

# Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan

## Part 3



# Strategic Environmental Screening Assessment

January 2025

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# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 This report**

- 1.1.1 A neighbourhood plan must meet a set of basic conditions as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. This includes demonstrating that the plan does not breach and is compatible with EU obligations.
- 1.1.2 This screening report seeks to determine whether the draft Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan ('the Plan') is likely to have significant environmental effects and will require a formal strategic environmental assessment (SEA).
- 1.1.3 This SEA screening document is being undertaken on the draft version of the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan (2024).
- 1.1.4 The screening report is structured as follows:
- Section 1 outlines the legislative background to SEA and an overview of the Plan
  - Section 2 provides screening assessments of the likely significant environmental effects of the Plan for SEA.

## **1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Legislation**

- 1.2.1 The need for environmental assessment of Neighbourhood Plans stems from the European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (EAPP) 2004, or SEA Regulations.
- 1.2.2 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and reasonable alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of the SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative environmental effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging Neighbourhood Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.2.3 The SEA Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of plans. The screening procedure is based on criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the EAPP Regulations 2004. The report assesses the Neighbourhood Plan against the criteria, and on that basis, sets out whether an SEA is required. Figure 1 (page 6) sets out the basic framework for establishing whether an SEA will be required.

### **1.3 Planning Context**

- 1.3.1 The Plan, once adopted, will form part of the development plan for the authority, specifically for the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Area. In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended), the Plan will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies which are adopted by the relevant local authority (City of York Council).
- 1.3.2 The emerging new Local Plan was submitted for Examination in May 2018 and has reached an advanced stage of the Examination process; 5 phases of hearings have concluded and Main Modifications consultation was held in February/March 2023. When adopted, the Local Plan sets the spatial strategy and planning policies relevant for the authority, including the level of housing and employment growth as well as establishing strategic sites to deliver its strategy and more detailed Development Management policies.
- 1.3.3 Until such time as the City of York Local Plan is adopted, there is a range of relevant planning policy applicable. The saved Yorkshire and Humber RSS policies referring to York's Green Belt, including the associated proposals map sets the strategic context for the general extent of the Green Belt around York to six miles from the city centre. As part of the new Local Plan, City of York will be defining the detailed Green Belt boundaries in the authority for the first time, including around the village of Copmanthorpe. Additionally, the Council has six adopted Neighbourhood Plans which form part of the city's development plan, none of which are in proximity or adjacent to Copmanthorpe. The adopted plans are:
- Upper and Nether Poppleton
  - Rufforth with Knapton
  - Earswick
  - Huntington
  - Strensall with Towthorpe
  - Minster Precinct

### **1.4 The Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan**

#### **What is the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan?**

- 1.4.1 The Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the emerging City of York Local Plan

and covers the time period up until the year 2039. It has been prepared by a working party on behalf of the qualifying body, Copmanthorpe Parish Council.

1.4.2 The vision for the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed during earlier stages of plan making is as follows:

*“...to maintain Copmanthorpe as a distinct settlement within the York Green Belt, offering a safe and attractive place in which to live and providing the broadest range of opportunities and facilities for all sections of the community whilst preserving the character, setting and identity of Copmanthorpe.”*

1.4.3 Following from this, four objectives were identified to guide the Plan:

- maintain the character, setting and identity of Copmanthorpe
- manage the growth of new development, particularly housing
- ensure that any new development takes place on a sustainable basis
- support and develop community facilities and organisations.

