



Northumberland County Council

Northumberland Local Plan

Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) (January 2019)

www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
What is a Local Plan?	A Local Plan sets out where new homes, workplaces and other developments should be built to meet the area's future needs, while conserving an area's most valuable environmental assets. Comprising a document and a map, a Local Plan sets planning policy and provides guidance on how planning applications are determined.
What will the Northumberland Local Plan do?	<p>The Northumberland Local Plan, which covers the whole of Northumberland County, apart from the Northumberland National Park, will when adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a strategy for the use of land and buildings over the 20-year plan period 2016-2036, covering communities, the economy and the environment;• Set out where future homes, jobs and services should be located;• Set out how historic and natural assets should be conserved and enhanced; and• Guide decisions on planning applications. <p>Once formally adopted, the new Northumberland Local Plan will replace all current planning policies in documents prepared by the previous district and borough councils and the old county council. It will sit alongside any 'made' Neighbourhood Plans that have been prepared by town and parish councils, which also form part of the overall development plan in those particular areas.</p>
Why should I be interested in the Local Plan?	<p>The Local Plan may affect people who live and work in Northumberland and visit the County in all sorts of ways. The Plan aims to bring new jobs into the County to build on the success of some of our key sectors like tourism, energy and local services. We need to make sure that good quality homes are built that are suitable for all residents, ensure that all of the necessary services and infrastructure are in place.</p> <p>We also need to protect local communities and the local environment. You may wish to check if there are any particular land allocations or development proposals near to where you live. The Local Plan (together with existing and emerging Neighbourhood Plans) defines settlement boundaries around some of our towns and villages, but also allocates particular sites for new housing or economic development.</p>
What are we inviting comments on now?	We are inviting formal representations on the Regulation 19 Publication Draft of the new Local Plan for Northumberland. This version of the Local Plan reflects

	amendments and updates made following the consultation on the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan which took place during summer 2018.
What does 'Regulation 19' mean?	<p>Regulation 19 is part of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It says that, before submitting a draft Local Plan to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for independent examination, the Council must first publish a draft of the Local Plan and formally invite comments (known as representations) on it. It makes clear that the Council must inform and invite representations/comments, not just from consultation bodies like the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, but also from residents and businesses in the area covered by the Local Plan.</p> <p>At the Regulation 19 stage, representations are invited, but these <u>must</u> be limited to the legal compliance and the soundness of the plan.</p>
What are the Tests of Soundness?	<p>At this publication stage, representations <u>must</u> relate <u>only</u> to the legal and procedural requirements for preparing Local Plans and the 'soundness' of the Publication Draft version of the Local Plan, as set out in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The statutory 'tests of soundness' require that the Local Plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positively prepared – in seeking to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; is informed by agreements with other authorities, and is consistent with achieving sustainable development; ● Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence; ● Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters; and ● Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the NPPF.
Why get involved now?	This is the last opportunity for the public to make representations on the draft Local Plan for the County before it is formally submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for independent examination (a form of public inquiry). Only representations made at this 'publication' stage will be considered by the appointed Planning Inspector at the examination stage.
When does the representation period for the Publication Draft of the Local Plan begin and end?	The representation period begins on Wednesday 30 th January 2019, and comments should be received by us no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday 13th March 2019.
How do I see what's in the Publication Draft of the Local Plan?	The Publication Draft Local Plan document and policies map, plus all supporting documents, can be viewed on the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan . The Publication Draft Plan documents can also be viewed at libraries within Northumberland, Customer Information Centres and County Hall, Morpeth during normal opening hours.
Are there any public events about the Publication Draft of the Local Plan?	Yes. We are holding public drop-in sessions in each of the 23 Main Towns and Service Centres across the County. Staff from the Planning Policy Team will be available to discuss the Local Plan and and to provide advice on how to make representations. Copies of the Publication Draft Plan document and

policies map will also be available to view. The dates and locations of the drop-in sessions are:

