathways between the neighbourhood area; and the European or Ramsar Sites identified. If the plan changes, following the Regulation 14 pre submission consultation, it may be necessary to re-screen the plan. However at this stage, the Audley Neighbourhood Plan Screening Document V2.4a does not require a further HRA appropriate assessment to be undertaken.

Screening Statement

Determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Audley Neighbourhood Plan Screening Document V2.4a

6. Screening Outcome

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has concluded that the emerging Audley Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have any significant environmental effects, and accordingly will not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The main reasons for this conclusion are:

- *The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to align itself with the Borough Council's adopted Development Plan which includes the Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Core Strategy, and Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan 2011 'saved' policies.*
- *Additionally the Neighbourhood Plan is subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening;*
- *The Neighbourhood Plan does not provide any specific site allocations for development. It focuses development within defined settlement boundaries including Audley, Miles Green, Bignall End, Wood Lane, Alsagers Bank and Halmer End. These are considered the most appropriate and sustainable locations for future development;*

- *Future development could potentially have minor impacts to the natural and historical designations / assets, particularly within the Audley settlement due to the presence of the Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and Locally Listed Buildings and Structures. However, some of the effects have the potential to be mitigated by the Neighbourhood Plan's own policies which seek to promote and deliver environment protection / enhancement. As a result, it is difficult to foresee any significant environmental effects;*
- *The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to avoid or minimise the environmental effects of future developments, especially with impacts to the natural and historic environment. It presents development management themed policies to conserve, protect and enhance environmental, historical, cultural and heritage assets for determining future development proposals;*
- *The spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA);*

6.2 Meeting EU Obligations

The above screening outcomes take account of the responses of national statutory bodies and confirm that full SEA and HRA are not required.

The Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions relating to not breaching EU obligations and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

7. Human Rights

7.1 Considering Human Rights

Planning should be inclusive and rigorous community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken as part of the process of creating the plan. Stakeholder mapping was undertaken at an early stage. The outcomes from community engagement have informed the content of the draft plan.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) was undertaken and this took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles.

The plan has also been informed by evidence, including data on the local population.

The following equalities assessment demonstrates that the Plan would have positive impact on different parts of the community, including those with protected characteristics.

7.2 Legal Requirements (Equality)

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity;
- foster good relations.

Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Act also makes reference to marriage and civil partnership.

An Equalities Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics.

7.3 Engagement and Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan needs to cater for the needs of a diverse population. There is evidence to suggest that diversity is an important factor in achieving sustainable growth.

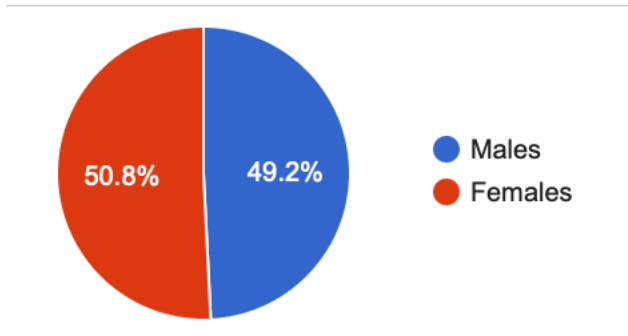
Through informal engagement and the Regulation 14 consultation, certain issues of particular relevance to those with protected characteristics were raised, and these included play facilities (including for older children), public transport provision, active travel, homes for older people, need for local business opportunities (including agriculture), and green space, among other issues.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles. Comments made at the Regulation 14 stage were carefully considered and amendments were made to the Plan where necessary. The Consultation Statement that forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan submission contains more detail.

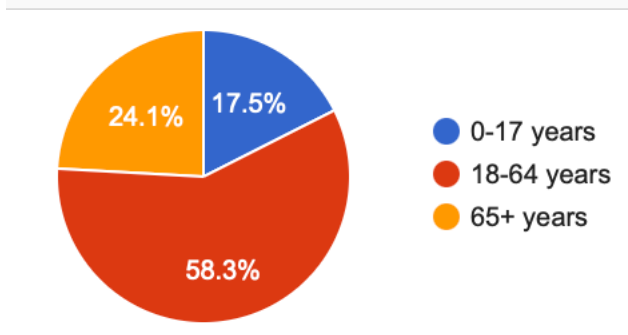
7.4 Population Characteristics

Some key data for Audley from the Office of National Statistics 2021 are as follows:

