



**ALNWICK AND DENWICK
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2014-2031**

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

by Peter Biggers Plan Coordinator

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Summary

0.1 The attached statement which is a required submission document under regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012 demonstrates that the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan:-

- has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area which for the time being remains the Alnwick District Local Development Framework Core Strategy;
- does not breach, and is compatible with European Union obligations and the European Convention of Human Rights.
- is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

0.2 The ADNP also complies with the legal requirements set out in Paragraph 8(1) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

0.3 The Plan is therefore recommended to Northumberland County Council as a compliant plan and Alnwick Town Council as the Qualifying Body request that the County Council proceed with the publicity stage under regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations as quickly as possible and book an Independent Examiner to carry out the Examination into the plan.

Peter Biggers
Plan Coordinator

August 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 It is the purpose of this statement to consider whether a neighbourhood plan meets the “Basic Conditions.” The basic conditions are set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA). In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the making of the DPNDP must:-

1. Have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
2. Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan (see Development Plan Status below) for the area.
4. Not breach, and must be otherwise compatible with, European Union (EU) and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) obligations.

1.2 Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out a further basic condition for Neighbourhood Plans in addition to those set out in primary legislation and referred to in the paragraph above - that is:

5. The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

1.3 Under the legislation the following procedural matters must also have been followed:-

- The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body as defined in Section 61F of the TCPA as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA.
- The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for an area that has been designated under Section 61G of the TCPA as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the PCPA.
- The Neighbourhood Plan meets the requirements of Section 38B of the PCPA (the Plan must specify the period to which it has effect, must not include provisions relating to ‘excluded development’, and must not relate to more than one Neighbourhood Area) and
- The policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated Neighbourhood Area in line with the requirements of the PCPA Section 38A.

2. Preparation of the Plan and Legislative Requirements

The procedural tests set out in paragraph 1.3 of this statement have all been complied with as follows:

2.1 Qualifying body

2.1.1 Alnwick Town Council as the duly elected lower tier Council for the parish of Alnwick is the Qualifying Body for the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.1.2 The Town Council is acting in partnership with Denwick Parish Council because of the unusual relationship between the two Councils where Denwick Parish land immediately adjoins and overlaps with the town's built up area. Denwick Parish Council agreed to the Town Council being the Qualifying Body for the purposes of the plan on 7 March 2012. The designation requirements set out in the Localism Act (2011) and in Section 61F(5) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and in regulations 8, 9 and 10 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 have therefore been met.

2.2 Neighbourhood Area

2.2.1 The Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Area coincides with the boundaries of Alnwick Parish, Denwick Parish and Denwick Parish (Detached). Because land in Denwick Parish and Denwick Detached adjoins and overlaps with the built up area of Alnwick and provides future development land for the town the decision was taken to extend the Neighbourhood Area to cover all of Alnwick and Denwick Parish areas.

2.2.2 An application was made by the Town Council on 19 June 2012 to designate the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Area. This was approved by Northumberland County Council on 11 April 2013 following consultation and the Neighbourhood Area was designated.

2.2.3 This satisfies the requirement in line with the purposes of preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan under section 61G (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2.3 Plan period

2.3.1 A neighbourhood plan must specify the period during which it is to have effect. The ADNP clearly states on its title page that it covers the period 2014 to 2031 to coincide with the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy. It therefore satisfies this legal requirement.

2.4 Excluded development

2.4.1 The Plan does not include policies or proposals that relate to any of the categories of excluded development or to matters outside the Neighbourhood Area. In

these respects it therefore meets the requirements.

2.5 Development and use of land

2.5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan only contains policies relating to development and use of land. There is an appendix in the form of a Community Action Plan which includes a wider scope of proposals but the plan makes it clear that this is not a part of the statutory plan. For ease of use the Community Action Proposals are shown in the plan alongside the policy to which they relate but the plan format makes it clear these are not part of the statutory plan.

3. The Basic Conditions

3.1 National policy and advice

3.1.1 The main document that sets out national policy is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (the NPPF) published in 2012. In particular it explains that the application of the presumption in favour of sustainable development will mean that neighbourhood plans should support the strategic development needs set out in Local Plans, plan positively to support local development, and shape and direct development that is outside the strategic elements of the Local Plan.

