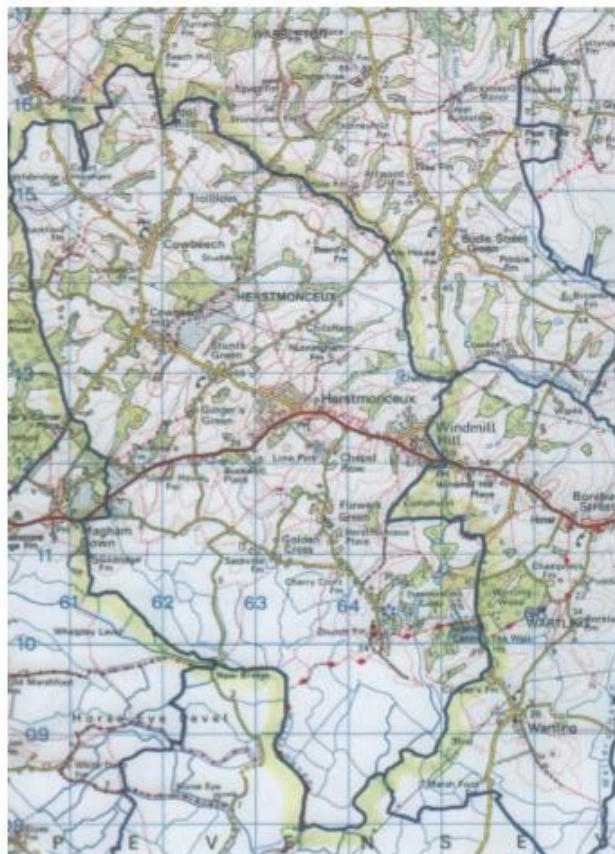


# Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2027

## Non-Technical Summary to Draft Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment)



**March 2017**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report forms the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) to the draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Pre-Submission Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP). A Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, becomes a formal part of the planning system and will be a Local Development Plan document. The HPNP is an important planning tool for shaping the development and growth of the Parish.
- 1.2 As sustainability is an important consideration in land use planning, a Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken on the contents of the HPNP. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 states that the aim of the planning system is to deliver sustainable development. This has been carried through in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, which requires that neighbourhood development plans contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Although not a statutory requirement, a sustainability appraisal of a Neighbourhood Development Plan is a positive step to meeting this basic condition.
- 1.3 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the evaluation of the environmental impacts of a plan such as the HPNP. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is conducted in conformity with the SEA Directive. However, whilst an SEA is concerned with environmental effects, a Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process that considers the environmental, social and economic consequences of a plan and its policies, and seeks to identify ways of achieving a proper balance between these three considerations. For simplification, the NTS refers to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout.
- 1.4 The draft Sustainability Appraisal provides a copy of the Screening Opinion (28<sup>th</sup> June 2016) and the Scoping Report (updated version November 2016).
- 1.5 The NPPF states the Government's intentions with regards to sustainable development<sup>1</sup>, in particular the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

**ECONOMIC ROLE** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land and the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure

**SOCIAL ROLE** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of the present and future

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 7 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being

**ENVIRONMENTAL ROLE** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

## 2.0 APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

2.1 The appraisal methodology has been prepared taking into account the processes set out in the relevant guidance<sup>2</sup>.

2.2 The diagram below describes the different stages in the SA process and how they relate to the stages of Plan production. The steps in stage A relate to the SA Scoping Report which was consulted on in August/September 2016. This report forms stages B and C and is known as the SA Report.

STAGE	TASKS	COMPLETED?
<b>A</b>	<b>Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying other relevant plans and programmes</li> <li>Collecting baseline information</li> <li>Identifying problems</li> <li>Developing objectives and the Sustainability Framework</li> </ul>	Sustainability Framework determined and set out in the Scoping Report. Baseline and Framework updated following feedback and comments.
<b>B</b>	<b>Developing the alternatives and assessing effects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing the plan objectives against SA/SEA objectives</li> <li>Developing alternatives</li> <li>Testing policy options against the SA/SEA objectives</li> <li>Considering mitigation</li> <li>Proposing measures to monitor effects</li> </ul>	Plan objectives, strategy and policies, plus all reasonable alternatives at this stage are set out and appraised within this SA.
<b>C</b>	<b>Prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>	This document forms the first stage of Stage C
<b>D</b>	<b>Consult on the SA Report</b>	To be completed
<b>E</b>	<b>Monitor implementation of the plan</b>	To be completed

2.3 The process of appraising the options/reasonable alternatives will highlight which option is the most sustainable and also how, if necessary, it can be

<sup>2</sup> Sustainability Appraisal guidance within the DCLG Plan making Manual/SEA guidance from ODPM A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005

improved. Symbols are used to record the performance of each option/alternative against each objective in the sustainability framework.

