We’d really value your thoughts…

We have just started work on our new Local Plan. The Plan is an important document which will guide us in deciding planning applications in the future. It is a key tool in helping us protect the many special qualities of the National Park on the one hand, whilst meeting the needs of the people who live and work here on the other.

Our current Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document was published in 2008. Since then there have been considerable changes to the planning system and we need to update our policies to accommodate these changes, whilst also ensuring that we continue to deliver our two National Park statutory purposes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

Producing a new Local Plan is also a chance to take a step back and look at what has been changing in the North York Moors since 2008 and how we manage these changes in the future.

At this ‘First Steps’ stage we’d like to know what you think about the North York Moors National Park generally - what you value about it, what needs improvement, and what you think the key issues are. We’d also like to know what your views are on our current planning policies and whether they are working.

Questions in this document are there to prompt and guide responses on the issues we think are most relevant to the new Local Plan. Please don’t feel you have to answer them all but fill in any of relevance to you. Alternatively, if you want to answer more generally or cover other issues then please drop us a separate letter or email. The important thing is to tell us what you think – we want to hear from as many and as wide a range of people as possible.

Please send your comments to the address at the end of this document by 5.00p.m. on Friday November 18th 2016. Please let us know if this deadline causes you difficulties.

Thank you for your time.

About this document…

This document is split into two parts:

- Part 1 is the ‘Community Aspirations Survey’. This includes ten general questions about planning in the National Park and what people’s aspirations are for the future of the place where they live and work. It is particularly aimed at Parish and Town Councils and Meetings and local residents and businesses.

- Part 2 is a ‘Main Issues Questionnaire’. This includes twenty more specific questions about the main issues which the new Local Plan may need to tackle. It is aimed at everyone, but particularly people with an interest in the specific contents of the plan or anyone who uses
local plans on a regular basis.

We would also like to know about any specific sites that people may want to see identified for a particular use, including housing, employment and open space. Page 23 of this document provides more information. We need to have as much detail as possible about such sites if they are to be identified, so we have produced two separate forms:

- A Development Opportunities questionnaire for any areas of land where sensitively designed new development may be able to contribute to the future of the National Park.
- An Open Space form, for any areas of open space which communities want to nominate for further protection because of their local value.

- Download the Development Opportunities Questionnaire and Guidance
- Download the Local Green Space Nomination Form and Guidance

Alternatively, you can fill out all the forms electronically via Survey Monkey:

- The Community Aspirations Questionnaire
- The Main Issues Questionnaire
- The Development Opportunities Form.
- The Local Green Spaces Nomination Form

The deadline for responses is 5.00p.m. on Friday 18 November.

What are the next steps?

There will be further opportunities for you to be involved and to comment on the draft Local Plan as it progresses. In addition we will also ask for views on what we consider to be our final plan before it is considered at an independent Examination in Public before a Government Inspector.

A full timetable for the Local Plan is available as part of our ‘Local Development Scheme’ which is on the Authority’s website. Preparing a Local Plan takes around three years which is reflective of the amount of research that needs to go into it as well as the need for effective public consultation and the timetable set for the Examination.

The three years can be roughly broken down into four stages:

**Stage 1 - Research and initial consultation**

We are in this stage now – we are collecting evidence and commissioning studies to inform the plan and asking people what should be in it.

*We expect the research and initial consultation to be completed by the end of November 2016*

**Stage 2 – Issues and Options consultation**

We will use the information gathered in Stage 1 to prepare an 'Issues and Options' document which will set out the main issues facing the National Park and options for how to tackle them. We will ask for your views on this document.
We expect the Issues and Options consultation to take place around February 2017

**Stage 3 – Preferred Options consultation**

This stage involves us working up and consulting on a full draft plan, known as the ‘Preferred Options’ draft plan. Although not a requirement, we consider that this stage is particularly important as it will be the first time we will be asking for views on what we consider to be the best strategy and policies for the North York Moors National Park.

