

Horsham District Council Local Planning Authority

Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2036

FINAL DECISION STATEMENT

Date: 2 August 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Horsham District Council (“the Council”) (HDC) has a statutory duty¹ to support Parish Councils and Qualifying Bodies in the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) and Orders and to take NDPs and Orders through a process of examination and referendum.
- 1.2 This Decision Statement relates to the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan produced by the Neighbourhood Planning Forum group, comprised of Denne, Forest and Trafalgar Neighbourhood Councils. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), (“the 1990 Act”) the Council has a statutory duty to support Parish Councils and Qualifying Bodies in the preparation of NDPs and Orders and to take NDPs and Orders through a process of examination and referendum. The Localism Act 2011 (Part 6 chapter 3) sets out the responsibilities under Neighbourhood Planning.
- 1.3 Following the Examination of the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan and the receipt of the Examiner’s Report, Horsham District Council is required to make a decision on the next steps. As set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations these are:
- a) to decline to consider a plan proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or a modification proposal under paragraph 5 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
 - b) to refuse a plan proposal under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) or a modification proposal under paragraph 8 of Schedule A2 to the 2004 Act;
 - c) what action to take in response to the recommendations of an Examiner made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act (as applied by section 38A of the 2004 Act) in relation to a neighbourhood

¹ The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

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

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

- 1.4 In accordance with the Regulations, this report forms the Council's Decision Statement (Regulation 18(2)) and sets out the Council's decision and the reasons for this.
- 1.5 Appendix A of this decision statement is a map of the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan Area. Appendix B sets out the Examiner's Proposed Modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan along with the actions taken and revised modifications.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to the area that was designated by Horsham District Council as a neighbourhood area on June 2015. Due to neighbourhood area being designated as a forum, the Regulations (Section 61F, paragraph 8a) state that a neighbourhood forum designation will cease to have effect after five years. The Neighbourhood Planning group resubmitted an application and the area was re-designated 5 June 2020.
- 2.2 The Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group published the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Development Plan for consultation under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The consultation was held between 10 February and 24 March 2020.
- 2.3 The Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan forum then submitted the Submission Draft Plan to Horsham District Council. This plan was publicised, and representations were invited between 14 September and the 02 November 2020.
- 2.4 Derek Stebbing was appointed by Horsham District Council, with the consent of Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, as 'the Examiner' to undertake the examination of the Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan and to prepare a report of the independent examination.
- 2.5 The Examiner's report was received on the 5 February 2021. It concluded that the Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan, subject to a number of recommended changes, meets the Basic Conditions set out in the legislation and can proceed to referendum.
- 2.6 As has already been indicated in paragraph 1.3 of this report, Regulations 17A and 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires the Local

Planning Authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an Examiner following the formal examination.

3.0 DECISION

- 3.1 Having considered the recommended modifications made by the Examiner's Report, and the reasons for them, Horsham District Council, with the consent of Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Planning Forum has considered each of the recommendations and agreed the action to take in response to each recommendation. It was decided to accept all the modifications made to the draft Plan by the Examiner under paragraph 12(2)(4) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Examiner's proposed modifications are set out at Appendix B alongside the reason why the modifications were accepted.
- 3.2 The District Council issued a 'standard' screening for all neighbourhood plans in the district and has confirmed that a SEA is not required for the Plan as it contains no site allocations for development. A Sustainability Statement has been prepared to accompany the submission Plan and was the subject of consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England at the Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) stage. None of these bodies identified any concerns requiring an SEA for the Plan.
- 3.3 The Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan underwent an initial Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening which concluded the plan would have no likely significant effects on sites of international importance for nature conservation. However, in September 2021 Natural England published a Position Statement regarding Water Neutrality which required the plan makers to re-screen the plan to assess for any potential impact of the plan either directly or in combination regarding Water Neutrality. This is assessed in greater detail in section 4.0.

4.0 WATER NEUTRALITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

- 4.1 Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan was supported by a HRA Screening report dated June 2020. Natural England provided a formal response dated 6 November 2020 stating that it did not have any specific comments on the plan and the policies within the plan would not have significant environmental effects on designated European Nature Conservation Sites known as Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation (SPAs/SACs) or undermine their conservation objectives alone or in combination.
- 4.2 In September 2021, Natural England² published a Position Statement on the issue of Water Neutrality. The Position Statement states that in the Sussex North Water Resource Zone (which includes the whole of Horsham District), data collected by Natural England shows that increasing levels of water abstraction for drinking water supplies is having a negative impact on the Arun Valley Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site. The effect of the Position Statement is that any new development within Sussex North Water Resource Zone must demonstrate that it is not adding to the adverse impact. This includes considering any development which may come forward through plans and programmes that are being prepared including Neighbourhood Plans.

² Natural England is a Non-Departmental Public Body whose purpose is to help conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. It is a statutory consultee in relation to planning and development control issues.

