

Berwick Neighbourhood Plan

Youth Background Paper

July 2017

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1. Background

- 1.1 This document is one in a series of background papers prepared by the Berwick Neighbourhood Plan Working Groups. It sets out the relevant national and local policy and guidance that is informing the Berwick Neighbourhood Plan. The background paper also identifies and explains the relevant evidence base, feedback from early engagement and identifies a series of options for planning policies and community actions to address the issues that have been identified.
- 1.2 The Youth Working Group aims to support the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan vision for Berwick by proposing policies and community actions which aim to ensure the needs of young people are embedded into the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.3 The draft Neighbourhood Plan vision statement (December 2016), defines how the Neighbourhood Plan area will look in 2032 and identifies a number of areas of relevance to the youth topic:
- 'A border town bridging England and Scotland benefiting from a plethora of historic attractions, river/waterfront activities and the surrounding natural environment which provide a playground for outdoor adventure, history buffs, walkers, cyclists and naturalists';
 - 'Well-planned growth means that the town can sustain new services for families. Students have really invigorated the town and a thriving college campus is centrally located offering excellent education facilities both academic and vocational. Our young people no longer have to leave to find a worthwhile opportunity, and skills and wages are rising';
 - 'By the increased supply of well-paid full-time employment for people of all ages and abilities, a thriving all year-round tourism and service sector, and a town buzzing with students attending our Further and Higher Education facilities';
 - 'New design measures will promote sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and buses, effectively and efficiently connecting people to the social, economic, educational, recreational and cultural facilities which they require on a day to day basis.
- 1.4 The main areas covered by this background paper are:
- The national and local policy context for youth;
 - An overview of other relevant documents and evidence;
 - Consideration of feedback received as part of the early engagement on the Plan;
 - Draft vision and objectives for the youth elements of the Plan;
 - Planning policy options; and
 - Options for community actions.
- 1.5 As part of the consultation which will take place during 2017 we are inviting comments on the issues identified within this background paper. Comments can be made in the following ways:
- By completing the online questionnaire via the link at Berwick-TC-GOV.UK
 - By submitting a comment via <http://www.berwickplan.co.uk/>
 - By email to: consult@berwick-tc.gov.uk
 - By letter to: Berwick Town Council, The Arch Workspace, Boarding School Yard, 90 Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1BN

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Comments must be submitted by the published date.

2. Strategic Planning Context

Background

2.1 As they are part of the Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plans have to be prepared in line with legal requirements. The way in which Neighbourhood Plans are prepared and the policies they contain will be tested by an Independent Examiner. In order to pass an examination and proceed to referendum, Neighbourhood Plans must meet a number of 'basic conditions', to ensure they are legally compliant they must:

- Have regard to national planning policy and guidance;
- Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan;
- Contribute to sustainable development; and
- Be compatible with European obligations.

National planning policy and guidance

2.2 National planning policy and guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) respectively. The NPPF is clear that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These roles should not be undertaken in isolation, because they are mutually dependent. The social element of sustainable development is particularly relevant to the youth topic area. This seeks to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

2.3 Chapter 8 of the NPPF seeks to ensure the planning system facilitates social interaction and helps to create healthy, inclusive communities. Paragraph 69 requires local planning authorities to involve all sections of the community in the development of Local Plans and planning decisions, going on to state:

'Planning policies and decisions, in turn, should aim to achieve places which promote:

- *opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity;*
- *safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and*
- *safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.'*

2.4 Paragraph 70 goes on to state that:

'To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- *plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;*
- *guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;*

- *ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and*
- *ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.'*

2.5 With regard to education provision, paragraph 72 identifies that the Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. It requires local planning authorities to take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement and to development that will widen choice in education. Local planning authorities should:

- *'Give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools; and*
- *Work with schools promoters to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.'*

2.6 Paragraph 73 identifies the important role that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make to the health and well-being of communities. It requires that planning policies are based on robust and up to date assessments of needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Paragraph 74 states:

