

## TOWN COUNCIL 13 MARCH 2013

1. **Northumberland Core Strategy Consultation**

1.1 The latest stage of consultation on the Northumberland Core Strategy will last only until 20 March because of the election timetable. A series of drop-in sessions have been held and themed workshop discussions are being held at various venues as shown in Appendix 1.

1.2 The Core Strategy Preferred Options document is a substantial publication running to 194 pages intended to become the overarching spatial plan for the county to guide future planning decisions. This is available online at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/corestrategy) and at all libraries and designated offices.

1.3 It raises some sixty questions across a range of topics seeking to identify preferred policies and options across housing; economy; town centres and retail; green belt; minerals; waste; renewable and low carbon energy; sustainable construction and small-scale renewable energy; transportation; information and communications technologies; community facilities; natural and historic environment; water environment

1.4 The aims of the county strategy are:

- Making climate change work to our advantage;
- Maintaining and creating sustainable communities;
- Rebalancing our economy;
- Giving everyone a voice and influence;
- Providing healthy lifestyle choice;
- Supporting our young people into adulthood;
- Delivering services differently.

1.5 The Vision that will underpin the Core Strategy is:

By 2030 Northumberland's diverse communities will be healthy and resilient and set within a diverse and strong economy. The County's significant resources will be utilised in a sustainable way and the unique and varied qualities of the natural, historic and built environment will be protected and enhanced

1.6 There are eight objectives to form the basis for delivering the vision:

- **Objective 1:** To place sustainable development and responsible future economic growth at the heart of planning decisions in Northumberland;

- **Objective 2:** To meet Northumberland's objectively assessed development needs and demands including: new homes, employment space, health and community services, and infrastructure;
- **Objective 3:** To maintain and create sustainable communities throughout Northumberland to support health, social and cultural well-being for all including responding to the needs and opportunities created by an ageing population;
- **Objective 4:** To facilitate investment which stimulates employment opportunities and supports job retention in a resilient and strong Northumberland economy;
- **Objective 5:** To make Northumberland resilient to climate change and contribute to mitigating against its effects, whilst also creating sustainable job opportunities in green industries;
- **Objective 6:** To protect and enhance Northumberland's distinctive and valued natural, historic and built environment;
- **Objective 7:** To manage the prudent use of Northumberland's natural resources, including minerals, energy, land, existing built fabric and water while producing less waste and minimising adverse impacts on communities and the environment;
- **Objective 8:** To ensure all development makes best use of, and safeguards, Northumberland's infrastructure securing necessary up-upgrades and promotes sustainable modes of transport where appropriate.

- 1.7 Overall the approach of the plan is to allow sustainable development; plan for increases in building to allow growth to boost the economy and bring regeneration.
- 1.8 For the south-east Northumberland delivery area it recognises that Newbiggin by-the-Sea performs an important role as a service centre. The principle issues to be tackled are to realise proposed growth at Ashington and Blyth; tackling deprivation; pressure for coal extraction; reverse the decline in public transport; strategic employment sites.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council consider any issues to be raised in response to the consultation.

<p><b>Informal drop-in</b> 10.30am to 8.00pm at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 12th February. Blyth – Blyth Community Enterprise Centre, Quayside, NE24 3AG.</li> <li>• Tuesday 19th February. Morpeth – Town Hall, Market Place, NE61 1LZ.</li> <li>• Wednesday 20th February. Alnwick – St James's Centre, Pottergate NE66 1JW.</li> <li>• Thursday 21st February. Haltwhistle – The Library, Westgate, NE49 0AX.</li> <li>• Wednesday 27th February. Ashington – Hirst Welfare Centre, Alexandra Road, NE63 9HN.</li> <li>• Thursday 28th February. Berwickupon-Tweed – The William Elder Building, 56 - 58 Castlegate, TD15 1JT.</li> <li>• Thursday 7th March. Hexham – Hexham Auction Mart, Tyne Green, NE46 3SG.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Workshop discussions</b> 11.00am to 1.00pm and again 6.00pm to 8.00pm at each of the drop-in sessions.</p> <p>Themed workshops at Choppington Social Welfare Centre, Colliery Road, Choppington, NE62 5SS, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy Monday 11th March, 10.00am to 2.00pm</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities Monday 11th March, 2.00pm to 4.00pm</li> <li>• The Natural and Historic Environment Friday 15th March, 10.00am to 12.00pm</li> </ul> <p>Please register in advance for these events through the contacts below.</p>
<p><b>How to view and comment</b> View and submit comments online at <a href="http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/corestrategy">www.northumberland.gov.uk/corestrategy</a></p> <p>Paper copies available at all libraries and planning offices at County Hall, Morpeth; Allerburn House, Alnwick; Hadrian House, Hexham.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk">PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Address: Spatial Policy and Delivery, Development Services, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF</p> <p>Phone: 0845 600 6400.</p>	<p><b>Future consultations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer 2013: Green Belt, housing and economy issues</li> <li>• Autumn 2013: Draft Plan</li> <li>• Spring 2014: Plan for submission to the Government.</li> </ul>