Policy Template for Neighbourhood Plan

Policy Number and Title

(e.g., Policy 1: Sustainable Housing Development)

Purpose

A brief statement outlining the primary objective of the policy. This section should clearly state what the policy aims to achieve. *Example: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that new housing developments within the neighbourhood are sustainable and meet the needs of the local community.*

Relevant Evidence

A summary of the evidence base that supports the policy. This might include data from surveys, studies, local demographic information, and consultation feedback. *Example: Evidence from the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment indicates a growing need for affordable housing options within the neighbourhood.*

Planning Rationale

A clear explanation of the reasoning behind the policy. This should connect the evidence to the policy's goals and explain why the policy is necessary. *Example: To accommodate the increasing population and provide housing for all income levels, sustainable housing practices must be implemented.*

Policy Statement

The actual policy text, which should be concise, clear, and written in bold. It should provide a definitive guide to what is required or expected from development proposals. *Example: All new housing developments within the neighbourhood must include at least 20% affordable housing, incorporate green building practices, and provide accessible green spaces.*

Supporting Text

Additional explanatory text that helps clarify the policy and its application. This section can provide context, definitions, or examples to ensure the policy is interpreted correctly. *Example: Green building practices include the use of energy-efficient materials, solar panels, and rainwater harvesting systems. Accessible green spaces refer to parks and community gardens that are within walking distance for all residents.*

Implementation and Monitoring

Guidance on how the policy will be implemented and monitored. This section can detail who is responsible for enforcing the policy and how compliance will be measured. *Example: The local planning authority will review all new housing proposals against this policy and require developers to submit sustainability plans as part of their planning applications. Compliance will be monitored through annual reviews of housing developments.*

Cross-References

References to other related policies within the Neighbourhood Plan that should be considered alongside this policy. *Example: This policy should be read in conjunction with Policy 5: Green Infrastructure and Policy 7: Community Facilities.*

Appendices (if necessary)

Any additional documents or data that support the policy but are too detailed to include in the main body. *Example: Appendix A: Detailed Housing Needs Assessment Data*

Example Policy:

Policy 1: Sustainable Housing Development

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that new housing developments within the neighbourhood are sustainable and meet the needs of the local community.

Relevant Evidence

Evidence from the 2023 Housing Needs Assessment indicates a growing need for affordable housing options within the neighbourhood.

Planning Rationale

To accommodate the increasing population and provide housing for all income levels, sustainable housing practices must be implemented.

Policy Statement

All new housing developments within the neighbourhood must include at least 20% affordable housing, incorporate green building practices, and provide accessible green spaces.

Supporting Text

Green building practices include the use of energy-efficient materials, solar panels, and rainwater harvesting systems. Accessible green spaces refer to parks and community gardens that are within walking distance for all residents.

Implementation and Monitoring

The local planning authority will review all new housing proposals against this policy and require developers to submit sustainability plans as part of their planning applications. Compliance will be monitored through annual reviews of housing developments.

Cross-References

This policy should be read in conjunction with Policy 5: Green Infrastructure and Policy 7: Community Facilities.

Appendices

Appendix A: Detailed Housing Needs Assessment Data

This structure ensures that each policy is comprehensive, evidence-based, and clear, facilitating effective implementation and monitoring.