Location	Venue	Date/Time
Hexham	Trinity Methodist Church, Beaumont Street, NE46 3LS	Wed. 6 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Allendale	Library, Dawson Place, NE47 9PP	Thurs. 7 February 2019 2pm - 6pm
Alnwick	St James Church Centre, Pottergate, NE66 1JW	Sat. 9 February 2019 10am - 3pm
Amble	Development Trust Offices, Dilston Terrace, NE65 0DT	Mon. 11 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Belford	Bell View, West Street, NE70 7QB	Tues. 12 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Ashington	Hirst Welfare Centre, Alexandra Road, NE63 9EL	Wed. 13 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Berwick-upon-Tweed	William Elder Building, Castlegate, TD15 1JT	Thurs. 14 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Prudhoe	Bowls Pavilion, Waterworld, Front Street, NE42 5DQ	Sat. 16 February 2019 10am - 3pm
Seaton Delaval	Parish Council Offices, Astley Road, NE25 0DG	Mon. 18 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Blyth	Briardale Centre, Briardale Road, NE24 5AN	Tues. 19 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Haydon Bridge	Community Centre, Ratcliffe Road, NE47 6ET	Wed. 20 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Bellingham	Town Hall, Manchester Square, NE48 2AS	Wed. 20 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Choppington	Social Welfare Centre, Colliery Road, NE62 5SS	Thurs. 21 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Cramlington	Concordia Leisure Centre, Forum Way, NE23 6YB	Sat. 23 February 2019 10am - 3pm
Morpeth	Morpeth Town Hall, Market Place, NE61 1LZ	Mon. 25 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Ponteland	Memorial Hall, Darras Road, NE20 9NX	Tues. 26 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Bedlington	Community Centre, Front Street West, NE22 5UB	Wed. 27 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Rothbury	Jubilee Hall, Bridge Street, NE65 7SD	Thurs. 28 February 2019 2pm - 7pm
Haltwhistle	Library, Westgate, NE49 0AX	Sat. 2 March 2019 10am - 3pm

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<p>How are people being informed about the representation period?</p>	<p>Considerable publicity to raise the awareness of the Local Plan has been carried out and will continue to be undertaken during the representation period.</p> <p>A leaflet, explaining the Local Plan and listing the drop-in sessions, has been posted to every address in Northumberland. Posters, explaining the Local Plan and listing the drop-in sessions, have been displayed in leisure centres, libraries and Customer Information Centres throughout Northumberland, as well as at Country Hall, Morpeth.</p> <p>There has been a number of press releases picked up by local papers and there will continue to be press releases throughout the representation period. The Council will use social media to publicise the Local Plan as well as the drop-in sessions.</p> <p>The Notice of Statutory Consultation on the Publication Draft Plan is available on the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan and is also available in libraries and Customer Information Centres throughout Northumberland, as well as at Country Hall, Morpeth. A public statutory notice has gone into the Newcastle Journal. Publicity has also been sent to Parish and Town Councils.</p> <p>Many people and organisations interested in being involved in and kept informed about the Local Plan have chosen to remain on our database following the recent changes under Data Protection legislation, while others have registered on the system since. All of these are being kept directly informed by email or letter.</p>												
<p>Can I buy a copy of the draft Local Plan?</p>	<p>The Publication Draft Plan documents and related materials can be downloaded free of charge from our website's Local Plan pages at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan. A CD containing the key documents is also available free of charge.</p> <p>Paper copies of the main document are available at a charge of £23.50 (including first class postage) or £21.00 (including second class postage).</p> <p>Paper copies of the Policies Map are available at a charge of £29.50 (including first class postage) or £26.50 (including second class postage).</p> <p>There is an online system for ordering and paying for the document - see http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/SelfService/Pay.aspx.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can write to us requesting a copy, sending a cheque for the requisite amount, (payable to 'Northumberland County Council'). This should</p>												