- 4.3 A way of ensuring that new development is not increasing rates of water abstraction and demand is for Neighbourhood Plans to demonstrate that they are 'Water Neutral'. The definition of water neutrality is for the level of water abstraction in the Water Resource Zone to remain the same or lower after any development / development plan is in place.
- 4.4 The receipt of the Natural England Position Statement triggered an additional requirement to re-screen the Neighbourhood Plan under the Habitat Regulations Assessment process to consider whether the content of the Plan could demonstrate water neutrality.
- 4.5 Horsham District Council commissioned further Habitat Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment work in December 2021 and re-consulted Natural England on the conclusions of this assessment. Natural England responded in April 2022 proposing further modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and the Appropriate Assessment documentation. The Council has considered the modifications proposed to the plan and along with the Qualifying Body have agreed to implement the changes to the Neighbourhood Plan. The additional text has now been accepted and can be found in the Schedule in Appendix B. Sites or projects which come forward on a project level basis still need to conform to the Habitat Regulations 2017 and will be subject to a project level Habitat Regulations Assessment. Natural England confirmed in July 2022 that they are content with the revisions to the plan. As the competent authority, HDC therefore considers the submitted plan including the recommended modifications as outlined by Natural England meets the Habitat Regulations and along with the Examiner's recommendations has complied with the Basic Conditions and should proceed to Referendum.

5.0 THE REFERENDUM AREA AND PROCEDURE

- 5.1 The Council is in agreement with the Examiner's recommendation that there is no policy or proposal significant enough to have an impact beyond the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area, and that any referendum that takes place in due course be contiguous with the boundary of the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area (see Appendix A).
- 5.2 The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 makes provision for the conduct of additional "business referendums". As the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan is also identified as a 'Business Area' there is a requirement to have two referendums. In Business Areas two separate referendums will be held in parallel. The first will be for residents and a second referendum will be held for businesses (or more specifically non-domestic rate payers). The two referendums must be held on the same day.

6.0 CONCLUSION

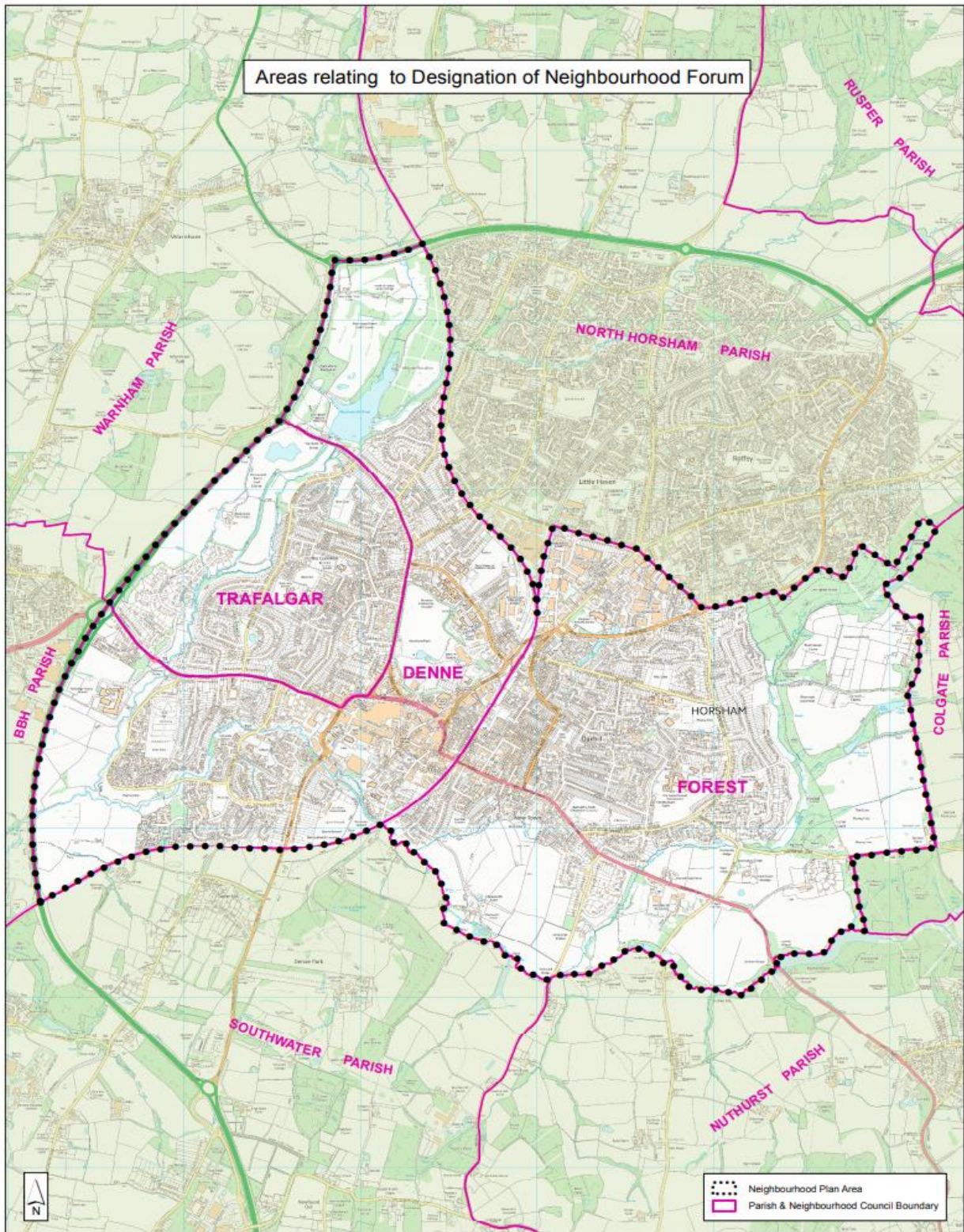
- 6.1 The Council is of the view that the draft submission Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan as modified in Appendix B: Examiner's Proposed Modifications to the Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036, complies with the legal requirement and may now proceed to Referendum.

