Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Environmental Report: ADDENDUM

**Final Report** 

A Report for Alnwick Town Council Prepared by the Communities & Infrastructure Team, Northumberland County Council

02 December 2016

Prepared by:	Rob Naples Communities & Infrastructure Team Northumberland County Council
Checked by:	
Approved by:	

Version	Comments	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Date
v0.01	Initial Draft	RN			
v.0.02	Final Draft	RN			

# Contents

Contents	3
Summary of assessment of plan aims and policies	4
Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Plan following Examination	4
Assessment topic summaries	4
Housing	5
Economy & Employment	5
Town Centre & Retail	5
Community Facilities	5
Transport	5
Environment	5
Heritage, Design & Culture	5
Consultation	6
Chapter 1: Introduction	7
Introduction	7
Scoping	8
Background	8
Scoping	13
Definition of the SEA framework	14
Chapter 5: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies	19
Assessment of policies	20
Housing	21
Economy and Employment	22
Town Centre and Retail	23
Community Facilities	24
Transport	25
Environment	26
Heritage, Design and Culture	27
Chapter 7: Next Steps	28

# Non-technical summary

0.01 This is the non-technical summary of the Environmental Report Addendum for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP). This section of the Report provides a summary in non-technical language of this Addendum. The purpose of an Environmental Report is to provide information about, and an assessment of, the potential environmental and sustainability effects of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan.

0.02 The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Northumberland County Council and this was publicised between 09 October and 23 November 2015. The County Council publicised the Plan and the Independent Examination was carried out. The Examiner's Report was published in December 2015 and since then, the Plan has been modified in accordance with the Examiner's report. However, it was considered that some policies could be modified in other ways to those suggested by the Examiner, whilst still allowing them to meet the basic conditions.

## Summary of assessment of plan aims and policies

0.03 The Neighbourhood Plan aims were assessed against the SEA objectives as part of the SEA Scoping exercise. This was then set out in the SEA Scoping Report and was reproduced in the Environmental Report. This assessment showed that, on the whole, there are no significant adverse effects on the baseline resulting from the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

0.04 The County Council and the Town Council will jointly monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan using the available data. The County Council's Annual Monitoring Report will provide some data at this level.

# **Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Plan following Examination**

0.05 Evaluating the effects of the Plan following Examination has entailed identifying the effects of those policies which were modified in variation to the Examiner's recommendations against the SEA objectives.

## Assessment topic summaries

0.06 The assessment process has been carried out on a topic by topic basis, based on those policies which have been modified as a variation of the Examiner's recommendations are set out later in this addendum. The full findings of the assessment of the submission Plan, can be found in the main SEA Environmental Report. The following is an assessment which focuses on the identification and assessment of significant effects, broken down by Neighbourhood Plan topic area, and includes only those policies which were modified beyond those modifications suggested by the Examiner.

#### Housing

0.21 The assessment of Policy H5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. Although the policy has been modified and its requirements relaxed from the previous policy, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

#### **Economy & Employment**

0.22 The assessment of Policy E5 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

#### **Town Centre & Retail**

0.23 The assessment of Policy TCR1 against the sustainability objectives remains the same as the previous assessment. The modification to the policy is very minor in nature, and as such, the policy's overall sustainability remains the same.

#### **Community Facilities**

0.24 Policies CF5 and CF8 have been modified in variation to the modifications suggested by the Examiner. The basic thrust of both policies remains unchanged despite some rewording and rephrasing of certain requirements. It is considered that none of the modifications to the policies alter their assessment result in terms of sustainability.

#### Transport

0.25 Given the nature of the modifications made to the policies, the assessment against the sustainability objectives remains the same. One exception to this is that Policy TRA4 is now considered to have a neutral effect in relation to sustainability objective 4 (previously uncertain) as the policy has removed the vague reference to links to the wider network. This enabled a more definitive assessment based on existing infrastructure.

#### Environment

0.26 Overall, the policies set out within the environment chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment due to the nature of the modifications made. While Policies ENV4 and ENV8 have been the most extensively modified, the effects of the policies in terms of sustainability are considered to remain the same.

#### Heritage, Design & Culture

0.27 Overall, the policies set out within the heritage, design and culture chapter performed positively when assessed against the SEA objectives. Due to the nature of the policies in this chapter, there is no relationship with a number of sustainability objectives. The assessment of these modified policies remains the same as the previous assessment

due to the nature of the modifications made, with the exception of Policy HD6 which was assessed as having a neutral effect in relation to objectives four and seven where these had previously been uncertain.

#### Consultation

0.28 The publication of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Report allows statutory consultees, key stakeholders and those who made representations on the submission draft Plan the opportunity to comment on the contents of this Addendum to the Environmental Report.