We expect the Preferred Options consultation to take place around June 2017

**Stage 4 – Testing and finalising the plan**

We will consider all the comments on the Preferred Options plan and produce what we consider to be our final version. This is known as the *Publication or Regulation 19 Plan*. We will ask for views again so any parties who still wish to see the plan changed can put their case to an independent Government Inspector. The plan, together with all comments received will be tested at an Examination in Public. The Inspector will then recommend any changes and once we have incorporated these changes we will publish the final adopted plan.

We anticipate the Publication Plan being available around October 2017, the Examination in Public taking place around April 2018 and the final adopted version being published around November 2018.
Part 1 – Community Aspirations Survey

The communities that make up the North York Moors collectively have a great deal of local knowledge and experience of living and working in the National Park. We would like to use that experience and know what you think is good about the North York Moors, what could be improved and what your community’s needs and aspirations may be for the future.

If you do not wish to use this form please feel free to write or email us with your views. For Town and Parish Councils and Meetings we have also included a map of your village(s). If there are any areas of land that you would like to see developed or protected as open space (see questions 5, 6 and 8 below) please use the maps to indicate these areas.

This form can also be filled out electronically via Survey Monkey.

If you have any questions please contact us at policy@northyorkmoors.org.uk.

C1. **What aspects of your town, village or parish are particularly important and valued by residents – what makes a good community?**

C2. **Are there any features or areas that you would like to see altered or improved?**

C3. **Would you like to see any small scale new housing development within your community? If so what types of housing - for example, open market housing, local occupancy housing, affordable housing?**
C4. Would you like to see any other types of development within your community - for example, to provide employment or improve facilities for residents or visitors?

C5. Are there any areas of previously developed land which are currently unused within your town or village? If so, can you please identify the location and tell us what your preferences would be for these areas in the future?

C6. Are there any other areas of land that you feel ought to be considered for new development? If so, can you please identify the location and tell us what your preferences would be for these areas in the future? There is a separate Development Opportunities form should you wish to go into more detail. This can be found here, or please ask for one using the details below.
C7. Do you have any comments about appropriate uses for any redundant farm buildings outside your main town or village?

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C8. Are there any particular areas of open space which you consider important for their cultural, wildlife or recreational value or because they offer a peaceful place to go, and which you think need further protection? If there are, please provide details using our ‘Open Space Nomination Form’ sent with this questionnaire. Copies are also available here, or please ask for one using the details below.

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Reason...............................................................................................................................................  
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C9. Do you have any comments about existing planning policies for the National Park in the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies document, or how we apply our planning policies?

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C10. Are there any other issues that affect your community that you would like to be considered in the preparation of the new Local Plan? What changes do you expect to see over the next twenty years which the plan might need to cater for?

Please return this form to policy@northyorkmoors.org.uk or to the Planning Policy Team, North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YO62 5BP

If you want to provide any views on the main issues for the new Local Plan please continue to Part 2 of this form – the Main Issues Questionnaire.
Part 2 – Main Issues

The following questions focus on what we think are the key issues for the new Local Plan. Please don’t feel restricted to answering only these questions - we welcome views on any aspects of the forthcoming plan.

This form can also be filled out electronically via Survey Monkey.

What should be in the new Local Plan?

Some principles

We are aiming to produce a concise and easily understood plan which is underpinned by sound evidence. The plan will set out what makes the North York Moors special and will aim to increase people’s understanding of the National Park and the challenges it faces. Our starting point will be that:

- It will fulfil our statutory functions as a National Park Authority to:
  - ‘conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage…and
  - promote understanding and enjoyment of the ‘special qualities’ of the North York Moors National Park.

