

**Tarset and Greystead Neighbourhood Development Plan
Health Check Review Report
for Tarset and Greystead Parish Council**

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TARSET AND GREYSTEAD NDP HEALTH CHECK EXAMINER'S REPORT LIST	
CRITERIA	RESPONSE/COMMENTS
Designations	
Is the organisation preparing the draft Plan a Qualifying Body?	Yes Tarset and Greystead Parish Council is designated as the qualifying body. NNPA formally designated on the 31 st of May 2013 and NCC formally designated on 11 th April 2013
Has the Qualifying Body appointed a sub-group to prepare the Plan and if so what is the relationship of the sub-group to the Qualifying Body?	Yes the Tarset and Greystead Neighbourhood Development plan Steering group was appointed by the Parish Council in early 2012
Are the minutes of the sub-group/Qualifying Body published and readily open to inspection.	Yes the minutes of the Steering Group are all readily available on the Neighbourhood Plan web page at www.tarset.co.uk
Has the area to be covered by the draft Plan been formally designated by the Local Planning Authority?	Yes the Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by NNPA on the 31 st of May 2013 and formally designated by NCC on 11 th April 2013
When was the area designated?	See above
When was the Qualifying Body (if a Neighbourhood Forum) designated?	N/A
Are the designation decisions available for Inspection on the Local Planning Authority website or otherwise available for viewing?	The designation decision is available on the NCC website but I could find only the application and map on the NNPA website Action – NNPA to ensure designation decision is included on its website
Has any other neighbourhood plan been prepared for the Plan Area?	No
Are there any adjoining neighbourhood plans?	No
Does the Plan relate to more than one neighbourhood area?	No

Consultation, Engagement and Publicity	
Has there been a programme of community engagement proportionate to the scale and complexity of the draft Plan?	<p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A start up consultation to identify the issues for the plan was held in Feb/March 2013 • The vision and objectives were consulted on in a second consultation in June 2014 and subsequently approved as the basis for the draft plan. • Issues and options were consulted on later in 2014 and the draft plan prepared drawing on the results. • The pre-submission draft plan will be consulted on during spring 2015. <p>Action – notwithstanding that the consultation statement will accompany the plan on submission, the text of the pre-submission draft in its summary of the consultation should clearly set out in brief the steps taken and dates of each consultation stage. This could be done in an extension of the section on Page 4</p>
Is it clear how the draft Plan has evolved and has taken into account relevant comments from those consulted?	Yes – the thread from community response to plan policies is clear particularly in Part 3
Does it appear that the draft Plan has broad support in the community?	The draft plan has not yet been published for pre-submission consultation but as it is based on early consultation stages it is likely that it will be generally supported
Has the plan been the subject of appropriate pre-submission consultation and publicity as set out in the legislation?	<p>This consultation stage is still to be completed but the Steering Group is clear that as the main stage of consultation it is important that a good level of engagement and response is achieved.</p> <p>Action – Steering Group to develop a robust programme of consultation and prepare a feedback form for the community to make representations</p>
Has a Consultation Statement been produced for submission with the draft Plan?	<p>The Steering Group is working on it but it will not be complete till the pre-submission draft plan consultation has been completed</p> <p>Action – Steering Group to produce comprehensive consultation Statement ready for submission. Planning Aid North has a helpful template for this</p>
Does the Consultation Statement set out: Who was consulted including on the SEA? How they were consulted? Summarise the main issues and concerns raised? State how these issues have been considered and, where relevant, how they were addressed in the Plan?	N/A at this stage
Basic Conditions	
Are there any obvious conflicts with the National Planning Policy Framework and/or the Planning Practice Guidance?	Once the Steering Group has amended the plan as discussed at the Plan Review Workshop on 17 th February it is likely that it will be fully consistent with the NPPF and PPG