Any comments relating to the content of the Environmental Report should be sent to Mr Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk, via email at: <u>bill.batey@btconnect.com</u> or in writing to:

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Alnwick Town Council Office Cemetery Lodge South Raod Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2PH

# **Chapter 1: Introduction**

### Introduction

1.01 This document is an addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report produced in 2015 in relation to the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan (ADNP). The report has been prepared by the Communities & Infrastructure Team at Northumberland County Council in order to support Alnwick Town Council in meeting the obligations set out in The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ("the Regulations"). The report is prepared on behalf of Alnwick Town Council which is the 'responsible authority' for the purposes of those Regulations and is the qualifying body for the purpose of Neighbourhood Planning.

1.02 The Environmental Report produced in 2015 described the approach taken in undertaking an environmental assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan and in preparing the Environmental Report as required by the Regulations. To assist in determining the need for an environmental assessment under the Regulations, the local planning authority provided its opinion regarding the need for SEA. This opinion is attached as Appendix A to the 2015 SEA Environmental Report. It is not reproduced in this Addendum.

1.03 This addendum focuses on those modifications made to the emerging Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan following its Examination. The Report of the Examiner was published in December 2015. Alnwick Town Council, together with Denwick Parish Council and Northumberland County Council, disagreed with a number of the Examiner's recommendations and it was decided to further modify the Neighbourhood Plan in order to address issues raised by the Examiner. It is accepted that these modifications should be subject to SEA in order to confirm that the proposed modifications will enable the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the basic conditions.

1.04 This SEA Addendum has been prepared to document the implications of the proposed modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan and will be consulted upon alongside the revised Plan.

1.05 It is important to read this addendum alongside the main SEA Environmental Report which contains further information on the scope of the SEA and provides the context within which the Neighbourhood Plan policies have been developed.

1.06 In order to meet the 'basic conditions' referred to above, the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan needs to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan. However, Alnwick Town Council, as qualifying body, agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be prepared having regard to the emerging Core Strategy for the county with a view to align with the strategic development plan policies as they emerge. Accordingly, the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping Report was in part derived from the Northumberland County Council Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal scoping report which accompanies the emerging Core Strategy for the county to ensure:

- (a) consistency with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy; and
- (b) that all <u>relevant</u> legislation and policies are identified in the scoping process.

### Scoping

1.07 Scoping sets the context for the SEA, establishing the key issues that should be a focus of the assessment and the methodologies that will be used for appraising the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. The scope of the SEA has already been established; the SEA Scoping Report included baseline information on a range of sustainability factors and included a review of the policy context. This information was used to appraise the implications of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.08 The scope is constantly evolving, and so there is a need to review new information and evidence at key stages of plan making to ensure that the scope remains focused on the key issues. A review of the scope of the SA relating to the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy was carried out by consultants producing the Core Strategy SA on behalf of the County Council. They have not identified any issues which require a change to the SA framework relating to the Core Strategy. Since this is a county-wide document, it is considered that the assessment of scope carried out in relation to that document is sufficient to ensure that the scope of the SEA for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the SEA Scoping Report for the neighbourhood plan, remains appropriate.

### Background

1.09 Following the Examination of the Plan, a number of further modifications have been proposed which are not in line with the recommendations set out in the Examiner's report. There is potential for some effects upon the environment, economy or communities. These modifications to the Plan are the focus of this addendum to the SEA.

1.10 The table on the following page sets out the policies from the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan and includes both the Examiner's recommendations and proposed actions. Policy deleted in accordance with examiner's recommendation

Examiner's recommendations accepted on modification or policy unchanged

Variation proposed to examiner's recommendation

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy SD1 Planning for Sustainable Development in Alnwick and Denwick	-	Delete	Delete
Policy H1 Quantity of Housing	H1	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H2 Location of Housing Development	H2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H3 Ensuring a Choice of Housing	H3	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H4 Affordable Housing	-	Delete	Delete
Policy H5 Housing Design	H4	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy H6 Existing Stock	H5	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy H7 Housing in the Countryside	-	Delete	Delete
Policy E1 Providing for Economic Growth	E1	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E2 Location of Economic Growth	E2	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E3 Future Use of Existing Employment Sites	E3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E4 Development on South Road	E4	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy E5 Tourism Development	E5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy E6 Employment and Training for Young People	E6	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy TCR1 Primary Shopping Frontages	TCR1	Delete	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR2 Development Opportunities to Support Primary Shopping Frontages	TCR2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR3 Out of Centre Retail	TCR3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy TCR4 Local Convenience Retail	-	Delete	Delete
Policy TCR5 Market Place	TCR4	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF1 Protecting Key Community Facilities	CF1	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF2 Outdoor Sports and Leisure	CF2	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF3 Greensfield Playing Pitches	CF3	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF4 Developing Greensfield for Education and Recreation	CF4	No Change	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF5 Future Development of the Middle Schools	CF5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF6 Dual Use of Greensfield Facilities	CF6	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF7 Facilities for Older People	CF7	Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Policy CF8 Safeguarding Health and Medical Facilities	-	Delete	Delete
Policy CF9 Public Toilet Facilities	CF8	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA1 Walking	TRA1	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations
Policy TRA2 Cycling	TRA2	Modify	Variation to Examiner's recommendations

