

Report Title:	Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Development Plan – 2019-2029 – Analysis/Consultee Response Report		
Prepared For:	Purpose:	Author:	Date:
Somerset Council and Norton St Philip Parish Council	To Inform & advise the related identify/mitigate the potential associated impact on NHS services	Kelly Drew	13 th January 2025

Key Information	
Local Planning Authority:	Somerset Council
Town Authority:	Norton St Philip
Documents:	SCC - Public - 01 Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan - Submission Draft November 2024.pdf - All Documents (sharepoint.com)  01 Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan
Key Word Search (Internal Purposes):	Primary Care; GP Health; Health; NHS; Hospitals; Community Hospital; Mental health; Well-being; Acute; Surgery

1. Purpose

In consultation with the Local Planning Authority Engagement (LPAE) team, Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) have reviewed this proposed neighbourhood plan from a healthcare perspective and the following provides an overview of the extracted key points for Somerset Council and Norton St Philip Parish Council to consider and/or to comment in response/support of this consultation.

2. Summary

On conclusion, this proposed Neighbourhood Plan (NHP) refers to the potential associated impacts related to proposed developments, however it is evident the future sustainability of the primary care, community and acute services' infrastructure are not detailed nor appear to be considered as part of this aforesaid report.

As well as establishing a Steering Group which consisted of both Parish Councillors and other Parish Residents, a Planning Consultant was sourced with a locality grant. This was set up across 4 of the following Working Groups who engaged with the community to contribute to the 'Have Your Say' approach:

- Housing and Local Green Spaces (LGS)
- Environmental Sustainability
- Transport and Traffic
- Economic and Social Infrastructure

Taking into consideration there is no mention or acknowledgement for the associated impacts this will potentially impose, along with the need to consider the future sustainability and resilience of the local health care system within the Norton St Philip area, with the ICB's key knowledge and expertise at strategic level, as well as, the direct stakeholder engagement/relationships with the GP Practices, the LPAE team invited the ICB to make representation and add any further comments and/or recommendations (where appropriate) in response to this consultation exercise.

3. Comments and Policies related to Health Care

On review, the following statements have been extracted from this aforesaid report to highlight the need to consider and include the potential impacts this will have on an already pressured healthcare sector, as well as, recognising the need for mitigation strategies to promote sustainability in the long-term:

Table 1:

Section/Page No.	Extract	Supporting Comments for ICB Review
10. 2011/2021 Census Data - Page 27 - 10.1	<p>The population of Mendip District had increased by 6% between the two Census dates;</p> <p>NSP's increase of 17% reflects the recent increase in housing stock but is not in the same proportion. This is likely to be due to young people leaving the family home whilst new residents tend to be older; either single or couples.</p> <p>The demographic of the parish population is significantly older than nationally as shown in figure 3i below. Over 50% of the population are in 2 person households against 34% nationally (figure 3v); this is an indicator of the older demographic with fewer families than nationally.</p>	<p>This reinforces the need to recognise the potential associated further impacts on the current status of existing local GP Practice(s) (Primary Care), as well as the healthcare sector as a whole, including acute, community etc...</p> <p>In support, the following provides an overview of the primary care services' infrastructure status:</p> <p>Key Impacted Practice:</p> <p>Beckington Family Practice - St Luke's Surgery - St. Luke's Road, Beckington, Frome, Somerset, BA11 6SE</p> <p>Currently under-sized by 224 patients</p> <p>Taking into consideration 'consented and commenced' developments (approved planning permission awaiting construction), this equates to an additional 242 x dwellings (547 patients) to the local population which shall impose additional pressures. The above infrastructure capacity status highlights the need for an early review of primary health care provision, as well as demonstrating a clear local need to improve access to primary care facilities for the local community.</p> <p>This evidence-based statistical information supports the rationale/need to meaningfully assess the associated impacts on all areas of the health service (primary care/acute/community) as a result of increased housing/population within the vicinity.</p> <p>With a predominant level of older people, this recognises the impact and importance to be pro-active to maintain the sustainability of the local healthcare system, which will also be further exacerbated with an increase in L-T conditions.</p> <p>There is also no mention/acknowledgement regarding the potential impacts for community and/or secondary/acute services. To gain evidence-based analysis/response it is recommended to engage directly with Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (Bath (RUH)).</p>

