

Northumberland Local Plan

Local Development Scheme 2013 to 2016

October 2013

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires councils to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme which sets out what Development Plan Documents are to be produced, their content and broad timetable. The purpose is to explain how and when the Council will prepare Development Plan Documents which together will comprise the Local Plan for Northumberland.

1.2 This is the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Northumberland County for the period 2013 to 2016. This revision is intended to replace the Local Development Scheme that was submitted to the Secretary of State, and came into effect, in November 2009. These revisions are necessary in order to reflect the recent changes to the planning system, and to update on progress on the Development Plan Documents in preparation. It is proposed that the Council will update the LDS annually, so it accurately reflects the current position with the preparation of the Local Plan for Northumberland.

What is a Local Plan?

1.3 The Local Plan sets out the strategic priorities for development of an area and covers housing, commercial, transport development and environmental protection. They must plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the strategic priorities. A Local Plan can comprise a number of Development Plan Documents and may include:

- Core Strategy – sets out the overarching spatial vision and the planning framework for other development plan documents;
- Development Management Policies – to set out more detailed policies for the management of development, against which planning applications for the development and use of land will be considered;
- Other site specific development plan documents – allocates specific sites and detailed policy guidance.

1.4 The Local Plan will also include a Proposals Map which illustrates the geographic extent of policies and proposals on a map base.

1.5 Documents which support a Local Plan include:

- Local Development Scheme (LDS) – the timetable for the preparation of local development plans (this document);
- Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – sets out the Council's approach to engaging with local communities during plan preparation and when consulting on planning applications;
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – provide additional advice and information relating to specific policies or proposals in a development plan document;
- Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) – sets out the progress in terms of producing development plan documents and implementing policies.

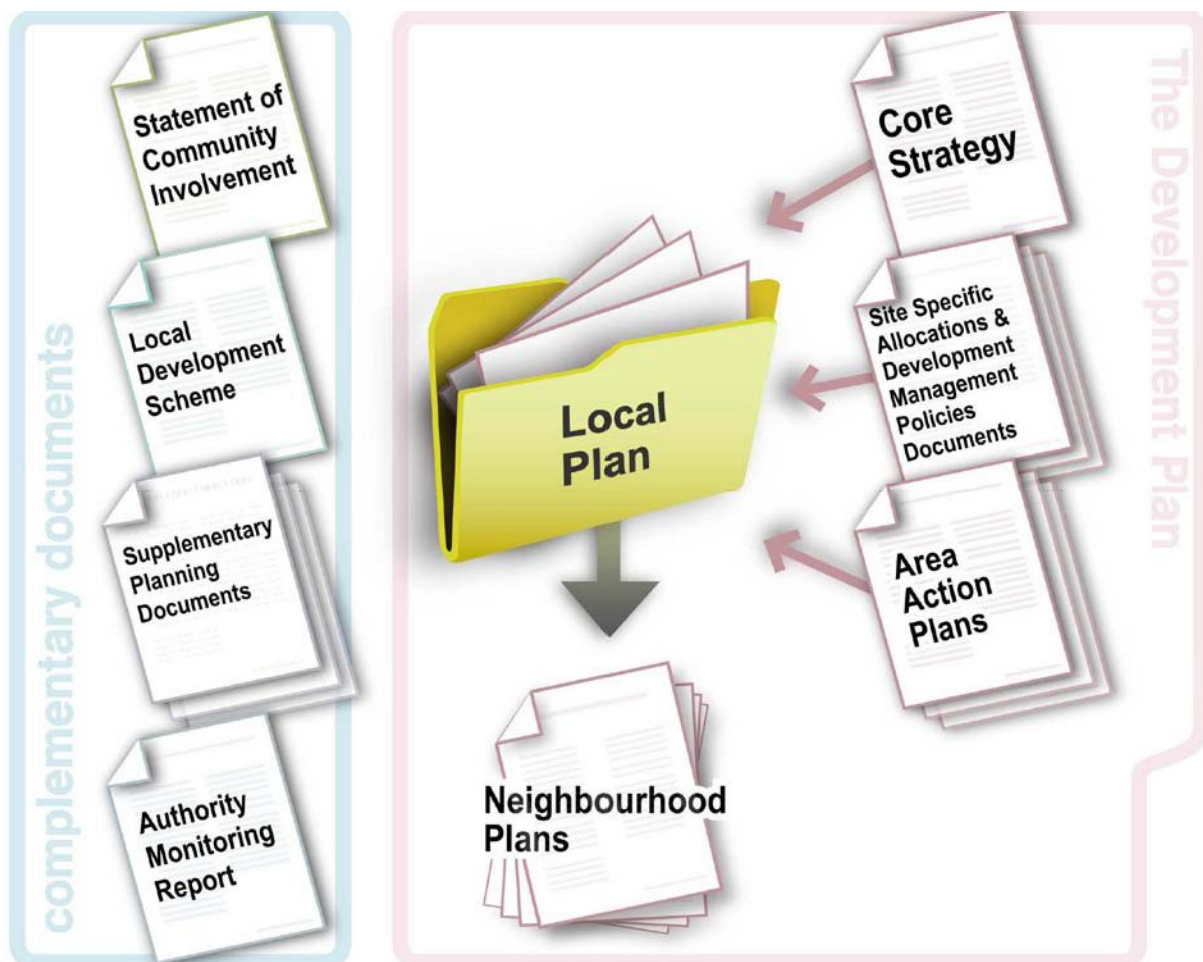
1.6 Through the Localism Act 2012 the Government introduced a new tier of plans called 'Neighbourhood Plans'. These are prepared by Parish, Town Councils or by specially designated neighbourhood forums in areas without a Parish. Such plans are optional but must take account of national planning policy and be in general conformity with the Local

