



WHAT THE PLAN AIMS TO ACHIEVE

2.0

“North Tawton, embracing the past, planning the future”

2.1 Our Vision

A Vision for North Tawton

The thriving North Tawton community - together with its surrounding areas - prides itself in its friendly community spirit and in its commercial and social facilities which meet the residents' day to day needs.

We aim to balance new development with the conservation of our historic, rural character and want to ensure that any planned changes in the town contribute to its sustainability and viability in the years to come.

2.2 The Themes and Objectives

Our objectives, and the policies which help to achieve them, are the result of extensive consultation, consideration of evidence and our understanding of what policies we need to complement existing policies at national and local authority levels. The latter point is important as we are advised that our planning policies should not simply repeat policies already set out at national or local authority level, but should add local detail or specificity to them.

The objectives and policies are grouped under six themes, these are:

- Conserving Our Historic and Natural Environment
- Community Life
- The Economy: Employment and Business
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Energy and Environment

Their order does not indicate any priority and it is important to note that, while we have packaged objectives and policies under these topic headings, when development proposals are being assessed, the whole Plan (i.e. all policies) should be considered.



2.2 The Themes and Objectives

Conserving Our Historic and Natural Environment

1. To maintain and enhance the physical appearance of the town in its rural surroundings and help to secure the surrounding countryside, as much as possible, in its present, essentially rural, state.
2. To ensure that the heritage assets of the parish of North Tawton are protected and conserved for the benefit of the community, as they contribute character to the town, and add significant value to the quality of life for this and future generations.

Community Life

3. To provide a safe and healthy place in which individuals and families can thrive where community facilities and services are supported, enhanced and maintained.

The Economy: Employment and Business

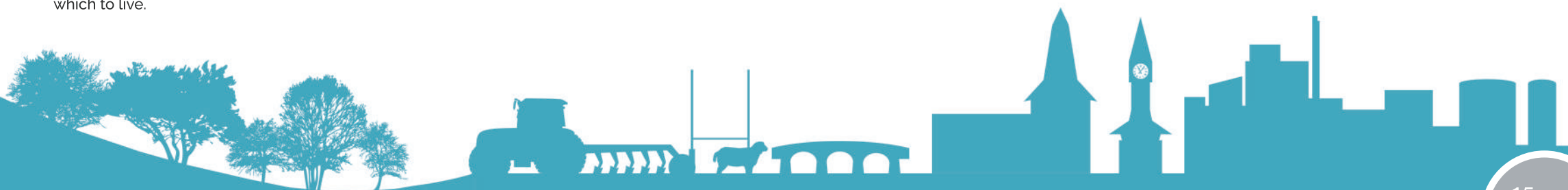
4. To provide a greater level and variety of employment within the town.
5. To welcome and support measures which maintain and improve the effectiveness and vibrancy of the town's retail and business centre, ensuring a thriving town.
6. To support the safeguarding of existing public transport and promote better links with other towns and areas - especially Exeter and Okehampton.

Housing

7. To support as closely as possible the views expressed by the town's residents through the social engagement process.
8. To support housing development that sustains the population of the town at a level that helps maintains shops, jobs and services sufficient to enable North Tawton to thrive as a place in which to live.

9. To ensure the provision of a sufficient number, type, range and tenure of housing of a good standard that meets the needs of different groups of people. To wherever possible promote independent living for people of all ages and conditions.

10. To ensure that the design of any new development reflects and respects the distinctive character of the town and its surroundings.



2.2 The Themes and Objectives

Infrastructure

11. To support a sustainable health provision within the town which enhances healthy living for individuals and families and meets the needs of local residents.
12. To ensure that 106 agreements consider the impact of new developments on the needs of the Pre-school, Primary and Secondary age children in the town providing appropriate financial support.
13. To support the provision of improved car parking within the town and measures to address traffic congestion.

Energy & Environment

14. To help the town move towards a more sustainable future, especially in relation to renewable energy and to help it play its part in National and Regional initiatives towards greater sustainability.
15. To provide the basis for tangible community benefits from energy projects within the parish.
16. To support a reduction in carbon emission which contributes to improvements in energy conservation, particularly in housing, employment and the provision of goods and services that enhance sustainable living.
17. To aid the reduction of fuel poverty.

For each of our planning policies we set out our justification and evidence behind the policy, as well as the policy itself.

The Neighbourhood Plan's planning policies are designed to provide a framework which will be used, alongside national and borough planning policies, by local authority Officers and Councillors (elected Members) when considering planning applications for development. Those proposing development in the town will also need to refer to them to understand the local policy parameters against which their proposal will be tested.

