



Local economy

Introduction

The draft local plan for Northumberland County Council proposes a hierarchy of development giving priority to main towns, then service centres, service villages and lastly small villages. Riding Mill is seen as a service village. Towns will be the main focus for employment. A service village may have one or more services such as a school or a shop and may well be able to support additional services for the benefit of residents but it is expected that development will be commensurate with its size. Thus, there is an argument that Riding Mill does not require any policies related to the economy or, indeed, that it does not need to do anything in relation to its economy.

However, there are several businesses in dedicated business premises in the village and a significant number of residents who are running businesses from home. The village survey suggested that there is a desire for more opportunities for people to be able to start a business in the village.

Planning policies

Responding to the increase in home working, we propose a strategic objective:

To recognise the growth in home working and to ensure that local services meet the requirements of those choosing to spend more time working from home.

The county's emerging local plan appears to cover all the areas that we might otherwise want to address. The following policies from the local plan are relevant (the initials reference proposed policies in the plan – see iga.fyi/nccclp or use the QR code).



ECN11 (Employment uses in built up areas and home working) supports homeworking including allowing for the conversion of part of a residential premise or modest extensions for homeworking and additionally supports the creation of 'live-work' units.

ECN12 (Strategy for rural economic growth) seeks to encourage growth in the rural economy, inter alia, through promoting digital technologies.

ECN13 (Meeting rural employment needs) supports rural development and encourages the creation of enterprise hubs (but not in service villages)

ICT1 (Planning for high quality communications infrastructure) and ICT2 (New developments and infrastructure) promote the importance of access to high quality communications and, in particular, require that new dwellings and business premises be provided with necessary infrastructure, including full fibre broadband.

We are not therefore proposing the adoption of any additional policies.

Your views

We are keen to hear your views on the local economy

Would you like to see more businesses in the village?

What can we do to support businesses in the village?

Would you like to see assets in the village protected as assets of community value?

Community action

There are three other policies in the emerging county plan which are of interest: INF2 (community services and facilities), INF3 (local village convenience shops and public houses) and INF4 (assets of community value) explain that proposals for development will not be supported if they lead to a loss of community services, or a loss of convenience stores or public houses, or assets of community value.

There are assets in the village, such as the pub, that are (or could be) of considerable benefit to the village. As more people engage in home working, there will potentially be more demand for services to be easily accessible in the village. Moreover, easier access to services will support an aging population who find it increasingly difficult to go to alternative provision.

