

Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Review 2024-2040

Regulation 17(e)(ii) Modification Statement

May 2025

Statement from Shenstone Parish Council

The Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan was first made (adopted) by Lichfield District Council in April 2016. It contains eleven policies and covers the plan period 2015 - 2029. It is now undergoing modification by Shenstone Parish Council.

Whilst the made Plan has been considered by Shenstone Parish Council to be working reasonably well, it is now nine years old. Accordingly national and local planning policy has changed in many respects and that the Parish Council felt it necessary to update their Plan to ensure it remains relevant to the Neighbourhood Area. In addition, it felt it important to address issues of importance to the community that may have arisen during this time. The two plans are broadly similar. The Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Review extends the plan period to 2040 to coincide with the end date of the emerging Local Plan. It also retains nine of the original eleven policies but takes the opportunity to update some of these so that their wording is more consistent with national and local plan policy, reflects good practice in other neighbourhood plans and also reflects changes in local circumstances. It also introduces three new policies which, on the whole, provide general planning guidance relating to matters raised by the community. Many of these relate to matters concerning climate and the environment. Collectively, the changes mean that the LANP Review now sets out twelve policies covering the same broad themes. None of the policies allocate sites for new housing or other forms of built development.

Table 1 at the end of the statement summarises which policies have been added, deleted or amended.

Taken as a whole, Shenstone Parish Council is of the opinion that while modifications have been made to the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan, these do not significantly or substantially alter its overall nature. Consequently, we consider that the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Review document will require examination but, subject to the decision of the independent examiner, would not require a referendum.

In reaching this decision, due consideration has been given to the advice set out in National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

Background

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) paragraph 106 (Reference ID: 41-106-20190509)¹ explains that 'there are three types of modification which can be made to a neighbourhood plan' and that 'the process will depend on the degree of change which the modification involves'. One example given of a material modification which does not change the nature of the Plan, would require examination, but not a referendum, is the addition of a design code that builds on a pre-existing policy. NPPG paragraph 085 (reference ID: 41-085-20180222)² also sets out what is required of the local planning authority when sending a modified plan to an independent examiner.

In the case of a modification proposal, Regulation 17(e)(ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)³ requires the relevant local planning authority to submit to the examiner 'a statement setting out whether or not the authority consider that the modifications contained in the modification proposal are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the neighbourhood development plan which the modification proposal would modify, giving reasons for why the authority is of this opinion.' On behalf of Shenstone Parish Council, this statement informs that purpose.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#updating-neighbourhood-plan>

² *ibid*

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/regulation/17>

Table 1: Comparison of policies in the made Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan and the Little Aston Neighbourhood Plan Review

Made Neighbourhood Plan	Neighbourhood Plan Review
Policy GB1: Green Belt boundary	<i>Deleted as policy no longer relevant</i>
Policy SAC1 (now LAS1): Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation	
Policy HSG1 (now LAS2): Residential infill and backland development	
Policy LAP1 (now LAS3): Density of development in Little Aston Park	
Policy LAP2 (now LAS4): Design of development in Little Aston Park	
Policy MOV1 (now LAS5): Provision of footpaths and cyclepaths	
Policy MOV2 (now LAS6): Provision of new bus stops	
Policy MOV3 (now LAS7): Provision of pedestrian safety improvements	
Policy CMH1 (now LAS8): Provision of additional community facilities <i>Policy slightly amended to reflect change in local circumstances</i>	
Policy BBD1: High speed broadband	<i>Policy deleted as matter now addressed through national planning policy and regulations</i>
	Policy LAS9: Wildlife-friendly development <i>New policy reflecting matters raised by the community through engagement</i>
	LAS10: Low energy and energy efficient design <i>New policy reflecting matters raised by the community through engagement</i>
	LAS11: Renewable energy and energy efficiency measures affecting heritage <i>New policy reflecting matters raised by the community through engagement</i>
Policy EE1 (now LAS12): Light pollution	