In pursuing these two purposes we also have a duty to ‘seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities’. In practice this means that the plan will take a landscape and heritage driven approach to the management of new development, and will promote the vitality of communities within these overriding constraints;

- It will promote sustainable forms of development and its contribution to this goal will be tested as we develop options through what is known as a sustainability appraisal. We also have a legal duty to prepare plans that contribute towards more sustainable forms of development;

- It will work towards the management and mitigation of climate change. At the 2015 Paris Climate Change summit 190 countries agreed to work towards reducing global temperature. The agreement that “parties should take action to conserve and enhance as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases…including forests” is particularly relevant to a predominantly semi-natural area such as the North York Moors National Park;

- It will develop strategy and policy from our 2012 Management Plan1 (as reviewed). This means that it will reflect the layout of this plan and will be rooted around the special qualities of the North York Moors as agreed and set out in this plan. Fourteen particular characteristics have been identified that make the North York Moors a special place, focussing on its distinctive landscapes, habitats, villages, tranquillity and strong sense of history and culture.

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M1. Do you agree with these principles? Have we missed anything?

Our plan will also need to take account of a raft of other plans and policies. A full list of relevant plans and policies is included in our ‘Plan-Making’ Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Appendices. We think that the most influential are:

- **The North York Moors Management Plan**\(^2\). This is an overarching document setting out a clear plan of action for all activities related to the National Park;

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**\(^3\) and accompanying guidance. The NPPF is the main expression of Central Government’s planning policies and what it expects local planning authorities to include in their plans;

- **European Directives on habitats and sustainable development**, as translated into national legislation;

- **English National Parks and the Broads – UK Government Vision and Circular**\(^4\) (DEFRA, 2010). The Circular is the main government policy document specifically relating to National Parks;

- ‘**Fixing the Foundations- Creating a More Prosperous Nation**’\(^5\), HM Treasury, July 2015 and ‘Towards a one nation economy: A 10-point plan for boosting productivity in rural areas’;

- **The North Yorkshire and East Riding and Hull Spatial Plan** (forthcoming). The Plan will be a non-statutory planning framework which seeks to co-ordinate plans and planning/investment decisions in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding and Hull area;

- **Local Plans in adjoining areas.** We are also legally required under a ‘Duty to Co-operate’ to make sure we look at how the effects of our plan will relate to neighbouring areas and vice versa.

\(^3\) http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/
\(^5\) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fixing-the-foundations-creating-a-more-prosperous-nation
M2. Are there any other policies or programmes that you feel are particularly relevant to our new Local Plan? If so, which aspects do you consider the most important?

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Vision and Objectives

Every good plan should tell a story - a story of where we are now, where we are going and how we will get there. The new Local Plan will articulate ‘where we are going’ by setting out the overall vision and a set of objectives for how we would like to see the National Park in the year 2035.

A vision for the North York Moors was agreed following extensive consultation in 2012 and our initial thought is that this vision should be carried through to the new Local Plan. It is set out in our Management Plan:

- A place managed with care and concern for future generations.
- A place where the diversity and distinctiveness of the landscape, villages and buildings is cherished.
- A place where biological and cultural diversity and other special qualities are conserved and enhanced.
- A place where the environment and way of life is respected and understood.
- A place where communities are more self-sustaining and economic activity engenders environmental and recreational benefits.
- A place that is special to people and that provides pleasure, inspiration and spiritual wellbeing; where calm and quality of life are celebrated.
- A place where visitors are welcome and cultural and recreational opportunities and experiences are accessible.
- A place that continues to adapt to change whilst National Park purposes continue to be furthered and pursued.
- A place where natural resources are managed sustainably and environmental limits are recognised.

The Local Plan objectives which will flow from this vision will provide the framework for how our planning policies will help to implement the vision for the North York Moors. Our goal is for the objectives to truly reflect, and be very specific to the North York Moors area, rather than be generic and able to apply anywhere.
Our initial thoughts are that they should:

- Have a sustainable development message - we should aim to pass on the North York Moors to future generations in an even better state than it is now.