Signed:



Barbara Childs
Director of Place
Date: 2 August 2022

Appendix A: Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan Forum



Horsham District Council
 Park North, North Street, Horsham,
 West Sussex. RH12 1RL
 Rod Brown : Head of Planning & Environmental Services

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Application to the Horsham District Council under The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 Regulation 8.			
Reference No : NCPP1	Date : 12/08/13	Scale : 1:20,000	
Drawing No :	Drawn :	Checked :	Revisions : 02/09/14

Appendix B: Examiner's Proposed Modifications to the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Development Plan

Policies	Examiner's Modifications (insertion <u>underline</u> , omission as strikethrough)	Decision and Justification	Action Taken and Revised Modification
<p>Policy HB1: Location of Development</p>	<p><i>Policy HB1: Location of Development</i></p> <p><i>A. Development in the Blueprint Neighbourhood Area shall be focused within the built-up area boundary as shown on <u>Figure 4.4 and the Policies Maps in Section 14 of this Neighbourhood Plan</u>. Development between settlements will only be permitted where it meets the criteria of Policy 27 (Settlement Coalescence) of the HDPF, or the equivalent policy of the successor Local Plan.</i></p> <p><i>B. Development proposals outside the proposed built-up area boundary will not be permitted unless: i. it is in accordance with the development plan policies on appropriate uses in the countryside; or ii. it relates to necessary utility infrastructure; or iii. it is on sites allocated for those uses in the Horsham District Planning Framework or its successor.</i></p> <p><i>C. Proposals should make the best use of suitable brownfield land, where available, before greenfield land adjacent to or beyond the built up area boundary is released.</i></p> <p><i><u>D. Proposal must demonstrate that they are water neutrality to avoid adverse impact on integrity of the Arun valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar sites.</u></i></p>	<p>HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and to provide clarity on Water Neutrality</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>
<p>Policy HB2: Meeting Local Housing Needs</p>	<p><i>Policy HB2: Meeting Local Housing Needs</i></p> <p><i>A. All residential development proposals in the Plan area shall provide a mix of housing as required by Policy 16 of the Horsham District Planning Framework and in accordance with Policy HB5 Design of Development in this Neighbourhood Plan. Proposals that will deliver smaller one, two and three bedroom dwellings, including apartments and bungalows, to</i></p>	<p>HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and to provide clarity on Water Neutrality</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p><i>address the needs of single people, young couples, small families and the elderly, will be strongly encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>B. Housing development must contribute to meeting the existing and future housing needs of the neighbourhood area. Developers of major developments are required to submit a neighbourhood area-Specific Affordable Housing and Dwellings Mix Strategy.</i></p> <p><i>C. Affordable homes should be well integrated with market housing. The type and size of affordable homes should meet the specific needs identified for the neighbourhood area. Should it be demonstrated that the required level of affordable housing cannot be met onsite for legitimate reasons, a commuted sum will be required to ensure that the provision of affordable units is not lost.</i></p> <p><i><u>D. Proposals must demonstrate that they are water neutrality to avoid adverse impact on integrity of the Arun valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar sites.</u></i></p>		
<p>Insert additional text to provide clarity on Water Neutrality Paragraph 6.19</p>	<p>Paragraph 6.19 [insert the following text]</p> <p><i><u>With reference to Natural England’s Position Statement for Applications within the Sussex North Water Resources Zone (September 2021 – Interim Approach), Horsham Blueprint Business Area lies with this Water Supply Zone which includes supplies from a groundwater abstraction which cannot, with certainty, conclude no adverse effect on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar site. As it cannot be concluded that the existing abstraction within Sussex North Water Supply Zone is not having an impact on the Arun Valley site, Natural England advises that developments within this zone must not add to this impact.</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Natural England has advised that this matter should be resolved in partnership through Local Plans across the affected authorities, where</u></i></p>	<p>To ensure the plan and the policies within the plan are Water Neutrality compliant</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p><u>policy and assessment can be agreed and secured to ensure water use is offset for all new developments within Sussex North. To achieve this Natural England is working in partnership with all the relevant authorities to secure water neutrality collectively through a water neutrality strategy. Whilst the strategy is evolving, Natural England advises that decisions on planning applications should await its completion. However, if there are applications which a planning authority deems critical to proceed in the absence of the strategy, then Natural England advises that any application needs to demonstrate water neutrality.</u></p> <p><u>Developments within Horsham Blueprint Business Area must therefore must not add to this impact and one way of achieving this is to demonstrate water neutrality. The definition of water neutrality is the use of water in the supply area before the development is the same or lower after the development is in place.</u></p>		
<p>Policy HB3: Character of Development</p>	<p><i>Policy HB3: Character of Development</i></p> <p><i>A. Development is expected to preserve and enhance the Character Area in which it is located (as shown in Figure 6.1 and on the Policy Maps). The design of new development should take account of the local context and reflect the character and vernacular of the area, using architectural variety in form and materials, in order to avoid building design that is inappropriate to the Plan area. Innovation in design will be supported, however, where this demonstrably enhances the quality of the built form in a character area.</i></p> <p><i>B. Where relevant, development proposals are expected to address the following:</i></p> <p><i>i. Make a positive contribution to the visual impact of the main highway approaches into the Area which are: Brighton Road, Harwood Road, Crawley Road, Wimblehurst Road, Warnham</i></p>	<p>HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and provide clarity on developer contributions.</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p><i>Road, Guildford Road and Worthing Road. Such improvements could include adding tree/floral planting or roadside green space and/ or reducing visual clutter by consolidating and rationalising road signs. Contributions from major development in the neighbourhood area will be used to enable this, collected through Section 106 Agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism. Improvements and enhancements should include, where appropriate, additional tree planting, the enhancement of roadside green spaces, the reduction/consolidation of road signs and other street furniture and wider green infrastructure improvements that are identified as being necessary.</i></p> <p><i>ii. Be guided by the Conservation principles included in the Horsham Conservation Area Advice Leaflet No.4, The Horsham Town Design Statement SPD (2008), The Horsham Town Plan (2012), The Horsham Heritage and Character Assessment (2017) and Good By Design (2018) and conserve those features identified as contributing to the character of the area.</i></p>		
<p>Policy HB4: Design of Development</p>	<p><i>Policy HB4: Design of Development</i></p> <p><i>Development is expected to demonstrate a high quality of design, which responds and integrates well with its surroundings, meets the changing needs of residents and minimises the impact on the natural environment. Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate how they have considered and sought to address the following matters:</i></p> <p><i>i. Being guided by the National Design Guide and the principles of Building for Life <u>Building for a Healthy Life – Design for Homes</u> unless alternative principles would otherwise result in a higher quality of design. Development proposals are encouraged to achieve the ‘Built for Life’ <u>‘Building for a Healthy Life – Design for Homes</u> quality mark.</i></p> <p><i>ii. The guidance contained within the Horsham Town Design Statement SPD21 and Good By Design22.</i></p>	<p>HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and provide clarity on West Sussex Parking guidance. To ensure new development are Water Neutrality compliant.</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. <i>Dwellings designed to be suitable for older residents (aged 60 and over) are encouraged to meet the space and accessibility requirements of the Lifetime Homes standards. Such dwellings may also be suitable for younger residents and are not intended to be restricted in use.</i> iv. <i>To design layouts of safe and secure dwellings that meet the requirements of 'Secured by Design' and minimise the likelihood and fear of crime.</i> v. <i>The height of new building in conservation areas to be consistent with existing buildings such that they do not affect their setting. In addition to retain existing building lines, where development is set back from the pavement to create a sense of space and aid movement.</i> vi. <i>All new residential, commercial and community properties within the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan area should be served by a superfast broadband (such as full fibre) connection.</i> vii. <i>To ensure that areas requiring service and maintenance including watercourses are accessible at all times.</i> viii. <i>Development that is required to provide Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is expected to provide this on-site, unless there are clear reasons why this is not possible. Such development is encouraged to demonstrate the use of a wide range of creative SuDS solutions, for example through the provision of SuDS as part of green spaces, green roofs, permeable surfaces and rain gardens. SuDS provision must demonstrate how its design will enhance wildlife and biodiversity as well as minimise the impacts of flooding. Only where it is demonstrably unviable will an</i> 		