3.1.2 The NPPF also makes it clear that neighbourhood plans should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. In other words neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. They cannot promote less development than that set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.

3.1.3 The NPPF indicates that plans should provide a framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.

3.1.4 National advice on planning is set out in the *Planning Practice Guidance* (PPG) which includes specific advice regarding neighbourhood plans.

3.1.5 From Table 1 below it is clear that the plan has had regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State and therefore meets Basic Condition No 1.

Table 1 – Compliance with the Core Principles of the NPPF

NPPF Core Planning Principles	Regard that Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan has to the NPPF
<p>Planning should be genuinely plan- led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up to date, and be based on joint working and co- operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.</p>	<p>The Town Council has produced the Submission plan in line with this guidance. It will provide a framework to ensure that development is genuinely plan- led, the local community has led on shaping its policies and proposals through consultation and involvement in the Steering Group. The Plan has empowered local people to shape their surroundings. The emerging vision, proposals and policies in the Plan have been developed with a thorough approach to community engagement. The Plan sets out a positive vision for the area up to 2031. The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a comprehensive but practical suite of policies and land allocations to guide development management decisions.</p>
<p>Planning should not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan offers the local community the opportunity to shape the future development of Alnwick and Denwick in a creative way, ensuring that the quality of place is enhanced. The Plan will help to ensure that new development is designed to meet sustainability principles.</p>
<p>Planning should proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities.</p>	<p>This Neighbourhood Plan refines and amplifies strategic policies and proposals set out in both the ADCS and emerging NLPCS and related documents.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the County assessments of requirements for housing, employment and so on.</p> <p>The Plan has been prepared on the basis of available evidence prepared in association with the NLPCS such as the SHMA and Employment Land Review which has taken account of market signals. The Town Council intends to proceed with a housing needs study for the plan area this year.</p> <p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan includes a comprehensive set of policies and proposals to facilitate the development that will help to meet the identified needs particularly policies H2, H4 and E2.</p>

<p>Planning should always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings.</p>	<p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan sets out a comprehensive policy suite to enhance local character and distinctiveness and ensure that a good quality of design and amenity is secured in any development or redevelopment.</p> <p>Policy SD1 outlines the criteria for assessing sites for development against a set of sustainability criteria.</p> <p>Policies HD7 and HD9 in particular set out a set of design criteria that all development must observe within the outer areas of the town (policy HD7) and the historic urban core (policy HD9)</p> <p>Policy ENV10 promotes a Green Infrastructure approach to development and proposals which contribute towards the improvement of existing, or provision of new green corridors</p> <p>Policy HD1 sets out a number of landscape design principles that all new development will be required to respect. This policy seeks to safeguard <i>inter alia</i> named local green spaces, open spaces, important views and significant trees.</p> <p>Policy HD11 sets out an approach to highways and traffic principles that supports the character of the town, scale and density of settlement with sensitively designed highway schemes and signage.</p>
<p>Planning should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it.</p>	<p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan takes full regard of this guidance given the nature of the settlement as a market town serving a wide rural area.</p> <p>HD Policies within the plan safeguard the built and landscape character of the settlement and its surroundings, and contain a comprehensive suite of guidance designed to promote a thriving community through economic development and appropriately located residential development (Policies H2 and E2). Policy SD1 in outlining sustainability criteria for new development promotes redevelopment of brownfield land.</p> <p>The area contains one conservation area and the plan proposes that a second should be investigated in Denwick. The area also has a wealth of designated and non-designated heritage assets. The Submission Neighbourhood Plan contains policies designed to enhance and protect these. (Policies HD1-5)</p> <p>The neighbourhood-level nature of this plan ensures that the roles and character of Alnwick and Denwick can be taken account of fully in plan-making and decision-</p>

