



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 17 January 2019

The Northumberland Local Plan - Progress Update

Report of: Interim Executive Director: Place

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle, Planning, Housing and Resilience

Purpose of report

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a progress update on the Northumberland Local Plan. A presentation will be provided at the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Consider the contents of the report and presentation and provide comment.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2018-2021:

- How - We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone;
- Living - We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for;
- Enjoying - We want you to love where you live;
- Connecting - We want you to have access to the things you need;
- Learning - We want you to achieve and realise your potential; and
- Thriving - We want to attract more and better jobs

Key issues

1. The Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for Northumberland, covering the period 2016 to 2036. The Northumberland Local Plan will:
 - Set the strategic planning policies of the Council, taking account of key factors like population trends, economic growth, climate change, resources and environmental character;
 - Set the general scale and distribution of new development which is required to meet Northumberland's needs to 2036;
 - Provide the planning principles¹, including detailed 'development management' policies to guide decisions on planning applications;

¹ Excluding the Northumberland National Park which is a separate Local Planning Authority and has separate planning policies.

- Show in detail where new homes, workplaces and facilities will be located through allocations of land; and
 - Show key environmental designations and include site specific proposals for the conservation and enhancement of historic and natural assets.
2. In accordance with National Planning Policy the Council must, through the Local Plan, provide a positive planning policy framework that supports and grows the economy.

Background

3. Following the withdrawal of the Northumberland Core Strategy in July 2017, the Council has been working on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Northumberland. Significant progress on the preparation of the new Local Plan for Northumberland has been made.
4. The Spring 2018 Local Plan consultation which took place between 28 March and 2 May 2018, asked people to show the Council where, in their opinion, development should go and to flag up some key issues. Over 700 responses were received in reply to the consultation. The results alongside various other evidence base studies fed into Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan.
5. The Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation, commenced on 4 July and ended on 15 August 2018. During the consultation 23 drop-in events were held throughout the county and over 1,100 people attended the events. Presentations were also made to the 5 Local Area Councils, to which Town and Parish Council's were invited to attend. 2,827 responses were received from 548 consultees.
6. The Publication Draft (Regulation 19) Local Plan is the final stage prior to the Local Plan being submitted for Independent Examination. The Regulation 19 Draft Local Plan was approved by Cabinet on 19 December 2018 and will be considered by Council on 9 January 2019. Subject to approval by Council, the representation period on the Publication Draft (Regulation 19) Local Plan is due to commence on 30 January 2019 and will run for six weeks, ending on 13 March 2019. The Publication Draft (Regulation 19) Local Plan can currently be accessed via the 19 December 2018 Cabinet papers at <http://committee.northumberland.gov.uk/Meeting.aspx?MeetID=9385>
7. The most significant challenge to the delivery of the vision of the Draft Local Plan is the profile of the Northumberland population. Without positive policy intervention, projections show that there is likely to be a significant accelerating ageing of Northumberland's population. This change in the age profile has substantial potential to have a significant negative impact on the long term diversity and resilience of communities across Northumberland.
8. As well as the Publication Draft (Regulation 19) Local Plan, two Supplementary Planning Scoping documents on Northumberland Design Guide and the Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery have been prepared to provide further guidance on emerging design policies in order to support the emerging Northumberland Local Plan in delivering high quality development.

Implications

Policy	The Local Plan when adopted will form part of the Council's policy framework.
Finance and value for money	Plan preparation costs will largely be met from within existing Council's budgets.
Legal	Local Planning Authorities must prepare a Local Plan which sets planning policies in a local authority area. Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework.
Procurement	External expertise has been procured to assist with the preparation of evidence base studies, where the nature of the work is of a specialist nature. Additional external capacity, in the form of project management and critical friend support has also been procured to assist in the preparation of the Local Plan.
Human Resources	Work on the Local Plan involves both Council Officers and Members.
Property	The adopted Local Plan will apply to land and buildings owned by the County Council as they apply to land and buildings owned by others.
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	An Equality Assessment has been published alongside the Regulation 19 - Publication of Local Plan document.
Risk Assessment	There is a risk of intervention by the Secretary of State if delivery milestones are not met. The regulation 19 Local Plan is the second milestone on the LDS. A detailed project plan and resources plan are in place and are monitored on a regular basis.
Crime & Disorder	Crime and disorder considerations will be taken into account in the preparation of the Local Plan.
Customer Consideration	The Local Plan once adopted will supersede many planning policies from the former County and District Council planning documents into a single document, ensuring consistency in planning policies across the County and thereby making it easier for the public to understand.
Carbon reduction	The emerging Northumberland Local Plan includes draft policy approaches relating to climate change and carbon reduction.
Wards	All.

Background papers:

- Northumberland Local Plan - Local Development Scheme (April 2018)
- Northumberland Local Plan - Regulation 18 Draft Plan for consultation and accompanying policies map (July 2018)
- Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) and accompanying Policies Map
- Northumberland Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document
- Northumberland Highways and Transportation Design and Delivery Supplementary Planning Document - Scoping Document

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	N/A
Relevant Executive Director	PJ
Chief Executive	VB
Portfolio Holder(s)	JR

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