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	<p><i>absence of any on-site SuDS provision be permissible in such developments.</i></p> <p>ix. <i><u>to incorporate water and energy efficiency measures.</u></i></p> <p>x. <i>Provide adequate off-road parking for residents, visitors and service vehicles, in accordance with the West Sussex Parking Standards <u>West Sussex Parking Guidance</u> as a minimum.</i></p> <p>xi. <i>To ensure that the layout and design of parking provision does not adversely affect vehicular and pedestrian access and safety. Permeable surfacing should be used.</i></p> <p>xii. <i>Where a building incorporates Horsham stone roofing, developers are expected to reinstate it. If this is not possible, the Horsham stone must be preserved for future reuse in Horsham district.</i></p> <p>Replace the reference to the “Building for Life” with “Building for a Healthy Life – Design for Homes” 12 in paragraph 6.13.</p>		
<p>Policy HB5: Energy Efficiency and Design</p>	<p><i>Policy HB5: Energy Efficiency and Design</i></p> <p><i>A. The design and standard of any development is encouraged to achieve the highest level of sustainable design, in order to reduce energy consumption and climate effects. This includes:</i></p> <p>i. <i>Siting and orientation to optimise passive solar gain.</i></p> <p>ii. <i>The use of high quality, thermally efficient building materials.</i></p> <p>iii. <i>Installation of energy efficiency measures such as loft and wall insulation and double glazing.</i></p> <p>iv. <i>Incorporating on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels.</i></p>	<p>HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and provide clarity on West Sussex Parking guidance. To ensure new development are Water Neutrality compliant.</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p>v. <u>Including the provision of measures to maximise water saving through building design, including efficient fixtures and fittings and the use of rainwater harvesting and/or grey water systems.</u></p> <p>Reducing water consumption through the use of grey water systems.</p> <p>vi. Providing low carbon sustainable design and avoid or mitigate all regulated emissions using a combination of on-site energy efficiency measures (such as insulation and low energy heating systems), on-site zero carbon technologies (such as solar panels) and only where necessary off-site measures to deal with any remaining emissions.</p> <p>vii. Reducing fuel poverty levels, such as replacement of lighting by lower wattage light sources.</p> <p>viii. Providing the infrastructure for adequate electric vehicle charging points for each dwelling, where new parking provision is expected to be made, in accordance with WSCC Parking Guidance Principle B24.</p> <p>ix. Alterations to existing buildings should be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with current sustainable design and construction standards. Where a development cannot achieve one or more of the criteria (for instance for practical reasons), then this would not render the scheme unacceptable, providing a robust demonstration can be provided by the developer.</p> <p>Where a development cannot achieve one or more of the criteria (for instance for practical reasons), then this would not render the scheme unacceptable, providing a robust demonstration can be provided by the developer.</p>		
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	<p><i>B. Alterations to existing buildings, including the sensitive retrofitting of historic buildings, should be designed with energy reduction in mind and comply with current sustainable design and construction standards.</i></p> <p><i>C. Proposals to develop community-owned energy projects, that generate funds to offset fuel poverty and that contribute towards the area being a low-carbon neighbourhood, are strongly encouraged and will be strongly supported.</i></p>		
<p>Policy HB6: Retaining and Enhancing the Vitality and Viability of Horsham Town Centre</p>	<p><i>Policy HB6: Retaining and Enhancing the Vitality and Viability of Horsham Town Centre</i></p> <p><i>A. There is a need to maintain the economic health, vitality and viability of the Town Centre, as defined on the Policies Maps, in balance with residential development and infrastructure. Therefore mixed use development proposals - including employment, office, retail, community, cultural, tourism and residential uses - will normally be supported within the Town Centre. Proposals should demonstrate how they contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan objectives, the Strategic Directions of the Horsham Town Centre Vision and the Horsham Town Centre SPD.</i></p> <p><i>B. The temporary change of use of vacant premises to pop-up shops will be encouraged within the primary and secondary shopping areas.</i></p> <p><i>C. In the secondary shop frontage areas, development proposals that foster small, local business activity in the town centre will be supported.</i></p>	No change	No further action required.
<p>Policy HB7: A welcoming Public Realm</p>	<p><i>Policy HB7: A welcoming Public Realm</i></p> <p><i>A. Development proposals that have the potential to provide public realm improvements should consider and address those opportunities as part of their scheme. In particular, proposals should seek to:</i></p> <p><i>i. Reinforce the concept of legible “character areas” / “quarters” with distinct identities, as described in the Town Centre Vision.</i></p>	HDC agree with the Examiner’s recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and to provide clarity	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. <i>Provide for pedestrian and cycle movement as a priority, including making provision for those with mobility requirements, making appropriate connections to existing footpaths, cycle paths and rights of way, in accordance with the primary movements routes protected in Policy HB12 (Encouraging Sustainable Movement) to improve connectivity and movement within the town.</i> iii. <i>Provide safe spaces that are accessible, including to those with physical or mental disabilities.</i> iv. <i>Provide adequate car parking, where required for workers, residents and visitors, and respond appropriately to the local context.</i> v. <i>Contribute to improved wayfinding and signage for the town centre, provided that they can be satisfactorily integrated within their surroundings.</i> vi. <i>Enhance the character and appearance of the town centre, including through the use of planting and installation of public art, considering the heritage and history of the urban area.</i> <p><i>B. Development at the main gateways to the Area, as defined on the Policies Maps, will be expected to add to the sense of arrival to Horsham town centre. The quality of development at gateways, and along main routes into the centre from them, will be given significant weight when considering planning applications. CIL funding will be directed towards public realm improvements at the principal gateways.</i></p> <p><i>C. The provision of public art will be sought on the development of sites in the town centre, on major developments outside the town centre and on areas of Green Space. In particular, the design of new on-site open space should include a place for public art.</i></p>		
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	<p><i>D. Within the Plan area, proposals for an advertisement and/or signage will be permitted supported where it would not be obtrusive in appearance, cause visual clutter or lead to a proliferation of signs, appear dominant or overbearing in the street scene, or cause significant harm to the appearance of any building on which it would be displayed because of its siting, size, design, illumination, construction or materials.</i></p>		
<p>Policy HB8: Horsham as a Sustainable Visitor Destination</p>	<p>Policy HB8: Horsham as a Sustainable Visitor Destination</p> <p><i>The development and expansion of tourism facilities, accommodation, attractions and activities connected with day and staying visitors will be supported where the following criteria can be met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. There are demonstrable economic and social benefits of the proposals; and</i> <i>ii. It provides links to sustainable forms of transport and is accessible by foot, bicycle and mobility transport; and</i> <i>iii. There is no significant detrimental impact on the existing community; and</i> <i>iv. Dedicated parking provision should be consistent with WSCC Parking Guidance; and</i> <i>v. The siting, scale and design has strong regard to the local character, historic and natural assets of the surrounding area and the design and materials are in keeping with the local style and reinforce local distinctiveness and provide a strong sense of place.</i> <i>vi. <u>Proposal must demonstrate that they are water neutral to prove that there is no adverse impact on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar sites.</u></i> 	<p>HDC agree with the modification. To ensure new development is compliant with Water Neutrality.</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

