Welcome

The Council has published the latest 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 Northumberland Local Plan (Publication Draft Plan) document and provide advice on how you can make representations in relation to the plan.

Staff involved in writing the Local Plan are in attendance if you have any queries.
What is a Local Plan and what will it 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** 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, employment development and minerals extraction.
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 improved. 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.
To deliver the vision and the objectives, the policies and proposals in the Local Plan seek to:

- Support the provision of 15,000 new jobs
- Provide high quality employment sites, including new allocations in Hexham, Ponteland, Prudhoe, Ashington and Lynemouth
- Support the rural economy – business hubs, home run enterprises, farm diversification, and the visitor economy
- Support improvements to town centres and support their roles as service centres.

- Support the delivery of 17,700 new homes (885 dwellings per year)
- Allocate sites for housing in some locations to encourage delivery
- Support the delivery of affordable homes to meet identified need
- Support the delivery of homes for older and vulnerable people, including extra care schemes
- Restrict new build second and holiday homes in parts of the county.

- Conserve and enhance Northumberland’s natural, built and historic environment
- Direct development to less sensitive locations.

- Protect and enhance accessible local service provision
- Ensure growth is matched by delivery of infrastructure
- Support new and improved community infrastructure
- Protect open space from development and support a Green Infrastructure network.

- Support the rollout of superfast broadband and improvements to mobile communications.

- Allocate new sites for sand and gravel and rock extraction.
- Minimise the adverse impacts of extraction on local communities and the environment
- Support the provision of facilities that maximise recycling and recovery
- Identify areas potentially suitable for wind energy development, but restricts development by applying criteria, and requiring community support.

- Focus development in locations that reduces the need to travel
- Support the generation of decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy
- Encourage sustainable construction practices and building design
- Reduce 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.
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 from the following:

- Belsay
- Hartburn
- Hebron
- Heppcott
- 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
- Whittington

**Land releases for employment purposes**

It is purposed 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 Eltham)
In order to meet demand for crushed rock and sand and gravel for use as construction aggregates, the Local Plan allocates three sites for the extraction of sand and gravel and four sites for the extraction of crushed rock. Some of these sites are new sites, while others are extensions of existing sites.

**Northside**
- **Mineral type:** Crushed rock
- **Site area:** 28 hectares
- **New site or extension:** New site
- **Estimated reserves:** 4 million tonnes

**Divethill Quarry north and east extensions**
- **Mineral type:** Crushed rock
- **Site area:** 28.5 hectares
- **New site or extension:** Extensions
- **Estimated reserves:** 6.6 million tonnes

**West Wharmley**
- **Mineral type:** Sand and gravel
- **Site area:** 46 hectares
- **New site or extension:** New site
- **Estimated reserves:** 2 million tonnes

**Anick Grange Haugh**
- **Mineral type:** Sand and gravel
- **Site area:** 90 hectares
- **New site or extension:** New site
- **Estimated reserves:** 9 million tonnes

**Belford Quarry extension**
- **Mineral type:** Crushed rock
- **Site area:** 30 hectares
- **New site or extension:** Extension
- **Estimated reserves:** 5 million tonnes

**Wooperton Quarry extension**
- **Mineral type:** Sand and gravel
- **Site area:** 30 hectares
- **New site or extension:** Extension
- **Estimated reserves:** 1 million tonnes

**Longhoughton Quarry extension**
- **Mineral type:** Crushed rock
- **Site area:** 20.5 hectares
- **New site or extension:** Extension
- **Estimated reserves:** 1.75 million tonnes
**Timetable and Key Milestones**

**JUL 2017**
- Commencement of work to develop and update the evidence base

**FEB 2018**
- ‘Call for Sites’ consultation

**APR 2018**
- Consultation to capture high-level views on strategic locations for development

**JUL 2018**
- Consultation on the Draft Local Plan (Regulation 18)
- (4 July 2018 to 15 August 2018)

**JAN 2019**
- Publication Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19)
- (30 January 2019 to 13 March 2019)

**MAY 2019**
- Submission of the Local Plan to the Government for examination by an independent inspector

**SEP 2019**
- Examination hearings involving round table discussions led by the Inspector

**MAR 2020**
- Adoption
As a formal stage, representations submitted on the Local Plan must relate to matters of legal compliance and the soundness of the Local Plan. To be sound the Local Plan should be:

**Positively Prepared**

The Local Plan should be prepared based on a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.

**Justified**

The Local Plan should be an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.

**Effective**

The Local Plan must be deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.

**Consistent with National Policy**

The Local Plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Representations need to be made in writing to us and received no later than **5pm on Wednesday 13th March 2019** via the following methods:

- Online via the Consultation Portal at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan)
- Returning a comment form by either:
  - Email: planningstrategy@northumberland.gov.uk, or
  - Post: Planning Policy, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
The plan supports the delivery of affordable housing. To meet the identified need for affordable housing across Northumberland, while taking into account the viability of delivering affordable housing, the Local Plan proposes different affordable housing requirements based on value areas.
The plan proposes to restrict the development of wind turbines, by identifying areas potentially suitable for wind energy development for turbines up to 40m, and requiring community support for development proposals. Applications for all turbine developments, including the repowering of existing turbines will be assessed against a set of criterion.

Areas potentially suitable for wind energy development are identified below.