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy Reference	Examiner's Recommendations	Proposed Action
Policy TRA3	TRA3	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Alnwick Bus Station	110.0	in our y	recommendations
Policy TRA4	_	Delete	Delete
Goods and Services		Delete	Delete
Policy TRA5	TRA4	Delete	Variation to Examiner's
Transport Links	11/74	Delete	recommendations
•		Delete	Delete
Policy TRA6	-	Delete	Delete
Environmental Impacts		Delete	Dalata
Policy TRA7	-	Delete	Delete
Maintenance			
Policy TRA8	-	Delete	Delete
Traffic Management			
Policy TRA9	TRA5	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Parking			recommendations
Policy ENV1	-	Delete	Delete
Natural and Semi-natural			
Greenspace			
Policy ENV2	ENV1	Delete	Variation to Examiner's
Providing New Green			recommendations
Space Through			
Development			
Policy ENV3	-	Delete	Delete
Safeguarding Green Space			
on Middle School Sites			
Policy ENV4	ENV2	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Protecting Green Space		,	recommendations
Policy ENV5	ENV3	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Local Green Space			recommendations
Policy ENV6	_	Delete	Delete
Areas for Nature			
Conservation			
Policy ENV7	ENV4	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Protecting Biodiversity		Wouldy	recommendations
Policy ENV8	ENV5	No change	Accept Examiner's
Future Allotment		No change	recommendations
Provision			recommentations
		Modify	Accort Exeminar's
Policy ENV9	ENV6	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Protecting Trees		D 4 a dife	recommendations
Policy ENV10	ENV7	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Landscaping of New			recommendations
Developments			
Policy ENV11	ENV8	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Protecting Green			recommendations
Infrastructure			

Submission Draft Policy	New Policy	Examiner's	Proposed Action
	Reference	Recommendations	
Policy ENV12	ENV9	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Sustainable Drainage			recommendations
Systems			
Policy ENV13	ENV10	No change	Accept Examiner's
Small Scale Renewable			recommendations
Energy		-	
Policy ENV14	-	Delete	Delete
Energy Conservation in			
New Housing			
Policy ENV15	ENV11	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Reducing Light Pollution			recommendations
Policy ENV16	-	Delete	Delete
Recycling Facilities			
Policy HD1	HD1	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Protecting Landscape			recommendations
Setting		1 A 116	
Policy HD2	HD2	Modify	Accept Examiner's
Heritage Assets at Risk		Delate	recommendations
Policy HD3	-	Delete	Delete
Protecting Designated			
Heritage Assets	HD3	Madifu	Accept Everyiner's
Policy HD4 Protecting Non-		Modify	Accept Examiner's recommendations
Designated Heritage			recommendations
Assets			
Policy HD5	-	Delete	Delete
Enforcing Protection of			
Heritage Assets			
Policy HD6	HD4	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
The Approaches to the		,	recommendations
Town			
Policy HD7	HD5	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Design in the Wider Town			recommendations
Policy HD8	HD6	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Protecting Town			recommendations
Gateways			
Policy HD9	HD7	Modify	Variation to Examiner's
Design in the Historic			recommendations
Centre			
Policy HD10	-	Delete	Delete
Vital Historic Spaces			
Policy HD11	-	Delete	Delete
Streetscape Design			

1.11 It is clear, from the above table, that the Examiner recommended modifications to a large number of policies. The justification for these is set out in the Examiner's report. It is considered unnecessary to include those policies modified by the Examiner in this SEA Addendum as they were modified by the Examiner in order to, in his view, meet the basic conditions. Therefore, this Addendum only seeks to assess those policies where modification has not been in line with the Examiner's recommendations.

1.12 In order to avoid confusion when reading this Addendum alongside the SEA Environmental Report which was submitted with the Plan for Examination, the policy numbers used in the assessment tables in this Addendum are the *new policy numbers*.

## Scoping

1.13 Scoping sets the context for the SEA, establishing the key issues that should be a focus of the assessment and the methodologies that will be used for appraising the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. The scope of the SEA has already been established; the SEA Scoping Report included baseline information on a range of sustainability factors and included a review of the policy context. This information was used to appraise the implications of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.14 The scope is constantly evolving, and so there is a need to review new information and evidence at key stages of plan making to ensure that the scope remains focused on the key issues. A review of the scope of the SA relating to the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy was carried out by consultants producing the Core Strategy SA on behalf of the County Council. They have not identified any issues which require a change to the SA framework relating to the Core Strategy. Since this is a county-wide document, it is considered that the assessment of scope carried out in relation to that document is sufficient to ensure that the scope of the SEA for the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in the SEA Scoping Report for the neighbourhood plan, remains appropriate.