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.'*

Local Plan

Berwick upon Tweed Local Plan

2.7 Currently the Local Plan for Northumberland consists of the saved¹ policies of the former Local Planning Authorities that made up Northumberland before Local Government Reorganisation in 2009. For the Berwick Neighbourhood Plan Area, these are the saved policies of the Berwick upon Tweed Local Plan (1999). Given the time that has elapsed since the preparation of the Berwick upon Tweed Local Plan and as it was prepared to cover the period up to 2006, some elements of it are out of date, therefore it does not provide a wholly appropriate strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.8 Given the time that has elapsed since the preparation of the Berwick Local Plan, a number of elements of it are out of date, therefore they do not provide a wholly appropriate strategic context for the Neighbourhood Plan.

¹ http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/WAMDocuments/C7737F00-2738-43F3-9D25-681033B85351_1_0.pdf?nccredirect=1

- 2.9** The Local Plan defines the population profile of the former borough and identifies the impact of the loss of younger people through migration. As a result, it highlights the need to stem the net loss and broaden the economic base and opportunities for leisure and services (paragraph 3.0.2).
- 2.10** The main policies relevant to the youth topic are:
- Policy W3 – seeks to protect employment land to ensure opportunities for all, including young people;
 - Policy R1 – identifies the National Playing Field Association’s ‘6 acre standard’ of 2.43 hectares of outdoor recreational space per 1000 of population. The policy requires developers to set aside a proportionate part of their application site or contribute to the provision of facilities elsewhere;
 - Policy R2 – supports the development of new and enhancement of existing recreational facilities;
 - Policy R3 – protects outdoor playing space and facilities from loss.

Emerging Northumberland Core Strategy

- 2.11** Northumberland County Council (NCC) is currently preparing a new Local Plan which will replace the existing saved planning policies. The Core Strategy is the first Local Plan document and it will set out the strategic policies, with the subsequent Northumberland Delivery Document adding detail to the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is expected to be adopted in December 2017. Whilst the emerging Core Strategy is not an adopted planning document the strategic policies and associated evidence base are helping to inform the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.12** Policy 1 sets out the approach to sustainable development, highlighting the presumption in favour of sustainable development. It also highlights that consideration will be given to the impact of plans and/ or proposals on: improving social and cultural wellbeing and provision of infrastructure which is required to enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.
- 2.13** Policy 14 supports the provision of large scale leisure facilities in Main Towns and Service Centres, where identified criteria can be met.
- 2.14** Policy 19 seeks to ensure the provision of affordable housing across Northumberland to meet identified needs. Policy 22 seeks to ensure the provision of accommodation for vulnerable groups.
- 2.15** Policy 41 promotes sustainable connections to: support a range of transport modes with priority given to walking, cycling and public transport as well as improving the ICT network.
- 2.16** Policy 49 seeks to ensure community services and facilities are retained and where possible enhanced. It identifies that this will be achieved by:
- Strongly resisting the loss of community services and facilities, unless an appropriate alternative is provided or there is demonstrable evidence that there is no longer community need for the facility and suitable alternative uses have been considered;
 - Supporting the development of new community services and facilities where deficiencies in provision would be addressed and provided that unacceptable adverse effects on the environment and the local community can be avoided or mitigated;

- Supporting the development and modernisation of established community services and facilities where this would ensure their retention for the benefit of the community;
- Supporting the shared use of facilities, including the wider use of educational facilities;
- Ensuring that, where community facilities are listed as an asset of community value, this will be regarded as a material consideration in the determination of a planning application;
- Taking into account viability, new development will be required to provide or contribute to community facilities as part of the development or, if appropriate, off-site where no facilities exist or where existing facilities are deficient.