1.4.4 To meet these aims, this Neighbourhood Plan contains a number of policies which will:

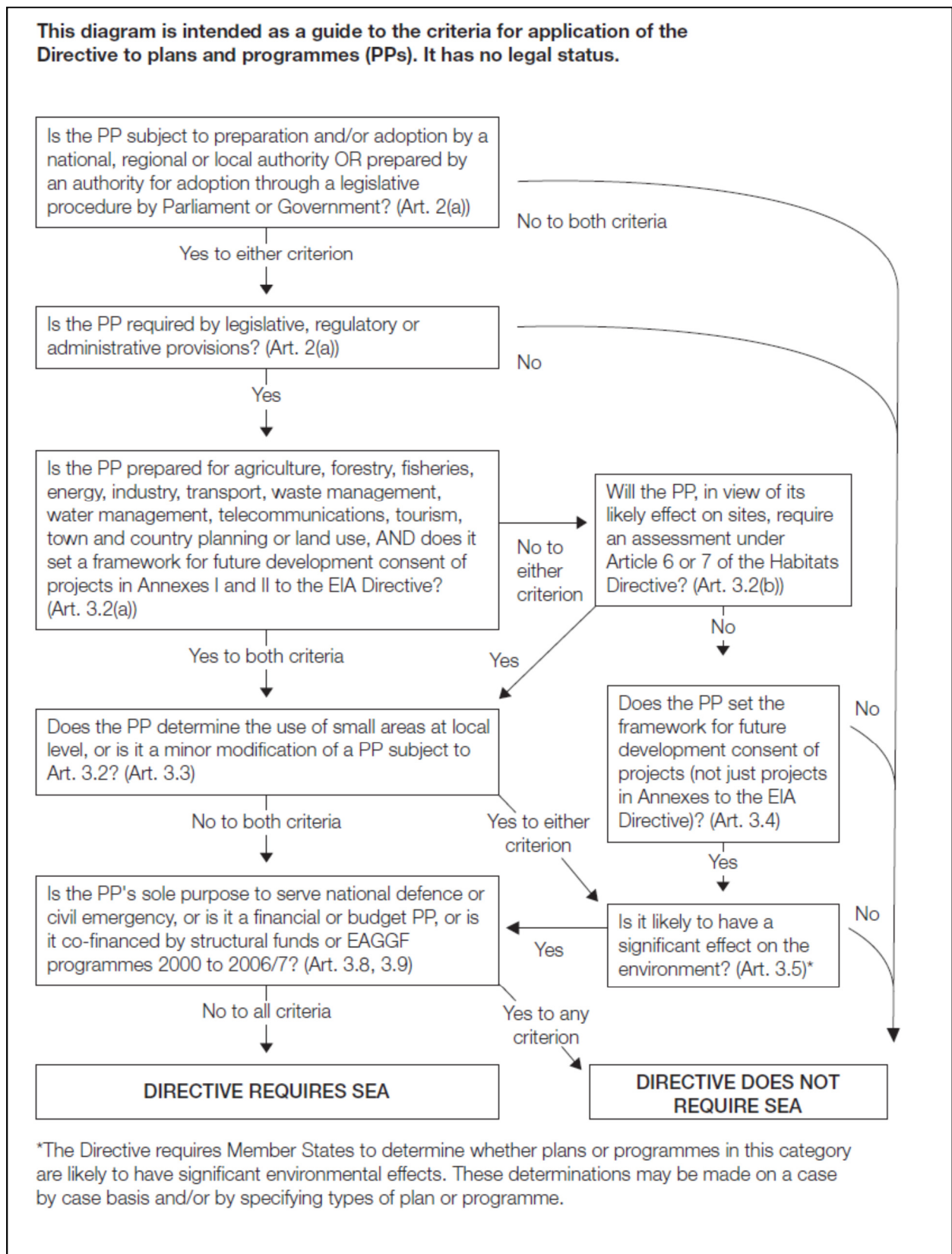
- support the development of new housing preferred development sites dispersed around the village
- make provision for affordable homes, housing for older people and recreational facilities
- protect the Green Belt and safeguard, enhance and expand the green infrastructure and the natural environment

### **Copmanthorpe SEA process**

1.4.5 The Pre-Submission Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan was consulted on by the Parish in 2014 and 2017. The plan at this time sought to include site allocations and was therefore accompanied by a full SEA report (prepared by AECOM, 2019) to assess the implications of these sites against the relevant environmental criteria. This appended as Appendix 2. In forming its determinations at this stage, consultation was undertaken with the three statutory consultation bodies designated in the regulations (Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency) as well as City of York Council.

1.4.6 Since this report, the contents of the Neighbourhood Plan have evolved to respond to the evolution of the Local Plan and planning decisions taken ahead of its adoption. As part of this evolution, previous site allocations included within the Neighbourhood Plan have now received planning permission and whilst supported, no longer form site allocations in the plan.

**Figure 1: Application of criteria of the SEA Directive to Plans**



## 2 The Screening Process

### 2.1 SEA Screening

2.1.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. The SEA screening is a two stage process:

- Stage 1 considers the Neighbourhood Plan generically against the SEA Assessment criteria specified in the national guidance (A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment; Fig 2). Where it is determined that there is a potential for a Neighbourhood Plan to have a significant effect on the environment, it will be necessary to progress to Stage 2.
- Stage 2 involves testing the Neighbourhood Plan against the criteria set out in the SEA Directive Article 3 (5) Annex II, to determine the likely significance of environmental effects.