<p>Policy HB9: Protecting existing and encouraging new commercial premises and land</p>	<p><i>Policy HB9: Protecting existing and encouraging new commercial premises and land</i></p> <p><i>Protecting existing employment</i></p> <p><i>A. There will be a presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land which provides employment. Subject to Permitted Development rights, applications for a change of use of existing commercial premises to an activity that does not provide employment opportunities will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the commercial premises or land:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and</i> <i>ii. has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses as demonstrated through the results of:</i> <i>iii. a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least six months and a supplemental report evidencing the marketing undertaken and the market response; and</i> <i>iv. a detailed valuation report assessing the viability of the land and buildings for employment use.</i> <p><i>Encouraging new employment</i></p> <p><i>B. Proposals to provide start-up business space – including office/workshop space, incubator and start-up units - on flexible terms will be supported, provided that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. there is no adverse impact on the amenity of surrounding areas.</i> <i>ii. access by public transport, cycle and on foot, and catering for all users including children and those with disabilities, is created, maintained and enhanced.</i> 	<p>HDC agree with the modification. To ensure new development is compliant with Water Neutrality.</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>
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	<p>iii. <u>Proposals must demonstrate that they are water neutral to prove that there is no adverse impact on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar site.</u></p> <p>C. Proposals that support or enhance existing businesses delivering a net gain in employment in sustainable locations and enabling businesses to grow will be supported.</p>		
Paragraph 7.30	<p>Paragraph 7.30:</p> <p>If the sites, described briefly below, were to become available, development will be resisted unless it accords with the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan and aspirations for the sites, as set out below. The Neighbourhood Councils will welcome direct involvement in the planning for any sites and, in particular, will emphasise the need to ensure that adequate infrastructure provision is in place to support that new development, including schools, health facilities, adequate parking provision, leisure and recreation, improvements to the road and path network and flood prevention measures.</p> <p><u>If the sites, described briefly below in AIM3, were to become available, the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan has shown support for their development in line with the aspirations as set out below and this should form the basis for discussions with developers and the planning authority. Development will be resisted unless it accords with the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan and aspirations for the sites, as set out below.</u></p>	HDC agrees with this recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and to provide clarity	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.
Policy HB10: Green and Blue Infrastructure and delivering Biodiversity net gain	<p>Policy HB10: Green and Blue Infrastructure and delivering Biodiversity net gain</p> <p>A. Proposals should be designed to create, conserve, enhance and manage green spaces and connect chains of green infrastructure, as identified on the Policies Maps, with the aim of delivering a measurable net environmental benefit³³ for local people and wildlife. Proposals for development must be supported by a biodiversity appraisal, which must demonstrate how negative impacts would be minimised and biodiversity net gain achieved.</p>	No change	No further action required