2.17 Policy 50 requires that in plan making and decision taking that the provision of sports facilities, recreational open space for outdoor sport, children’s play and less formal recreational activity, will be sought for the development. The policy identifies that consideration will be given to how development proposals:

- Enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments by protecting and enhancing existing recreational facilities and services and/or providing new ones;
- Guard against the unnecessary loss of recreational facilities and services by considering up to date evidence, local need and the replacement of facilities and services when they reach the end of their useful life;
- Ensure that new and established recreational facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and they are retained for the benefit of the community;
- Encourage and facilitate the increased use of facilities, including the shared use of playing space in educational establishments;
- Where the development is large enough, that provision is on-site unless this is demonstrated by the applicant to be impracticable;
- That any off-site provision is on an agreed site or, if none has yet been identified, has a level of accessibility considered reasonable for the facility being provided;
- That the future use and maintenance arrangements have been secured, taking full account of the views of Town and Parish Councils or others who may be responsible for the facilities, once in place;
- Where it is argued that the provision would compromise the viability of the development, that this can be satisfactorily demonstrated;
- Development proposals that would result in the loss of land or buildings used for recreational use will not be permitted unless: They would be replaced by an area of equivalent or better quantity and quality, in a suitable location; or an excess of provision in quantitative and qualitative terms is clearly demonstrated.

2.18 Policy 51 recognises the contribution of strategic and local green infrastructure to the health and wellbeing of Northumberland’s communities and visitors. That development proposals should seek to protect and where appropriate extend Northumberland’s green infrastructure.

Summary

2.19 The NPPF emphasises that planning system should ensure facilities are provided and protected to support social interaction and help to create healthy, inclusive communities. This approach is reflected within both the saved Berwick upon Tweed Local Plan and emerging Northumberland Core Strategy policies.

3. Other strategies and plans

- 3.1 In addition to the strategic planning framework, there are a number of other documents and evidence available to inform the preparation of the youth elements of the Neighbourhood Plan.

National level

- 3.2 Whilst the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Island have prepared, or are preparing strategies for young people, no such strategy has been prepared for England.

Regional level

North East Strategic Economic Plan (2017)

- 3.3 The updated Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) identifies the importance of ensuring that young people are able to develop transferrable skills to support the growth in the regional economy and that one of the challenges is that there are a large number of younger people who are out of work. The SEP therefore identifies the need to:
- Facilitate and coordinate strengthened interaction between employers, education and the wider skills system;
 - Strengthen dialogue and co-ordination across the education system from early years into employment;
 - Be responsive to opportunities emerging from new skills funding and structures;
 - To develop a strategy to ensure that people with higher level skills can be recruited into the North East through effective place marketing and a spousal support system.
- 3.4 The SEPs vision for 2024 is:
- *Providers and education establishments provide a mix of world class academic, technical and professional education, apprenticeships and higher level apprenticeships in all of the growing areas of our economy, ensuring that those entering the labour market have the right skills to thrive;*
 - *That skills supply underpins business growth and talent is retained in the region;*
 - *Every young person can identify routes into work, supported through experience and exposure to the world of work and inspiration. We want them to understand that life and work experiences, alongside career and formal qualifications, are incredibly valuable.*
- 3.5 Next steps for youth employment identified in the SEP are:
- *Complementing our ambitious skills programme, coherent pathways for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people are required to help them to move into education, training and employment and realise their full potential.*
 - *Our investments of the €35m European Social Fund include support to 15-24 year olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) into education. This will support the development of the skills required to enter and progress in work and is additional and complimentary to local programmes such as Generation NE, Durham Works, Talent Match NE, and to national funding for apprenticeships, traineeships and mainstream further education.*

By 2018 we will:

- *Create and scale up initiatives that adopt innovative and agile approaches to meeting local needs. This will build on the Generation NE model which has validated our belief that locally designed approaches to our key employment challenges are critical to our success. We will support at least a further 2,000 young people and open up new digital support offer to a wider range of young people including those unemployed but not claiming benefits;*
- *Deliver Durham Works, a youth employment initiative sponsored by European Funding, which aims to address gaps in provision for young people in that area where the level of NEET or risk of becoming NEET is more acute;*
- *Ensure that young people have access to the support and skills required to progress in employment.*