# **Definition of the SEA framework**

2.13 The SEA Regulations do not specifically require the use of objectives or indicators in the SEA; however, they are a recognised way in which environmental effects can be described, analysed and compared. Each SEA objective should be a statement of what is intended, specifying a desired direction of environmental change.

2.14 During the scoping stage, the SEA objectives and appraisal questions were formulated to help focus the environmental assessment on the most important issues. The SEA objectives were developed by reviewing the environmental objectives of plans and programmes with the potential to affect the Plan area, and by analysing the baseline information to identify environmental problems and opportunities. The objectives were refined having taken account of comments received during the consultation on the contents of the Scoping Report.

	Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan				
Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives and guiding questionsSEA objectivesGuiding questions					
1	To minimise	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gas?			
	greenhouse gas	Will it reduce flood risk?			
	emissions and build	Will it help mitigate existing level of flood risk?			
	resilience to the	Will it increase 'Green Contributions' (SUDS, trees etc.)?			
	effects of climate	Will it encourage new energy efficiency measures?			
	change through				
	effective				
	adaptation to and				
	mitigation against				
	its possible effects				
SEA	objectives	Guiding questions			
2	To protect and	Will it keep the distinctive character of the townscape?			
	enhance the local	Will it retain / enhance landscape character including that of			
	distinctiveness of	the historic park and garden and historic landscape character?			
	landscapes and				
	townscapes				
3	To protect and	Will it preserve and enhance local heritage and buildings and			
	enhance built and	their settings?			
	cultural heritage	Will it allow the cultural heritage to be enjoyed by residents			
		and visitors while retaining its integrity?			
		Will it reduce the 'risk of decline' to the conservation area?			
4	To protect and	Will it ensure that the wider ecological network of			
	enhance	international, national and local sites, priority habitats and			
	biodiversity, taking	wildlife corridors are not adversely affected?			
	account of the	Will it adversely affect the wider ecological network of			

	network	wildlife corridors?
		Will it meet specified targets in line with the Local BAP?
		Will it protect and increase the amount of tree cover?
		Will it protect statutory designated sites within or beyond the area?
		Will it protect non-statutory sites of local importance?
		Will there be a net positive effect on ecosystems – e.g. through ecosystem services?
		Will it protect and enhance the quality of rivers and inland
		waters?
		Does it comply with integrated catchment management plans?
		Will it impact on soil quality?
5	To protect and	Does it comply with integrated catchment management plans?
	enhance water	Will it impact on groundwater quality?
	quality	
6	To improve air	Will it impact on air quality?
	quality	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?
7	To use natural	Will it reduce waste production?
	resources prudently	Will it help maintain or increase the reuse of previously
	and reduce waste.	developed land and buildings in proportional terms?
		Will it increase the use of recycled / reclaimed materials in construction?
		Will it encourage recycling, reuse and the use of renewable resources?
		Will it increase water conservation?

SEA	objectives	Guiding questions
8	To move towards	Will it promote a safe lifestyle?
-	greater health,	Will it promote a healthy lifestyle?
	wellbeing, safety,	Will it reduce accidents?
	equality and	Will it add to opportunities for exercise, fresh air etc.?
	inclusiveness within	Will it reduce social isolation?
	the community and	Will it reduce crime?
	for those visiting	Will its implementation produce outcomes acceptable to all
	the area	sections of the community?
9	To maximise	Will it provide a wide range of housing types and tenure across
	opportunities for	the area?
	people to live in	Will it encourage housing that is affordable for sale or rent?
	suitable, decent	Will it provide sufficient homes within the community?
	and affordable	Will it ensure housing is of a decent standard across all
	homes	tenures?
		Will it reduce homelessness?
		Will it reduce the number of vacant properties?
10	To strengthen and	Will it attract new inward investment?
	maintain a resilient	Will it increase business start-ups and continuity?
	local economy and	Will it generate new employment?
	the diversity and	Will it protect existing jobs and business?
	quality of	Will it strengthen the local economy?
	education, training	Will this reduce unemployment?
	and employment	Will it help stem the relative growth in out-commuting?
	opportunities for all	Will ensure that people have access to learning opportunities?
	sections of society.	Will it increase the use of ICT?
		Will it help retain younger people within the area?
		Will it reduce the outward migration of higher level skills?
		Will it increase the inward migration of higher level skills?
		Will it broaden the appeal of the town centre and help to revitalise and re-invent its role?
11	To improve the	Will improve learning opportunities?
11	quality and range of	Will it reduce isolation from services?
	accessible	Will it increase the amount of recreational facilities and open
	community services	space?
	and facilities.	Will it develop and sustain community identity?
		Will it strengthen the links between communities within and
		beyond the plan area?
12	To improve	Will it improve the integration of transport mode provision?
	sustainable access	Will it improve transport infrastructure?
	across the area to	Will it link residential and employment developments with
	homes, jobs and	services?
	services	Will it reduce road congestion?
		Will it encourage use of alternative transport modes such as
		walking and cycling?

increased use of non-car modes?
Will it reduce conflicts between different modes of transport?
Will it reduce the incidence of accidents relating to any mode
of transport?
Will it include measures to promote road safety?
Will it include measures to reduce casualties resulting from any
mode of transport?

