

## **Report 7: Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to formally make the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan and for it to be used as part of the statutory development plan for planning applications considered in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Authority is recommended to:

- a. Agree to formally 'make' the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan;
- b. Approve the decision statement (attached at Appendix 1) and for the decision statement to be sent to the qualifying body (Haydon Parish Council);
- c. Agree that both the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the decision statement are published on the Authority's website explaining that the Plan forms part of the Development Plan for decisions in that area.

### **3. Implications**

- a. Financial: Northumberland County Council acted as Lead Authority for Neighbourhood Planning. All NNPA officer input has been carried out as part of planning officers' normal day to day work.
- b. Equalities: The introduction of Neighbourhood Planning by the Localism Act 2011 gives local communities strong powers to play a more positive and proactive role in planning for their areas. The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to a local referendum which provides full and genuine engagement with all sectors of the community.
- c. Link to Business Plan: Working with local communities to assist them in developing Neighbourhood Plans is a key action of the Business Plan.

### **4. Background**

- a. The Localism Act of 2011 allows local communities (particularly Parish Councils) to prepare 'Neighbourhood Plans' which, if supported by the wider community in a referendum, become part of the development plan and so can have a strong influence on planning decisions in the area.
- b. The progress of the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been led by Northumberland County Council as lead local planning authority. However, as the area includes an area of the National Park the Authority is also required to follow the main aspects of the neighbourhood planning regulations.
- c. Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan was designated by the National Park Authority on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

- d. The NNPA planning team have input into Neighbourhood Plan meetings, commented on draft plans, commented on Strategic Environmental Assessments and provided a formal response to the Examination process.
- e. An independent examiner considered the plan in March 2022 and accepted it with amendments.
- f. The County Council and National Park planning teams agreed the recommendations made by the independent examiner and were satisfied that the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan, as modified, met the basic conditions and were both satisfied it could proceed to referendum.

## **5. Haydon Neighbourhood Plan Referendum**

- a. A referendum was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, organised by the lead Authority Northumberland County Council, asking all those residents of Haydon Parish who are registered to vote whether to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan. The question asked was in line with that set out in the Regulations relating to Neighbourhood Planning regulations:

*“Do you want Northumberland County Council and Northumberland National Park Authority to use the neighbourhood plan for HAYDON Parish Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

- b. The result was confirmed that 89% voted yes to adopting the Neighbourhood Plan.
- c. Neighbourhood Plan regulations set out that both NCC and NNPA need to ‘make’ the Plan. Given the referendum result, officers are satisfied that the Plan should be made by the Authority.
- d. According to the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations the Authority is obliged by statute to ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan unless it considers that doing so would breach European Union obligations. Officers know of no reason relating to European Union obligations (such as inadequacy of the strategic environment assessment or other European directives) that would prevent the Authority to make the Plan.
- e. An order must be made by the local planning authority before it has effect and therefore a draft Decision Statement is attached at Appendix 1.
- f. Once ‘made’ the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan will form part of statutory Development Plan for those applications received in the Parish of Haydon. This means all applications received by the Authority in Haydon Parish will be considered against the Northumberland National Park Local Plan 2020 and the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

## **6. Conclusion**

- a. Given the favourable referendum result, the Authority is now obliged by statute to ‘make’ the Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan and there are no reasons relating to European Union obligations not to.

- b. The draft Decision Statement in Appendix 1 should now be approved to enable the Neighbourhood plan to take effect.
- c. The Authority's website will be updated to make it clear that Haydon Parish Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Statutory Development Plan for decisions in the Parish.

### **Appendix 1: Draft Haydon Parish Decision Statement**

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**Background papers:**

[Haydon Neighbourhood Plan](#)

[Haydon Neighbourhood Plan Policies map](#)

Map below showing Haydon Parish, with National Park boundary in yellow.  
Area above yellow line falls within National Park