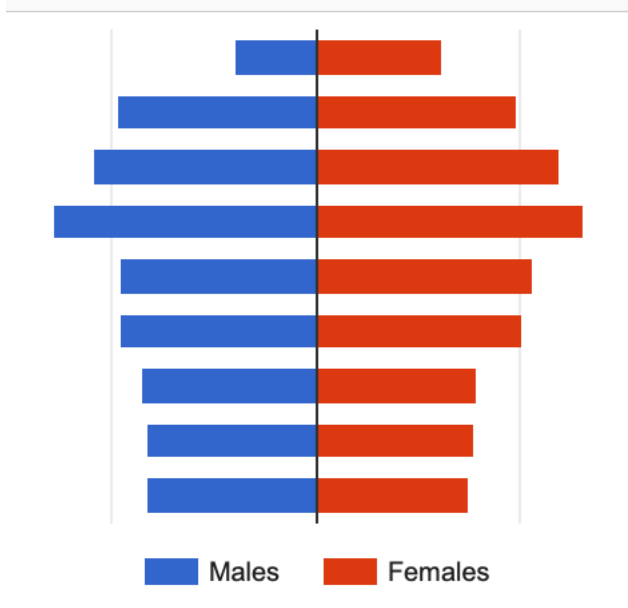
2021 Census for Audley



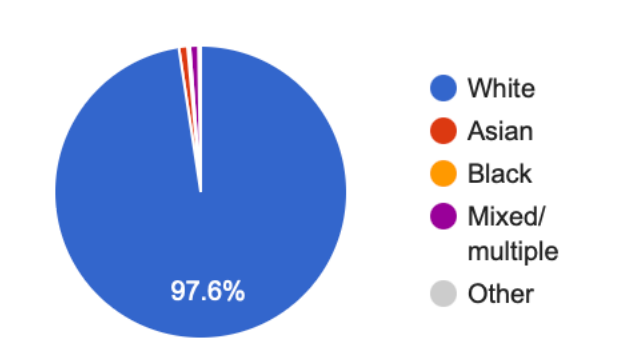
Gender (C 2021)	
Males	4,110
Females	4,242



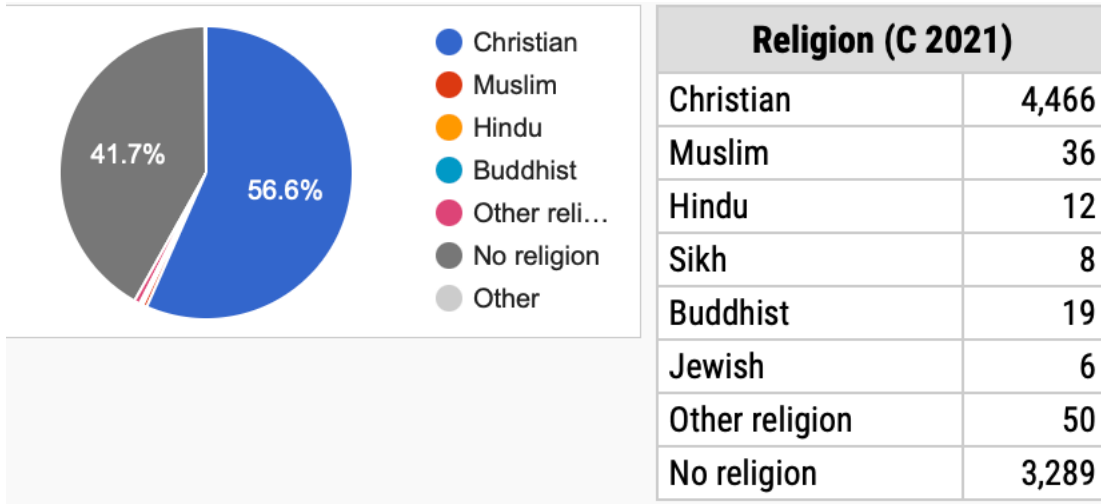
Age Groups (C 2021)	
0-17 years	1,465
18-64 years	4,872
65+ years	2,015



Age Distribution (C 2021)	
80+ years	507
70-79 years	978
60-69 years	1,143
50-59 years	1,301
40-49 years	1,016
30-39 years	985
20-29 years	827
10-19 years	807
0-9 years	788



Ethnic Group (C 2021)	
White	8,120
Asian	79
Black	22
Arab	10
Mixed/multiple	78
Other ethnic group	11



Legal partnership status

Audley Rural (England)

Never married and never registered a civil partnership **32.1%** (37.9%)



Married or in a registered civil partnership **48.4%** (44.7%)



Separated, but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership **2.0%** (2.2%)



Divorced or civil partnership dissolved **9.5%** (9.1%)



Widowed or surviving civil partnership partner **7.9%** (6.1%)



% of people aged 16 years and over

Disability

Audley Rural (England)

Disabled under the Equality Act **21.3%** (17.3%)



Not disabled under the Equality Act **78.7%** (82.7%)



% of all people

Economic activity status

Audley Rural (England)

Economically active: In employment **58.2%** (57.4%)



Economically active: Unemployed **2.0%** (3.5%)



Economically inactive **39.8%** (39.1%)



% of people aged 16 years and over

Socio-economic Classification (NS-SeC)

Audley Rural (England)

L1, L2 and L3: Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations **10.0%** (13.2%)