- Recognise that as well as being a beautiful and tranquil place, the National Park has an economic and social value for everyone. The recognition that environmental resources actively contribute to social and economic wealth is known as ‘ecosystem services’. In other words, the North York Moors is not just a static landscape or series of views, but is a working area whose resources contribute to people’s physical and mental wellbeing, and which provides clean air and water, food supplies and incomes.

- Stress what is unique or exceptional about our National Park, in particular, the sense of peace and tranquillity it offers and the diversity of stunning landscapes within a small area.

- Contain the message that we need local communities and businesses to prosper so that the next generation will have the opportunity to live, work and look after the North York Moors.

**M3. Do you have any suggestions for our objectives, or any priorities you wish to see covered?**

What are the most important issues for the North York Moors Local Plan?

The new Local Plan will provide the framework for managing development proposals as they come forward. Many of our existing policies may not change greatly (for example, policies which protect landscape, biodiversity and cultural and built heritage) but there will be areas where there is a degree of collective choice and debate over the direction we take.

The following sections set out areas which we think will generate the most discussion. Please let us know whether you think we have identified the right areas or whether any have been missed. We would also like any initial views around specific issues and comments on whether our current policies have been working or could be made to work more effectively.

The main areas we have identified are:

**The Environment**

The new Local Plan will be driven by the need to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the North York Moors. We are keen that our environmental policies are based around and reflect the Park’s special qualities and this means that any new development
must be carefully and sensitively considered and designed in a way that recognises its place within a National Park. We intend that the Local Plan will include a set of protective policies covering:

- Protection and enhancement of landscape and trees
- Valuing and safeguarding our historic built environment
- Maintaining tranquillity
- Protecting our dark night skies
- Conserving and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity and geodiversity
- Maintaining and improving air, water and soil quality
- Managing flood risk
- Ensuring a high standard of design in new development.
- Encouraging appropriate renewable energy deployment

**M4. Do you agree with the topics listed? Are there any environmental issues that we may have missed?**

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**Farming**

Agriculture makes a major contribution to the appearance and character of the North York Moors and provides jobs and incomes for many. Over time farming is changing, with a trend to bigger farmsteads or smaller ‘hobby’ farms, changes to subsidy regimes and more diversification of farm enterprises. This often results in a need for new and larger farm buildings or ancillary uses such as tourist accommodation or farm shops.

Alongside these pressures for change is the need to protect the landscape and other special qualities of the National Park. We are interested to hear any views on what policies may be needed to manage this change and the extent to which policies should restrict or encourage new development.

Our current approach is contained in DP12 and DP13 of the 2008 Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document⁶. Specific issues to think about for the new Local Plan include:

- Our stance on new farm buildings (particularly large buildings) and their locations;
- Whether any new agricultural workers dwellings and new buildings should be located within the existing steading;
- Our approach to the conversion of farm buildings into housing, holiday accommodation or retail use;
- Whether we need a policy on ‘starter farms’;
- Our approach to the situation where traditional farms have ‘outgrown’ villages and are looking to relocate.

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M5. Are our current policies on managing agricultural change sufficient? Do you have any views on whether they need to be more flexible or responsive to certain circumstances?

The Spatial Strategy

The spatial strategy sets out the level and type of development that is considered appropriate for different places. Its aim is to encourage more sustainable living and working patterns by reducing unnecessary travel and to avoid sporadic development in hamlets and the open countryside. The current settlement hierarchy for the North York Moors divides the area into five ‘tiers’ or categories:

- **Local Service Centre** (Helmsley)
- **Service Villages** - seven settlements (Ampleforth, Easington, Thornton-le-Dale, Scalby, Sleights, West and East Ayton and part of Guisborough) near the edge of the Park which have good services and public transport links to a service centre.
- **Local Service Villages** - six villages (Fylingthorpe, Osmotherley, Lythe, Staithes, Swainby and Hinderwell) which have fewer facilities but fulfil an important service function to the local community.
- **Other villages** - the majority of villages in the National Park where there are limited or no facilities
- **Open countryside** - areas with no development, sporadic development or isolated buildings.


