



Northumberland
County Council

Independent Examination of the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan

**Responses from Northumberland County Council and Lesbury Parish Council to
Examiners questions**

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28th April 2020

Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan

Examiners clarification questions with Northumberland County Council and Parish Council responses.

28.04.2020

Examiners clarification question	Combined response from Northumberland County Council and Lesbury Parish Council
<p>1.1 I would appreciate sight of any report or statement providing confirmation that Northumberland County Council is satisfied that the Plan and the accompanying submission documents meet the requirements of the 1990 Act and other legal requirements.</p>	<p>We are not aware of any specific provision requiring the County Council to prepare a report or publish a statement on this matter. This is not a prescribed decision in the 1990 Act or associated Regulations unlike; for example, the requirement to publish specific decisions at appropriate times under Regulations 7, 18 and 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. However, we provide a statement on each relevant section of our neighbourhood planning webpages once we have decided to present a neighbourhood plan for independent examination. The webpages for the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan confirm that:</p> <p><i>“The County Council is satisfied that the submission is complete and complies with legal requirements. The Plan will now proceed to independent examination.”</i></p>
<p>1.2 Please confirm the date that the application to designate a neighbourhood area was submitted was 27 June 2017 as the date is incomplete on the application form published on Northumberland County Council’s website.</p>	<p>The original e-mail from Lesbury PC applying to be designated was received by the neighbourhood plans team on 28.06.2017 from the Chair of the PC. The date on the application form was a typing error but we can confirm the Parish Council applied to be designated on 27.06.2017 and the e-mail is attached as Appendix A</p>
<p>1.3 Please confirm and provide evidence that the Regulation 6 requirements have been satisfied, with relevant dates, as there is no remaining evidence on the County Council’s website. I appreciate that Council websites are frequently updated to avoid becoming overloaded with information so forgive me if I</p>	<p>We understand that the requirements of Regulation 6 no longer apply to the designation of single parishes as neighbourhood areas. Regulation 5A came into effect on 1 October 2016 following the publication of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) and Development Management (Amendments) Regulations 2016 which is prior to the Lesbury Neighbourhood Area designation application being made. The provisions of Regulation 5A have the effect of requiring the local planning authority to designate individual parishes, on application, without the need for publicity or the consideration of any representations. The relevant reports and</p>

<p>have missed a link to archived material.</p>	<p>decision statement required in accordance with Regulation 7 remain available on our webpages for the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan. We would be pleased to receive your further advice if we have misinterpreted the current Regulations.</p>
<p>1.4 Could you also indicate whether any objections or other comments were received to the proposed neighbourhood area?</p>	<p>In accordance with Regulation 5A there was no obligation to consult on the neighbourhood area designation. There were no objections or comments received to the proposed neighbourhood area.</p>
<p>1.5 What were the original 'publicity period' dates and why was the deadline for receipt of comments extended to 5 pm on Monday 10 February 2020?</p>	<p>The original publicity period ran for 7 weeks commencing on Thursday 12th December 2019 and ending at 5pm on Friday 31st January 2020. This allowed for additional time beyond the minimum six week period because consultation ran through the Christmas and New Year period.</p> <p>After the commencement of that consultation modification was made to the Habitats Regulations Assessment to take account of comments made by Natural England. The revised version of the Habitats Regulations Assessment was therefore made available to view on the council's website with hard copies, available at Alnwick Library and the County Councils reception. Having regard to the requirements of Regulation 16(a)(v) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, the Council extended the publicity period until 5pm on Monday 10th February 2020 to allow not less than a six week period within which representations could be made on the Plan and its supporting information.</p>
<p>1.6 Was the Regulation 16 notification publicised in any other way than through the Council's website, and in addition to being available online were the submission documents available for inspection at any particular location?</p>	<p>The Regulation 16 notification was also publicised through site notices in the Parish which were subsequently updated and replaced to reflect the extension to the consultation period. The submission documents were made available as hard copies in the Council's main office at County Hall, Morpeth and at the County Council's reception and at Alnwick Library, situated in the Alnwick Playhouse. A copy of the updated consultation letter, e-mail and site notice is included in Appendix B</p>
<p>1.7 Please provide confirmation and evidence that relevant (Schedule 1) Consultation Bodies</p>	<p>We have copies of both letters and outgoing e-mails from the original Regulation 16 and the extension of Regulation 16, following modification to HRA, that were sent to all relevant</p>