County level

Northumberland Children and Young Peoples Plan - Strategic Statement 2015 18

- 3.6** The Northumberland Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) strategic statement sets out the overarching ambitions for children and young people in Northumberland. The CYPP aims to deliver the following:
- A journey to independence - consistently high numbers of young people whose circumstances mean they are vulnerable live in accommodation that meets their needs;
 - Bringing our communities together and tackling child poverty - children and young people in Northumberland are far less likely to be the victims of crime than is the case nationally. Over 10% of young people aged 13 to 19 in Northumberland participate in volunteering activities and that number is increasing annually. There are fewer children living in poverty in Northumberland than in other parts of the north east, but there are certain areas of the county where it remains a major issue;
 - Developing ambition, enjoying life and doing as well as possible - a very high number of young children receive prompt health and development checks that ensure they have the right foundations to make a good start in life;
 - Being there to help and support when it will have most impact - through partners on the Youth Justice Board, there has been an 87% reduction in the number of 10-17 year olds becoming involved with the youth justice system. 85% of children and young people who are looked after say the support they receive from their foster carers is “outstanding”; and
 - Promoting safeguarding - when Children’s Services receive referrals, they make prompt decisions on how to act. There is a highly effective programme of training that I utilised by staff who work directly with children and young people who may be at risk of harm.

Local level

- 3.7** An extensive survey of the wishes of young people was carried out in as part of the Berwick 900 festival in 2015, known as the great performing rope. This is appended to this document for inclusion in the evidence base.

Summary

- 3.8** Young people have highlighted the need for more youth facilities, the need to make better use of our natural assets, and the restoration/introduction of more diverse things for people to see and do. The study is extensive and provides a good basis for ensuring that the needs of young people are considered in the plan.

Feedback

Early engagement – local community

- 4.1 As a means of starting the process of collecting information and opinions that would influence the content of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council held five community engagement drop-in sessions across the Plan area which took place during February 2016. The purpose of the events was to raise awareness of the opportunities presented by Neighbourhood Planning and to engage as broad a range of people from the local community as possible from the start of the plan making process. Engagement sought to help the Steering Group to define those issues of greatest importance to the local community
- 4.2 Each drop-in session sought views from the community using a variety of techniques, each of which looked to determine local opinions about life in Berwick. These techniques included:
- Feedback display boards seeking opinions about the topic areas that should be covered in a Neighbourhood Plan;
 - Feedback display boards which allowed people to identify, by using ‘Post-it’ notes what is good and not so good about life in Berwick;
 - Feedback postcards inviting people to identify the three things they would change about Berwick; and
 - A mapping exercise which allowed people to highlight specific locations of concern and where opportunities exist for improvements.
- 4.3 A full report on the engagement activities is available on the Neighbourhood Plan website².

Natural Environment issues identified through early engagement

Key themes the Plan should cover:

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
Involve local children in schools with local representatives to develop their ideas and the need to vote.	Ensure effective engagement with young people as part of the preparation of the Plan.	
Play parks back in use please.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	
Better education	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Provision of further education for young people	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	

Good issues:

² xxx

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
We are fortunate to have an open green area and woodland like the Goody Patchy. It needs to be protected and improved as a family restoration area	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities. Potential allocation of local green space/ protected open space.	
A better deal for young people	Ensure effective engagement with young people as part of the preparation of the Plan.	
Education for all – reintroduction of all the courses that used to be in Berwick	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	

Not so good issues:

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
Lack of single bed accommodation	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
Limited further education provision	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
More/better play facilities for children	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	
More one bed units for young people/elderly	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
Poor employment for the young people.	Allocation of employment land where necessary and policy approach that supports the protection of required employment land.	

