

Corporate Priorities of NCC in relation to NNPA Publication Draft Plan

Legal Compliance

There is no longer a requirement to prepare a sustainable community strategy. However the Northumberland National Park Publication Draft Plan has had regard to the corporate priorities of Northumberland County Council set out in their Corporate Plan 2018-21, which was agreed in February 2018.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/About-the-Council/The-Corporate-PlanV3.pdf>

The NCC Corporate Plan 2018 – 21 is relevant as the County Council provide and support Northumberland National Park Authority's visitors and residents with a number of services including: education, housing, benefits and support; bins recycling and waste; health and social care; council tax; libraries; fire and rescue; public protection; roads streets and transport and many more.

Northumberland County Council's *Vision* focuses on *making Northumberland a county which you regard as a great place to live, and in which you can access the things you enjoy, whilst having the opportunity to learn and thrive.*

“We want you to feel safe, healthy, and cared for” [Living]

This aim relates to good health and well-being. It also refers to the importance of housing “a roof over your head” as a fundamental to well-being. Communities and community facilities are identified as playing an important role.

Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) policies seek to ensure housing is in the right place, thriving communities and health are not harmed (Policies ST1, ST2, ST5). These aspects run through the strategic policies, and some of the Development Management policies such as Policy DM1 Community facilities and Infrastructure. The draft policies cover these aspects of NCC's aim.

“We want you to love where you live” [Enjoying]

This aim commits to ensure that their residents value and feel proud of where they live. This relates to the standards of their services, reflection of their cultural and heritage assets. They reference their Local Plan which has recently been submitted for Examination.

NNPA policies reflect this desire to respect the countryside and villages within the National Park and many of the strategic policies and development management policies reflect this desire, for example ST1 (Sustainable development) and ST2 (General Development Principles) and DM 14 (Historic Landscape Assets and Built Heritage. The duty to co-operate with Northumberland County Council reflects the discussions between our two authorities with respect to planning.

“We want you to have access to the things you need” [Connecting]

This aim commits to ensuring that their residents can get to work, to learning and to the facilities and services they want to use. Digital connectivity is considered important as well as physical access through highways and passenger services. They also aim to protect community assets and encourage regular walking and cycling.

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NNPA policies have been drafted to ensure connectivity is promoted, through the strategic policies of ST1 (Sustainable development) , ST2 (General Design Principles), ST4 (Spatial Strategy) but also through Policy DM1 (Community facilities and Infrastructure) and Policy DM9 (Transport and Accessibility).

“We want you to achieve and realise your potential” [Learning]

NCC is responsible for education and are committed to providing skills to secure a good job for their residents. This aim reflects education but also digital skills.

This aspect is a role carried out by Northumberland County Council which affects the residents of the National Park. There are only two (first) schools within the National Park. NNPA policies seek to support access to education by focusing development in the sustainable settlements (Policies ST1, ST4, ST5). Policy DM1 seeks to protect community facilities where education and training events could be held. Whilst this aim is not directly related to the planning system, taken as a whole the policies support the principle of this aim.

“We want to attract more and better jobs” [Thriving]

NCC commits to doing everything in their power to create the right conditions for economic growth, a county that is open for business. NCC recognises tourism as important to the Northumberland economy.

NNPA policies are supportive of the rural economy, with strategic policies directing development in the more sustainable areas (Policies ST1, ST4, ST5). Development Management Policy DM7 (Rural economy and diversification) covers all aspects of this aim including diversification of agricultural and forestry businesses, promoting and protecting existing businesses, supporting home based businesses and supporting tourism and recreational development.

Conclusion

Whilst there is no longer a requirement for the County Council to prepare a sustainable community strategy, NNPA draft policies reflect the corporate aims of the County Council where they relate to the planning system.