

Differences between the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan and Audley Rural Parish Neighbourhood Plan

1. What is the Newcastle under Lyme Local Plan?

The Local Plan, once adopted, will shape the future of Newcastle under Lyme Borough until 2040. It plans to meet local needs – for example, identifying different types of homes or areas for employment. It will provide certainty to local communities about what to expect and where development is going to go.

Local Plans allocate sites, for housing as well as other types of development, and include borough wide policies which are used by planning officers to manage development in the planning application process, which ultimately shapes the character and appearance of the area.

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council has an obligation to maintain a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites – including enough land allocations within the Local Plan helps manage the supply.

By looking at the development needs across the whole of Newcastle under Lyme, the infrastructure requirements can be assessed as a whole. By carefully assessing where development should go and planning positively for change and expansion, there should be less speculative and unplanned development.

2. What is the difference between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Local Plan? How do they connect?

Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans are both part of the overall Statutory Development Plan for an area once adopted. Both the

Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan making process is set out in legal regulations. Guidance for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

They're an important part of the picture as they inform planning decisions and the decision making process. Policies included within Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by local communities (usually via the Parish Council) and add local detail. Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the adopted Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans set planning policies to be used by the local authority in determining decisions on planning applications within the Neighbourhood area.

3. How are Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans decided?

Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans are initially subject to consultation with local stakeholders which feeds into their drafting. The Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Local Plan consultation on the proposed sites for housing and employment is expected to commence in the Spring of 2023. The Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan will be subject to further consultation (Regulation 14) is also expected to occur in the Spring of 2023. You should have your say on both consultations which will be publicised nearer to the time.

The final draft of the Local Plan then goes through an Examination process where the sites and policies are discussed. Local Plans are examined by a Planning Inspector. Neighbourhood Plans are subject to an independent examination before a local referendum.

The Planning System