	taking.
Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy).	<p>The Submission neighbourhood plan sets out within its policies a comprehensive set of policies that support the transition to a low-carbon future.(TRA and ENV Policies)</p> <p>Policy SD1, in outlining the sustainability criteria for all future development includes a number of criteria designed to help the transition to a low carbon future.</p>
Planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in the Framework.	<p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan is fully consistent with this principle.</p> <p>Allocated sites have been fully assessed in respect of their impact on the natural environment and those of least impact selected.</p> <p>Policies throughout the plan seek to safeguard open space, important trees and biodiversity, conserving and enhancing the natural environment. (ENV and HD Policies)</p>
Planning should encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (Brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value	<p>Policy SD1 requires priority in all development to be given to the effective use of previously developed land. Policy H2 in relation to housing re-emphasises the primacy of the use of brownfield land.</p>
Planning should promote mixed- use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage or food production).	<p>Policies in the Submission Neighbourhood Plan actively promote mixed- use development</p>
Planning should conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations	<p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan contains policies to safeguard and enhance designated and non-designated assets and their settings.</p> <p>HD1 outlines policies to protect views and the setting of the town in its historic landscape. HD2 promotes resolution of Heritage at Risk HD3 protects designated heritage assets HD4 encourages protection of non-designated heritage assets HD9 sets out design principles for development in the historic core of the town.</p>

<p>Planning should actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan's policy at SD1, and site allocations seek to actively manage growth to reduce the need to travel and full use of existing transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Policies within the transport section all seek to prioritise sustainable means of transport whether walking, cycling or public transport (Policies TRA1, 2 and 3)</p>
<p>Planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural services to meet local needs</p>	<p>The Submission Neighbourhood Plan sets out policies for community infrastructure to meet local needs both protecting existing facilities and supporting development of new facilities eg new high school and open space and playing field provision. (All CF Policies)</p>

3.2 Sustainable development

3.2.1 A qualifying body must demonstrate how a neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. The NPPF as a whole constitutes the Government's view of what sustainable development means in practice for planning. The NPPF explains that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

3.2.2 Whilst there is no legal requirement to do so, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was carried out in respect of the ADNP, in conjunction with a full Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SA / SEA was carried out by Northumberland County Council on behalf of the Town Council and the scoping was subject to consultation in 2014. The Statutory consultees at the scoping stage were satisfied that the SA/SEA proposed was satisfactory.

3.2.3 The SA presents a clear assessment of how the Plan's policies perform against a comprehensive suite of 12 sustainability objectives. The findings from the appraisal of the draft plan were used to adapt any policies that were found to perform poorly against the sustainability objectives as part of preparing the final submission draft plan. The SA / SEA process carried out was a robust one and overall the results support the ADNP as a sustainable plan.

3.2.4 The full findings of the SA are set out in the Environment Report which is one of the submission documents accompanying this statement.

3.3 The Development Plan

3.3.1 The adopted development plan in force for the plan area remains the Alnwick District Local Development Framework Core Strategy 2007 (ADCS). Saved policies of the Alnwick District Local Plan 1997 are still technically in place but, inasmuch as most of the strategic policies of the local plan were replaced by the ADCS, the saved policies are largely irrelevant to the basic condition requiring **general** conformity with **strategic** policies of the adopted plan. The only policy that the County Council considers to be strategic from the saved policies is Policy TT2 safeguarding the route of the A1 in respect of dualling. The recent Government announcement that the A1 is to be dualled as far north as Ellingham affects a small part of the northern end of the Neighbourhood Area in Denwick Parish.

3.3.2 In one important respect the ADNP cannot be in general conformity with the ADCS and that is in respect of its land allocations particularly in respect of housing. The ADCS was prepared at a time when the housing supply was significantly constrained by the then Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East which is no longer the case. It is a requirement of the NPPF that plans are based on sound current reasoning and evidence and the plan is therefore based on the most recent evidence available which is the evidence base of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy (NLPCS) and on the emerging housing and employment land requirements that flow from that evidence.