<p>that were consulted at Regulation 14 stage by the Parish Council were notified as part of the Regulation 16 Publicity by Northumberland County Council.</p>	<p>Schedule 1 consultation bodies consulted at Regulation 14 stage by the Parish Council. The relevant consultation e-mails and letters are provided in Appendix C as evidence that consultation took place with all relevant consultation bodies.</p>
<p>1.8 While I note that the SEA Environmental Report (and an HRA Assessment) was available for viewing and comment as part of the Regulation 16 Publicity, please provide details of the previous consultation including dates, and the manner publicised.</p>	<p>Lesbury Parish Council carried out consultation on the SEA Environmental Report. Consultation letters were sent out on 21st October to all statutory consultees and local groups with a deadline of 21 November 2019. This accords with the provisions of Regulation 13 of the SEA Regulations (2004). There is an example of the SEA consultation letter set out in Appendix D</p> <p>All documents were available on the Lesbury Parish Council website, under Submission NDP draft documents – October 2019. The version of the Plan was dated 16 October 2019. To publicise the SEA consultation, a flyer was distributed to residents by the champions, informing on the progress of the NDP, the SEA consultation, the availability of the documents on the website and inviting them to a surgery where hard copies of the documents would be available.</p> <p>A surgery was held in the Village Hall on 16th November 2019, during the consultation period, to allow residents to view the current version of the Plan and the SEA and HRA reports and to ask the Steering Group about the NDP.</p>
<p>1.9 In addition please advise if any comments were received in response to the consultation from either the 3 consultation bodies or any other parties, in addition to those submitted by Northumberland Estates, and how comments received have been taken into account.</p>	<p>The details on the responses received are in the Parish Councils consultation statement (Appendix E, pages 80-96) It lists the responses received. The way in which comments were taken into account is explained in the Consultation Statement. The response from the Environment Agency is provided in Appendix E to this report as this was omitted from the Consultation Statement, in error.</p>
<p>2.1 Has Northumberland County Council undertaken an assessment of extant development plan policies in order to identify those which are considered to be 'strategic</p>	<p>Yes. The County Council provides all neighbourhood planning bodies with a list of the strategic policies contained in those relevant parts of the development plan. The relevant extant strategic policies for the Lesbury Neighbourhood Area are set out in our note to Lesbury Parish Council which is attached as Appendix F.</p>

<p>policies' within the meaning of paragraphs 075 and 076 of current national Planning Practice Guidance on neighbourhood planning? If so it would be helpful if you could provide me with a schedule of 'strategic' policies that apply within the Lesbury Neighbourhood Area.</p>	
<p>3.1 Can you provide a timetable for the remaining stages and adoption of the emerging Local Plan, including the envisaged publication date for main modifications? I would also appreciate being kept up to date regarding progress with the preparation of the Plan.</p>	<p>The Local Plan is still undergoing examination and at the moment no precise revised time frame can be provided at this stage due to the COVID-19 outbreak and restrictions. It is, however, still anticipated that adoption will fall within the financial year 2020/21. With regards to the envisaged publication date for main modifications, again a date cannot be provided at this stage due to the COVID-19 outbreak and restrictions.</p> <p>We will endeavour to keep you apprised of relevant progress on the Local Plan. Details about the ongoing Local Plan examination are available through the following website:</p> <p>https://northumberland-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planning/localplan/lp-exam</p>
<p>4.1 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?</p>	<p>Details regarding the method of calculating housing requirements for neighbourhood areas in Northumberland, and specifically for Lesbury Neighbourhood Area, along with information on monitoring the delivery of housing throughout the plan period are provided in the note attached at Appendix G</p>
<p>4.2 Please update the information on housing supply within the Parish between the 2016 base date of the Local Plan and the end of</p>	<p>Updated housing supply information can now be found in Appendix H</p>

<p>March 2020, i.e. total dwellings permitted, completed and outstanding.</p>	
<p>4.3 If information on historic windfalls is available at Parish level I would appreciate housing permissions and completions data for individual years in Lesbury Parish covering the period 1997– 2020.</p>	<p>Information on historic windfalls has also been set out in Appendix H. We only have data from 2009 and up to the current reporting period (April 2020)</p>
<p>5.1 Has Northumberland County Council prepared a 'Local List' of non designated heritage assets? If not, does the County Council intend to do so and what is the programme for preparing a 'Local List'? If the County Council has prepared or is currently preparing a 'Local List' please provide details of any 'assets' identified within the Lesbury Neighbourhood Area.</p>	<p>The County Council does not have a local list of non-designated heritage assets covering Northumberland County. Creating a local list is something the County Council intend to do as time and resources permit.</p>