2.15 The table below shows the scoring methodology used in order to assess the Neighbourhood Plan Aims (objectives), alternatives, policies and proposals against the SEA objectives.

Score	Description	Кеу
Major positive effect	The aim/policy addresses all the elements that are required to protect the environment and address the relevant sustainability issues in the Plan area and would help achieve the applicable SEA objective. The aim/policy also sets out how, where and when these policies will be implemented. They will have a positive impact in relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors.	√ √
Minor positive effect	The aim/policy addresses all the elements that are required to protect the environment and address the sustainability issues in the Plan area and would help achieve the applicable SEA objective.	*
Uncertain effect	It is unclear whether there is the potential for a negative or positive effect on the SEA objective.	?
Major negative effect	The aim/policy conflicts with some of the SEA objectives. The aim/policy also sets out how, where and when these policies will be implemented and these will have a negative effect in relation to characteristics of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptors.	хх
Minor negative effect	The aim/policy conflicts with some of the SEA objective.	x
Neutral effect	The aim/policy does not have an effect on the achievement of the SEA objective.	0
No relationship	The aim/policy does not relate to the achievement of the SEA objective.	-

Table 1: SEA significance scores and criteria

# **Chapter 5: Assessment of Neighbourhood Plan policies**

5.01 The following tables show an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA objectives using a scoring system. These are grouped together under their subject headings as they appear in the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Each Neighbourhood Plan policy was assessed against each of the SEA objectives, resulting in 12 separate assessments for each policy. The assessment of each policy looks at how the policy scores in sustainability terms overall (against the suite of SEA objectives).

5.02 Table 1 on page 26 shows SEA significance scores and criteria, which explains the rationale behind each of the scores used throughout the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan SEA process.

5.03 It was agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan Group that, due to the specific nature of the assessment itself, together with the need to ensure a consistent approach, that the assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan would be carried out by Northumberland County Council Officers. The assessment was then carried out under this arrangement and the results were subsequently presented to the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Group. A number of the assessments made were challenged by the Group and these were then subject to review by County Council Officers. The final assessment included within the Environmental Report was agreed and endorsed by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and was used to revise the Neighbourhood Plan policies where recommendations were made.

5.04 The assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies was revised to take account of the alterations made to the Neighbourhood Plan following the Pre-Submission consultation; the assessment contained within this document therefore relates to the Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **Assessment of policies**

5.05 The following tables show an assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan policies against the SEA objectives using a scoring system. These are grouped together under their respective subject headings within the Plan. The table above shows SEA significance scores and criteria and explains the rationale behind each of the scores used throughout the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan process.

								Sus	stainabi	lity Obje	ctives				
	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Major positive effect		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	~	Minor positive effect		To min and bu change mitigat	To protect a distinctivene townscapes	To pro heritag	To protect and account of the v	To pro	To imp	To use reduce	To move safety, eo the comn area.	To maximise opportunities for live in suitable, decent and a homes	To strengthen and economy and the or employment opport of society	To improve accessible of facilities	area to
	ХХ	Major negative effect		To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	S D	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	tect and nt of the	To protect and enhance water quality	improve air	natural waste	To move towards g safety, equality and the community and area.	ximise o suitable	To strengthen economy and employment o of society	ible cor	area to homes, jobs and
	Х	Minor negative effect		reenhou ience to ih effect inst its p	d enhance the local s of landscapes and	l enhand	l enhan wider e	l enhand	air quality	resources	ds gr and and t	pportur , decent		e the quality community :	, jobs a
	?	Uncertain effect		use gas the effe ive ada possible	ce the le Iscapes	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	ce wate		ces pru	ive	nities for t and af	maintain a liversity an tunities for	/ and range of / services and	s and services
	0	Neutral Effect		emissic ects of c ptation effects	and	and cul	versity, al netw	r quality		prudently and	alth, wellbei ness within visiting the	for people affordable	in a resilient local / and quality of for all sections	nge of es and	ices
	-	No relationship		ons climate to and		tural	taking ork			nd	wellbeing, s within ting the	đ	nt local y of ions		
Alnwick and	Denwic	ck Neighbourhood Pla	n Policy												
Policy H5: E	xisting S	Stock		✓	$\checkmark\checkmark$	~~	0	0	0	√	0	~~	-	-	-
Summary: T	he asse	ssment of Policy H5 aga	ainst the sust	ainability of	viectives	remains	s the sar	ne as th	e previo	us asses	sment Alt	hough th	ne policy ha	as been	
-		irements relaxed from the		•	•							ineugh a			