3.3.3 The PPG explains that NDPs can be developed before or at the same time as the LPA is producing its local plan. The ADCS replacement, the NLPCS, is well advanced and at draft plan stage. In view of this the Town Council in consultation with the County Council have collaborated, as advised in the PPG, to align the ADNP with the policies and proposals of the NLPCS and in particular the housing and employment land requirements to minimize the possibility of any conflict in the future.

Table 2 General Conformity with Alnwick District Core Strategy 2007

ADCS Policy	Regard that ADNP has to the ADCS
S1 settlement hierarchy Policy S1 states that the main focus for development should be the main rural service centres of Alnwick and Amble	The ADNP makes provision for Alnwick to be a focus of development in this part of North Northumberland reflecting both ADCS and the emerging NLPCS
S2 sequential approach to development Policy S2 puts priority on previously developed land (PDL) and land within the urban areas before land adjoining	The strategy of the ADNP set out in policies SD1 and H2 is to prioritise development of PDL particularly in the early years of the plan whilst such land is still available for development.
S3 sustainability criteria Policy S3 sets out a number of	The policies and proposals of the ADNP have been prepared to reflect the principles of S3. Because it is likely that policy S3 will be

sustainability criteria that all development should meet	replaced by the NLPCS the opportunity was taken to encapsulate a number of the criteria into ADNP's own overarching policy on sustainability SD1
S4 Phased release of housing land Policy S4 sets out the then strategy for housing provision in Alnwick District at a time of restraint on housing numbers.	Although at the time the ADCS was adopted this was a strategic policy of the plan controlling housing provision, as set out above it no longer reflects the policy context for housing in Northumberland . It was written at a time when the housing supply had to be restricted to comply with Regional Spatial Strategy policy which is no longer relevant. The ADNP therefore has been prepared using the housing evidence base from the emerging NLPCS which is the approach advocated by the PPG in circumstances where the neighbourhood plan is emerging ahead of the Local Plan. Policy H1 and H2 set out the housing provision for the neighbourhood plan which NCC has confirmed is in accordance with the emerging NLPCS.
S5 Housing density Policy S5 sets out a minimum site density of 30 houses per hectare	Policy S5 is not a strategic policy of the ADCS. A density policy is not included in the ADNP although policy SD1 does require the full and effective use of PDL.
S6 Affordable Housing Policy S6 requires 35% affordable housing provision on all sites of 10 or more units in Alnwick.	Policy H4 of the ADNP closely reflects ADCS policy S6. Following the recent court ruling in respect of the threshold for affordable housing applying to small sites Policy H4 reflects the NLPCS draft and seeks affordable provision on sites of 2 or more units. The percentage affordable requirement is based on recent countywide housing needs work but the intention is that the town Council will carry out its own Housing Needs Survey in order that there is specific local evidence to justify the target figure in the policy. Again because the expectation is that some of the detail in ADCS policy S6 will be lost once the NLPCS is adopted, the opportunity has been taken to ensure policy H4 of the ADNP is sufficiently detailed to provide the control possible under Policy S6
S7 Sites for gypsies Policy S7 sets out the basis of provision for Gypsies and travellers	Policy S7 is not a strategic policy of the ADCS. However section 4.3.10 of the ADNP does commit to acting on future findings of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment as necessary.
S8 Economic regeneration Policy S8 encourages development supporting economic regeneration	The ADNP at policies E1 and E6 responds to the positive support of policy S8
S9 Employment land allocation Policy S9 sets out the then strategy for employment land provision in Alnwick District at a time of over-supply of employment land. Alnwick is again to be the focus of employment land provision.	At the time the ADCS was adopted this was a strategic policy of the plan controlling employment land provision for the former district. However the ADNP has been prepared using the economic evidence base from the emerging NLPCS which is the approach advocated by the PPG in circumstances where the neighbourhood plan is emerging ahead of the Local Plan. Policy E1 and E2 and Table EMP1 set out the employment land provision for the neighbourhood plan which NCC has confirmed is in accordance with the emerging NLPCS.
S10 Tourism development Policy S10 seeks to focus tourism related development within or adjoining settlements.	Tourism is an important aspect for the local economy and policy E5 sets out to support tourism related development within and adjacent to the town subject to a range of criteria being met. It therefore conforms with ADCS policy S10
S11 Locating development to maximise accessibility Policy S11 requires development to conform to a set of accessibility principles to assist in the delivery of	The assessment of sites for housing and commercial /industrial development in the Plan area has taken account of and reflected the accessibility principles. Policy SD1 is also consistent with policy S11 and the accessibility principles. The TRA policies generally reflect the policy objectives of the rest of policy S11.

