

Draft Parish Council Response – Support for the North West Leicestershire Local Plan

RE: Proposed Submission Local Plan (2024–2042) – Regulation 19 Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council welcomes the Proposed Submission Local Plan and wishes to express its support for the overall strategy and direction of the Plan. The Council recognises the importance of maintaining an up-to-date Local Plan to ensure that future development is plan-led, sustainable and supported by appropriate infrastructure.

The Parish Council particularly welcomes the Plan's commitment to:

- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
- Addressing climate change through sustainable development policies.
- Requiring sustainable drainage measures within new development.
- Retaining and strengthening environmental protections and Areas of Separation.
- Providing a clear framework for housing, employment and infrastructure delivery across the district.

The Council recognises that a robust Local Plan is essential to help resist speculative development and to ensure that growth is directed to appropriate locations through a coordinated and evidence-based strategy. The Parish Council therefore supports the principle of a plan-led approach to development across North West Leicestershire.

From a local perspective, the Parish Council believes that several elements of the Plan have the potential to benefit residents of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford, including:

- Increased protection of the natural environment and green infrastructure.
- Policies supporting Biodiversity Net Gain and environmental improvements.
- Investment in transport and infrastructure across the district.
- Measures to support climate resilience and sustainable drainage.
- Continued protection of settlement identity through Areas of Separation.
- Greater certainty regarding where future development should and should not occur. The Council also welcomes the opportunity provided through the Regulation 19 consultation process for local communities to participate in shaping the final Plan and ensuring that local evidence is fully considered.

In conclusion, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council supports the Proposed Submission Local Plan and welcomes the many environmental, infrastructure and planning benefits it seeks to deliver. The Council looks forward to continuing to work positively with North West Leicestershire District Council throughout the remainder of the Local Plan process.

Yours faithfully, **Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council**