We will be reviewing the spatial strategy for the new Local Plan, including looking at whether we still need a settlement hierarchy and if so how it should be generated. To help us, any views on the following questions would be useful:

M6. Are there issues with our current settlement hierarchy, or any villages which need to go elsewhere within its tiers?

M7. Which services or facilities are most important for community vitality and are there any other characteristics of villages (or groups of villages) we should look at in considering any new settlement hierarchy?

Infill Sites

The Authority’s definition of an infill site is ‘a small gap within a continuously built up frontage within the main built-up area of the settlement, which can accommodate no more than one dwelling.’ Our current policy states that infill is acceptable in the main built up area of Helmsley and the Service Villages for market and affordable housing and is acceptable for local needs (occupancy) housing within the main built up area of smaller Local Service or Other villages.

M8. Do you have any views on whether infill sites should be defined differently (and if so, how)?

Population and Housing

How much?

The 2011 census recorded a population living in the North York Moors National Park of 23,380, within 10,342 households. Our population is on average older than in the country as a whole - around 37% of people are aged 60 or more compared with 23% within the region and across England. We also have fewer young people than average - 25% of people in the National Park are aged less than 30 compared with 37-38% regionally and nationally.
Our starting point when planning for housing is Government policy which states that “the Parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing” and that the expectation is that new housing will be focused on meeting affordable housing requirement, supporting local employment opportunities and key services.\(^8\)

We are expected to set our own housing target for the North York Moors within the new Local Plan. We do this by establishing the need for housing through a technical study known as a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). We then identify sites to accommodate the identified need unless it conflicts with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park. Our SHMA has now been completed and is available in the planning policy section of our website.\(^9\) The SHMA has projected various population scenarios based on past trends and possible policy objectives. Because the North York Moors has been losing population (between the 2001 and 2011 censuses there was a drop of 599 people or 2.3% of the population) projections based on past trends generate little or no need for new housing. Consequently the SHMA also includes an additional scenario which looks at the need for new housing based on the same level of population in 2035 as is resident now i.e. no further population decline. This concludes that around 29 homes per year would be needed to achieve population stability and fill jobs. Around 21 homes of these 29 would need to be affordable. More homes are needed for the same number of people because households are getting smaller and the figures are picking up past trends in second home ownership.

For context, since we published the Core Strategy in 2008 housing completions have been running at around 36 per year (around 34% of which were conversions of existing buildings). 189 homes are also already allocated in the Helmsley Local Plan and there are other outstanding permissions which have yet to be completed.

At this stage we do not know what further sites may be available, which will heavily influence our overall approach to housing. We are however interested to hear any general views on new housing development in the North York Moors and what our main objectives should be when planning for it, for example, should we take a restrictive view that focusses on affordable housing and re-using brownfield sites or should we allow for some new general housing to stem population decline and support local services?

M9. What are your general views on the amount of new housing we should be planning for in the North York Moors and what do you think our main objective should be when setting a housing target? Should we have a housing target?

M10. Should the new Local Plan policies aim to limit further population decline and encourage a more balanced age demographic?

\(^8\) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, English National Parks and the Broads, UK Government Vision and Circular March 2010

Type and size of new housing

The Local Plan can influence the type and size of new housing. Since 2008 84% of new housing built in the North York Moors has been either two or three bedrooms with a fairly even split of each. Our SHMA evidence suggests that as households are getting smaller the biggest demand (between 40 and 60%) will be for two bedroom units followed by one bedroom units (around 15-30%).

M11. Do you think we should have a policy on the type and size of new homes and if so do you agree that we should be focussing on smaller houses? Are there any particular types or sizes of housing that you think are needed?

