

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 gives Parish and Town Councils and other relevant bodies new powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), to help guide development in their local areas.
- 1.2 The area covered by the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) is shown in **Figure 1**. Neighbourhood Development Plans give local people the opportunity to shape and influence development when planning applications are considered by the Local Planning Authority. Once made (i.e. formally approved), the PNDP will form part of the statutory development plan for the Penrith area (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. Relationship of the PNDP, Eden District Council Planning Policy and National Planning Policy



- 1.3 NDP's must be in general conformity with the local strategic planning framework which, in this area, is set by Eden District Council (EDC) and consistent with national planning policies provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). NDP's must plan positively and promote sustainable development. How the PNDP fulfils these requirements is set out in the Basic Conditions Statement that accompanies this plan.
- 1.4 The preparation of a NDP is a complex and lengthy process. The main steps in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan are set out in **Figure 3**. The PNDP has reached an important stage in its preparation the second formal or Regulation 16 consultation, marked by the blue box.

Figure 3. Neighbourhood Plan Process



- 1.5 The Executive of EDC designated Penrith as a Neighbourhood Area on 6th September 2016.
- 1.6 A steering group, the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (PNDPG), was established by Penrith Town Council to progress the Plan and ensure that it reflects the wishes, interests and aspirations of Penrith’s community. It comprises of Town Councillors, who are members of the Planning Committee, and non-Council members with specific expertise, or an interest in, the proposed policy topics. The PNDPG also includes representatives of Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), Penrith Business Improvement District (BID), Eden Valley Artistic Network (EVAN), Churches Together, Penrith Action for Community Transition (PACT), Cumbria Youth Alliance, Penrith Chamber of Trade, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Newton Rigg College and an individual representing health and minority issues.
- 1.7 The PNDP has been prepared following extensive community engagement and involvement. Full details of the consultations and engagement undertaken can be found in the Consultation Statement that accompanies the PNDP. Incorporate design features that will allow buildings and spaces the flexibility to adapt and change so they can meet the needs of a changing population e.g. by incorporating design features such as those in the Lifetime Homes Standard that allow flexibility and adaptability to create better living environments for everyone.