Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 9**

National Park Authority Meeting

17th December 2024

Clapham Cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2030

Purpose of the report

1. To consider the recommendations in the Report of Examination on the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan.

Recommendation

2. That the Authority:
   - Agrees the modifications in the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan as specified in the report of the Examiner, and agrees to proceed to a referendum;
   - Requests North Yorkshire Council (NYC) organise the referendum of the residents of Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood area; and,
   - delegates authority to the Director of Conservation and Community to 'make' the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan if it is passed in the referendum.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and its approved strategic planning framework.

Background

4. The Authority approved the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Area in September 2018. Since then, a steering group appointed by the Parish Council has been preparing the Plan. It straddles the National Park boundary with North Yorkshire so officers from both NYC and the National Park Authority have been providing support. It should be noted that the Authority is only concerned with that part of the plan within our own jurisdiction. NYC will be carrying out a similar exercise for the area that is within their planning area. The Plan has now completed all its stages of public consultation and has recently been the subject of independent examination.

5. The Plan's approach to policy is rooted in the conservation of the qualities of the Clapham Parish area and a desire to maintain high standards for future development. It recognises issues around the shortage of affordable housing and the sustainability of its communities, but it has not been able to allocate any specific new sites for development. The Plan contains objectives, community aspirations and policies around housing, the historical environment, nature, local economy, business, community facilities, communications, infrastructure and sustainable travel. One of its specific contributions is to list local heritage assets throughout the Parish, for conservation and enhancement.

6. The Plan was submitted for examination in July to check that it met the statutory regulations in terms of compliance with national and local policy, adequate public consultation during its preparation, and to ensure that it will not breach environmental legislation.

Consideration

7. The Examiner has been through the Plan in detail and has prepared a report. The Examiner is recommending a number of minor amendments and has effectively rewritten each policy, citing a strict interpretation of national planning policy and good practice. His final report was issued in September and concludes that, subject to modifications, the Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan will meet the 'basic conditions' of soundness and recommends that the modified Plan should now proceed to a referendum.

8. The draft Plan and the Examiners Report is available to view here: https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-planning-policy-pre-boundary-extension/clapham-draft-neighbourhood-plan/

9. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group has accepted the examiner's conclusions and recommendations.

10. If the Authority accepts the Plan, then it will proceed to local referendum in the New Year. The Authority will pay for the referendum and then reclaim the cost from the Government. Should the referendum be passed by a majority of those voting, the Authority must 'make' the Neighbourhood plan, provided it is satisfied that it does not breach the relevant legislation. Critically, the Neighbourhood plan must be made within 8 weeks of the referendum. Therefore, it is recommended that the Director of Conservation and Community be given delegated authority to
11. make this decision, if the Plan is passed at referendum.

Financial Implications

12. The National Park is the lead Authority on the Neighbourhood Plan and will initially need to pay for the costs of the Parish referendum. The Authority will then claim the cost of the referendum back (up to a maximum of £20k) from the Department for Levelling Up and Local Communities.

Legal Implications

13. If the Neighbourhood Plan is successful at referendum it will then become a material consideration for both Planning Authorities in making development decisions that affect the Parish of Clapham cum Newby.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

14. There are no equality implications.

Climate Change Implications

15. The Plan is supporting development that is necessary to sustain communities and grow the local economy. This will generate additional carbon emissions but the policies seek to minimise these and to use new development to improve the resilience of the Local Plan area to the evident and projected changes affecting it.

Conclusion

16. The Plan has been examined and found to meet the 'basic conditions' for a Neighbourhood Plan, subject to modifications. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the joint authorities accept the examiner's report and the modifications proposed. The Neighbourhood Plan straddles the Park boundary, so the Authority's decision only relates to the part of the Plan inside the Park. North Yorkshire Council is expected to jointly agree the examination report and progress to referendum.

Peter Stockton
Head of Sustainable Development

Background Documents
Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2030 Draft Submission September 2023
Examiner's Report – Clapham cum Newby Neighbourhood Plan September 2024

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