Welcome.

We are currently consulting on a draft of a planning policy document known as the ‘Northumberland Local Plan’.

The purpose of this drop-in session is to provide an introduction to the contents of the consultation document and provide advice on how you can respond to the consultation.

Staff involved in writing the Local Plan are in attendance if you have any queries.
What will the Local Plan do?

We have a duty to plan for new homes, workplaces, services and facilities, whilst protecting the natural, built and historic environment.

The new Local Plan will guide future development and planning decisions in Northumberland up to 2036.

1. **Provide strategic policies** taking account of key factors like population trends, economic growth, climate change, resources and environmental character.

2. **Set out the scale and distribution of new development** (including the number of new homes) that is required to 2036.

3. **Provide planning policies and principles** to guide decisions on planning applications.

4. **Show environmental designations** and site specific proposals for the conservation and enhancement of historic and natural assets.

5. **Allocate areas of land** for new housing and employment development.
The vision sets out what the Local Plan seeks to achieve and informs all the policies and proposals in the Plan:

Northumberland’s physical and cultural identity will be conserved and nurtured; its resources will be utilised in a sustainable way. The breadth, scale and quality of its special, varied landscapes and biodiversity will be conserved, enhanced and increased. The quality of its buildings and spaces will be conserved and improved. New development will be well designed, minimise environmental harm and reduce the effects of climate change.

The economy will be thriving and competitive, and deliver more and better jobs. Supported by investment and infrastructure, building on existing strengths whilst diversifying and realising the potential of the rural and visitor economy.

The health and wellbeing of the county’s people and communities will be safeguarded by continually improving education and skills, and ensuring access to decent, affordable homes, services and facilities is secured.

The strategic objectives below have been developed to deliver the vision.

- **Economy & Jobs**: To grow and diversify the Northumberland economy by making it an attractive and competitive place to start, grow and invest in a broad range of businesses, attracting more and better jobs, and attracting and retaining working age people. To drive improvements in education, training and skills to enhance the employability of Northumberland residents.

- **Homes**: To extend housing choice across Northumberland by delivering homes for existing and future communities, and to support the Northumberland economy. To provide well designed, and affordable homes, and housing to meet the diverse needs of Northumberland’s population.

- **Environment**: To conserve and enhance Northumberland’s distinctive and valued natural, historic, water and built environments, ensuring that these assets continue to be experienced and valued by residents and visitors to the County and protected from inappropriate development.

- **Connections**: To improve connectivity and movement, utilising existing infrastructure, and securing the delivery of new and necessary infrastructure upgrades in order to meet the changing needs of people and places.

- **Climate Change**: To ensure the delivery of sustainable development which mitigates climate change, whilst acknowledging and anticipating the likely impact of a changing climate on Northumberland and adapting to its effects.

- **Community Health & Wellbeing**: To support sustainable communities across Northumberland, working to improve the quality of services and facilities to support physical and mental health, social and cultural wellbeing for all including responding to the needs and opportunities created by Northumberland’s population.

- **Resources**: To manage the prudent use of Northumberland’s natural resources, including minerals, energy, land, existing built fabric and water, while producing less waste and minimising adverse impacts on communities and the environment.

- **Quality of Place**: To ensure the high quality design of buildings and spaces, in order to create attractive, inclusive places which instil a sense of civic pride and enrich, rather than harm the diverse character of Northumberland.
How will the objectives be met?

To deliver the vision and the objectives, the policies and proposals in the Local Plan seek to:

- Support for 15,000 new jobs
- Provide a portfolio of high quality employment sites, including:
  - Allocating land currently in the Green Belt for employment uses at Hexham, Ponteland and Prudhoe.
  - Support for Enterprise Zone sites at Ashington, Berwick and Morpeth
- Support growth of the rural economy by supporting hubs for businesses in market towns, rural service centres and larger villages as well as home run enterprises and farm diversification
- Support the growth and diversification of the visitor economy
- Support improvements to town centres and support their roles as service centres

- 17,700 new homes over period between 2016 and 2036 (885 dwellings per year)
- Homes built since 2016, new homes with planning permission or minded to approve exceed the above number
- Allocations proposed to encourage delivery in particular locations
- No Green Belt deletion for housing proposed
- Restriction on new build second and holiday homes
- 20% affordable housing requirement
- Accessibility and adaptability standards introduced

- Give priority to walking, cycling and public transport
- Support for reintroduction of passenger services on the Northumberland Line (Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line) and improvements to the facilities along the Tyne Valley Line and East Coast Main Line
- Support improvements to the road network, including improvements at key junctions and dualling of the A1 and A69
- Support for the development of ports at Amble, Berwick and Blyth and expansion of Newcastle Airport
- Support the rollout of superfast broadband and improvements to mobile communications

- Focusing development in locations that reduces the need to travel
- Supporting for development of decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy
- Encouraging sustainable construction practices and building design
- Reducing flood risk through effective risk assessment of new developments

- Ensure the design of new development is of a high quality
- Maintain and enhance the individual character of places
- Provide attractive living and working environments
- Improve the accessibility to services for communities
Purpose of the Green Belt

The main function of the Green Belt in Northumberland is to prevent the unrestricted sprawl of the Tyne and Wear conurbation by keeping land permanently open.

The protection of the Green Belt is a key element of the development strategy.

Changes to the Green Belt

GREEN BELT EXTENSION AROUND MORPETH

Detailed boundaries for the Green Belt extension around Morpeth, have been defined, including insets for the following:

- Belsay
- Hartburn
- Hebron
- Hepscott
- Longhirst
- Longhorsley
- Mitford
- Morpeth
- Ogle
- Netherwitton
- Pegswood
- Stannington
- Stannington Station
- Ulgham
- Whalton

SETTLEMENTS INSET FROM THE EXISTING DEFINED GREEN BELT

The following settlements, previously washed over, have been inset from the Green Belt:

- Broomhaugh
- Fourstones
- Mickley Square
- Newbrough
- Wall
- Whittonstall

LAND RELEASED FOR EMPLOYMENT PURPOSES

It is proposed to release current Green Belt land for employment uses at:

- Hexham (land east of the Egger factory)
- Ponteland (Land at Prestwick Park and Prestwick Pit)
- Prudhoe (Land at Eltringham)
Commencement of work to develop and update the evidence base

’Call for Sites’ consultation

Consultation to capture high-level views on strategic locations for development

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan
(4 July 2018 to 15 August 2018)

Consultation on the Publication Draft Local Plan

Submission of the Local Plan to the Government for examination by an independent inspector

Examination hearings involving round table discussions led by the Inspector

Adoption
What are the next steps?

Comments received in response to this consultation will be used along with any updated evidence base, to inform the **Publication Draft of the Local Plan**.

The **Publication Draft of the Local Plan** will be subject to public consultation in January 2019.

The Local Plan will then be submitted for independent examination in May 2019.

How can I comment on this consultation?

Comments need to be made in writing to us and received no later than **5pm on 15 August 2018** via the following methods:

- **Online via the Consultation Portal** at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan
- Returning a comment form by either Email or Post

Why should I take part in this consultation?

The Plan affects everyone who lives and works in the County

We want to gather your views to ensure the policies will be effective and reflect local needs and aspirations

You have the most influence in shaping the plan at this early stage of consultation

The Plan sets out the strategy for future building and environmental matters within the County