2.1.2 Figure 2 provides a generic assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA Assessment criteria.

**Figure 2: Establishing whether there is a need for an SEA**

| Stage  | Y/N | Reason  |
|--|-----|---|
| 1. Is the plan or programme subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))    | Y   | Neighbourhood plans may be prepared under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. They are drawn up by a qualifying body, which, in the case of Copmanthorpe, is the Parish Council. It is subject to examination and referendum. If the Plan receives 50% or more affirmative votes at referendum, it will be 'made' by the local planning authority (City of York Council) |
| 2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))   | N   | The preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is optional. Once 'made', it will form part of the statutory Local Plan for the area and should continue to be screened under the SEA Directive.  |
| 3. Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for | Y   | The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning and land use and sets out a framework for future development in Copmanthorpe. Once 'made', it would form part of the statutory development plan and will be used when making decisions on planning   |

| Stage  | Y/N | Reason  |
|--|-----|---|
| future development consent of projects in Annex I and II to the EIA Directive? (Article 3.2 (a))   |     | applications that could include development that may fall under Annex I and II of the EIA directive.  |
| 4. Will the Plan, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))  | N   | The Plan does not allocate sites for housing or other forms of development, but instead provides further local criteria for proposals to meet in support of existing and emerging local planning policies. A separate HRA Screening Assessment has determined that there are no likely impacts under the Habitats Directive   |
| 5. Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)   | Y   | <p>The draft Plan policies are set out in Appendix 1; they encourage high quality design, designate areas of Local Green Space, support a mix of housing, protect and enhance community facilities, support the provision of new community facilities and identify priorities for Developer Contributions.</p> <p>Once 'made' the Plan would form part of the statutory development plan and be used when determining planning applications at the local level. However, the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the broader spatial framework laid out in the emerging City of York Local Plan in terms of where new development can be located.</p> |
| 6. Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? Article 3.4)  | Y   | A neighbourhood plan once 'made' forms part of the statutory development plan and will be used to assess planning applications and other planning decisions within the Plan Area. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level.  |
| 7. Is the Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9) | N   | The Neighbourhood Plan does not have a sole purpose that falls within any of these categories.  |
| 8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)   | ?   | A neighbourhood plan could potentially have an effect on the environment. However, whether this is significant depends on the proposals in the Plan.  |



| Stage | Y/N | Reason   |
|-------|-----|--|
|       |     | <p>The focus of the Plan is to shape development to meet local needs and support sustainable development, so that any adverse impacts on the local environment are minimised.</p> <p>The Plan policies seek to conserve and enhance the natural and built environment. It seeks, for example, to protect and enhance biodiversity and identifies Local Green Spaces for protection.</p> <p>As the Plan does not allocate sites for housing or other forms of development; does not amend or introduce Limits to Development and has proposed a suite of policies to protect and where possible enhance the built and natural environment, it is considered that it is likely to have a positive impact on the environment.</p> <p>Any potential environmental effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be determined through stage 2 of this screening assessment. (see figure 3).</p> |

2.1.3 The results of the preceding assessment indicate that, depending upon the content of a Neighbourhood Plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment may be required.

2.1.4 Question 8 in figure 2 refers to whether the Neighbourhood Plan would have a significant effect on the environment. The proposals within the Plan will thus be assessed against the criteria from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)

**Figure 3: Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan and the SEA Directive**

| Criteria   | Assessment   |
|--|--|
| <b>(1) The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:</b>   |  |
| (a) the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources; | The Neighbourhood Plan, if made, would form part of the statutory development plan. It would set a local policy framework for development proposals which are local in nature and which the community and stakeholders consider are important to the |

