

Alton Neighbourhood Plan Objectives as at 280414 v 1.5					
	Objective	Rationale	Link with East Hampshire Joint Core Strategy	Existing evidence base	Comments
1	<p><b>Housing:</b></p> <p>a. To ensure that future housing development in and around Alton respects the character of the town and the surrounding countryside.</p> <p>b. To ensure that new housing contributes to the needs of the town in terms of the mix and design of dwellings.</p> <p>c. To influence the location, scale and pace of housing development over the plan period (2028).</p> <p>d. To ensure that, in the context of the sustainability requirements specified by the NPPF, the necessary infrastructural improvements will be implemented in a manner appropriate to the location, scale, and pace of all proposed development.</p>	<p>Significant housing development will take place around the edge of Alton. The planning system provides for it and there is considerable developer interest. Moreover, it will be especially hard to refuse applications until the local planning authority has a (defensible) five year land supply in place.</p> <p>However, a neighbourhood plan provides Alton people more opportunity to have a say about the type and look of new housing, even in the shorter term.</p> <p>It can also help determine the scale and pace of development over the longer term (once a five year land supply is in place).</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan will be able to build on work undertaken by town and district councils from 2009 to the present.</p>	<p>CP1 focuses development at the most sustainable (larger) settlements.</p> <p>CP8 allocates a minimum of 700 new dwellings at Alton by 2028. It also provides for site identification via neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>CP10 allows supplementary planning documents to determine the type and size of housing needed locally.</p> <p>CP11 gives a target of 40% affordable housing on development sites.</p> <p>CP27 says future development must take account of town design statements.</p> <p>Various other policies are relevant, such as CPs 21 and 23 on environmental constraints and CP30 on infrastructure.</p>	<p>East Hants SHMA and Local Housing Market Study (2013) – provides detailed estimation of future housing needs, to underpin the Alton allocation.</p> <p>Report on public engagement concerning the development of EHDC's Core Strategy (2009) – provides earlier evidence of preferred Alton development sites.</p> <p>Alton study: final report (2013) – provides information about SHLAA sites and certain constraints.</p> <p>Alton Town Design Statement (2008) – provides evidence on town's character and its setting.</p> <p>Alton Profile (2013) – shows households on the waiting list.</p> <p>EHDC hold further data on the housing stock (tenure/type) and recent trends.</p>	<p>Going forward, it could be useful to generate more evidence on the need for starter homes and (possibly) on priorities for affordable housing.</p> <p>While the objectives do not include site identification, it may be useful to ask residents for site preferences to inform related work e.g. responses to planning applications and discussions with other statutory providers.</p>
2	<p><b>Transport:</b></p> <p>a. To encourage and influence improvements in the town's transport infrastructure – particularly to manage traffic – in order to meet current needs and those arising from development.</p> <p>b. To encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>c. To encourage the provision of public transport services, both within the town and beyond.</p> <p>d. To achieve appropriate levels of parking, both on-street and off-street.</p>	<p>North-south traffic flows are problematic and those within the town are less than ideal, with significant rat-running. Alton has become a Gateway town to the National Park.</p> <p>Previous surveys have shown that traffic is a prime concern among local residents.</p> <p>Development has not kept pace with recent development. There is now a risk that development takes place on the north side of town, but does not deal with this in a strategic or planned manner.</p>	<p>CP29 says that mitigating measures will be required for development proposals. They may need to produce travel studies and make a financial contribution to infrastructure schemes.</p>	<p>Report on public engagement concerning the development of EHDC's Core Strategy (2009) – shows the high level of concern about transport issues among Alton residents.</p> <p>Alton profile (2013) – shows levels of car ownership (including change 2001-11) and growth in rail commuting.</p> <p>Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2011-31.</p>	<p>A proposed Traffic Survey has not taken place thus far. It would be useful to discuss evidence needs with HCC.</p> <p>2011 Census data may provide more information on travel to work patterns.</p>