Feedback postcard – three changes:

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
More one bed & studio flat accommodation for young people/couples	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
More children's play parks	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
More one bed accommodation for young people/and for elderly	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
Pie-in-the-sky thinking, but wouldn't it be great to have an Ice Rink – Kelso Ice Rink in the Borders is always busy – use kwik save site.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing leisure facilities.	
Nothing much for youth/teenagers	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
Improve the Further and Higher Education offer	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
A university so our future children don't have to travel	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Apprenticeship and training for youngsters	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Education and Employment	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities. Allocation of employment land where necessary and policy approach that supports the protection of required employment land.	
Need further education here as young trainees and apprentices have to train far away places like Newcastle.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Provide better leisure facilities	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing leisure facilities.	
Provide a college/evening classes towards higher education.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
The Leisure facilities are inadequate for town centre of this size	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing	

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
	leisure facilities.	
More development schemes for young people in the town – creative, skills based etc.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	

Areas of opportunity:

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
New play park – for local kids	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
Youth opportunities – views were expressed regarding the need to raise the aspirations of local young people	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Involvement of young people in the Neighbourhood Plan process	Ensure effective engagement with young people as part of the preparation of the Plan.	
Attract economic activity which pays more and demands higher skills – up the Further and Higher Education offer.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	
Skate Park (& Wheeled Park) for Berwick – Edinburgh & Newcastle are nearest locations	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
New park (muga) multi purpose – football pitches etc. Aimed at older children age 10+	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
Opportunity for bowling and cinema at Tesco	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing leisure facilities.	
No seats in or around Newfields would like some equipment for older children in Newfields Park	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	
Young people need to have jobs here too – perhaps combine the two by making Berwick a learning centre for conservation by the physical conservation of the town preserving its historic archives for study a beacon of	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing education facilities.	

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
best practice for care in the community.		

Additional early engagement

- 4.4 Following the early engagement event with the local community, further discussions were held, this resulted in the following feedback:

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
There are very few sporting and recreational activities	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
The youth feedback showed requests for a skate park. A young man made a passionate plea for a park at the first of the Berwick Town Council Investors Conference, which resulted in interest from an investor.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
Bowling Alley and Ice Skating rink along with lots of other things came up as requests from The Great Performing Rope.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
The area lacks enough housing suitable for young people, be that single parents or just young families. There is little or no provision of affordable housing for this age group	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
Lots of young people are living in overcrowded homes with their parents due to lack of suitable housing stock. Teenagers and young adults 'sofa surfing' just to stay in the area but with no home.	Policy approach to support the provision of an appropriate mix of new affordable housing.	
There are little or no facilities for young pregnant mothers.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	
Mental health services for young people and access to specialists is also poor.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community facilities.	
We desperately need a Further Education College. Young	Policy approach to support the development of new	

Issue identified	Potential Planning response	Potential community action
people have to travel either across the border into Scotland or down South to Ashington or Newcastle. The extra cost of post 16 transport is often too expensive for some families to afford.	and protection of existing education facilities.	
The area lacks youth space in general both indoor and outdoor facilities. Youths roam the streets at night sometimes up to 50 at a time. They hang about bus shelters and cause some disruption at times. This is very apparent during the lighter nights of the summer. Local community police occasionally have to target antisocial behaviour as youths wander about with nothing much to do.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	
We lack community centre spaces in the social housing areas of Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth. We do have some but it's patchy.	Policy approach to support the development of new and protection of existing community/ leisure facilities.	

A further session was held in Berwick Academy as a Citizenship exercise and the following additional points were raised by young people

More indoor facilities, e.g. bowling alley, ice skating, cinema, bigger [shopping] arcade
 More youth space, e.g. more playparks, better all weather astro-turf
 More shopping spaces, - fewer empty shops
 More maintain grass, better grass cutting
 More beach facilities and toilets
 More films at the Maltings
 Better careers guidance
 More slides at the swimming pool
 More dog poo bins
 Outdoor gym facilities and outdoor basketball Bigger library

This summaries as:

Improved recreation and youth facilities
 Improved public realm
 Improved public services aimed at delivering services for young people
 More retail outlets, and a shopping mall

Summary

4.5

Youth vision and objectives

Background

- 5.1 The early engagement with both the local community and key stakeholder has informed the preparation of a vision and objectives for the youth elements of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Vision

- 5.2 The vision for youth is that by 2032:

A border town bridging England and Scotland benefiting from a plethora of historic attractions, river/waterfront activities and the surrounding natural environment which provide a playground for outdoor adventure, history buffs, walkers, cyclists and naturalists.

