



**Ponteland
Revised Vision, Objectives
and Policy Options
Consultation
(Executive Summary)**

June 2016



Ponteland: Household Needs Survey

(Executive Summary)

Introduction

This report summarises the findings from the Revised Vision, Objectives and Policy Options Consultation which is part of the wider Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan consultation work. The survey was conducted via both on-line and paper based surveys. In total 633 surveys were submitted. Some respondents did not answer every question in the survey as a result the figures in this Executive Summary refer to the percentage of those who responded to each individual question.

Vision

- ❖ 98% reported that they agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement; 'Ponteland will maintain its identity as a sustainable, thriving community, accessible to people of all ages. A gateway to Northumberland, which values its rural setting, rich heritage, natural environment and open spaces. It will remain visually distinct and separate from the Newcastle/Tyneside conurbation, meeting the needs of the local population, without compromising this distinction. The special identities of Darras Hall, the historic core of Ponteland village and the small settlements in the Parish will be maintained and enhanced for future generations, making the Parish of Ponteland a desirable places to live, work and visit.'
- ❖ Qualitative feedback in regards to the Vision Statement centred on preservation of the greenbelt, ensuring a village feel in Ponteland is maintained and that there should be no further/ limited future development in the parish.

Built/Historic Environment

- ❖ 98% of respondents felt that any new development should contribute positively to the unique historic and natural characteristics of the parish. As with the Vision Statement qualitative feedback highlighted the need to preserve the greenbelt and the village feel in Ponteland and that there should be no further/ limited future development in the parish.
- ❖ In terms of specific objectives, 99% agreed with the assertion that new development respects the special character of the Ponteland Conservation Area



Natural Environment

- ❖ 99% agreed with the objective that the Neighbourhood Plan should plan positively for the creation, protection and enhancement of networks for biodiversity, green infrastructure and recreation in Ponteland and to protect the landscape setting of Ponteland. Within this objective 99% agreed that there should be a policy to protect and enhance identified Wildlife Corridors in Ponteland and sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Wildlife Sites.
- ❖ Qualitative information substantiated the assertion that green spaces should be preserved and in some cases expanded.

Housing

- ❖ 92% agreed with the objective that the Neighbourhood Plan should provide a positive policy framework for new housing that meets the defined needs of residents in the Plan area and will ensure that new housing developments are carefully planned, designed and integrated into the settlement of Ponteland, to ensure they contribute to the special character of Ponteland as well as contributing to the local infrastructure and community facility needs.
- ❖ 95% agreed that to achieve the housing objective the Neighbourhood Plan could seek to direct new housing to Brownfield sites in Ponteland
- ❖ Qualitative analysis highlighted the key theme that there should be no further/ limited housing development in Ponteland and that green spaces should be preserved.

Business and Employment

- ❖ 94% agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should identify and encourage employment opportunities for sustainable economic growth, leisure and tourism across the Parish.
- ❖ Within the Business and Employment Objective 93% of respondents felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should have a positive policy with regard to rural business development proposals
- ❖ Over half of respondents (51%) did not agree with the assertion that the Neighbourhood Plan should positively encourage new hotel accommodation in Ponteland, a point which was substantiated by a cohort of qualitative comments.
- ❖ Key themes to emerge from the Business and Employment Objective qualitative feedback were the importance of resolving traffic/ transport issues such as congestion and parking, the need to move or develop the Industrial Estate and the idea of a Community Hub with specific reference to the Library site.



Retail

- ❖ 92% agreed with Objective 5 (Retail) of the Neighbourhood Plan, to identify and encourage employment opportunities for sustainable economic growth, leisure and tourism across the Parish.
- ❖ 97% agreed that to implement the Retail objective the Neighbourhood Plan could provide a positive framework for the re-development or improvement of the Merton Way shopping centre and the Broadway Shopping Centre. Qualitative comments augmented the quantitative analysis in terms of the redevelopment of Merton Way and Broadway shopping centres.
- ❖ Other qualitative suggestions highlighted the need to improve the general retail offer, limit the number of food and drink establishments and once again that there should be no further development.

Transport

- ❖ 97% agreed with the Objective to make Ponteland and the rest of the Parish a safer place for all users of the transport network, especially pedestrians, cyclists and children, by seeking to reduce traffic congestion, make it easier for people to walk to school, shops and public transport, whilst ensuring adequate car parking is provided to meet the needs of residents, visitors and businesses.
- ❖ Qualitative feedback centred on the need to improve parking, a sub category of which referred to parking at the School and general improvements to Public Transport.

Flooding

- ❖ 99% agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan Objective to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding in Ponteland.
- ❖ In terms of the specifics of implementation; 98% agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan could ensure all new developments, conversions and extensions provide separation of surface water from foul water in on site private drainage and connections to adopted sewers, even when the receiving sewers are combined. 98% agreed the Plan could ensure surface water discharge from new developments is restricted to peak flow in line with the lesser value of a Greenfield run off rate (Q_{bar}) or 5 litres/ second. 97% agreed the Plan could ensure surface water systems for new developments should include for a 10% allowance to accommodate future flows as a result of urban creep. 97% agreed the Plan could seek sustainable Urban Drainage systems as integral to all new development, to reduce the causes of flooding in Ponteland (stet). 96% agreed the Plan could seek to ensure land allocated to the north of Rotary Way and at a level of less than 60.00m AOD is kept available for flood storage to facilitate overtopping of the Fairney Burn and its tributaries.



- ❖ The key theme to emerge from the qualitative feedback was that development work increases the risk of flooding.

Older People

- ❖ 98% agreed with the assertion that the Neighbourhood Plan should provide for the ageing population in and around Ponteland. Despite this figure a number of qualitative comments highlighted that the ageing population in Ponteland was already catered for.

Health and Care

- ❖ 99% felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should ensure that the people of Ponteland of all ages have easy access to health care and leisure facilities. Qualitative comments highlighted existing problems with the current health care in terms of length of appointment times and location of services.

Education and Young People

- ❖ 98% agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should ensure that schools are well-planned to meet the needs of the current and projected pupil population and to ensure that there is sufficient provision of recreational space and facilities for young people. In terms of the latter point 98% felt that the Plan could identify areas of recreational value to protect as Local Green Space
- ❖ Qualitative comments highlighted the importance of maintaining both school locations and the 3 tier educational system.