Tenure and location of new housing

Our current Core Strategy (Core Policy J)\(^\text{10}\) looks to focus new housing in certain locations through the application of our settlement hierarchy. Open market housing (for general, unrestricted sale) is acceptable in Helmsley and the seven larger Service Villages provided schemes deliver up to 40% of homes as affordable. Elsewhere housing is permitted on small infill sites or as conversions of existing buildings as long as it meets a local need. Affordable housing (available with some form of subsidy or discount) is permitted within or adjacent to all settlements in appropriate circumstances as an ‘exception’ to policy. Finally, development in open countryside is allowed only where it is essential for farming, forestry or other essential land management or for conversion of a traditional rural building.

We are interested to hear any views on whether housing in most villages should be restricted to local needs only or whether the focus should be on affordable or open market housing instead.

M12. Do you have any views on how our current policy focusses on certain places for different tenures – market, affordable and local needs – and whether any changes are needed?

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Affordable housing.
Since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2008, 119 affordable homes have been built, which is 42% of all housing completions in the National Park. All affordable housing outside Helmsley has come forward on exception sites, meaning that it has been allowed as an exception to normal policy on the grounds that it meets an identified local housing need and provides 100% affordable dwellings which will remain affordable in perpetuity.

Historically, affordable housing within the North York Moors has generally been delivered as social housing for rent through a housing association, with rural housing enablers working with communities and developers to match local need to supply. Recently however, there has been a great deal of change in how affordable housing can be funded and delivered:

- The majority of public subsidy is now earmarked for home ownership schemes rather than for rent, including ‘Help to Buy shared ownership’ and ‘Rent to Buy’.
- There is a new push towards Starter Homes which will provide homes for first time buyers at 20% less than market value on schemes of ten or more dwellings.
- The definition of rural exception sites was widened in the National Planning Policy Framework in 2012 to allow for mixed schemes where an element of market housing can be included if it ‘cross-subsidises’ a significant element of affordable housing within the scheme.
- A site size threshold of 10 or fewer dwellings is now set out in government guidance where contributions towards affordable homes cannot be sought on site. On schemes of 6-10 units a contribution can be sought but would have to be pooled and spent elsewhere. This new guidance does not however apply to rural exception sites.

Affordable housing has also been delivered in an increasing range of types and tenures in recent years, all of which have different cost implications. Our traditional form of social rent is the most expensive to deliver and is no longer grant funded, yet it remains the most affordable option. We need to give thought to whether we continue to seek social housing for rent for those most in need (possibly cross-subsidised through market housing) or whether we look for other options such as a discount for sale or starter homes which may provide more units but be a less affordable option.

M13. Do you have any views on the type of affordable housing that we should be looking to support through our policies?
M14. Do you think that we should accept some market housing on rural exception sites to help fund affordable housing? If so, in what areas?

Local needs housing

Under current policies, new housing within the majority of villages is restricted to people who have some form of connection to the local area. Occupants must either have a connection with the local parish as an existing or previous resident of at least five years or have a need to live there for practical reasons, for example for employment or to care for/receive support from relatives. Similar policies have been in place since 1992, the justification being that limited opportunities for new housing in the National Park are used to meet local needs and to avoid the new dwellings becoming second homes. 17% of our housing stock has no permanent resident according to the 2011 Census.

Around 98 new homes with a local occupancy restriction have been delivered since 2008. The restriction is in perpetuity, meaning that future occupiers also have to meet the criteria. The occupation of local needs housing is monitored on a regular basis.

We’d like to hear your views on three main issues concerning local occupancy restrictions. The first is whether you agree with the overall principle and whether the current approach is felt to be working and desirable. The second is whether the current set of criteria and time restrictions are appropriate and whether there are arguments for loosening or tightening the criteria. The third issue is the ‘cascade’, or what happens when a qualifying occupier within the parish cannot be found. At present after a period of time, people living in adjoining parishes become eligible and then after a further period of time eligibility extends to anyone within the National Park area.