3	<p><b>Health, community and recreation:</b></p> <p>a. To support the development of a new/refurbished Community Centre and new Sports and Leisure Centre in the town.</p> <p>b. To support the provision of adequate Health Services for a growing population.</p> <p>c. To support the retention and development of new public open spaces and sport/recreation facilities, in line with population growth.</p>	<p>These three issues were identified as local priorities in Alton 2020 and actions to address them would need a planning dimension.</p> <p>The existing Community Centre is heavily used, but is dated. Plans to refurbish or replace it in 2007 were put on hold.</p> <p>There are identified pockets of poor health within Alton. The nearest A&amp;E hospital is at Basingstoke, along a heavily congested road.</p> <p>There is scope to build upon the Greening Initiative and strategy of EHDC.</p>	<p>CP14 supports new or improved provision of community facilities and public services.</p> <p>CP15 protects existing open space, sport and recreation facilities.</p> <p>CP16 provides for new open space, sport and recreation facilities. New housing development will provide (pro rata) a minimum of 3.45 hectares of public open space per 1,000 population on those developments.</p>	<p>Health Check carried out for Alton 2020 – showed community support for a new community centre.</p> <p>Health Check carried out for Alton 2020 – showed community support for a better health services.</p> <p>Alton Profile (2013) – lists health facilities and patient numbers.</p> <p>Health Check carried out for Alton 2020 – showed green space and recreation to be a priority issue for residents.</p> <p>PPG17 study – looks at public open space provision and shows deficit of playing fields. EHDC as commissioned a study to replace the Sports Centre which is now beyond its design life</p>	<p>It would seem useful to record levels of use at the existing Community Centre (if not already done).</p> <p>Further evidence would need to be collected of need for improved health facilities or services in the local area.</p> <p>It would seem worth reviewing the PPG17 study to see whether an up-to-date audit of open spaces is now needed.</p>
4	<p><b>Education:</b></p> <p>a. To support the provision of sufficient nursery, school and college places in Alton to meet the growing demand, in accessible locations.</p>	<p>Alton is a centre for education in East Hampshire and education is an important local employer.</p> <p>Current facilities are unlikely to meet growing needs, especially as significant development takes place around the town.</p>	<p>CP14 supports new or improved provision of community facilities and public services.</p> <p>[NB given the positive JCS policy, this may only be worth an additional NP policy if you can go further and identify a site or sites for expansion/new facilities. Perhaps retain as an objective and test that out.]</p>	<p>Alton Profile (2013) – lists education facilities and shows school/ college rolls, including their projected growth.</p>	
5	<p><b>Economic sustainability and viability:</b></p> <p>a. To promote and enhance the role of Alton town centre as a retail, tourism and hospitality hub which is vibrant and adaptable to future needs.</p> <p>b. To promote the business economy of Alton, in order to support the growing population and provide new employment and business opportunities.</p>	<p>Retaining the High Street/ town centre as a vibrant retail area is key to the future of Alton.</p> <p>Although the recession had an impact, it is proving quite resilient and now has regular markets.</p>	<p>CP5 says there is scope for limited additional retail space in Alton (which it suggest should be comparison retail). It also says decision should retain/ enhance Alton's town centre role.</p>	<p>Retail Survey (2011) – contains information on retail units, their uses and vacant units.</p> <p>Alton Profile (2013) – contains information on employment/economic activity of the population.</p> <p>[If employment land were addressed by these objectives the Industrial Survey (2012) and Employment Land Review (2013) would both be relevant.]</p>	<p>It may be useful to update and expand evidence about the range of retail, vacancies and trends.</p> <p>This objective does not specifically name the identification of new employment land, but leaves that process to EHDC.</p>
<b>Community consultation</b>					
	Brief summary of previous community consultation and engagement which has informed the evidence base cited above:	Alton Town Design Statement (2008) – work on the design statement included public surveys to identify the built and natural environment characteristics which residents felt were most important.	Report on public engagement concerning the development of EHDC's Core Strategy (2009) – more than 400 residents attended a consultation event and 184 completed a questionnaire.	Alton 2020 (2005) – the Health Check process which led to this document included widespread consultation with the general public, stakeholders, service providers and local businesses. This included public meetings, self completion questionnaires and consultation on a draft vision for Alton.	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (update 2013) – EHDC undertook a call for sites and it receives further information from landowners on an ongoing basis.