1. Introduction

Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are not Development Plan Documents and therefore cannot be included in this Local Development Scheme. However, if adopted they will form part of the Development Plan for the area. Further information on neighbourhood plans currently being progressed within Northumberland can be found on the Council's website⁽¹⁾.

1.7 The individual documents that will make up the Development Plan are set out in Figure 1.1 below.

Figure 1.1 The Development Plan



What is a Local Development Scheme?

1.8 The Local Development Scheme provides the starting point for local communities and stakeholders to find out about the Council's timetable for preparing the various documents which the Council intends to produce as part of the Northumberland Local Plan over a three year period. The Local Development Scheme describes:

- The content and geographic area to which each of the Development Plan Documents relates;
- The timetable and key milestones in their preparation;
- The interrelationships between each document; and
- The arrangements during the transitional period for saved policies.

¹ Information on Neighbourhood Plans currently being progressed in Northumberland can be found on the following webpage: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?Page=10909>

2. Existing Northumberland Development Plan

2.1 Northumberland County Council was established as a unitary authority on 1 April 2009 following Local Government Reorganisation. It replaced the former County Council and six District/Borough Councils of Alnwick, Berwick, Blyth Valley, Castle Morpeth, Tynedale and Wansbeck⁽²⁾. In the past, each of these local planning authorities had produced their own Development Plans to guide development in their area. These include:

- The saved Policy S5 of the Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan Alteration (February 2005);
- The Core Strategies of the former Local Authorities of Alnwick (2007), Blyth Valley (2007), and Tynedale (2007) and the Blyth Valley Development Control Policies DPD (2007);and
- The saved Local Plan policies (under the Secretary of State's Direction) of the Northumberland Minerals Local Plan (2000), Northumberland Waste Local plan (2001), Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (1997), Berwick upon Tweed Local Plan (1999), Blyth Valley District Local Plan (1999), Castle Morpeth District Local Plan (2003), Tynedale District Local Plan (2000), and Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007).

2.2 Policies contained within these documents that have been saved under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 will remain in force and will continue to provide the basis for planning decisions until replaced by subsequent development plan documents.

2.3 These documents have been brought together to form the Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework. This document sets out the relevant planning policy documents, both statutory and non-statutory, for Northumberland. A full list of the documents contained within the Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework can be accessed from the Council's website⁽³⁾.

2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012 makes it clear that only plans adopted since 2004 can be given weight where they differ from the intent of national policy for up to 12 months following the publication of the NPPF. All earlier plans (and all plans after 12 months from the date of the publication of the NPPF) still form part of the Development Plan and can still be given weight according to their consistency with the NPPF. The closer the policies in the Development Plan to the policies in the NPPF, the greater the weight that can be given to the development plan policies⁽⁴⁾. The NPPF is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications; however it does not change planning law, which states that the starting point for the determination of planning applications is the adopted Development Plan.

2 While wholly within Northumberland, the Northumberland National Park is a separate local planning authority

3 The Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework can be viewed using the following link:
<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?Page=1579>

4 National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012, Annex 1

3. Northumberland Local Plan

3. Northumberland Local Plan

What development plan documents will be produced and what will they contain?