M15. Should our current policy of restricting some new housing to local occupancy only continue? If so, do you have any thoughts on whether current eligibility criteria and the ‘cascade’ should be modified?

Other housing issues

We would also welcome your views on the following issues:
• **Annex accommodation for employee’s/manager's dwellings** – what should the Authority’s approach be to requests for such dwellings in different locations?
• Does existing policy need strengthening regarding the creation of separate dwellings or annexes in gardens (Development Policy 19)?
• Does the current policy on house extensions (Development Policy 19) need amending. Should extensions be limited to meeting need only such as a growing household?
• Are there some circumstances where a house cannot be suitably extended and a family should move to larger accommodation to meet their needs?
• How should we approach conversions of traditional buildings to residential use? Is our current policy approach working? Where are they acceptable?

**M16.** Do you have any other views on housing issues (including those above) that you would like to see addressed, or are there any omissions or gaps in our current policies that need to be looked at?

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**Employment and Tourism**

The 2011 census showed that there were 11,478 people in employment\(^{12}\) in the National Park, an increase of 1% since the previous census. The biggest sectors were retail, health, agriculture and tourism. In 2014 there were 11.27 million visitor days spent in the Park, with visitors spending around £582 million whilst here.

These are significant figures and indicate that a careful balance has to be struck between the benefits that jobs and tourism bring to people who live and work in the North York Moors against the need to protect its special qualities.

There are choices to be made around employment and tourism policy. We would be interested to have views on what the scope is for new employment in the Park and whether there are any available sites (particularly brownfield sites) that could be used for new employment. If you are aware of specific sites please provide details by filling out the separate [Development Opportunities questionnaire](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/planning/framework/Adopted-Core-Strategy-and-Development-Policies.pdf) available on our website.

For tourism we think that some of the key issues may be:

• Conversion of holiday cottages to other uses, particularly permanent housing. Should we make sure holiday homes stay in holiday use only? Should we require evidence that holiday use is not viable if other uses are being sought?
• Whether our current policy on chalet and camping sites (Core Policy DP16\(^{13}\)) adequately covers other types of accommodation e.g. yurts, pods and other form of glamping. Should

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\(^{12}\) Office for National Statistics, Census (2011). National Parks Table KS605EW

we encourage these alternatives given the different impacts on the wider landscape they can have?

- Whether the requirement that camping and chalet sites are in established woodland is the best approach to balancing new tourism development against wider landscape and visual impact considerations?
- Whether we should have a specific policy for existing facilities that serve as hubs for tourist activity, for example Sutton Bank and the Moors Visitor Centres and Dalby Forest Park?

**M17. What are your views on the scope for new employment development in the North York Moors? Do you think our current policies on tourism (particularly camping and chalet sites and changes of use to and from holiday accommodation) are fit for purpose? If not, what changes would you like to see?**

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**Community Facilities**

Our current policy is that loss of community facilities such as village halls, chapels, Post Offices, pubs and shops will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer suitable or viable for community use. The aim of the policy is to support village cohesion and retain essential facilities.

However, we recognise that shopping patterns are changing and the decline in public transport means that more people rely on private cars and therefore have access to services across a wider area. These trends, together with market forces have led to the loss of facilities throughout the National Park. The new Local Plan needs to strike a balance between meeting our existing policy objectives to support village cohesion whilst recognising that a very strict approach to requiring the retention of facilities could result in empty buildings or financial hardship for their occupiers.

At present our ‘rule of thumb’ for demonstrating that facilities are no longer viable is that premises should have been marketed for a year or more without success and that the current use does not demonstrate a viable profit.

**M18. Do you think we should continue to operate a policy on the retention of community facilities? If so, what type of facilities would you like to see included? Should we set clear criteria on when we may consider alternative uses or should we look at each case according to the particular circumstances of the occupier?**

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Design

New development represents the cultural heritage of future generations and high quality design is fundamental to the future shape of the National Park. A well-designed development that shows a clear understanding of the form and characteristics of its location can enhance the immediate locality, whereas a development of a standard type that takes no cue from its surroundings will not. Encouraging a strong design ethos will therefore be a key element of the new Local Plan. We already have a local Design Guide and it is likely that the new Plan will encourage adherence to it. However, we would be interested in any ideas for what needs to be in a Local Plan design policy, and any particular design issues on which we may need to take a view.

