

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

NORTHUMBERLAND LOCAL PLAN: CORE STRATEGY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL

This document sets out a number of responses to frequently asked questions that have arisen as a result of the withdrawal of the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and associated proposed modifications documents. It provides details on a number of issues including the plan process, what will happen next and how you can be involved in the preparation of the Local Plan. If you still have questions about the withdrawal of the Core Strategy or the Local Plan process moving forward, please contact a member of the Planning Policy Team for further information:

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1. Why was the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and associated proposed modifications documents withdrawn?

On 5th July 2017, Northumberland County Council resolved to withdraw the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and associated proposed modifications documents from submission. Below is a link to the reports submitted to the Full Council meeting in respect of this matter under Items 4 and 4.1:

<http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=7720>

Whilst the minutes of the meeting are not yet available, the agreed reasoning for withdrawal of the Core Strategy was as follows:

The submitted Core Strategy was informed by and developed predominantly on the basis of the 2012 Sub-National Population Projections (SNPP). The SNPP 2014-based population projections are now available and it is clear from the tables presented in the Addendum Report that the levels of residential growth required to support and sustain economic growth in Northumberland are significantly different based on the SNPP 2014 data when compared to the 2012 data.

Whilst the SNPP 2014 data suggests an annual jobs loss, and therefore a positive "Policy On" approach would still be required in order to reverse the trend of jobs loss which is predominantly due to a loss of people of working age population from within Northumberland, it is evident from the tables provided in the Addendum Report that it is possible to address the jobs loss issue with less houses being required than are currently proposed in the submitted Core Strategy.

At a national level, it is clear from changes to statute and the contents of the Housing White Paper that the national policy context is also currently evolving and, in the near future, Government policy will have changed in certain respects. Government consultation is expected to commence on a standardised methodology to calculating housing need later this month and this will also have a material bearing on future housing requirements.

Finally, discussions are currently ongoing between the three North of Tyne authorities and Government regarding the possibility of a devolution deal that will see the creation of a mayoral combined authority in the North of Tyne area. This deal would aim to support economic growth in the North of Tyne area, and wider North East, thereby supporting the North East LEP's Strategic Economic Plan that was refreshed earlier this year. A review of the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy would allow the Council to ensure that the plan directly supports the economic ambitions in the North of Tyne area.

2. What will happen to the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and associated proposed modifications documents now?

The Council will no longer be proceeding with the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and associated proposed modifications documents as they have been withdrawn. The Council does, however, have a statutory duty to prepare a planning framework for Northumberland and will be preparing an amended Northumberland Local Plan in due course.

3. I was involved in the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy process:

- **What will happen to the representations I made at the various stages of the process?**
The representations you submitted at the various stages of the Core Strategy process will not be carried through into the preparation of an amended Local Plan. As the Local Plan process continues you will be invited to make representations on issues and policies at the relevant time.
- **Will the Council keep me informed on the Local Plan process?**
Yes, the Council will use its existing Local Plan consultation database of interested parties to send information out at every stage of the Plan. It is important that you let us know if any of your details have changed or you no longer wish to be kept informed of progress on the Local Plan.

4. I have not been involved in the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy process to date but would like to be involved in the Local Plan process moving forward. How do I register my interest?

If you would like to be involved in the Local Plan process going forward and are not already registered on the existing Local Plan consultation database, you should send your contact details, including a postal address, an e-mail address and contact telephone number to the Planning Policy Team using the contact details above.

5. In the absence of the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy, what is the statutory development plan for Northumberland?

The statutory development plan for Northumberland currently comprises the following:

- Alnwick Core Strategy (October 2007)
- Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (April 1997) - saved policies
- Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Local Plan (April 1999) - saved policies
- Blyth Valley Core Strategy (July 2007)
- Blyth Valley Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (September 2007)
- Blyth Valley District Local Plan (May 1999) - saved policies
- Castle Morpeth District Local Plan (February 2003) - saved policies
- Tynedale Core Strategy (October 2007)
- Tynedale District Local Plan (April 2000) - saved policies
- Wansbeck District Local Plan (July 2007) - saved policies
- Northumberland Minerals Local Plan (March 2000) - saved policies
- Northumberland Waste Local Plan (2001) - saved policies
- Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan (February 2005) - saved policy S5
- Allendale Neighbourhood Development Plan (July 2015)
- Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (May 2016)

The above documents can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Policies.aspx>

A number of neighbourhood plans are at various stages of preparation and when “made” they will form part of the statutory development plan. Information on the progress of the various neighbourhood plans in Northumberland can be found via the following link:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Neighbourhood.aspx>

Planning applications will continue to be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Such material considerations include the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other national guidance.

The withdrawn Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy no longer carries any weight in the determination of planning applications.

6. How does the withdrawal of the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy affect Neighbourhood Planning?

The withdrawal of the Core Strategy should not put a stop to progress on neighbourhood plans. Recent case law makes it clear that a neighbourhood plan can be brought into force ahead of a local plan. Neighbourhood plans need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force and have regard to national policy and guidance. The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides further guidance as to how a neighbourhood plan is to be brought forwards in the context of an emerging local plan. This information can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

In addition, information on the progress of the various neighbourhood plans in Northumberland can be found via the following link:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Neighbourhood.aspx>