

Thanks to those of you that came along to our Introduction to Neighbourhood Priority Statements a couple of weeks ago. This email is simply a follow up to that session and to answer some of the questions that have been raised so far. We'll collate these into a getting started document which will live on the NPS pages and we will update it with more questions and answers as we get them.

What if I miss the date to register an interest?

We asked parishes to let us know by Tuesday 26 May 2026 if they would like to take part so that we can invite you to our monthly events programme. But don't worry if you can't confirm by that date, we recognise that the cycle of local council meetings can make it difficult to act within tight deadlines. We will continue to register interest and process designation requests at any time – but getting started sooner means that you will have more time to produce your statement and will have early support.

Can I complete a NPS if my parish already has a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)?

Yes – we're encouraging all town and parish councils, including those with NDPs, to produce a NPS which will influence policy direction under the new Local Plan. They do not replace existing NDPs or mean that your policies will no longer be used.

Neighbourhood Plans are different to Priority Statements. They are statutory and contain planning policies that are used to determine planning applications under the current Local Plan (and most NDPs will expire in 2030 along with the Local Plan). Neighbourhood Priorities Statements do not contain policies and allocations and will be used to influence the policy direction of the new Local Plan. A NPS could be used as part of the evidence for a new or revised NDP under the new Local Plan once that has been adopted.

Do parishes have to complete a NPS?

No – NPS are optional but they are a really good way to engage with your community about what matters most to them and have early input into the development of the new Cornwall Local Plan. If you don't produce a NPS, we will also consider the

content of current Neighbourhood Plans for those places that have one as we develop the local plan.

For places without a NPS or a NDP, there will be other opportunities to give feedback on the direction of the local plan through more traditional consultation routes. You can find out about other opportunities for engagement here [Cornwall Local Plan 2050 - Cornwall Council](#)

My parish council has limited resources / volunteers to complete a NPS

We know that many places will want to consult extensively and produce a more detailed statement and we welcome this.

We understand that some parish councils have very limited resources and that time is tight. We have designed the process to be simple and we hope that a simple NPS can be completed without significant investment of time or resource.

Our [Local Plan survey](#) can give you access to local feedback – you just need to encourage your residents to complete it (through newsletters, social media, noticeboards etc), and we can provide you with responses at a parish level to inform your statement. As parish councils, you will already know many of the key issues that get raised by your residents, and you will probably have access to other recent evidence or data that you can use to support the process. You may want to focus on a very small number of priorities that are most important to your community.

We can also provide data, help with mapping and review your draft documents. If you want to produce a NPS but you are worried about having the resources, get in touch with the neighbourhood planning team neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk – we may be able to help.

Can parishes come together to produce a joint NPS

Absolutely, and in many cases this will be a sensible approach to share the workload and identify common issues. Be aware that the timescales for completing a NPS are relatively short and increasing the complexity may add time to the process. You should submit your NPS to us for publication by October 2027 so that this can be taken into account by us for the new Local Plan.

Your NPS should be short and make it clear what the important priorities are.

If you have any other questions, please email us at neighbourhoodplanning@cornwall.gov.uk and we will add to our getting started note on our [website](#).

Kind regards.

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