Section/Page No.	Extract	Supporting Comments for SFT/ICB
Policy 1: Development within the Settlement Boundary of Norton St Philip - Page 34	<p>Proposals for new development on sites within the settlement boundary of Norton St. Philip, as defined on Figure 4, will be supported, where the proposals satisfy the following criteria:</p> <p>7. addresses any potential requirement for substantial new infrastructure or other facilities to support the development;</p>	<p>In the absence of specific reference to the health care sector (primary care, acute, community services), this does, however, reinforce/recognise the need to engage with the ICB and Bath (RUH) to consider/maintain sustainable and resilient healthcare provision for the local community to adequately access future primary care/acute/community provision.</p> <p>This highlights the projected increase in demand recognising the impact and importance to be pro-active to maintain sustainability of infrastructure across the health service portfolio (as well as other key services, such as, highways, education etc...).</p> <p>To succeed, through the approved criteria/methodology, this will need proportionate and effective investment secured, protected and prioritised in 'the right place and at the right time' through the S106 pathway.</p>

Section/Page No.	Extract	Supporting Comments for SFT/ICB
13. Housing – Page 38 – 13.3	<p>13.3 The PC recognises that the 2014 Local Plan requirement for the village of NSP to provide 45 new dwellings is a minimum. This minimum figure has already been more than doubled (Appendix 5).</p> <p>The PC wishes to have a NP in place which takes account of the residents' needs. The NP aims to reflect local concern that continuing inappropriate development will harm the unique rural and historic character of the Parish.</p>	<p>Although this statement focuses on, 'the unique rural and historic character', this also reinforces the need to recognise the potential associated further impacts on the already under-sized status of the existing local GP Practice, as well as, the acute, community hospitals and mental health care provision.</p> <p>Whilst this also references, 'a NP in place which takes account of the residents' needs', this supports the rationale/need to meaningfully assess the associated impacts across all areas of the health service (primary care/acute/community) as a result of increased housing/population within the vicinity.</p> <p>In the absence of specific reference to the health care sector (primary care, acute, community services), this reinforces/recognises the need to engage with the ICB and Bath (RUH) to maintain sustainable and resilient healthcare provision for the local community to adequately access future primary care/acute/community provision.</p> <p>This holds a strong voice of highlighting the associated impacts/pressures of such developments, relating to the resilience and sustainability of healthcare provision and its infrastructure.</p> <p>To succeed, this will need proportionate and effective investment secured, protected and prioritised in 'the right place and the right time' through the S106 pathway.</p>

Section/Page No.	Extract	Supporting Comments for SFT/ICB
20. Monitoring and Review – Page 74 – 20.2	<p>POLICY 9: Monitoring and Review</p> <p>The Plan will be reviewed should the emerging Somerset Local Plan contain policies and proposals that necessitate such a review, in order that the Plan remains in conformity with the relevant strategic policies of the Local Plan. Similarly, the Plan will be reviewed should any changes in national policies necessitate revisions to the Plan's policies.</p> <p>The PC will also engage with Somerset Council Planning Policy in the preparation of the new county wide Local Plan.</p>	<p>Interestingly, it is noted there is no mention of the future sustainability of local healthcare infrastructure provision to meet the essential needs of this local community. However, through the development of the Somerset Wide Local Plan, there shall be an opportunity where the ICB, as well as the healthcare system as a whole, will be keen to engage with key stakeholders to assess the potential associated impacts on primary care, acute and community services' infrastructure to consider/determine mitigation strategies to effectively meet the care needs/demands of an increased local population relating to such proposed developments.</p> <p>The ICB is sighted on existing primary care services' pressures and are continuously considering/developing viable mitigation strategies to effectively manage this inevitable impact however, this is influenced by related legislative, regulatory obligations and financial position.</p>