3.1 Northumberland County Council is focussing on the preparation of two Development Plan Documents:

- **Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy** - will be the overarching strategic plan for Northumberland, guiding future development to 2031. It will be the spatial interpretation of the Sustainability Community Strategy for Northumberland. It will set out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy for the development of Northumberland, establishing the scale and distribution of development, including strategic allocations where they are required to deliver the strategy.
- **Northumberland Local Plan: Delivery Document** - will set out how the vision, objectives and policies and proposals of the Northumberland Core Strategy will be realised across Northumberland. It will include detailed land allocations and designations, as well as site-specific proposals for the necessary infrastructure, buildings and services to deliver the proposals in the Core Strategy.

3.2 The profiles for each of the proposed local Development Documents, including a brief description of the role and content of the Development Plan Document and the key milestones in their preparation are set out in Appendix 1.

3.3 The previous Local Development Scheme included an Area Action Plan for Berwick Eastern Arc. It is proposed that the Northumberland Delivery Document will cover the key issues that were proposed to be included within the Area Action Plan.

3.4 The Council also has the ability to produce Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), which provide additional advice and information relating to specific policies or proposals in a Development Plan Document. To date the Council has identified the need to produce the following SPDs, it should be noted that other SPDs may be identified in future:

- Affordable Housing SPD
- Wind Energy SPD
- Design SPD

3.5 There are no requirements to set out the details on the production of SPDs within the Local Development Scheme. However, the Council will include these once timetables have been identified.

How will the Development Plan Documents be prepared?

3.6 The Government does not set out precise details of how the Council should prepare Development Plan Documents. The Regulations⁽⁵⁾ do, however, prescribe certain stages where the public are to be consulted. The Government stresses the importance of early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. The Regulations include a requirement for public participation at an early stage in plan preparation before the development plan document is finalised with the detail left for local authorities to determine. They also specify that the final document

5 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 SI 2012 No. 767

should be published for formal consultation prior to it being submitted for independent examination. The various stages of the preparation of a Development Plan Document are summarised in Table 3.1:

Table 3.1 Stages in the preparation of a development plan document

Development Plan Document Stage	Community Involvement
Plan Preparation (Regulation 18)	<p>This stage involves the Council gathering evidence including concerns and proposals the community may wish to make regarding planning issues.</p> <p>The Council will normally consult on issues and options, where appropriate in the early stages of this process and will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community on preferred options throughout this stage.</p> <p>This stage also involves consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.</p>
Publication stage (Regulation 19)	This stage involves a formal consultation on the final draft version of the document, when the Council will invite all interested parties to submit representations.
Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council will formally submit the document to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination.
Examination (Regulation 24 and 25)	Interested parties can seek to make representations to the independent Planning Inspector. Following the examination, the Planning Inspector will produce a report and may recommend changes.
Adoption (Regulation 26)	This is a formal process for Northumberland County Council to adopt the documents as part of the Northumberland Local Plan.

How will the community be involved?

3.7 Greater and more effective community involvement is a key feature of the changes to the planning system and as stated above the Government stresses the importance of early and meaningful engagement and collaboration in plan preparation. Northumberland County Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement in September 2009, which set out the arrangements for public consultation on both plan preparation and all planning applications made to the Council.

3.8 The Council has decided to revise the Statement of Community Involvement to reflect the recent changes in the planning system and also to reflect further work which has been carried out. The revised Statement of Community Involvement will be available on the Council's website.

4. Sustainability Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment

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Sustainability Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), will be undertaken on all Development Plan Documents at key stages in their preparation. The SA will perform a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the Northumberland Local Plan and form an integrated part of the plan preparation process informing the evaluation of alternatives.

4.2 An SA is required by S19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. If an SA is carried out following the guidelines in the “*Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive* and the *Plan – Making Manual*” a separate SEA will not be required.

4.3 The requirements set out in the SEA Directive, ensure that planning documents are produced with a view to contributing towards the achievement of sustainable development. The SEA Directive has introduced the need to carry out formal, Strategic Environmental Assessments of plans and documents which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

4.4 The directive applies to all local Development Documents and requires that the public, and also the authorities likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme by reason of their environmental responsibilities, are consulted as part of the SEA process.

4.5 Under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be undertaken all emerging development plan documents in order to ensure that policies and proposals will not, either individually or cumulatively, have a significant effect on the integrity of European designated sites.