sustainable development.	
<p>S12 Protecting bio and geo diversity Policy S12 seeks to ensure development proposals protect and enhance bio and geo-diversity</p>	Policy SD1 in the submission draft has been extended as proposed in the SEA to refer to protecting biodiversity. The ENV policies of the plan and in particular ENV1, 6, 9 and ENV10 seek to expand opportunities to enhance biodiversity
<p>S13 Landscape character Policy S13 seeks to protect and enhance distinctive landscape character</p>	Protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape character of Alnwick is a major objective of the plan. Proposed development sites have been assessed in terms of landscape character and Heritage and Design policies in particular HD1 are consistent with policy S13 in considering development and change in the context of Alnwick's landscape setting.
<p>S14 Development in open Countryside Policy S14 restricts development in the countryside to that which is sustainable and relates to farming, countryside enterprise, recreation and countryside conservation.</p>	As a neighbourhood plan predominantly focused on the town of Alnwick this policy is not directly relevant. However the neighbourhood area does include open countryside and policy H7 sets out the limited circumstances in which housing development would be permitted in open countryside. Policies ENV1 and ENV6 along with policy HD1 help to promote countryside and landscape conservation.
<p>S15 Protecting the built and Historic environment Policy S15 seeks to ensure all development preserves or enhances heritage assets contributing to a strong sense of place</p>	The ADNP accords a major priority to the preservation and enhancement of heritage assets and includes a full suite of policies in the Heritage and Design section that will ensure heritage assets and their settings are preserved and enhanced in accordance with policy S15.
<p>S16 General design principles Policy S16 requires a high standard of design reflecting local character and distinctiveness and sets out a number of design criteria to be observed</p>	The ADNP in a number of its policies picks up the requirements of policy S16 notably in policies SD1 re sustainability and policies HD7 and 9 regarding design principles. In addition H5 requires a high standard of housing design and ENV policies require attention to be paid to provision of open space, energy efficiency, light pollution and recycling requirements reflecting all the strands of S16
<p>S17 Town centres Policy S17 encourages town centre development which enhances vitality and viability, reduces the impact of traffic and improves and enhances the environment</p>	The ADNP has a full chapter on the town centre and retailing which seeks to deliver all 3 of these objectives. In addition TRA and HD policies provide further policy controls to reduce the impact of traffic on the town centre and to enhance the heritage of the town centre respectively.
<p>S18 Provision of social and Community facilities Policy S18 seeks to ensure new and improved facilities and infrastructure is in place to serve planned development</p>	The ADNP at Chapter 7 on Community Facilities seeks to register existing facilities as assets of community value and to protect others where appropriate so that a comprehensive set of community facilities is available for a growing population. Additionally SD1 requires there to be capacity in the physical infrastructure in time to serve new developments coming forward through the plan.
<p>S19 Education facilities Policy S19 sets out the approach to redevelopment of existing school sites</p>	Policy S19 reflects the situation with respect to education that applied in 2006/7 and which has been somewhat overtaken by events – it is not therefore a strategic policy for the neighbourhood plan although elements of it are reflected in policies CF 4, 5 and 6 of the ADNP
<p>S20 Recreational and amenity Assets Policy S20 sets out how the</p>	The ADNP Environment policies ENV1-7 seek to expand the amount of natural and semi natural greenspace (ENV1); ensure major developments contribute to provision of open space (ENV2 and 3);