Well-planned growth means that the town can sustain new services for families. Students have really invigorated the town and a thriving college campus is centrally located offering excellent education facilities both academic and vocational. Our young people no longer have to leave to find a worthwhile opportunity, and skills and wages are rising.

Objectives

- 5.3 To deliver the vision the following objectives have been identified:
- Our communities will be a place for life-long learning, where high quality vocational skills and training are valued and available. Infrastructure will provide Further Education opportunities to learn skills and gain qualifications locally, to enable our young people to stay, develop and thrive in the area beyond their secondary education
 - We will provide suitable housing, physical and mental health services, and other public services to support the skill, optimism and enthusiasm of young people.
 - The plan will support delivery of a range of recreational & leisure facilities for young people and promote further investment of the existing indoor facilities and community organisations that are 'youth facing'.
 - Housing provision will be of a variety of size, tenure and price, suitable to meet the needs and aspirations of all families and households.
 - By the increased supply of well-paid full-time and part-time employment for people of all ages and abilities, a thriving all year-round tourism and service sector, and a town buzzing with students attending our Further and Higher Education facilities
 - The town and community centres of Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth will offer a mix of commercial, cultural, leisure and recreational facilities, accessible to residents and visitors.
 - New design measures will promote sustainable transport such as walking cycling and buses, effectively and efficiently connecting people to the social, economic, educational, recreational and cultural facilities which they require on a day to day basis.

Planning Policy Options

Background

- 6.1 The evidence review and feedback from early engagement has identified a number of potential planning issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to seek to address:
- Protection and enhancement of community facilities;
 - Protection and enhancement of leisure facilities;
 - Enhanced education facilities;
 - Protection of important open spaces;
 - Availability of suitable housing;
 - Access to jobs;
 - Ensure effective engagement of young people in the neighbourhood planning process.
- 6.2 This section identifies potential planning policy options to address the issues identified above.

Issue 1: Protection and enhancement of community facilities

- 6.3
- 1a: High level policy support for the creation, protection and enhancement of community facilities;
- 1b: Option 1a plus undertake mapping exercise to identify existing community facilities across the plan area that are used by young people.

Issue 2: Protection and enhancement of leisure facilities

- 6.4
- 2a: High level policy support for the creation, protection and enhancement of leisure facilities;
- 2b: Option 2a plus undertake mapping exercise to identify existing leisure facilities across the plan area that are used by young people.
- 2c: Identify potential sites for development to deliver enhanced indoor and outdoor leisure and community facilities.

Issue 3: Education and skills provision

- 6.5
- 3a: High level policy statement which supports appropriate future education development;
- 3b: Option 3a plus principles to guide the future location of education development;

Issue 4: Local Green Space/ Protected Open Space

- 6.6
- 4a: High level policy approach to ensure that new development provides an appropriate level of open space within it;

- 4b: Undertake an assessment of areas that could be considered for designation as local green space or protected open space – to be produced by the Natural Environment Working Group.

Issue 5: Access to affordable housing

6.7

- 5a: Policy approach which requires the delivery of affordable housing to meet identified needs;
- 5b: Identification of targets for different types/ mixes of affordable housing
- 5c: Combination of options 5a and 5b – to be produced by the Housing Working Group.

Issue 6: Supporting future employment development

6.8

- 6a: High level policy statement which supports appropriate future employment development which balances this against the need to protect and enhance the distinctive and valued environment;
- 6b: Improve existing employment areas;
- 6c: Option 6a plus principles to guide the future location of employment development e.g. focus on particular types of employment development in and outside the town centre etc - – to be produced by the Employment & Skills Working Group.

Issue 7: Allocation of employment sites

6.9

- 7a: Criteria based policy only – no site allocations;

Issue 8: Engagement of young people

6.10

- 8a: Contact made with youth groups to seek feedback on issues for the Plan;
- 8b: Consultation events held in locations that are popular with young people;
- 8c: Engagement with local schools across the Plan area;
- 8d: Specific events organised to engage with young people.



Potential community actions