	<p><i>B. The appraisal should demonstrate that where significant harm cannot be avoided, proposed development and other changes should adequately mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the harm. The appraisal must demonstrate a measurable biodiversity net gain of 10% by utilising the Defra biodiversity metric (or as amended). Where this is not demonstrated, permission for planning or for change should be refused.</i></p> <p><i>C. Measures to achieve biodiversity net gain, mitigation or compensation involving the creation of habitat and/or relocation of species, must be agreed by the Local Planning Authority and include sufficient funding to support at least 30 years of post-development habitat management or land use change 34.</i></p> <p><i>D. Proposals that seek to improve the connectivity between wildlife areas and green spaces will be encouraged in order to enhance the green infrastructure of the Neighbourhood area. Conversely, proposals which threaten to damage such connectivity will be strongly resisted.</i></p> <p><i>E. The planting of additional native species trees and/ or continuous hedgerows to provide wildlife corridors and to offset the effects of air pollution and to provide cooling and shelter for people as well as a habitat for wildlife will be supported.</i></p> <p><i>Chesworth Farm</i></p> <p><i>F. Proposals that deliver the objectives of the Chesworth Farm Management Plan – including conserving its distinctive landscape features, enhancing the site as a wildlife habitat and encouraging sustainable community access and use for recreational and educational purposes – are supported. Proposals that enable the designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve will also be strongly supported. Riverside Walk</i></p> <p><i>G. The Riverside Walk forms a green ribbon within Horsham and should be protected and enhanced in its complementing roles as a recreational</i></p>		
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	<p><i>path and wildlife corridor. Enhancements for recreation should include the provision of natural play facilities and infrastructure to enable people to rest, such as benches. This protection extends to the pockets of green space associated with and aligned to the walk, as defined on the Policy Map, some of which are designated as Local Green Spaces.</i></p> <p><i>Warnham Local Nature Reserve</i></p> <p><i>H. Proposals that support greater connectivity of Warnham Local Nature Reserve with the wider network of green infrastructure, will be strongly supported. Conversely, proposals which threaten to damage such connectivity will be strongly resisted.</i></p>		
<p>Policy HB11: Local Green Spaces</p>	<p><i>Policy HB11: Local Green Spaces</i></p> <p><i>The following 24 <u>23</u> green spaces, defined on the Policies Map, are designated as Local Green Spaces:</i></p> <p><i>DENNE</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Needles Recreation Ground</i> <i>2. Tanbridge Park amenity area</i> <i>3. Sports Ground, Cricketfield Road</i> <i>4. Remembrance Gardens and Mill Bay</i> <i>5. Denne Road open space</i> <i>6. Communal space within Hills Place retirement complex</i> <i>7. Fenhurst Close Community Garden</i> <p><i>FOREST</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>8. Stanley Walk green</i> <i>9. <u>8.</u> Green adjacent to Standings Court</i> <i>10. <u>9.</u> Gardeners Court</i> <i>11. <u>10.</u> New Street Green</i> <i>12. <u>11.</u> Ayshe Court Lakes</i> <i>13. <u>12.</u> Bennetts Field Recreation Ground</i> <i>14. <u>13.</u> Bens Acre open space</i> 	<p>HDC agree with the Examiner’s recommendation. To comply with the Basic Conditions and to provide clarity</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p>15. <u>14.</u> New Street Gardens 16. <u>15.</u> Green space at Smithbarn 17. <u>16.</u> Residential green at Bennetts Road 18. <u>17.</u> Residential green, Winterton Square, New Street 19. <u>18.</u> Residential green adjacent to Hampshire Court, New Street 20. <u>19.</u> Residential green, Macleod Road</p> <p>TRAFALGAR</p> <p>21. <u>20.</u> Redford Avenue Recreation Ground 22. <u>21.</u> Victory Recreation Ground and football field 23. <u>22.</u> Pennybrook Green 24. <u>23.</u> Churchill Avenue green space</p> <p><i>Local policy for managing development on a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts (NPPF 145<u>101</u>); proposals for built development on Local Green Spaces will not be permitted <u>supported</u> unless it can be clearly demonstrated that it is required to enhance the role and function of that Local Green Space <u>they conform with national policy guidelines.</u></i></p>		
<p>Policy HB12: Encouraging Sustainable Movement</p>	<p><i>Policy HB12: Encouraging Sustainable Movement</i></p> <p><i>A. To ensure that residents can access social, community, public transport, schools, the town centre and other important facilities, where appropriate, new development should ensure safe access to link up with the existing footpath and cycleway network, and key movement routes that are identified in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for West Sussex <u>the adopted Horsham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.</u></i></p> <p><i>B. The network of historic streets and twittens (passageways) across the Blueprint Neighbourhood Area – including those ‘at risk’ as shown in Figure 9.3 - will be protected and enhanced. Development proposals that would have an unacceptable detrimental impact on the existing historic network will not be supported.</i></p>	<p>HDC agree with the Examiner’s recommendation. To provide clarity</p>	<p>No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.</p>

