



Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan

Durham County Council Decision Statement (Regulation 18(2))

Summary

1. Following an independent examination undertaken by written representations, Durham County Council now confirms that the Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan will proceed to a Neighbourhood Planning Referendum.
2. This Decision Statement will be available on the council's website and at County Hall, Durham. A copy of the statement will also be available on Cotherstone Parish Council's website.

Background

3. Durham County Council formally designated the Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Area in February 2015. This area relates to the whole of the Cotherstone parish area and is entirely within the Local Planning Authority Area. Cotherstone Parish Council is the designated qualifying body for the Plan.
4. The Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents were submitted to the County Council on 19 December 2021. The County Council consulted upon the Plan for an eight-week period from 21 September and 16th November 2021, in accordance with Regulation 16.
5. The Council, with the consent of Cotherstone Parish Council, appointed Rosemary Kidd MRTPI to examine whether the Neighbourhood Plan met the basic conditions as set out in Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and whether the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to a referendum.
6. The Examiner's Report was received on 23 February 2022. The Report included 4 individual recommended modifications which are set out below. These are required to enable the Neighbourhood Plan to meet the 'basic conditions', and other relevant statutory provisions, and proceed to referendum.

Recommendations, Decisions and Reasons

7. The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Regulation 18 requires the local planning authority to outline what action to take in response to the recommendations of an examiner, made in a report under paragraph 10 of Schedule 4a to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as applied by Section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

8. Having considered the recommendations made in the examiner's report, and the reasons for them, Durham County Council has agreed to accept the modifications made to the draft plan under paragraph 12(6) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
9. To meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, a referendum will be held in the area formally designated as the Cotherstone Parish Neighbourhood Area on the 7th July 2022.

Geoff Paul (Interim Head of Development and Housing)

Dated: 14th April 2022

ANNEX 1

Examiner's recommended modifications to Cotherstone Neighbourhood Plan

Recommendation No.	Summary of Recommendation
1	Update paragraph numbers and quotations from NPPF of February 2019 to those of July 2021.
2	Include a Policies Map for the Plan area.
3	Place the following in the justification to Policy CNP1. “ * The term ‘Development Plan’ encompasses the Neighbourhood Plan and the County Durham Plan.”
4	Recommendation 4: Revise Policy CNP6 as follows: Delete “particularly” from the last line of the paragraph after point c). Delete “strongly” from the second sentence of paragraph 7.12.