4.6 The timetable for the SA and HRA work will therefore run parallel with each of the stages of the development plan document preparation.

Equality Impact Assessment

4.7 Councils are also required by legislation to prepare an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to ensure that policies in Development Plan Documents do not discriminate against protected groups and that opportunities are taken to promote quality. The EqIA will also run parallel with each of the stages of the Development Plan Document preparation.

5. Evidence Base

5.1 The Northumberland Local Plan must be based on a sound and robust evidence base. A number of specialist studies and research projects have been or are being undertaken/ updated, or will be commissioned to inform the Local Plan. Consultants will be used for this work, if specialist skills are required, or the capacity needed to undertake the research is not available in-house. This evidence base, where appropriate will also provide baseline data to help inform the monitoring and review process of the Local Plan.

5.2 The Council is required to work with neighbouring local planning authorities and stakeholders when preparing Local Plans. The Government expects Councils to plan strategically across administrative boundaries under the Duty to Co-operate.⁽⁶⁾ The Council will therefore seek to undertake joint evidence base work with adjoining authorities where appropriate. For example, joint working on background evidence to help inform the minerals and waste sections of the Local Plan is being progressed in association with other local authorities in the North East.

5.3 The key evidence base studies to support the Local Plan are listed in Appendix 2.

6 National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012, paragraphs 178 to 181

6. Resource Allocation, Programme Management and Risk Assessment

Resource allocation

6.1 The preparation of the Local Plan will be undertaken by the Spatial Policy and Delivery Team within Development Services, led by the Spatial Policy and Delivery Manager. External consultants will be commissioned where the need for specialist services, additional capacity or the need to provide a critical friend are identified.

6.2 Partnership working across the Council will be essential to the success of the Local Plan due to the cross-cutting nature and relationship with other plans and strategies. Specialist staff from other functions of the authority will also contribute to the Local Plan such as the Housing Services and Strategic Highways.

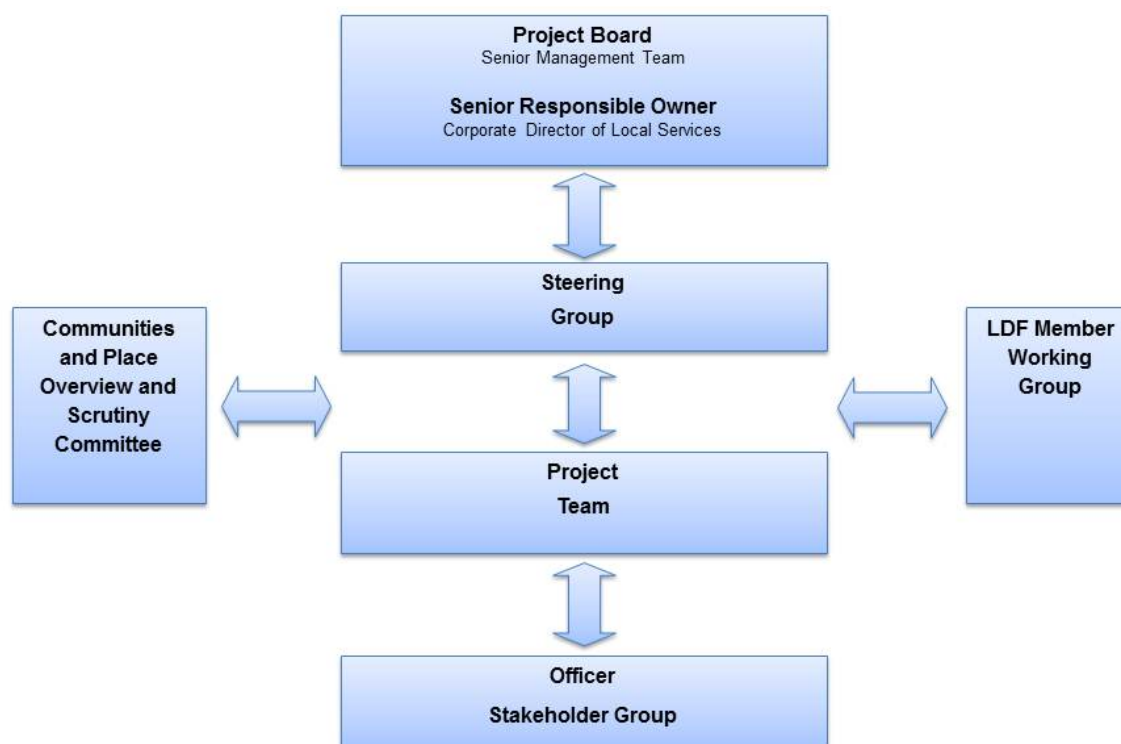
6.3 The Local Plan has a budget which runs across financial years to support the cost of preparing the Local Plan. This budget however is not unlimited and any opportunities to secure additional funding and support will be exploited. The Council will use shared financial resources wherever possible to produce evidence base studies that will be required both across Council Services and with adjoining Local Authorities.