	<p><i>C. Development proposals should maximise opportunities for permeability of the area by pedestrians and cyclists (and mobility vehicles), in line with WSCC guidance as necessary. This will need to be assessed on a case by case basis but could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. provision of cycle and pedestrian routes that are physically separated from vehicular traffic and from one another will be strongly supported. Such routes should also ensure that access by disabled users and users of mobility scooters is secured, which could include the provision of wider pavements, dropped kerbs and widened entrance ways.</i> <i>ii. provision of traffic-free routes.</i> <i>iii. avoidance of unnecessary signage and clutter in public areas.</i> <i>iv. contribution to the extension of a consistent standard of information services and public signposting, including digital signage to key destinations, facilities, and places of interest in the area. Major development proposals are encouraged to prepare a walking and cycling strategy.</i> <p><i>D. Loss of public bridleways and footpaths will not be approved unless suitable alternatives are provided. Connectivity of bridleways to the wider rural network will be supported.</i></p> <p><i>E. Particular attention should be paid to the need to reduce the generation of road traffic and help to reduce both air and noise pollution.</i></p> <p><i>F. Alongside any new public car parking provision, the following will also be required to be provided as part of that provision:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. dedicated bicycle parking facilities, preferably covered and secure; and</i> 		
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	<p>ii. electric vehicle charging points (or wireless charging facilities) that are fast, affordable, reliable and open access.</p> <p><i>Paragraph 9.5;</i> West Sussex County Council is in the process of developing an LCWIP for Horsham Town³⁶, in partnership with local organisations including HDC, the Neighbourhood Councils, North Horsham Parish Council, Horsham Blueprint and the Horsham Society. An initial stakeholder workshop was held in September 2019. <u>Horsham District Council adopted its LCWIP in December 2020. This will form part of the overall West Sussex cycling and walking network that is being co-ordinated by West Sussex County Council. The Horsham LCWIP is focused on cycling and walking corridors within Horsham town and routes into the town from surrounding settlements.</u></p> <p><i>Paragraph 9.6;</i> Figure 9.1 shows the draft cycling network corridors in the area. (Cycling has now been permitted in most areas of Horsham Park, allowing more children to cycle using a safer route). <u>West Sussex County Council has focused its County-wide LCWIP on six long-distance inter-community routes which include the Horsham to Crawley A264 corridor.</u></p> <p><i>Paragraph 9.7;</i> Based on discussion at the workshop it is suggested that the following cycle corridors be taken forward as a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. — Southwater to Horsham town centre, ii. — Broadbridge Heath to Horsham town centre, iii. — North Horsham to Horsham town centre, and iv. Roffey to Horsham town centre. <p><u>Figure 9.1 shows the walking and cycling corridors in the Horsham LCWIP.</u></p> <p><i>(Delete figure 9.1 LCWIP draft cycling networks and renumber figure 9.2 LCWIP draft Key Walking Routes as 9.1)</i></p>		
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	<p><i>(Re-number paragraphs 9.11-9.13 as <u>9.8-9.10.</u>)</i></p> <p><i>(Re-number Figure 9.3 as Figure 9.2 and amend the cross-reference in paragraph 9.12 (to be re-numbered 9.9) accordingly).</i></p>		
<p>Policy HB13: Provision of Sport, Leisure and Recreational Facilities</p>	<p><i>Policy HB13: Provision of Sport, Leisure and Recreational Facilities</i></p> <p><i>A. In order to provide for the increased need for leisure provision to support the growing population of the neighbourhood area, development proposals that deliver the following shall be strongly supported:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. The improvement in the quality of existing play areas to conform to HDC standards³⁹ and the provision of additional play areas to serve the needs of children of all ages and abilities, in line with the HDC's Quantity Standard⁴⁰ and meeting the standards set out in the Play Strategy. Where possible, this should incorporate areas for 'natural play'⁴¹ and the provision of play facilities suited to children with disabilities. New residential development should demonstrate how it has actively provided for natural play through the design of public green spaces.</i> <i>ii. The upgrading of existing sports pitches and facilities, including Millais School's all-terrain pitch to incorporate a 3G (or higher specification) pitch⁴².</i> <i>iii. The provision of an indoor soft play area for younger children.</i> <i>iv. The provision of additional facilities aimed at youth, including, but not limited to, an indoor skate park aimed at older children and adults. Where relevant, provision should incorporate sufficient storage space, changing facilities and adequate car and bicycle parking.</i> <p><i>Horsham Park</i></p> <p><i>B. Proposals that support social inclusion supported, in particular:</i></p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>No further action required</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Proposals to expand the playground in particular where natural materials are utilised as recommended by the 'Space to Thrive 201943' report.</i> ii. <i>Proposals to improve the skate park, in consultation with its core users.</i> iii. <i>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the community aspiration to designate Horsham Park as a Field in Trust with a Deed in Designation, and identifies the space as an important part of the Area's green infrastructure network, as set out in Policy HB10 (Green and Blue and delivering Biodiversity Net Gain) of this Neighbourhood Plan.</i> 		
<p>Policy HB14: Community and Cultural Facilities</p>	<p><i>Policy HB14: Community and Cultural Facilities</i></p> <p><i>A. Proposals that would result in the loss of community and leisure facilities – in particular community halls and the library - will only be supported if alternative and equivalent facilities are provided. Such re-provision will be required to demonstrate that the replacement facility is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>at least of an equivalent scale to the existing facility; and</i> ii. <i>is in a location accessible by foot or bicycle to the community of the Neighbourhood Plan area; and</i> iii. <i>is made available before the closure of the existing facility; and</i> iv. <i>is of a quality fit for modern use.</i> <p><i>B. Proposals for new/improved community facilities – for example an art gallery will be encouraged subject to the following criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>the proposal would not have significant harmful impacts on the amenities of surrounding residents and the local environment; and</i> 	<p>No change</p>	<p>No further action required</p>

