

167. The ability of the higher slopes to satisfactorily absorb more new housing in landscape impact terms could be re-examined, together with the position of the northern boundary, whether defined by a contour limit or otherwise, once the 90 or so homes on the lower slopes have been completed in accord with this policy. Nevertheless, there is no clear justification for requiring it to be further modified now, as local needs are being met in full elsewhere and the extended site would not be a clearly preferable alternative in sustainability terms to those selected due to the identified landscape impact. No further modifications are therefore necessary.

*Policy Banbury 3 – Land West of Bretch Hill*

168. It is essentially common ground that approximately 14 ha of land west of Bretch Hill is viably, suitably, and sustainably capable of accommodating and delivering around 400 new homes, with all necessary services and facilities. All the available evidence confirms that the policy and its detailed requirements are sound.

*Policy Banbury 4 – Bankside Phase 2*

169. To the south east of Banbury at Bankside east of the A4205 an urban extension of around 1,000 new homes, known as Longford Park, as well as an employment area and a large park has been permitted and is now under construction. In the light of the significantly increased level of district need, the Council now considers that a further 27 ha to the south east is capable of providing another 600 or so homes and also suitable for development as Phase 2 of this scheme. The fact that it comprises mostly grade 2 land in agricultural quality terms ("best and most versatile") does not invalidate that choice in this particular case, as it is largely free of other constraints such as flood risk, ecological interest or potentially harmful landscape/visual impact and in a generally sustainable location.

170. In particular, it provides an opportunity for sharing infrastructure with Phase 1, improving the viability of both, as well as enhancing the scale and range of services and facilities, so as to create a more sustainable and self-contained new community on this side of the town. In addition, the larger scheme should enable the relocation of Banbury United FC from their present ground within the Canalside site (policy Ban1) and the implementation of that policy, with its wider public benefits for the town, as well as policy Ban 12 (see below) on land to the south. In respect of potential effects on the village of Bodicote on the opposite side of the A4205, due to the location south of Phase 1 and with only a short road frontage, this is likely to be less than that associated with the permitted scheme and, subject to detailed design and layout, not materially harmful in principle, including in terms of traffic generation.

171. The details of density and thus the exact total of new houses are best addressed in the context of specific proposals, rather than this LP policy. Subject to clarifications of area figures, numbers of dwellings, requirements for vehicular, cycling and walking links to the Ban 12 site, as well as further afield, flood risks and archaeological evaluation (MMs 99-101), the proposals are viable and deliverable and the policy sound.

*Policy Banbury 5 – North of Hanwell Fields*