L4, L5 and L6: Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations **19.8%** (19.9%)



L7: Intermediate occupations **12.7%** (11.4%)



L8 and L9: Small employers and own account workers **12.2%** (10.6%)



L10 and L11: Lower supervisory and technical occupations **6.8%** (5.3%)



L12: Semi-routine occupations **13.0%** (11.3%)



L13: Routine occupations **14.7%** (12.0%)



L14.1 and L14.2: Never worked and long-term unemployed **6.8%** (8.5%)



L15: Full-time students **4.1%** (7.7%)



% of people aged 16 years and over

Sexual orientation figures for the West Midlands are:

Straight or heterosexual	89.91%
Gay or lesbian	1.21%
Bisexual	1.06%
Pansexual	0.20%
Asexual	0.05%
Queer	0.02%
All other sexual orientations	0.02%

7.5 Impacts on Protected and Other Characteristics

Equalities assessment requires consideration of each of the protected characteristics. However, it should be noted that the needs, attitudes and opinions of people within any of these broad groups are often as diverse as in the population as a whole, including sometimes polarised views.

The Neighbourhood Plan policies are:

Chapter 3. Housing

ANP1 Residential Development

Chapter 4. Economy

ANP2 Business and Community Facilities

ANP3 Audley Village Centre (Church Street)

Chapter 5. Design and Heritage

ANP4 Sustainable Design

ANP5 Audley Conservation Area

ANP6 Character of Settlements

ANP7 Heritage

ANP8 Shopfronts

Chapter 6. Green Environment

ANP9 Natural Environment and Landscape

ANP10 Green Infrastructure

ANP11 Local Green Space

Chapter 7. Infrastructure

ANP12 Transport and Active Travel

ANP13 Local Energy Generation

The plan will achieve a range of benefits which potentially benefit the local population, in addition to addressing the specific needs of those with protected and other characteristics. These include:

- supporting housing growth to meet local need (ANP1);
- seeking to maintain or enhance local economic opportunities and a range of community facilities (ANP2 and ANP3);
- promoting good design, reinforcing local character and protecting local heritage (ANP4, ANP5, ANP6, ANP7 and ANP8);
- protecting the natural environment and green spaces and setting requirements for new green infrastructure (ANP9, ANP10, and ANP11).
- Ensuring that development is supported by sustainable travel infrastructure and enabling local energy generation (ANP12 and ANP13).

The plan addresses climate change and biodiversity through a range of practical requirements, benefiting all parts of the community. However, some requirements, can create particular benefits for people with protected characteristics, including those without access to a car. For example, the plan promotes high quality design, with an emphasis on ease of movement and pedestrian convenience (ANP4 and ANP12).

The Plan protects the natural environment and green space and addresses green infrastructure, all of which are important for quality of life, recreation, active lifestyles and physical and mental health (ANP9, ANP10 and ANP11).

The BSI document ‘PAS 6463:2022 Design for the mind – Neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide’ sets out where neurodiversity could fall under the definition of a disability:

Where a sensory difference has a substantial impact on day-to-day basis, it is very likely that the individual meets the definition of Disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

The following table refers to specific policies relevant to different protected characteristics and also other socio-economic characteristics.

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
Age	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing local employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood, which recognises the needs of those without access to a car, which includes older and younger groups (ANP4, ANP11 and ANP12). Design policy aim to create permeable and well-connected development (ANP4).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for changing household needs (ANP1), including accommodation suitable for first time buyers and those seeking to downsize.</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing local employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood (ANP4, ANP11 and ANP12). Design policy aim to create permeable and well-connected development (ANP4).</p> <p>In terms of Neurodiversity, design policy ANP4 should help to create more legible environments, which are easier to negotiate.</p> <p>The plan addresses design and infrastructure in terms of differing levels of ability and requiring covered and secure storage space for personal vehicles (ANP12).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse or changing household needs (ANP1).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse or changing household needs (ANP1).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Maternity and pregnancy</p>	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing local employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood (ANP4, ANP11 and ANP12). Design policy aim to create permeable and well-connected development (ANP4).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
	and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1).	
Race	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1), including for different family structures.</p>	N/A
Religion or belief	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1), including for different family structures.</p>	N/A
Sex	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1).</p> <p>Other policies would benefit all sexes.</p>	N/A
Sexual orientation	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1).</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Socio-economic characteristics</p>	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing local employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood (ANP4, ANP11 and ANP12). Design policy aim to create permeable and well-connected development (ANP4).</p> <p>The plan seeks to maintain or enhance local employment (ANP2 and ANP3).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available and help to cater for diverse and changing household needs (ANP1).</p>	<p>N/A</p>

7.6 Compliance

The draft plan proposal meets requirements in human rights law, including compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. This is demonstrated through the rigorous community engagement and consultation and equalities assessment, which indicates that the plan would have various positive impacts for people with protected characteristics.

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