

12/03/19 23:14

## Comments

### Northumberland Local Plan - Publication Draft (30/01/19 to 13/03/19)

<b>Comment by</b>	Carham Parish Council (Mrs Ann Lauder - 1203391)
<b>Comment ID</b>	LPP-468
<b>Response Date</b>	12/03/19 23:04
<b>Consultation Point</b>	Policy MIN 1 Environmental criteria for assessing minerals proposals (Strategic Policy) ( <a href="#">View</a> )
<b>Status</b>	Submitted
<b>Submission Type</b>	Web
<b>Version</b>	0.1

#### Replying on behalf of a group

If you are replying on behalf of a group that shares a common view, it is recommended that you send a single representation rather than completing forms containing the same comments from each individual that repeats the same points.

If you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation such as a Parish Council or a company, for example, there is no need to complete this part of the form.

**If you are replying on behalf of a group, how many people does it represent [only complete where applicable - see guidance notes]** 7

#### Question 1

**To which part of the Local Plan does your representation relate? [Please state the policy reference, paragraph number, figure number or Policies Map reference]**

The renewable energy policies in particular REN2

#### Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is:

**a. Legally compliant** No

**b. Sound** No

#### Question 3

**Do you consider this part of the Local Plan is not sound because it is not:**

- . Justified
- . Effective
- . Consistent with national planning policy

#### **Question 4 - Your comments**

**Please give details of why you consider that part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or not sound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate. If you wish to support any of these aspects, please give details here.**

At its meeting on 12th March 2019 Carham Parish Council considered the draft Local Plan referred to above.

However, members also considered a number of documents which had been provided jointly by the Northumberland and Newcastle Society (N&NSoc) and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). The documents explained the concerns of the two organisations about the content of the Local Plan in so far as it affects the areas deemed suitable for wind turbines in the county.

There is clear legal advice, which has been provided to the two organisations, that argue the Local Plan is neither sound nor legally compliant. Their joint representation which has been submitted to Northumberland County Council (NCC) provides the fine detail of this view. N&NSoc and CPRE have also referred to their earlier similar representations to a previous draft which, it is claimed, have been ignored by NCC in publishing the current draft Local Plan.

Presumably the independent examination stage which follows will include an assessment of the Plan's soundness and legal compliance. Stocksfield Parish Council is very concerned about any potential further delays to the adoption of the Plan in the event that the legal advice relied upon by N&NSoc and CPRE is both correct and disregarded by NCC during the Regulation 19 stage of the Plan's development. The absence of a Local Plan is regarded as detrimental to the county and it is not unreasonable to expect its adoption to be a priority.

Members agreed that, in the light of the significant previous delays to the Plan, these concerns should be brought to the attention of the County Council.

NCC's Identification of Suitable Areas for Wind Turbine Development is deficient; unjustified; ineffective; inconsistent with national policy; and ignores the views of affected local communities. NCC has also misconstrued, as a matter of law, the planning judgement it is entitled to apply in deciding whether a particular wind turbine development has the backing of the local community. Policy REN 2 is neither legally compliant nor sound. Having read them, we endorse, support & adopt the representations filed by the Northumberland & Newcastle Society/CPRE on these issues. At the examination, we do not require separate rights of attendance but will support those of the Society/CPRE.

#### **Question 5 - Changes sought**

**Please set out what change(s) to the Local Plan you consider necessary to make it legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for any policy or text.**

See the N&N Society/CPRE's representations.

#### **Question 6 - Attendance at examination hearings**

**If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate in the examination hearings?** No - I do not wish to participate at the examination hearings