#### Housing

# **Economy and Employment**

				Sustainability Objectives											
	<b>√</b> √	Major positive effect		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	✓	Minor positive effect		To minimise gree and build resilien change through ( mitigation agains	To protect a distinctivene townscapes	To prot heritag	To protect and account of the v	To prot	To imp	To use reduce	To move safety, ec the comm area.	To may live in s homes	To strengther economy and employment of society	To improve accessible of facilities	To impr area to
	XX	Major negative effect		imise g ild resili e throug	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	lect anc e	tect and nt of the	tect and	improve air	natural waste	To move towards gi safety, equality and the community and area.	kimise c suitable	045	ove the	hor
	Х	Minor negative effect		effec	t enhan s of lanc	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	l enhan wider e	To protect and enhance water quality	<sup>-</sup> quality	l resour	and and	To maximise opportunities live in suitable, decent and homes	n and maintain a d the diversity an opportunities for	the quality community	obs
	?	Uncertain effect		use gas o the effr tive ada	enhance the local of landscapes and	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	ce wate		resources prudently and	eater health, wellbei inclusiveness within for those visiting the	nities for t and af	d maintain a diversity an ortunities for	and	Ible access ac and services
	0	Neutral Effect		e effects of clin adaptation to sible effects	and	and cul	versity, al netw	r qualiț		dently a	alth, wel ness wit visiting	for people t affordable	all d re	range of vices and	ices
	-	No relationship		ons climate to and		tural	taking ork			Ind	llbeing, ithin the	đ	silient local luality of sections		ss the
Alnwick and	d Denwig	ck Neighbourhood Pla	n Policy		•										
Policy E5: T	ourism [	Development		√	✓	~	?	?	?	?	0	-	~~	✓	✓
-		ssment of Policy E5 aga and as such, the policy'		-	-			ne as the	e previoi	us asses:	sment. Th	e modifi	cation to th	e policy	is

Town	Centre	and	Retail
------	--------	-----	--------

				Sustainability Objectives											
	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Major positive effect	]	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	~	Minor positive effect	-	To min and bu change mitigat	To protect a distinctivene townscapes	To pro heritag	To prote account	To pro	To improve	To use reduce	To move safety, ec the comn area.	To may live in s homes	To strengther economy and employment of society	To improve accessible c facilities	l o imp area to
	ХХ	Major negative effect		To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	ct anc of the	To protect and enhance water	rove air	natural waste	To move towards g safety, equality and the community and area.	To maximise opportunities live in suitable, decent and homes	To strengthen and economy and the employment oppc of society	irove the sible com	ea to homes, j
	Х	Minor negative effect		reenhou lence to lh effect inst its p	l enhan s of lanc	l enhan		l enhan	air quality	resources		pportunities , decent and	4 - 4	the quality community	, jobs and
	?	Uncertain effect		ouse gas to the effe ctive adap	enhance the local of landscapes and	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	ce wate			ive	nities for t and af	d maintain a res diversity and q rtunities for all	and	nd services
	0	Neutral Effect	-	emissio ects of o ptation effects	and	and cul	versity, al netw	r quality		prudently and		for people d affordable	resilient local d quality of all sections	l range of vices and	ices
	-	No relationship		ons climate to and		ltural	taking ork	Y		h	wellbeing, s within ting the	9 G	silient local quality of sections		ss the
Alnwick and	Denwid	ck Neighbourhood Pla	n Policy		•							•			
Policy TCR1	I: Primar	y Shopping Frontages		-	✓	✓	-	0	0	-	~	-	<b>√</b> √	✓	-
-		ssment of Policy TCR1 and as such, the policy	-	-	-			same as	the pre	vious ass	essment.	The mo	dification to	the poli	icy is

### **Community Facilities**

							Sus	stainabi	lity Objec	ctives				
	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Major positive effect	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	~	Minor positive effect	To min and bu change mitigati	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	To prot heritag	To protect and account of the v	To prot	To imp	To use reduce	To move safety, ec the comn area.	To maximise opportunities for live in suitable, decent and a homes	To strengthen and economy and the or employment oppoint of society	To improve accessible facilities	To imp area to
	XX	Major negative effect	To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	iveness apes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	ect anc It of the	To protect and enhance water quality	improve air	natural waste	To move towards safety, equality ar the community an area.	kimise c suitable	ngthen ny and ment o ety	rove the ible cor s	To improve sustainable a area to homes, jobs and
	X	Minor negative effect	reenhou lence to h effect	l enhan 3 of lanc	l enhan	l enhan wider e	l enhan	<sup>,</sup> quality	resources	ds gr and and	pportur , decen	en and maintair nd the diversity t opportunities t	e the quality community	stainab , jobs a
	?	Uncertain effect	ouse gas to the effective adap possible	enhance the local of landscapes and	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	ce wate			ive	nities fo t and af	iintain a ersity ar iities fou	/ and ra / servio	le acce nd serv
	0	Neutral Effect	emissi ects of ptation effects	ocal and	and cu	iversity al netw	er qualit		prudently a	health, wel siveness wi ose visiting	for people affordable	t resilie nd quali - all sec	, and range of services and	e access across Id services
	-	No relationship	ons climate to and		ltural	, taking ork	Y		but	wellbeing, s within ting the	e to	d maintain a resilient local diversity and quality of ortunities for all sections		ss the
Alnwick and	d Denwie	ck Neighbourhood Plan Policy		-								I		
Policy CF5:	Future D	Development of the Middle Schools	?	✓	✓	?	0	0	?	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b> √	✓
Policy CF8:	Public T	oilet Facilities	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
	despite s	CF5 and CF8 have been modified in one rewording and rephrasing of ce tainability.												

