PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE: WEDNESDAY 6 May 2026

AGENDA ITEM 8: Update on Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) and the changing landscape (standing item)

1.0 Neighbourhood Priorities Statements – An Update

1.1 As previously reported to Committee, a pilot for the writing of Neighbourhood Priorities Statements (NPS) took place in 2025. Following the pilot, Cornwall Council will be rolling this out to all local councils.

Pilot Councils are at different stages of their NPS, some having already produced draft statements and consulting communities shortly with others are still finalising their drafts. Cornwall Council advise that 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 Cornwall Council will be holding a virtual event about NPS' on 28 April 2026, details of the training were emailed to Committee members on 27 April 2026. Slides and resources from this training session will be published after the event and the Council Support Officer will make these available to committee members once available.

1.4 Cornwall Council are strongly encouraging town and parish councils to take part, but this is not mandatory. Producing a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement gives councils an opportunity to:

- clearly express local priorities and aspirations
- reflect the views and needs of residents
- ensure those priorities are considered as part of the Cornwall Local Plan process.

1.5 Cornwall Council advise that a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement is a simple, easy-to-create planning document that lets a council's local community have a real say in how their area grows and develops—without needing to prepare a full neighbourhood plan. By participating, councils can help shape the new Cornwall Local Plan and ensure that local voices are heard at a strategic level and a chance for local communities to influence policy and to set out a positive vision for their area, giving residents to tell Cornwall Council 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

1.6 Completing an NPS now gives communities an opportunity to shape the new Cornwall Local Plan at an early stage. Cornwall Council are encouraging towns and parishes to prepare an NPS even if they already have a neighbourhood plan (NDP) in place. They advise that the process is simpler and doesn't involve independent examinations or environmental screening - a quick and community-friendly way to influence how a council's area changes in the future.

1.7 Committee will recall that at their meeting of 17 February 2026 that it was **RESOLVED** to respond to Cornwall Council Planning and Housing Team to confirm that Padstow Town Council wishes to be formally consulted on other Neighbourhood Priorities Statements and receive draft statements for comment.

The Council Support Officer responded to Cornwall Council the above resolution and it has been confirmed that Padstow Town Council has been added as a statutory consultee as an adjoining parish council for NPS'.