Programme management

6.4 The Policy Board of the Council is responsible for authorising the preparatory stages of the Local Plan process, for example approval of Development Plan Documents for consultation and Full Council is responsible for the decision making stages of Local Plan such as adoption of Development Plan Documents.

6.5 To support the preparation of the Local Plan, the governance arrangements as set out in Figure 6.1 have been set up.

Figure 6.1 Northumberland Local Plan - Governance Arrangements



6. Resource Allocation, Programme Management and Risk Assessment

6.6 Arrangements for the production of the Local Plan will be the service responsibility of the Head of Development Services. The Head of Development Services reports to the Corporate Director of Local Services, who is the Senior Officer Responsible for the preparation of the Local Plan, with the Council's Senior Management Team acting as the Project Board.

6.7 The Local Development Framework Member Working Group makes recommendations to and offer advice to the Policy Board on the preparation of the Local Plan and related planning strategy matters.

6.8 The Local Development Plan Steering Group:

- Takes a strategic overview of the preparation of the Local Plan and related projects focused on the delivery of the Local Plan;
- Sponsors and champions the joint working processes required to deliver a robust and timely Local Plan;
- Seeks to ensure the Local Plan reflects key Council strategies and the emerging plan influences the preparation of new and revised strategies.

6.9 The Local Development Plan Project Team:

- Discusses key strategic issues for the Local Plan;
- Identifies where key joint evidence work is required for the Local Plan and other key Council strategies;
- Seeks to ensure the Local Plan reflects key Council strategies and the emerging plan influences the preparation of new and revised strategies.

6.10 The Local Development Plan Officer Stakeholder Group:

- Provides an officer forum for discussion on key strategic issues for the Local Plan;
- Seeks to ensure the Local Plan reflects key council strategies and the emerging plan influences the preparation of new and revised strategies;
- Provide input to strategic policy development and site allocations.

6.11 In terms of timescales and resources, the Local Plan will be project managed through Microsoft Project software. The Local Plan consultation will be managed via Objective, a web based consultation software package.

Risk assessment

6.12 An analysis of the risks associated with the Local Plan programme has been undertaken. The full risk assessment is available as a background document to this Local Development Scheme.

6.13 It has been identified that in most instances there is a potential risk to the delivery of the Local Development Scheme. The following impacts are identified as applicable to all of the issues detailed throughout the risk assessment:

- Failure to meet the identified milestones, need to review Local Development Scheme;
- Delays to the adoption of documents;

6. Resource Allocation, Programme Management and Risk Assessment

- Failure to secure funding; and
- Adverse effects on staff moral and the reputation of the Council.

6.14 However, given the need to prepare a new Local Plan for Northumberland to replace the Local Plans from the former local authorities these impacts must be accepted by the Council and actions put in place to address them. The proposed actions, identified in the table below, seek to address these impacts as well as the specific impacts identified in the full risk assessment.

6. Resource Allocation, Programme Management and Risk Assessment

Table 6.1 Local Plan Risk Assessment Impacts and Proposed Actions

Impact	Proposed action
Staffing Issues: Staff recruitment, retention and vacant posts; Lack of suitably trained staff; Reduced capacity (long-term absence) (un-programmed work).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in quality and quantity of evidence base • Increased risk to soundness of documents, or High Court Challenge • Increased workload for existing staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply council HR policies including appraisal, recruitment and sickness management • Provide staff training and development • Second appropriately experienced staff • Use consultants and temporary staff as appropriate • Commission specialised studies • Local Plan recognised and prioritised as a Corporate Policy
Financial Resources: Budget insufficient for planned expenditure.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in quality and quantity of evidence base • Reduced ability to commission specialist studies • Increased risk to soundness of documents, or High Court Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan recognised and prioritised as a Corporate Policy • Expand partnership working to draw upon skills and resources within other organisations • Monitor closely expenditure on commissioned studies and other work
Corporate Issues: Change in council priorities; amendments to decision making process	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional work to evidence base and redrafting of documents • Increased workload and costs for un-programmed work • Increased number of representations to consultation documents • Increased risk to soundness of documents, or High Court Challenge • Credibility of plan making process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan recognised and prioritised as a Corporate Policy • Cross party member Local Plan Working Group established • Commission specialised studies • Ensure that Sustainable Community Strategy and Spatial Strategy and policy are aligned
External Influences: Failure of partners to deliver to agreed programme; changes in national or regional policy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional work to evidence base and redrafting of documents • Increased time without policy coverage • Increased risk to soundness of documents, or High Court Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close liaison with partners in preparation of LDS and work programme • Engage partners commitment to deliver through joint working and linkages with other strategies, programmes and projects • Maintain liaison Planning inspectorate • Review LDS if necessary • Utilise critical friend process throughout Local Plan preparation.