#### Transport

Transport				Sustainability Objectives											
	<b>√√</b>	Major positive effect		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	~	Minor positive effect		To min and bu change mitigati	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	To prot heritag	To prote account	To prot	To improve	To use reduce	To mov safety, the cor area.	To may live in s homes	To stre econor employ of socie	To improve accessible c facilities	To imp area to
	XX	Major negative effect		To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of clim change through effective adaptation to a mitigation against its possible effects	ect and iveness apes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	of the	To protect and enhance water quality	rove air	e natural i e waste	To move towards greater health, wellbeing safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities live in suitable, decent and homes	To strengthen and maintain a resilient local economy and the diversity and quality of employment opportunities for all sections of society	rove the ible cor s	To improve sustainable access across area to homes, jobs and services
	Х	Minor negative effect		reenhou ence to h effect	enhan of lanc	enhan		enhan	) air quality	resources	rds great y and inc <sup>,</sup> and for	pportur , decen	and ma the dive pportun	the quality community	, jobs a
	?	Uncertain effect		use gas o the eff tive ada possible	d enhance the local s of landscapes and	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	ce wate		ces pru	ater hea Iclusiver r those	pportunities for people to decent and affordable	iintain a arsity ar lities for	/ and range of / services and	le acce: nd serv
	0	Neutral Effect		gas emission effects of clin adaptation to sible effects	and	and cu	iversity, al netw	r qualit		prudently and	alth, wellbei ness within visiting the	r people fordabl	in a resilier and quali for all sec	inge of es and	ss acro ices
	-	No relationship		gas emissions effects of climate adaptation to and sible effects		ltural	taking ork	Ŷ		and	llbeing, thin the	e e to	silient local uality of sections		ss the
Alnwick and	Denwid	k Neighbourhood Pla	n Policy		L			I	1		I	1	I		
Policy TRA1	: Walkin	g		$\checkmark\checkmark$	✓	~	0	-	<b>√ √</b>	√	<b>√</b> √	-	-	✓	$\checkmark\checkmark$
Policy TRA2	2: Cyclin	9		<b>√ √</b>	✓	~	0	-	<b>√</b> √	√	<b>√</b> √	-	-	~	<b>√</b> √
Policy TRA3	B: Alnwic	k Bus Station		√	✓	~	-	-	~	0	✓	-	~	1	$\checkmark\checkmark$
Policy TRA4	I: Transp	oort Links		✓	0	~	0	-	~	-	✓	-	~	<ul> <li>✓</li> </ul>	<b>√</b> √
this is that Po	olicy TRA	nature of the modificat A4 is now considered to hks to the wider network	have a neutra	l effect in	relation t	o sustai	nability	objective	e 4 (prev	iously un	certain) as			•	