M19. What are your views on how Local Plan policies can help improve design? Are there any specific design issues that you wish to see tackled?

Other Policies

We welcome any other views on what needs to be in the new Local Plan:

M20. Finally, are there any other current policies (or omissions to policy) that you would like to see us address in our new Local Plan?
What else are we publishing and seeking views on?

At the same time as consulting on this document we are also publishing:

A ‘Development Opportunities’ questionnaire.

This asks anyone (but particularly landowners and agents) to let us know of any particular sites that may be suitable and available for new development across the National Park – for housing, employment, retail or any other uses. We are particularly interested in any brownfield sites that may be available.

We are doing this to potentially identify any new areas of land for development within the statutory purposes of protecting landscape and special qualities. We are required by National Planning Guidance to produce an audit of housing and employment land which will “identify all sites and broad locations regardless of the amount of development needed to provide an audit of available land”\(^\text{14}\). This forms our ‘call for sites’.

The questionnaire asks a series of questions about the suitability of any land identified and the likelihood of it coming forward.

[Download the Development Opportunities Questionnaire and Guidance](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DevelopmentOpportunitiesForm)

…or fill out an online form: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DevelopmentOpportunitiesForm](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DevelopmentOpportunitiesForm)

An ‘Open Space’ Questionnaire.

We are asking local communities and individuals to nominate any areas of ‘local green space’ where new development would be ruled out except in very exceptional circumstances. Allocated green spaces would need to be close to the community they serve, hold local significance because of their beauty, historical, recreational significance or offer a tranquil environment or support mechanism for wildlife. Please note that areas designated as Village Greens are already protected from development by legislation.

[Download the Local Green Space Nomination Form and Guidance](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LocalGreenSpaceForm)

…or fill out an online form: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LocalGreenSpaceForm](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LocalGreenSpaceForm)

A Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal.

We use a sustainability appraisal to assess how the different options we are considering are performing against a mix of social, economic and environmental objectives. A scoping report has been produced which establishes the framework and looks at other plans and programmes that may influence our plan. It includes a set of ‘baseline’ information aimed at taking a look at how the North York Moors is performing in social, economic and environmental terms. This is a technical document principally aimed at checking whether our approach is robust with statutory agencies. A copy is on the [Draft Local Plan - First Steps](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DevelopmentOpportunitiesForm) pages of our website. Any comments are welcomed.

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\(^\text{14}\) National Planning Policy Framework Guidance on Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, paragraph 9, Reference ID: 3-009-20140306

About you…

It helps us to know a bit about those responding to our questionnaire. We promise to not pass your details on to anyone else. We may aggregate data and publish responses by type of respondent, but not by name. If you would prefer not to complete these details, please send your responses anyway.

We’d also like to know whether you wish to be kept informed of progress on our Local Plan and when we publish further documents for comment.

If you do wish to be kept informed please tick here:

How would you like to be contacted in the future?
By post: [ ] By email: [ ] By telephone: [ ]

Title:
First Name:
Surname
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
Email address:

If you are an agent or consultant please let us know which client(s) you are representing.
What age are you?
- 16 or less
- 17-34
- 35-59
- 60-74
- 75+

What is your ethnicity?
- White British
- White Other
- Chinese
- Irish Traveller
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Black Caribbean
- Black Other
- Mixed ethnic group
- Other
- Prefer not to say

Responses should be emailed to:

policy@northyorkmoors.org.uk

…or posted to:

The Planning Policy Team
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP

The deadline for responses is 5.00p.m. on Friday 18 November.

Thank you for your time.