| Criteria   | Assessment  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>sustainable development of the Parish and on which the Plan can have the greatest impact.</p> <p>The Plan sets local criteria by which development proposals coming primarily through the local plan, should be assessed. It will have a positive influence for the natural and historic environment of the parish by highlighting those assets that should be protected from any future development and the quality of development expected.</p> <p>The Plan sits within a wider strategic framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and existing and emerging City-Wide local planning policies. It supports, and is in general conformity with, the strategic policies proposed in the emerging City of York Local Plan.</p> |
| (b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;   | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan sits in the lower tier of the planning policy hierarchy and must be in conformity with approved City of York local planning policies and the NPPF. It, therefore, supports the implementation of higher tier policies at the neighbourhood level and, as such, is not considered unlikely to have a significant influence on other plans and programmes.</p>  |
| (c) the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development; | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan, as advocated by the NPPF, is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development.</p> <p>The Plan's Vision is to sustain the area's most valued attributes, whilst also ensuring it plans for the future to ensure the continuing health, happiness and well being of all residents. Similarly, the Plan strives to achieve this vision by ensuring development protects the character, local green spaces, community facilities, local economy and sustainable transport links.</p> <p>The following Plan policies in particular contribute to sustainable development at the local level:</p> <p>CNP2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan; and</p>  | <p>The Plan will not introduce any environmental problems, rather it will seek to support environmental issues in the Plan Area. Potential environmental issues identified during the Neighbourhood Planning process include:</p> <p>The Plan contains measures to address environmental problems. These are notably in relation to protecting important ecological sites, Local Green Spaces, as well as conserving nature conservation sites and heritage assets (designated and non-designated).</p>   |
| <p>(e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).</p> | <p>It must be in general conformity with higher-level plans that comprise the City of York Local Plan. This will be developed with regard to European Community legislation on the environment. Consequently, the policies of the Plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.</p>   |
| <p>(2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</p>   |   |
| <p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>  | <p>The Plan relates to specific, small scale issues ensuring that any development coming forward through the Local Plan will deliver the maximum local benefits. It addresses specific local development management issues, complementing the higher level strategic policy framework already established through the adopted Local Plan and national policies (NPPF).</p> <p>Although the Plan does not allocate specific sites for development, the emerging Local Plan includes proposed housing sites for the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan area, which were assessed in the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (inc. SEA). These sites have now received planning permission.</p> <p>Given that the Plan; does not allocate sites for housing or other development and has proposed a suite of policies to protect and where possible enhance the built and natural environment, the probability of adverse environmental effects is highly unlikely. Overall, it is considered through the application of its policies, the Plan is likely to have positive environmental effects.</p> <p>In particular:</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Plan is likely to have a positive effect on biodiversity as a number of valued local green spaces and local sites of ecological sites have been identified for protection, in addition to those statutory sites protected through the Local Plan.</li> <li>• The nearest European site lies some 10kms from the boundary of the Plan area. Given the distance from the boundary, the nature of designation and the contents of the plan there are no likely significant effects.</li> <li>• The Plan sets out policies to protect local amenity value and heritage and thus likely to have a long term positive effect on the built environment.</li> </ul> <p>The duration of the positive effects outlined above are likely to be long term. However, due to the small scale and nature of the issues considered in the Plan, it is considered any effects will be low in frequency and reversible.</p> |
| (b) the cumulative nature of the effects;                                 | <p>The effects of the Plan need to be considered alongside the City of York adopted and emerging Local Plans. The Plan is required to be in general conformity with the adopted Local Plan. The Plan does not propose more development than the emerging Local Plan for the area.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of proposals within the Plan are unlikely to be significant on the local environment.<br/>Any cumulative impacts are likely to be beneficial.</p>  |
| (c) the transboundary nature of the effects;                              | <p>The Plan establishes locally distinct development management policies for Copmanthorpe Parish and thus the majority of effects will be localised to the Parish.</p> <p>The exception to this is consideration for landscape and biodiversity, which is likely to have a positive impact beyond the Parish.</p>  |
| (d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents); | <p>No significant risks to human health or the environment have been identified. The Plan seeks to create the conditions to improve human health by providing opportunities for recreation, socialising, active transport and facilitating a mix of housing, especially in response to an ageing population.</p>   |
| (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects                       | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is concerned with development within Copmanthorpe Parish, which</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>(geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);</p>  | <p>has a population of 12,108 (2011 Census) and covers an area of 741 hectares (2011 Census).</p> <p>The potential for environmental impacts is likely to be minimal and limited to the Plan area. The exceptions to these are the policies seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity including the River Foss which have the potential to contribute positively to the regional network of habitats. Addressing flood risk through the protection and extension of wetland habitats is also likely to contribute to the reduction of flood risk beyond the Plan area boundary.</p>   |
| <p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;</li> <li>(iii) intensive land-use; and</li> </ul> | <p>Copmanthorpe has natural characteristics and cultural heritage.</p> <p>The Plan area has a rich historical environment including sites and buildings of architectural and historic interest, some dating back to Roman times. Much of the traditional core of the village is protected by its designation as a Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Plan recognises the value and vulnerability of the local historical character through the application of Policy CNP2, which requires proposals to adhere to design principles including those set out in the Copmanthorpe Village Design Statement.</p> <p>The Plan area includes seven nationally designated Listed Buildings. Development presents the potential for effects upon heritage assets and their settings in the Plan area. However, no development as such is proposed, and the approach to managing effects on heritage is positive.</p> <p>There are five sites in the Parish, identified for their Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS) and a number of Sites of Local Interest. The Plan supports the designation of the Sites of Local Interest as SINCS and the degree of protection and recognition this provides them.</p> <p>The Parish is also adjacent to Askham Bog SSSI. Whilst outside of the boundary, the plan seeks to protect the bog by requiring developers to ensure</p> |