7. Monitoring and Review

7. Monitoring and Review

7.1 Since April 2009, the Annual Monitoring Report for Northumberland (excluding the National Park) has been published by Northumberland County Council in accordance with government requirements. The introduction of the Localism Act in November 2011 removed this requirement however the Authority retains a duty to monitor its activities and to report on those activities to its residents and other interested parties.

7.2 The ending of the statutory requirement to report directly to central government has given the Council the opportunity to reassess how the information contained within the report is presented. Rather than presenting a single annual report containing a wide range of complex information, a new style has been adopted which will consist of a number of smaller topic based releases published on a continual basis at the earliest opportunity. It is hoped that this will make the published information more timely and easier to digest.

7.3 There are a number of National Indicators which the Council is still required to report upon and which will be included in the document portfolio; the Council will also continue to publish data relating to the Local Indicators contained within the three core strategies adopted by the former local authorities of Alnwick, Blyth Valley and Tynedale. These will continue to be monitored until such time as they are superseded by the emerging countywide Core Strategy.

7.4 In making the publication of information more timely and efficient, the Council is publishing these documents electronically in the first instance. Please see the Council's website⁽⁷⁾ for a full list of documents which are currently available.

7 <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?Page=14323>

Appendix A: Development Plan Document Profiles and Timetables

The profiles for each of the proposed local development documents, including the timetable and milestones in their preparation are set out below:

Profile – Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy

Title	Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy
Role and content	<p>The Core Strategy will be the overarching plan for Northumberland, guiding future development to 2031. It will be the spatial interpretation of the Sustainability Community Strategy for Northumberland. It will set out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy for the development of Northumberland, establishing the scale and distribution of development, including strategic allocations where they are required to deliver the strategy.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will include a key diagram / proposals map identifying the spatial elements of the strategy.</p>
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)
Chain of conformity	Consistent with national planning policy as well as Northumberland County Council policy documents.
Geographic coverage	Northumberland County, excluding the Northumberland National Park area.
Core Strategy timetable and milestones	
Stage	Dates
Plan Preparation (Regulation 18)	2008 - Spring 2014
Starting evidence base	Commenced during 2008
Consultation on SA Scoping Report	5 December 2011 - 23 January 2012
Consultation on Core Strategy Issues and Options	23 May – 15 August 2012
Consultation on Core Strategy Preferred Options	6 February – 20 March 2013
Consultation on Housing, Employment and Green Belt Preferred Options	October 2013
Consultation on Full Draft Core Strategy	Spring 2014
Submission Draft Core Strategy (Publication of Local Plan) (Regulation 19)	Summer 2014
Submission of Core Strategy (Regulation 22)	Autumn 2014
Independent Examination	Winter 2014
Adoption of Core Strategy (Regulation 26)	Spring 2015
Post-adoption (monitoring and review)	On-going

Appendix A: Development Plan Document Profiles and Timetables

Arrangements for production	
Organisational Lead	Spatial Policy and Delivery Manager
Political Management	Policy Board and Full Council with input from LDF Member Working Group throughout production.
Resources	Spatial Policy and Delivery Team, with technical, legal and administrative support from other teams as required.
Community and stakeholder involvement	To be undertaken in accordance with Statement of Community Involvement.