	<p>ii. <i>the proposal would not have significant adverse impacts upon the local road network; and</i></p> <p>iii. <i>sufficient associated storage space and adequate parking space is provided.</i></p> <p><i>C. Proposals that enable the diversification and flexible use of the buildings through the extension of and shared use of such buildings, to provide additional community facilities for example, will be supported.</i></p> <p><u><i>D Proposal must demonstrate that they are water neutral to prove that there is no adverse impact on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC/SPA and Ramsar sites.</i></u></p>		
Policy HB15: Allotments and Community Growing Spaces	<p><i>Policy HB15: Allotments and Community Growing Spaces</i></p> <p><i>A. Proposals that would result in the loss of all or part of existing allotment spaces will not be supported.</i></p> <p><i>B. The provision of new community growing spaces of a size appropriate to developments and where these can be used to create attractive screening for, for example, car parking areas, roads and commercial servicing areas, will be encouraged, in particular within Horsham Town Centre. Access for vehicles to enable deliveries to the allotment/growing space is essential.</i></p>	No change	No further action required
Other Matters	<p><i>Implementation and Plan Review</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 11.3;</i></p> <p><i>Specific actions that will need to be undertaken are as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pursuing the Non-Policy Actions detailed in Section 16 13 of this document including prioritising the actions and considering budget requirements and sources of funding;</i> 	HDC agree with the Examiner's recommendation. To provide clarity	No further action required. Modification to be taken forward to the final plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Commenting on planning applications or consultations relating to the Neighbourhood Plan area;</i>• <i>Monitoring the application of the Neighbourhood Plan policies to ensure they have been applied consistently and interpreted correctly in response to planning applications;</i>• <i>Maintaining a dialogue with Horsham District Council regarding the timing and content of its emerging Local Plan; and</i>• <i>Considering any review of the Neighbourhood Plan, for instance as a result of emerging Local Plan policy.</i>• <i>Investigating the opportunity to form a Town Council.</i>		
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