



Northumberland
County Council

APPENDIX G

Rationale and methodology for calculating housing numbers in Lesbury from LPA

This note has been prepared to assist the examiner of the Lesbury Local Plan in relation to the following questions. Where appropriate to do so, documents are referenced with their Northumberland Local Plan Core Document & Evidence Base Library reference numbers. *Policy HOU 3 in the emerging Northumberland Local Plan sets out indicative housing requirements for designated neighbourhood plan areas (2016 – 2036). Please explain the context for disaggregating the housing requirement to neighbourhood area level. How has the 45 dwelling requirement for Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan been calculated. Is there a mechanism for ensuring a minimum of 45 dwellings are delivered within the period 2016 – 2036.*

The countywide housing figure of 17,700 dwellings over the plan period 2016-36 has been informed by an [Economic and Housing Growth Options study \(June 2018\)](#) prepared by Peter Brett Associates (NCC.08.01). Any housing numbers below the county level have been set in the context of this overall Northumberland figure, but have also been informed by the settlement hierarchy set out in Table 4.1 of the Local Plan.

While the overall countywide housing requirement has been informed by the growth options study, it is also set in the context of the Local Housing Need (LHN) for Northumberland as identified by applying the Government's standard methodology as set out in planning practice guidance. When the Local Plan was being prepared, the LHN for Northumberland was calculated at 717 dwellings per annum, or 14,340 if applied over the 20 year plan period.

When setting indicative figures for different geographies within Northumberland (see Table 7.1 of the Local Plan), and indeed providing minimum figures for Neighbourhood Areas as required by the NPPF (see Policy HOU3 which includes a requirement of 45 dwellings for Lesbury Parish), the countywide LHN number was considered in the context of the settlement hierarchy.

While, in accordance with the Local Plan's spatial strategy, and as set out in the Council's [Spatial Strategy Technical Paper \(December 2018\)](#) (NCC.02.02) the majority of development is steered towards the larger Main Towns and Service Centres, in order to support local services and facilities the plan allows for a proportionate level of growth in Service Villages, of which Lesbury is one (grouped with Alnmouth). The housing number for Lesbury, is derived from the parish's proportionate share of the countywide LHN based on its population.

In the 2011 Census, Lesbury's population was 1,007 people, representing 0.32% of Northumberland's population. Applying the same percentage to the 20 year countywide LHN figure gives a housing figure of 45.9, rounded down to 45 dwellings.

The Local Plan is supported by [Monitoring and Implementation Framework \(MIF\) \(May 2019\)](#) (NCC.01.22). While the MIF is not explicit in relation to Policy HOU3 (it addresses Policies HOU1 to HOU12 together), or how it will ensure minimum numbers for Neighbourhood Areas are delivered, it does indicate that if there is insufficient deliverable and developable housing land supply to meet identified minimum needs, actions would be to undertake a comprehensive SHLAA review including a call for sites to identify developable sites which are compliant with Local Plan policies, and to consider the need for changes to settlement boundaries, to identify additional potentially suitable housing land through a plan review.