	be addressed to Planning Policy, Northumberland County Council. County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF.
I commented on the Draft Plan for Regulation 18 in summer 2018. What was the outcome of that consultation, and will my comments still count?	<p>Over 2,800 responses were received to the summer 2018 consultation from over 500 consultees. The 'Regulation 22 Local Plan Consultation Statement' sets out the comments received during the previous consultation stages, and the Council's responses to them. It is available to view and download on the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan. All comments made on the first draft Local Plan during summer 2018 have been taken into consideration. Together with the latest evidence studies, with Government policy and guidance, these have informed the preparation of this revised Publication Draft.</p> <p>However, as this 'publication' stage is more formal and restricted to issues relating to the 'tests of soundness', only representations on this Publication Draft version of the Local Plan received during this 6-week publication period can be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspector at the examination stage. If you feel that you still have outstanding concerns that relate to the 'tests of soundness' then you will need to make them now.</p>
I took part in the Spring 2018 consultation on key issues and where future development should happen. What are the results of this and how have they been used?	<p>Over 700 responses were received to the Spring 2018 consultation. The consultation provided some initial feedback on the big issues that the Local Plan for Northumberland should consider and people's broad preferences for where both housing and employment development should generally be focused. The findings were used alongside various other evidence base studies to help to inform the Draft Plan for Regulation 18.</p> <p>The 'Spring 2018 Consultation Feedback Report' is available on the Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan.</p>
What happened to the Northumberland Core Strategy that the Council was preparing?	On 5th July 2017, Northumberland County Council decided to withdraw the former Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and its associated proposed modifications documents from submission and examination. The reports and minutes of that Full Council meeting can be found at http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=7720
If I commented on the Core Strategy, will my comments still count?	No. The representations you submitted at the various stages of the previous Core Strategy process cannot legally be carried through to the new draft Local Plan. You will have to make comments on the new Local Plan, even if the point is the same or similar to one that you made on the Core Strategy. This is because, legally, this is a brand new document.
How do I make my representations on the Regulation 19 publication draft Local Plan?	<p>Comments on the publication draft Local Plan <u>must</u> be made in writing using the formal publication stage response form. At this stage, representations <u>must</u> relate <u>only</u> matters of legal compliance and to the 'tests of soundness'.</p> <p>We are encouraging people to submit comments online. To do this, you will need to access our website at www.northumberland.gov.uk/localplan and follow the links. It is very easy to comment once you have completed a short registration process (if you have not previously registered).</p>
What if I cannot comment online?	If you are unable to comment using the online system, a printable copy of the publication stage response form is available to download from our website. If you cannot access a computer, paper copies of the publication stage response form will be available at the drop-in events or can be obtained by contacting the

	<p>Planning Policy Team. The response forms can then be sent in by email to PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk, or by post to Planning Policy, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF.</p>										
<p>What will happen to my comments or representations, once I have made them?</p>	<p>We will acknowledge your response within 10 days of the end of the six-week publication period. Responses submitted online or by email will receive an automated response acknowledging receipt. Please note that we will <u>not</u> however respond directly to each individual response.</p> <p>Representations received will be reviewed, published on the Council's website, and formally submitted with the Publication Draft Plan and other supporting documents to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.</p>										
<p>What is the timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan?</p>	<p>The timetable for the preparation of the Northumberland Local Plan is set out in the published Local Development Scheme (April 2018). The next key stages are set out below:</p> <p>Local Plan Timetable:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="424 855 1465 1218"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="424 855 1158 922">Key Stages</th> <th data-bbox="1158 855 1465 922">Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 922 1158 1021">Publication of the pre-submission draft Local Plan for 6 weeks (Regulation 19 - limited to 'Tests of Soundness')</td> <td data-bbox="1158 922 1465 1021">30 January 2019 (until 13 March 2019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1021 1158 1088">Submission to the Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 22)</td> <td data-bbox="1158 1021 1465 1088">May 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1088 1158 1155">Independent Examination Hearings (Regulation 24)</td> <td data-bbox="1158 1088 1465 1155">September 2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="424 1155 1158 1218">Adoption of Local Plan (Regulation 26)</td> <td data-bbox="1158 1155 1465 1218">March 2020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Key Stages	Date	Publication of the pre-submission draft Local Plan for 6 weeks (Regulation 19 - limited to 'Tests of Soundness')	30 January 2019 (until 13 March 2019)	Submission to the Planning Inspectorate (Regulation 22)	May 2019	Independent Examination Hearings (Regulation 24)	September 2019	Adoption of Local Plan (Regulation 26)	March 2020
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