### 3.0 SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK - OBJECTIVES

3.1 The SA seeks to test the contribution the HPNP will make towards achieving sustainable development, through the identification of a number of objectives and indicators, known as the Sustainability Framework. These are used to assess the sustainability impacts of the policies within the HPNP. The objectives are based on the three strands of sustainability; i.e. social, economic and environmental.

#### Themes and Objectives

SA Objective	Potential Indicators	
1. Use of previously developed land - make the most efficient use of land by prioritising brownfield sites for development, the re-use of existing buildings and promoting higher development densities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of dwellings on brownfield sites.</li> </ul>	<b>Environmental</b>
2. Biodiversity - conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hectares of land with biodiversity interest affected by development.</li> <li>Impact on Pevensey Levels RAMSAR site.</li> </ul>	<b>Environmental</b>
3. Countryside and Heritage – conserve and enhance, especially the best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, and the historic and built environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of land in lower landscape sensitivity areas.</li> <li>existing green infrastructure &amp; rights of way protected or enhanced.</li> <li>Hectares of development on high quality agricultural land.</li> <li>Hectares of development affecting the setting of designated heritage and natural assets.</li> </ul>	<b>Environmental</b>
4. To support the development of high quality housing in sustainable locations on windfall sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new housing completions.</li> </ul>	<b>Social</b>
5. To ensure everyone has access to community facilities including facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of schemes resulting in improved or losses to</li> </ul>	<b>Social</b>

for the elderly, education, childcare, leisure and recreation facilities and public open spaces.	community facilities, sport, recreation or open space.	
6. To retain the availability of opportunities for local employment. To maintain and improve the local retail and tourism offer across the Parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of new employment floor space.</li> <li>• Amount of new retail floor space created.</li> </ul>	<b>Economic</b>

3.2 The Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan sets out a number of strategic objectives. An assessment has been made as to whether the 10 Neighbourhood Plan objectives are consistent with the 6 objectives of the sustainability appraisal.

3.3 The objectives for the HPNP are as follows:-

1. To provide a sustainable environment and community to meet the needs of its residents.
2. To protect the natural beauty of the parish landscape, particularly the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Low Weald.
3. To protect existing and extend Green Spaces in the parish.
4. To ensure that the design of new buildings conserves the rural character of the parish in the High Weald and the Low Weald.
5. To encourage development of smaller dwellings, both for purchase and to rent, for older parishioners who wish to remain in their community.
6. To build and maintain the commercial viability and vitality of Herstmonceux village centre.
7. To provide an opportunity for the provision of business opportunity in Windmill Hill and Cowbeech.
8. To improve the range and quality of local community services and facilities.
9. To encourage and enable the local community to pursue healthy lifestyles with sports facilities, cycle/pedestrian routes and access to public rights of way.
10. To support the development of a Community Land Trust in the parish.

3.4 These have been assessed for compatibility with the Sustainability Objectives in the table below:-

		Neighbourhood Plan objectives									
Su sta		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		1	√		√		X				

	2	√		√							
	3	√	√	√	√	x					
	4	√	x	x	√	√					√
	5	√		√			√		√	√	
	6	√					√	√			

Key:

√	Compatible
x	Incompatible
	No link/neutral

#### 4.0 POLICY APPROACHES AND OPTIONS

4.1 In preparing the HPNP, a range of policy areas have been considered and a range of options for each policy have been identified. These have been prepared based on the review of other relevant plans, programmes, policies, strategies and initiatives, the baseline data for the Parish, and the overarching strategic objectives of the neighbourhood plan.

4.2 All policy options have been appraised, to assess the impact on the 6 sustainability objectives as set out in the Sustainability Framework. These appraisals are included in the tables set out in the NTS below. The overall appraisal ensured that the policies selected and taken forward in the HPNP are the most sustainable, given all reasonable alternatives.

#### 5.0 APPRAISING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

5.1 A wide range of policy areas have been included within the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan. These will be appraised as to whether they have a positive or negative impact on the future of the Parish, using the Sustainability Framework to undertake the evaluation.

5.2 Tables Aa – Aq as shown below, set out the results of the SA on each of the policies within the draft SA. Table B summarises all of the drafted policies together and assesses these against the objectives. The policies assessed in Table B are those that have taken on board any changes following the consideration of reasonable alternatives. The HPNP contains an Action Plan which includes aspirations that the community would like to see be achieved within the parish. These are also included in Table B.

