

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL FULL COUNCIL
Thursday 24 October 2024
Decision Report

Neighbourhood Plan

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council RESOLVE to approve the draft neighbourhood plan for consultation, subject to it not requiring a SEA or HRA.

Ward

Not ward specific.

Risk Management

Blyth Town Council has appointed a Planning Consultant to provide guidance through the neighbourhood planning process. Northumberland County Council have a statutory duty to provide support throughout the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Objective

To make best use of existing and planned engagement tools to assist in the neighbourhood planning process.

Report

The draft Blyth Neighbourhood Plan is currently undergoing screening by Northumberland County Council (NCC) for whether a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and/or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required. The draft was sent by NCC to statutory consultees; Natural England, Historic England, and the Environment Agency on 30 September (as part of this process) requesting responses by 25 October 2024, although the statutory deadline would be 11 November 2024. From the screening of NCC, they do not believe that HRA and SEA is required.

It is recommended that Council approve the draft plan for the pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation on the basis that the HRA and SEA is not required. A six-week consultation would be required, and it is recommended to hold a consultation drop-in event during this period. The

benefit of agreeing this at this stage is that the consultation can be promoted in the Blyth resident's newsletter which is due to be published in early November.

If the HRA and/ or SEA is required, which we should know before the newsletter goes to print, the Council could still proceed with the drop in consultation event without commencing the pre-submission consultation and use the opportunity to promote that the consultation is imminent.

The draft neighbourhood plan is attached as Appendix 1.

Elaine Brown

Principal Officer

16 October 2024