#### Environment

				Sustainability Objectives           1         2         3         4         5         6         7         8         9         10         11         12											
	<b>√ √</b>	Major positive effect		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	•	Minor positive effect		To min and bu change mitigati	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	To prot heritag	To protect and account of the	To prot	To imp	To use natura reduce waste	To move towards g safety, equality and the community and area.	To may live in s homes	To strengt economy employme of society	To improve accessible c facilities	To imp area to
	XX	Major negative effect		imise gi ild resili throug	ect and iveness apes	e e	t of the	ect and	To improve air quality	natural waste	To move towards g safety, equality and the community and area.	(imise o suitable	To strengthen and maintai economy and the diversity employment opportunities of society	rove the ible com s	rove su homes
	Х	Minor negative effect		reenhou ence tc h effect	enhan of lanc	enhan	l enhan wider e	enhan	quality	resour		pportur , decen	and ma the dive pportur	qualiț	, jobs a
	?	Uncertain effect		To minimise greenhouse gas and build resilience to the effe change through effective adap mitigation against its possible	enhance the local of landscapes and	ce built	ce biod scologic	ce wate		ces pru	To move towards greater health, safety, equality and inclusiveness the community and for those visit area.	nities fo t and af	d maintain a diversity ar ortunities for	y and range of y services and	le acce Ind serv
	0	Neutral Effect		To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of climate change through effective adaptation to and mitigation against its possible effects	and	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and enhance biodiversity, taking account of the wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality		resources prudently and	eater health, wellbei inclusiveness within for those visiting the	To maximise opportunities for people to live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	d maintain a resilient local diversity and quality of ortunities for all sections	inge of es and	To improve sustainable access across the area to homes, jobs and services
	-	No relationship		ons climate to and		tural	taking ork	×		and	wellbeing, s within ting the	e to	nt local ly of tions		ss the
Alnwick and	Denwid	ck Neighbourhood Plar	n Policy											1	
Policy ENV1				0	✓	✓	<b>√</b> √	0	0	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-
Policy ENV2				0	✓	-	<b>√</b> √	0	0	√	✓	-	-	~	-
Policy ENV4				0	~	~	<b>√</b> √	0	0	~	✓	-	-	-	-
Policy ENV8				✓	✓	0	$\checkmark\checkmark$	0	~	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	$\checkmark\checkmark$
Policy ENV1	1			✓	0	-	-	0	~	$\checkmark\checkmark$	0	0	0	-	-
these modifie	ed policie	he policies set out within es remains the same as modified, the effects of t	the previous a	ssessmei	nt due to	the nat	ure of the	e modific	cations r	nade. Wł	-				

### Heritage, Design and Culture

				Sustainability Objectives											
	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Major positive effect		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	~	Minor positive effect		To minimise greenhouse and build resilience to the change through effective mitigation against its poss	To protect and distinctiveness townscapes	To protect and enhance built and cultural heritage	To protect and account of the v	To prot	To improve	To use reduce	To move towards greater health, wellbeing safety, equality and inclusiveness within the community and for those visiting the area.	To maximise opportunities for people live in suitable, decent and affordable homes	To strengthen economy and employment c of society	To improve accessible c facilities	To improve sustainable access a area to homes, jobs and services
	XX	Major negative effect		To minimise greenhc and build resilience t change through effec mitigation against its	ect and iveness apes	ect and e	ect and t of the	ect and	rove air	natural waste	To move towards g safety, equality and the community and area.	To maximise opportunities live in suitable, decent and homes	int an he	rove the ible con s	rove su homes
	Х	Minor negative effect		ence to the ence to the h effective nst its poss	enhan of land	enhan	enhan wider e	enhan	air quality	resources	rds grea / and in <sup>/</sup> and fo	pportur decen		the quality community	, jobs a
	?	Uncertain effect		To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the effects of clirr change through effective adaptation to a mitigation against its possible effects	d enhance the local s of landscapes and	ce built	enhance biodiversity, taking wider ecological network	To protect and enhance water quality		ces pru	reater health, wellbei inclusiveness within for those visiting the	nities for t and af	d maintain a resilient loca diversity and quality of ortunities for all sections	anc	le acces nd serv
	0	Neutral Effect		<ul> <li>gas emissions</li> <li>e effects of climate</li> <li>adaptation to and</li> <li>sible effects</li> </ul>	and	and cul	versity, al netw	r qualiț		prudently and	llth, wel ness wi visiting	for people affordable	ain a resilient loc y and quality of s for all sections	l range of vices and	ss across ices
	-	No relationship		ons climate to and		ltural	taking ork	Y		and	llbeing, thin the	e to	silient local quality of sections		ss the
Alnwick and	Denwi	ck Neighbourhood Plai	n Policy												
Policy HD4				0	<b>~</b>	✓	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
Policy HD5				0	~~	<b>√</b> √	0	-	-	✓	<b>~</b>	✓	?	-	-
Policy HD6				0	<b>√</b> √	<b>√</b> √	0	-	-	0	✓	0	0	-	-
Policy HD7				0	~~	$\checkmark\checkmark$	0	-	-	√	<b>√</b> √	✓	?	-	-
the nature of	the poli	he policies set out within cies in this chapter, there	e is no relation	ship with	a numbe	er of sust	tainabilit	y objecti	ives. Th	e assessr	ment of th	ese mod	ified policie	es remai	ns
		rious assessment due to ojectives four and seven						xception	of Polic	y HD6 wl	nich was a	assessed	as having	a neutra	al

# **Chapter 7: Next Steps**

7.01 The publication of the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Report allows statutory consultees, key stakeholders and those who made representations on the submission draft Plan the opportunity to comment on the contents of this Addendum to the Environmental Report.

7.03 Any comments relating to the content of this Addendum should be sent to Bill Batey, Chief Officer and Town Clerk to Alnwick Town Council:

Bill.Batey@btconnect.com or in writing to:

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, Alnwick Town Council Office, Cemetery Lodge, South Road, Alnwick, NE66 2PH