Is there a clear explanation of the ways the draft Plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development?	Yes Part 4 and the first sections of part 5 - policies TG1, TG2 and TG3 together set out the basis for sustainable development within the plan area.
What currently constitutes the in force Development Plan for the Plan Area?	Northumberland National Park Core Strategy and Development Policies Document 2009 and for a small part of the plan area the Tynedale Core Strategy 2008 subject to their consistency with the NPPF 2012.
Has the Local Planning Authority clearly set out what are the strategic policies of the Local Plan / What strategic policies are in force in the Plan Area?	Close liaison has been carried out with NNPA and NCC throughout in terms of which are the main strategic policies but I have not been provided with details. Action – Steering Group to be clear on which policies of the development plans in force the LPAs consider are strategic
What scale of development does/did the Development Plan in force envisage for the Plan Area?	Given the national park context for most of the plan area there is no requirement to allocate sites for development. The small area within NCC's area does not include settlements and therefore no development beyond that which would normally be admissible in open countryside is expected. The plan does though set out the basis on which small scale sustainable development will be acceptable in the main settlements.
Does the Plan propose less development than the in-force Local Plan?	N/A
Has the Local Planning Authority indicated that the Plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan?	Both authorities were present at the plan workshop reviewing and refining policies on 17 th February – as a result of that when the draft plan is finalised for publication it is not expected that there will be any problems over general conformity.
Does the Plan appear to be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Local Plan?	Yes - Subject to the amendments as a result of the plan review workshop on 17 th February being carried out prior to publication. Action – Steering Group to amend draft plan as discussed on 17th February prior to publication
Is there an emerging Local Plan?	Yes both LPAs have emerging plans. Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy is at full draft plan stage and will affect the small area that is not within NNP. The NNPA will begin the review of its Core Strategy and Development Policies Document in 2015
Is there relevant emerging evidence?	There is in respect of the NLP Core Strategy but the extent to which this will be relevant for the NDP is likely to be limited.
Is the Plan compatible with European Union/Convention law and obligations?	Yes – see detail below
Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening determination (opinion) been done and were the statutory	The screening is still to be completed by both LPAs but unlikely that it will conclude SEA is necessary. Action - LPAs to complete screening for SEA at the earliest opportunity

consultation bodies (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) consulted on this?	
Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) been carried out?	No and not anticipated to be required
Has a SEA Scoping Report been prepared and were the statutory consultation bodies (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) consulted on this?	No and not anticipated to be required
Were the statutory consultation bodies content with the proposed scope of the SEA?	N/A
Was a draft Environmental Report prepared and consulted on?	No and not anticipated to be required
Was the Environmental Report amended as a result of the consultation responses?	N/A
Does the Environmental Report cover all the essential elements of an SEA in a manner that is proportionate to the content and level of detail in the Plan?	N/A
Does the Environmental Report include reasonable alternatives to the preferred proposals in the Plan? (Stage B)	N/A
Have any likely significant environmental effects been identified? (Stage B)	N/A
Has mitigation of adverse impacts/ways to maximise beneficial effects and monitoring	N/A

been considered?	
Have Stages A to D of SEA been appropriately fulfilled?	N/A
Are provisions in place for Stage E of the SEA – post plan making reporting and monitoring?	This question does raise an issue requiring action – notwithstanding that an SEA will probably not be necessary in accordance with good practice and national policy advice the plan should have a delivery and monitoring and review section within it Action – Complete Delivery and Monitoring and Review section for draft plan
Has a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report been produced?	N/A
Overall is the SEA proportionate and relevant to the Plan?	N/A
Has the SEA process influenced the final content of the Plan/caused changes to be made?	N/A
Has a Habitats Regulations Assessment screening determination been done and Natural England consulted?	In-as-much as there are 3 SACs within the plan area which are sites under the EU Habitats Directive, screening for appropriate assessment is necessary as a first step. However I am informed no proposals affect the SACs therefore Appropriate Assessment is unlikely to be necessary. Action – LPAs to screen for Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment in respect of the European Protected sites as soon as practicable.
Has a Habitats Regulations Assessment been carried out and Natural England consulted?	Not at this stage
Are there any outstanding concerns with the effect on European (habitats) sites?	Not known at this stage
Are there any issues around compatibility with human rights?	In respect of Article 1 – the right of everyone to the peaceful enjoyment of property, - although the NDP includes policies that would restrict development rights, this does not have a greater impact than the general restrictions on development rights provided for in national law. In respect of Article 6 -the right to a fair and public hearing in determination of an individual’s rights and obligations - the process for preparing the NDP is compatible with this Article, allowing for extensive consultation on its proposals at various stages
Is the LPA content that the Plan is compatible with EU obligations?	The LPAs have not expressed an opinion but it is likely they will agree the plan is compatible subject to outcomes in respect of SEA and Habitats Regulations Screening Opinions. Action - LPAs to confirm following screening process whether they are content plan is compatible with EU obligations.
Has a Basic Conditions	Not yet Action – Steering Group to complete Basic Conditions Statement in