|   |  |
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|   | <p>that developments do not result in damage to the notified features of Askham Bog SSSI.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan will not create conditions for intensive land-use. Development likely to have a detrimental effect on heritage assets will be refused and all development is expected to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Green Belt</p>  |
| <p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p> | <p>The landscape character is largely open and undeveloped, supported in part by the designation over half of the parish as draft Green Belt.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan conserves areas important to York's historic character and setting as part of its strategy for locating development. Part of these areas fall within the Plan area, including 'areas preventing coalescence' (north west) and 'green wedge' (west).</p> <p>As no development is proposed as part of the Plan, direct effects are unlikely to occur. However, given the protective nature of the policies concerning the landscape, including support for the draft Green Belt, the Plan is expected to have positive effects.</p> |

## 2.2 SEA Screening Conclusion

- 2.2.1 This screening report has explored the potential effects of the Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan with a view to determining the likely requirement for an environmental assessment under the SEA Directive. Based on the SEA Screening Assessment set out in figure 3 above, **it is concluded that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects.**
- 2.2.2 The Copmathorpe Neighbourhood Plan is a lower tier plan in the hierarchy of planning documents for the area and therefore has limited influence on other plans or programmes.
- 2.2.3 The Plan does not allocate any development sites; but instead provides criteria based policies to help guide development that is likely to come forward under the policies set out in the emerging Local Plan. The criteria set out for development in the Plan are likely to prove beneficial in terms of mitigating against possible impacts of the emerging Local Plan policies.

2.2.4 Having taken all the policies in the Plan into account, in accordance with the topics cited in Annex 1(f) of the SEA directive, **this screening opinion has concluded that a full SEA is not required.**

### **3 Conclusion**

3.1 The SEA screening finds that no significant effects are likely as a result of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan. On this basis, a full SEA will not be required to be undertaken.

## **Appendix A: Copmanthorpe Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

### ***POLICY CNP1: HOUSING DEVELOPMENT***

Subject to the removal of the relevant pieces of land from the Green Belt by City of York Council, as set out in the Submitted Local Plan, up to 250 dwellings will be permitted within the Parish of Copmanthorpe within the Neighbourhood Plan period and development of these will only be permitted on the two allocated sites set out in the City of York Local Plan sites ST31 and H29 (158 houses on the Tadcaster Road site and 92 houses on the Moor Lane site). In addition, small-scale development of eight units or less which can be satisfactorily integrated into the existing built-up area of the village will be supported subject to compliance with the other policies in this Plan and the Village Design Statement.

Any future development shall exclude the land to the west of the built-up area of the Village.

### ***POLICY CNP2: DESIGN PRINCIPLES***

In order to maintain the identity and character of Copmanthorpe and to encourage good design in the provision of future housing, all development should have regard to the Copmanthorpe Village Design Statement and should be designed to make a positive contribution to the local character and distinctiveness of the area. In particular, new development should:

- a) Appear as an integral part of the landscape
- b) Ensure that the separation between Copmanthorpe and neighbouring villages is retained
- c) Retain and enhance all existing locally distinctive landscape features and
- d) Reflect the rural character of the village including important views, open spaces, footpaths and green corridors.

Reflecting key design features identified in the Village Design Statement and Conservation Area designation, all new development is expected to adhere to the following design principles:

1. Heritage – Development within, or affecting the setting of, the Copmanthorpe Conservation Area or listed buildings should respect the significance of the



heritage asset and make a positive contribution to its conservation. In particular, the rural character of the Conservation Area around St Giles' Church and Low Green should be retained and enhanced.

2. Materials – These should complement local character and utilise design detailing including chimney stacks to gable ends where appropriate. The use of UPVC windows and doors within the Conservation Area should be avoided.
3. Layout – This should enhance existing site features with a range of plot sizes and house types. Walking and cycling should be encouraged via safe and direct connections to the rest of the village and wider area. Parking provision, bin and cycle storage should be incorporated discreetly into new development.
4. Height and massing – Variation in building line and roofline should be incorporated into design and monotonous repetition should be avoided. Development over two storeys in height, except where there are rooms within the roof space, should be avoided.
5. Developers shall set aside their standard design pattern books and create bespoke house types which are appropriate for inclusion within the village-scape of Copmanthorpe.