(Key milestones are in ***bold italics***)

Appendix A: Development Plan Document Profiles and Timetables

Profile – Northumberland Local Plan: Delivery Document

Title	Northumberland Local Plan: Delivery Document	
Role and content	<p>The Delivery Document will set out how the vision, objectives and policies and proposals of the Northumberland Core Strategy will be realised across Northumberland. It will include detailed land allocations and designations, as well as site-specific proposals for the necessary infrastructure, buildings and services to deliver the proposals in the Core Strategy. The document will also include detailed development management policies.</p> <p>The Delivery Document will include a proposals map identifying the detailed land allocations and designations.</p>	
Status	Development Plan Document (DPD)	
Chain of conformity	Consistent with national planning policy as well as Northumberland Core Strategy.	
Geographic coverage	Northumberland County, excluding the Northumberland National Park area. Consideration will also have to be given to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.	
Delivery Document timetable and milestones		
Stage		Dates
Plan Preparation (Regulation 18)		June 2013 – October 2014
Consult on Scope of Delivery Document		October 2013
Review and update evidence base		October 2013 – January 2014
Public participation in Delivery Document Preferred Option		October 2014
Submission Draft Delivery Document (Publication of Local Plan) (Regulation 19)		Summer 2015
Submission of Delivery Document (Regulation 22)		Winter 2015
Independent Examination		Summer 2016
Adoption of Delivery Document (Regulation 26)		Winter 2016
Post-adoption (monitoring and review)		On-going
Arrangements for production		
Organisational Lead	Spatial Policy and Delivery Manager	
Political Management	Policy Board and Full Council with input from LDF Member Working Group throughout production.	
Resources	Spatial Policy and Delivery Team, with technical, legal and administrative support from other teams as required.	
Community and stakeholder involvement	To be undertaken in accordance with Statement of Community Involvement.	

(Key milestones are in ***bold italics***)

Appendix B: Evidence Base Studies

Appendix B: Evidence Base Studies

The key evidence base studies listed below to support the Local Plan can be accessed from the Council's website⁽⁸⁾.

Study	Purpose	Timescale
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	To assess the availability, suitability and deliverability of sites throughout Northumberland for residential development.	Completed May 2012 (to be reviewed annually)
Strategic Housing Market Assessment	To assess the demand and need for market and affordable housing in the sub-region and associated housing market areas.	Completed September 2010. Northumberland Housing Needs Study Complete 2012. Partial update to be undertaken during 2013
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	To assess the need for sites and accommodation throughout Northumberland.	Completed 2009. Update to be undertaken during 2013
Population and Household Projections	To prepare projections and assess the future trends for population and households	To be complete during 2013
Economic Assessment	To provide an improved economic evidence base enhancing local authority capability and capacity on economic development and ensuring more effective prioritisation of economic development and regeneration interventions.	Completed 2009
Employment Land Review	To assess the demand and supply of employment land across Northumberland.	Completed January 2011
Town Centre and Retail Study	To assess retail catchments, retail impact and potential expenditure across Northumberland including town centre health checks.	Completed February 2011. Update completed January 2013
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	To undertake investigations into those areas likely to be at risk from flooding and to assess the risk of potential development sites for flooding.	SFRA Level 1 Complete September 2010
Water Cycle Study	To assess the sewerage infrastructure network to accommodate new development and to examine available water resources and flooding, including an evaluation of Sustainable Urban Drainage applicability.	Outline Water Cycle Study Complete May 2012

8 <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3458>

Appendix B: Evidence Base Studies

Study	Purpose	Timescale
Landscape Character Assessment	To assess the landscape character based on an understanding of the natural, historic and aesthetic factors that in combination create local distinctiveness and its capacity to accommodate development.	Completed September 2010
Key Land Use Impact Study	To assess the sensitivity of the Landscape Character Areas in Northumberland to a number of key land-uses and major changes that may threaten their integrity	Completed September 2010
Open Space and Green infrastructure Study & PPG17 Assessment	Audit of existing open space and green infrastructure in Northumberland with a view to developing locally based standards for open space, sport and recreation	Completed October 2011
Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Generation	To assess capacity for wind energy; biomass and other renewable energy sources within Northumberland.	Completed February 2011
Environmental Considerations and Mineral Resources Study	To assess the capacity of the local environment to accommodate potential minerals and waste proposals and identify areas which are most/least sensitive to minerals and waste proposals in order to inform potential areas of constraint or potential allocations.	Completed March 2011
Waste Arisings and Waste Management Capacity Study	To forecast waste arisings for commercial and industrial waste and hazardous waste and to assess current and planned waste management facility capacity in North East England to accommodate future waste arisings.	Completed July 2012
Low Level Radioactive Waste Study	To provide estimates of the non-nuclear radioactive waste generated in Northumberland and North East England and the management of routes for waste.	Completed August 2013.
Local Aggregates Assessment	To assist in planning for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals by assessing future aggregate supply requirements and supply options. This was a joint piece of work with Durham County Council, Northumberland National Park Authority and the five Tyne and Wear authorities.	Completed April 2013 Updated annually.
Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment	The continual appraisal of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of development plan documents.	Ongoing in line with development plan document timetable.