Statement been produced?	preparation for submission
Does the LPA consider the Plan meets all the Basic Conditions?	The LPAs have not expressed an opinion but it is likely they will agree the plan meets the basic conditions once the amendments discussed at the Plan Review Workshop on 17 th February are completed . Action – LPAs could usefully indicate in their response to the pre-submission consultation on the Draft Plan their position regarding the Basic Conditions and in particular whether the plan is in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plans
Evidence	
Is the evidence used for the Plan proportionate, robust and supports the choices made and approaches taken?	Yes – the evidence base is robust and is clearly used to support the choices made. A full list of documents used to inform the plan is included in the plan appendices Action – Steering Group could usefully upload evidence base documents onto a web page on www.tarset.co.uk
Does the Plan draw upon the evidence to explain succinctly the intention and rationale of the policies in the Plan?	Yes – the policy justifications draw on the evidence to support the purpose and rationale behind the policies
Has the Local Planning Authority assisted the Qualifying Body with assembling and/or sharing evidence?	Yes both LPAs have assisted in assembling and sharing evidence
What are the key pieces of evidence that have informed the policies?	Census 2011 - Tarset and Greystead Landscape and Design Assessment –(2014) - Evidence base of NNP Core Strategy and Development Polices DPD and Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy - Northumberland National Park Design Guide (2011) - Tarset 2050 CIC Strategy into Action (2007)
Is the Plan consistent with any emerging Local Plan evidence?	The Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy is well advanced – for the small area of the plan area that is outside the NNP it is unlikely that the plan will be inconsistent with the evidence
Has a sites appraisal been carried out against clearly identified criteria?	N/A – the plan does not allocate specific sites – it is however permissive of small scale development in appropriate locations subject to criteria of the NDP policies being met.
Has a development viability assessment been carried out or is there other viability evidence that is relevant to the proposals in the Plan?	No N/A
Infrastructure	
What are the likely impacts of site allocation/policy options on physical infrastructure and the capacity of existing services –	The small scale and location of development permissible under the policies of the plan will ensure that development will take place largely within the carrying capacity of physical and social infrastructure.

which could help shape decisions on the best choice of sites?	
Has the Qualifying Body engaged with infrastructure providers, advised by the Local Planning Authority?	No the main stage for consultation with these groups will be at the upcoming pre-submission draft plan stage when all statutory consultees and stakeholders including utilities providers will be consulted Action – Steering Group to ensure all relevant infrastructure providers are included in the upcoming consultation
Is additional infrastructure needed to enable sites to be developed proposed in the Plan in a sustainable way?	Yes – any new infrastructure required will be on a very small scale and designed to be sustainable.
How will (any required) additional infrastructure be delivered?	Given the scale of infrastructure required – this is likely to be achieved directly through development. Projects.
What impact will such infrastructure have on viability of a proposal and its delivery?	Again given small scale of development and scale of infrastructure investment it is unlikely viability would be seriously impacted.
Has any infrastructure required been prioritised for provision in the Plan?	Yes water supply, broadband connectivity and small scale renewable energy sources are prioritised in the plan.
Plan Content	
Are there any obvious errors (excluding typographical) in the Plan?	Subject to the adjustments proposed at the Plan Review Workshop on 17 th February being implemented there are no obvious errors in the plan and, taken as a whole, it is a coherent document. Action – Steering Group to revise draft plan as discussed at Plan Review Workshop
Is the time period over which the Plan relates clearly and precisely set out?	Yes the plan clearly state it runs to 2035
Does the Plan refer to any excluded development (minerals, waste or nationally significant infrastructure projects)?	No
Does the Plan have a clear and logical structure?	Yes – save for the point above regarding the absence of a delivery and monitoring and review section
Is it clear what sort of place the Plan area is?	Yes the plan provides a ‘snapshot’ of the parish in section 1 as well as the issues currently facing it in section 3
Does the Plan appear to cover planning issues that are relevant to the neighbourhood?	Yes all the coverage in the plan is relevant to the location of the area within a remote rural national park landscape.

If not is the selective approach explained and justified?	N/A
Does the Plan have a clear vision, ambitions and/or objectives guiding the reasons for its production and application?	Yes section 4 includes a clear vision and objectives clearly based on consultation responses and perceived needs of the area.
Is the land use content of the Plan (which will be examined) clearly distinguished from the non-land use (non-examined) content?	Yes the community action proposals are listed separately in an action plan in Appendix 3
Are the policies appropriately justified with a clear rationale?	Yes the level of justification in the supporting text is good
Are the policies backed up with relevant, proportionate evidence?	Yes – see comments above under ‘Evidence’.
Are the Plan’s policies clear and unambiguous and do they reflect the community’s aspirations?	The policies certainly reflect the community aspirations. Once the amendments to the policies proposed at the Plan Review Workshop on the 17 th of February are implemented I am satisfied the policies will be expressed in a clear and unambiguous manner.
Monitoring and Review	
Is there reference made to monitoring and how this is intended to be done?	No – see the action proposed above Action – include section on arrangements for monitoring and review
Are there any proposed performance indicators to measure the implementation progress of the Plan?	Not currently – some key performance indicators could be included as part of drafting the above section.
Are there any circumstances which might trigger an early review of the Plan?	The completion of the review of the NNP Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD may necessitate a review but it is not anticipated that it would be a full review.
Otherwise when is it intended the Plan will be reviewed and either altered or replaced with a new Plan?	This is not currently specified – it will be clarified as part of the new section above Action – indicate when 1st review is likely in drafting new section of plan on Delivery Monitoring and Review.