

Briefing Note

Neighbourhood Priorities Statements (NPS)

1.0 What is an NPS?

1.1 Neighbourhood Priorities Statements (NPS) are a new and meaningful way for local communities to influence planning and development in their area by helping us develop a new Cornwall Local Plan. Cornwall Council ran a pilot scheme last year, and one town has already produced draft statements as part of the pilot and will shortly be consulting their communities. The early feedback has shown that Neighbourhood Priorities Statements provide a clear and accessible way for councils to capture what matters most to the people they represent.

1.2 Producing a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement gives this parish council a direct opportunity to:

- Clearly express its local priorities and aspirations
- Reflect the views and needs of our residents
- Ensure those priorities are considered as part of the new Cornwall Local Plan process

1.3 A Neighbourhood Priorities Statement is a planning document that lets our community have a real say in how the area can grow and develop, but without needing to prepare a full neighbourhood plan (like the one that Dobwalls & Trewidland Parish did in 2023). If this parish council participates in the scheme, it can help shape the new Cornwall Local Plan and ensure that local voices are heard at a strategic level. This is a chance for all our community to influence policy and to set out a positive vision for our area.

1.4 By creating a NPS, the council will engage with residents across all its communities and give them the opportunity to tell the parish what matters most to them, including:

- Where new homes or development should go
- What local facilities or infrastructure need improving
- Which green spaces, views, heritage sites or landscapes deserve protection

1.5 Gathering local views through a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement helps make sure that new development is well designed, reflects what matters to local people, and protects the character of the area. Cornwall Planners will use these statements when preparing the new Local Plan. This means our feedback can directly influence planning policies that will guide development across Cornwall for the next 20 years.

1.6 Completing an NPS now gives communities an important opportunity to shape the new Local Plan at an early stage. Cornwall Council is encouraging all towns and parishes to prepare an NPS even if they already have a neighbourhood plan (NDP) in place. It is a way for communities to have their say and influence future growth in Cornwall. Because the process is simpler than a neighbourhood plan (doesn't involve independent examinations or environmental screening), it's quicker and a community-friendly way to influence how our area changes in the future.

2.0 What happens next?

2.1 On 28 April 2026, the Planning & Housing Team held an online seminar to explain more about the NPS. The slides and briefing documents are attached to the Note.

2.2 Clerk advises that councillors should consider setting up an NPS Working Group to assess the benefits of creating a report for Cornwall Council and to draft a timetable for its production.

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