### ***POLICY CNP3: AFFORDABLE AND SPECIAL HOUSING***

Affordable housing within Copmanthorpe (including social rented housing where there is a proven need) will be delivered in line with City of York Council policy and in accordance with Policy CNP 4 (Local Occupancy):

1. The target level of affordable and special housing per residential development scheme will be set in line with City of York Council policy from time to time in force
2. Housing needs for older people will be established in consultation with City of York Council
3. Where housing need is the same, preference will be given to local residents or those with a local connection as detailed in Policy CNP4 (Local Occupancy)

## ***POLICY CNP4: LOCAL OCCUPANCY***

All affordable housing and older persons housing will be subject to local occupancy restrictions as follows:

1. A person or household who currently lives in the Parish and has done so for a continuous period of at least three years; or
2. A person or household who works in the Parish and has done so for a continuous period of at least three years; or
3. A person or household who has moved away but has strong established and continuous links with the Parish by reason of birth or long-term immediate family connections; or
4. A person or household who has an essential need through age or disability to live close to those who have lived in the Parish for at least three years.
5. If, at any time, no person or household satisfies the above restrictions then they may be expanded to include a person or household who currently lives within the CYC local authority area and has done so for a continuous period of at least five years with essential need for property, for example for reasons of age, disability or illness.
6. Beyond the provision of point 5, if no person or household can be identified then the restrictions may be further expanded to include North Yorkshire.

## ***POLICY CNP5: COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ORGANISATIONS***

1. Where land becomes available, applications for change of use to sports and leisure uses and allotments will be supported.
2. Any off-site financial obligation on developers to provide public open space or recreation facilities will be ring-fenced to deliver further recreation facilities within Copmanthorpe.
3. Any Community Infrastructure Levy arising out of development in Copmanthorpe shall be ring fenced to deliver infrastructure benefits in Copmanthorpe.

## ***POLICY CNP6: GREEN BELT***

The Green Belt land to the west of Copmanthorpe forms an important part of the special open and agricultural character of the setting of the nationally significant historic City of York. Together with the other Green Belt land surrounding the village it also plays an important role in maintaining the identity, character and setting of Copmanthorpe village itself. The general extent of the York Green Belt within Copmanthorpe Parish is shown on the RSS Key Diagram (Map XX below). The Green Belt will be defined through the Local Plan process. This policy shall apply to land included within the Green Belt boundary that is defined under an adopted Local Plan.

Decisions on whether to treat land as falling within the Green Belt for development management purposes in advance of the adoption of the Local Plan will be taken in accordance with the approach supported in the case of *Christopher Wedgewood v City of York Council* [2020] EWHC 780 (Admin), taking into account the RSS general extent of the Green Belt, the draft Local Plan (April 2005) (Map YY, below), the emerging Local Plan and site specific features in deciding whether land should be regarded as Green Belt until such a time as the Green Belt boundaries are adopted within the Local Plan.

Within the general extent of the Green Belt inappropriate development will not be supported except in very special circumstances. New buildings are regarded as inappropriate development and will not be supported other than in the circumstances identified in the National Planning Policy Framework.

### ***POLICY CNP7: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE***

1. The green infrastructure within and surrounding Copmanthorpe (maps on pages 25, 26, 27) will be safeguarded and enhanced and will be expanded as the opportunity arises and connected to surrounding habitat. No development which harms, directly or indirectly, the integrity or quality of this infrastructure will be supported.
2. All development shall enhance and support the integrity and quality of this infrastructure.
3. Developers will be required to ensure that the development of ST31 does not result in damage to the notified features of Askham Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and nature reserve through changes to the water levels at Askham Bog. In particular developers should consider potential impacts on water quality and water levels at Askham Bog SSSI from water drainage into the SSSI as a consequence of the development of this site.

### ***POLICY CNP8: PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION***

Planning applicants will be encouraged to engage in pre-application consultations with the Parish Council in order to minimise any site issues or planning problems that may arise and application shall be accompanied by a statement confirming if consultation has taken place and setting out the comments of the Parish Council

## **Appendix 2: SEA report (2019)**

Published by Copmanthorpe Parish Council

January 2025