provision of high quality accessible open space , sport and recreation facilities will be secured and maintained.	protect open space (ENV4); designate and protect Local Green Space as encouraged in the NPPF (ENV5); increase openspace designated for nature conservation interest (ENV6) ; and maintain and increase allotment provision (ENV8). The plan therefore is in full conformity with policy S20.
S21 Renewable energy Policy S21 sets out the basis on which renewable energy will be permitted	The ADNP does not envisage any commercial scale renewable energy installations beyond the biomass power station already permitted at Lionheart but equally the plan does not restrict the possibility of other renewable energy installations and positively encourages small scale renewables through policy ENV12. It is therefore in conformity with policy S21.
S22 Energy efficiency Policy S22 requires all major development to source 20% of its energy needs from embedded renewables and to comply with BREEAM very good or Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 as a minimum	This is not a strategic policy and indeed the basis for the policy has been removed by the Government abandoning the Code for Sustainable Homes which the policy used as an indicator of energy efficiency for residential development. However the ADNP does require residential development to be energy efficient through policies H5 and ENV13. Policy ENV13 also encourages the sourcing of energy needs for housing development from renewable energy sources and therefore the spirit of policy S22 is complied with.
S23 Planning obligations Policy S23 sets out the circumstances in which planning obligations will be imposed on development.	The delivery section of the ADNP at paras 11.2.6-9 commits to the use of S106 planning obligations and sets out the basis on which they will be used until such time as the Community Infrastructure Levy for Northumberland is in place.

Table 3 General Conformity with Alnwick District Wide Local Plan 1997

ADWLP Policy	Regard that ADNP has to the ADWLP
TT2 Safeguarding the A1 Policy TT2 states that planning permission will not be granted for development likely to prejudice the line of the proposed dual carriageway improvements to the A1 trunk road	The ADNP makes no development proposals that would affect the single carriageway section of the A1 at the northern end of the plan area and therefore is in general conformity with the policy.

3.4 European Union (EU) Obligations

3.4.1 A neighbourhood plan must be compatible with European Union (EU) obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant.

Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment

3.4.2 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment has a bearing on neighbourhood plans. This Directive is often referred to as the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Directive. Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (often referred to as the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives respectively) aims to protect and improve Europe's most important habitats and species and can have a bearing on neighbourhood plans.

5.4.3 The Sustainability Appraisal of the ADNP referred to above was carried out in tandem with a full SEA. This was scoped and completed in full accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and following full consultation with the Statutory Consultees – Natural England, Historic England, and The Environment Agency. The full Environment Report accompanies this statement as a submission document. In essence however no negative impacts on the sustainability objectives as a result of the plan aims, policies or proposals were identified.

5.4.4 Although no European or International sites fall within the Neighbourhood Area a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening opinion was sought from the County Council. The result of this confirmed that no policy or proposal of the ADNP either individually or in conjunction with any other plan proposal is likely to have a significant detrimental impact on any European or international site elsewhere. The HRA Screening report is also a submission document.

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

5.4.5 The Human Rights Act encapsulates the Convention and its articles into UK Law.

5.4.6 In respect of Article 1 - the right of everyone to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions; although the ADNP includes policies that would restrict development rights, this does not have a greater impact than the general restrictions on development rights provided for in national law. The restriction of development rights inherent in the UK's statutory planning system is demonstrably in the public interest by ensuring that land is used in the most sustainable way, avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts on the environment, community and economy.

5.4.7 In respect of Article 6 -the right to a fair and public hearing in determination of an individual's rights and obligations - the process for preparing the ADNP is fully compatible with this Article, allowing for extensive consultation on its proposals at various stages, and the examination process and referendum also support the objectives of this Article .

5.4.8 In respect of Article 12 - the enjoyment of rights and freedoms without discrimination on any ground, the policies and proposals of the ADNP have been developed in full consultation with the community and wider stakeholders to produce as inclusive a document as possible. Although no specific Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out there is specific reference to the requirement to take into account the interests of those with special needs in a number of policies. Although some policies benefit particular sectors of the community, for example policy CF7 to provide facilities for older people, across the plan as a whole no sectors of the community are discriminated against. The policies together would generally have public benefits and encourage the social sustainability of the neighbourhood.

5.4.9 The Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, the ECHR.

5.4.10 The ADNP is compatible with EU obligations and with Basic Conditions 4&5.