



Neighbourhood Planning Update

Spring 2020



Northumberland
County Council

Welcome to the latest quarterly **Neighbourhood Planning Update**. This brief newsletter aims to help those involved and interested in **Neighbourhood Planning** keep up to date with news, activity and any important changes in **Neighbourhood Planning** both nationally and locally.

Affordable Housing for Sale

The Discounted Market Homes programme was launched in May 2019. MHCLG are continuing to encourage neighbourhood planning groups to apply for Technical Support, especially if they are seeking to allocate sites for affordable housing for sale. Funding packages ranging from £10,000 to £50,000 are available to support groups in identifying suitable sites for affordable homes for sale and even to grant permission through a neighbourhood development order. Extra training and advice is also available for groups.

More information on how to apply and eligibility is available at <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/>

New Neighbourhood Planning Resources

- **Your step by step roadmap guide** Find out about each stage in the neighbourhood planning process.
- **How to assess and allocate sites for development** Find out how to choose the most appropriate sites.
- **Achieving well-designed places through neighbourhood planning** This is a new and more comprehensive toolkit to help you to better shape design through your neighbourhood plan.

Other online resources are available at: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/resources/>



Activity in the West

The independent examination of the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and the County Council has considered and accepted each of the recommendations made by the examiner.

The Hexham Neighbourhood Plan referendum is to be held on **Thursday 23rd April**.

As the referendum date has been agreed the plan now carries **substantial weight** in planning decisions.

Hexhamshire Parish Council was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 18 February 2020.

Activity in the South East

The Cramlington Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted after a decision at Cabinet meeting on 10 March 2020. The Plan has now been brought into legal force and forms part of the statutory development plan for the area.

Decisions on planning applications must now be made in accordance with the policies in the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Activity in the North

The independent examination of the Embleton Neighbourhood Plan began on 17 February 2020. The independent examination of the Lesbury Neighbourhood Plan will begin on 23 March 2020. At this stage each plan is given **limited weight** in planning decisions.

The Wooler Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the County Council for Independent Examination. We are publicising the Plan and supporting documents and are inviting comments until 5pm on Monday 30 March 2020. At this stage the Plan will be given **limited weight** in planning decisions.

Both Craster and Alnmouth Parish Councils are consulting on their pre-submission draft neighbourhood plans. Each Plan contains a single planning policy relating to a principal residency restriction. At this stage each plan carries **little weight** in planning decisions.

Warkworth Parish Council was designated as a Neighbourhood Area on 18 February 2020.