5.3 The following colours and symbols are used to assess each policy:

++	Greater positive impact on the sustainability objective
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<b>+</b>	Possible positive or slight positive impact on the sustainability objective
<b>-</b>	No impact or neutral impact on the sustainability objective
<b>?</b>	Possible negative or slight negative impact on the sustainability objective
<b>??</b>	Greater negative impact on the sustainability objective

**Table Aa Policy 1 Spatial Planning Principles for the Parish**

Policy 1 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	+	+	++	++	++	-
<b>B</b>	+	-	+	+	+	+
<b>C</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to take into account design matters and the needs of the community and supports strategic, District wide policies.

Option B – To have a policy that refers to built-up area boundaries and preferred locations for new development (housing, employment and community)

Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Ab Policy 2 Local Green Spaces**

Policy 2 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	-	++	++	-	++	-
<b>B</b>	-	-	?	-	?	-



Option A – To have a policy that sets out the sites to be allocated as local green spaces.

Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework regarding advice on Local Green Spaces and request that Wealden District Council assess and include sites for Herstmonceux parish in the emerging Core Strategy.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Ac Policy 3 Resisting the Loss of Employment Locations**

Policy 3 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	??	-	-	?	+	++
<b>B</b>	?	-	-	?	++	++
<b>C</b>	?	-	-	?	-	++

Option A – To have a generic/light touch policy that resists the loss of employment land in B1 use and no criteria is given as to how to assess applications.

Option B – To have a policy that provides criteria on how applications for the loss of employment and commercial sites are to be considered as well as highlighting other commercial uses that are important to the local economy.

Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

**Preferred Policy Option: B**

**Table Ad Policy 4 Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill Core Retail Areas**

Policy 4 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	-	-	+	+
B	-	-	+	-	++	++
C	-	-	-	-	+	+

Option A – To have a policy that allocates a core retail at Herstmonceux only  
 Option B – To have a policy that allocates a core retail area at Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill  
 Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

**Preferred Policy Option: B**

**Table Ae Policy 5 Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish**

Policy 5 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	-	-	++	-
B	-	-	-	-	+	-

Option A – To have a policy that refers to protecting and enhancing the existing sports and recreation areas within the parish  
 Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Af Policy 6 Redevelopment of the former public toilet site, Herstmonceux**

Policy 6 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	++	-	-	++	??	-
B	++	-	-	-	++	++
C	++	-	-	-	++	-
D	++	-	-	-	?	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to develop the site as residential (with no toilet facilities)

Option B – To have a policy that seeks to develop the site as commercial use (offices or retail) and toilet facilities

Option C – To redevelop the site as toilet facilities only

Option D - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District

**Preferred Policy Option: B**

**Table Ag Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground**

Policy 7 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	??	-	-	-	++	-
B	++	-	-	-	+	-
C	-	-	-	-	+	+

Option A – To have a policy that allocates a site for a new car park in Herstmonceux adjacent to the existing car park on the recreation ground.  
 Option B – To have a policy that supports the redesign of the existing car park in Herstmonceux behind the Woolpack Inn to provide more spaces.  
 Option C - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Ah Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish**

Policy 8 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	-	-	+	-	++	-
B	-	-	+	-	++	-
C	-	-	+	-	++	-
D	-	-	-	-	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to provide links from new development to existing Rights of Way and supports and promotes the existing network  
 Option B – To have a policy that seeks to improve specific Rights of Way that are in need of upgrading regardless of any links to new development.  
 Option C – To have a policy that seeks to create new Rights of Way whether linked to new development or not.  
 Option D - To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District.

**Preferred Policy Option: A/B/C – A combination of these options. This has resulted in a change to the drafted Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.**

**Table Ai Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux.**

Policy 9 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	-	-	++	-	++	-
<b>B</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>C</b>	-	-	?	-	?	-

Option A – To have a policy that seeks to create a new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux  
 Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to create a new shared access.  
 Option C – To not create a new shared access. This is not seen as a reasonable alternative as the proposal was raised out of the public consultation to create a shared access. However, it is assessed against the objectives.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Aj Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband**

<b>Policy 10 Options</b>	<b>Objective 1: Use of previously dev land</b>	<b>Objective 2: Biodiversity</b>	<b>Objective 3: Countryside &amp; Heritage</b>	<b>Objective 4: High quality housing</b>	<b>Objective 5: Access to community facilities</b>	<b>Objective 6: Local employment</b>
<b>A</b>	-	-	-	+	+	++
<b>B</b>	-	-	-	-	+	+

Option A – To have a policy that seeks improve connectivity and broadband for both new residents and businesses.  
 Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to create a new shared access.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Ak Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish**

<b>Policy 11 Options</b>	<b>Objective 1: Use of previously dev land</b>	<b>Objective 2: Biodiversity</b>	<b>Objective 3: Countryside &amp; Heritage</b>	<b>Objective 4: High quality housing</b>	<b>Objective 5: Access to community facilities</b>	<b>Objective 6: Local employment</b>
<b>A</b>	-	++	++	++	-	-
<b>B</b>	-	+	+	+	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that sets out the design principles for the parish to ensure design is in keeping with the prevailing character of the surrounding area and sets out standards for parking and sustainability.

Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to provide the design principles and standards.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table AI Policy 12: Windfall Sites**

Policy 12 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
A	+	+	?	++	-	-
B	++	-	-	++	-	?
C	++	+	?	++	-	?
D	?	-	-	??	-	-
E	+	-	+	+	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that supports windfall development in all locations with criteria to help developers.

Option B – To have a policy that supports windfall development in the built up area boundary only with criteria to help developers.

Option C – To have a policy that supports windfall development in all locations but with preference to those within or adjacent/abutting the built up area boundary and brownfield sites with criteria to help developers.

Option D – To have a policy that does not support any new housing development

Option E – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to enable windfall sites to come forward.

**Preferred Policy Option: C - this has resulted in a change to the policy as drafted in the Pre-Submission to include the sequential criteria**

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**Table Am Policy 13: Older People’s Housing Needs**

Policy 13 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	-	-	-	++	+	-
<b>B</b>	-	-	-	+	-	-

Option A – To have a policy that supports Older People’s housing.

Option B – To not have a policy and rely on the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan Document of the District to bring forward housing for older people.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table An Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust**

Policy 14 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	+	-	-	++	-	-
<b>B</b>	-	-	-	?	-	-



Option A – To have a policy that supports windfall development in all locations with criteria to help developers.  
 Option B – To not have a policy on Community Land Trusts.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**Table Aq Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment**

Policy 14 Options	Objective 1: Use of previously dev land	Objective 2: Biodiversity	Objective 3: Countryside & Heritage	Objective 4: High quality housing	Objective 5: Access to community facilities	Objective 6: Local employment
<b>A</b>	+	-	+	+	++	+
<b>B</b>	+	-	+	+	+	-
<b>C</b>	-	-	-	-	??	-

Option A – To have a policy that sets out the projects for investment  
 Option B – To have a policy on infrastructure investment but without specific projects highlighted.  
 Option C – To not have a policy on Infrastructure Investment.

**Preferred Policy Option: A**

**TABLE B - POLICY APPRAISALS**

<b>Policies as amended following the consideration of options in the SA</b>	<b>Obj 1: Use of previously dev land</b>	<b>Obj 2: Bio diversity</b>	<b>Obj 3: Country- side and Heritage</b>	<b>Obj 4: High quality housing</b>	<b>Obj 5: Access to community facilities</b>	<b>Obj 6: Local employ- ment</b>
Policy 1: A Spatial Plan for the Parish	+	+	++	++	++	-
Policy 2: Local Green Spaces	-	++	++	-	++	-
Policy 3: Resisting the Loss of Employment Sites	?	-	-	?	+	++
Policy 4: Herstmonceux, Cowbeech and Windmill Hill Core Retail Areas	-	-	+	-	++	++
Policy 5: Sports, Leisure and Recreation Facilities in Herstmonceux Parish	-	-	-	-	++	-
Policy 6: Redevelopment of the former public toilet site, Herstmonceux	++	-	-	-	++	++
Policy 7: Refurbishment and extension to the car park at Herstmonceux Recreation Ground	??	-	-	-	++	-
Policy 8: Rights of Way in Herstmonceux Parish	-	-	+	-	++	-
Policy 9: Creation of new shared access from Windmill Hill to Herstmonceux.	-	-	+	-	++	-
Policy 10: Mobile Phone Connectivity and Broadband	-	-	-	+	+	++
Policy 11: The Design of Development in the Parish	-	++	++	++	-	-
Policy 12 Windfall Sites	+	+	-	++	-	-
Policy 13: Older People's Housing Needs	-	-	-	++	+	-
Policy 14: Herstmonceux Community Land Trust	+	-	-	++	-	-
Policy 15: Infrastructure Investment	+	-	+	+	++	+
Aspiration 1: Retention of Assets of Community Value.	-	-	+	-	++	+
Aspiration 2: Creating Wi-Fi Hotspots in the Parish.	-	-	-	-	+	+
Aspiration 3: Telephone mast	-	-	-	-	-	+
Aspiration 4: New signage for Herstmonceux	-	-	-	-	+	+