Appendix B: Evidence Base Studies

Study	Purpose	Timescale
Habitat Regulation Assessment	To assess the potential impact of development plan document policies upon European designated sites	Ongoing in line with development plan document timetable.
Strategic Infrastructure Study	To underpin development plans and support the delivery of the quantum and broad location of development anticipated over the plan period.	Ongoing. Baseline and Options Assessment completed December 2012.

Glossary

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - Reports on how the Council is performing in terms of the Local Plan. It includes a review of the Local Development Scheme's timetable and monitors the success of Local Plan policies.

Area Action Plans (AAP) - A type of development plan document focussed upon a specific location or an area subject to conservation or significant change.

Core Strategy - A Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision, objectives and key strategic policies for an area, having regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Delivery Document - The development plan document that will be prepared following the Core Strategy in order to set out more detailed policies, proposals and allocations the main purpose of which is to ensure that the Core Strategy policies are realised on the ground.

Development Plan - This includes adopted council development plan documents such as core strategies and any future adopted neighbourhood plans setting out the authority's policies for the development and use of land.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs) - DPDs are adopted plans and documents that form part of the development plan. Once adopted, planning decisions must be made in accordance with them unless material considerations indicate otherwise. DPDs can include core strategy, land allocation and delivery plans, area action plans, and neighbourhood plans.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) - Undertaken to ensure that equality issues are taken into account throughout the Core Strategy process, and that it promotes equality and diversity and does not adversely affect or discriminate against any of the protected Equality groups.

Evidence Base - The information and data gathered by local authorities and used to inform policy development. It includes a wide range of numerical data and other information, including, surveys, studies, discussions and consultations.

Habitats Regulations - A set of government regulations (currently the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010), which sets out requirements within England regarding the protection and enhancement of important natural assets, giving expression to various European Directives, international Conventions and national statutes.

Independent Examination - The process by which an Independent Planning Inspector publicly examines a Development Plan Document to ensure that it is 'sound' in terms of factors such as the evidence on which it is based, national policy, consultations undertaken etc.

Inspector's Report - A report issued by an Independent Planning Inspector regarding the planning issues debated at the independent examination of a development plan or a planning inquiry. For DPDs it will contain recommendations to the authority on changes to the plan and an opinion as to whether it is a sound plan.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – This is the term given to the portfolio of documents that together provide a local planning authorities land use and spatial policies for the area. The term Local Plan is now used to describe these documents.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - A three year programme identifying the development plan documents to be produced and the timetable for their production.

Local Plan - The documents and maps that make up the plan for the future development of a local area such as Northumberland. The term also describes older planning documents prepared by the former Northumberland authorities. Many policies in these plans continue to be “saved” and form part of the Development Plan for decision-making purposes.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - A Government document that sets out nationally important planning issues. It replaces Planning / Mineral Policy Statements and Guidance Notes.

Neighbourhood Plan - A plan prepared for a defined area by a “qualifying body”, a parish/town council or neighbourhood forum. When adopted a neighbourhood plan will form part of the Development Plan.

Northumberland National Park - Designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, the designation seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park, and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities. The Park sits entirely within the boundary of Northumberland but is a separate local planning authority area.

Saved Policies and Plans - Existing development plans prepared prior to the commencement of the Local Development Framework system in 2004 were saved for a period of 3 years. Certain policies have been saved beyond this period and will remain saved until replaced by the new Local Plan

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) - The Council's approach to involving the community in the planning process and development management decisions.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) - Non-statutory documents which add further detail to the policies in statutory documents such as the core strategy – e.g. providing guidance on design in general or on the development of specific sites. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration but do not form part of the development plan.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - The process of weighing and assessing policies for their global, national and local sustainability implications in relation to the environment, the economy and society, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to comply with EU Directive 2001/42/EC

Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) - A long-term programme of action, published on behalf of the community which reflects the needs and aspirations of the area.

Further Information

If you would like this document in a different format, language or font size or any further information or clarification about the Northumberland Local Development Plan, please contact:

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