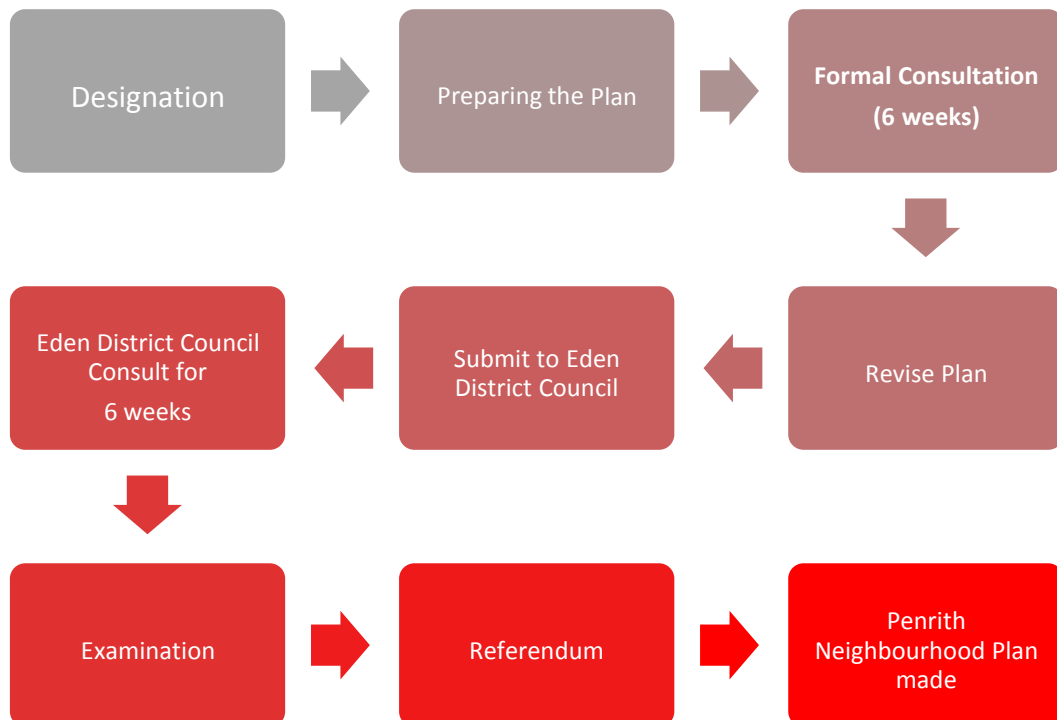


1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 gives Parish and Town Councils and other relevant bodies new powers to prepare statutory Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) to help guide development in their local areas. Through Neighbourhood Development Plans, local people now have the opportunity to shape new development as planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Once made (i.e. adopted or formally approved), the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) will form part of the statutory development plan for the Penrith area (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2 NDPs must be in general conformity with the local strategic planning framework which, in this area, is provided by Eden District Council and take account of national planning policies provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). They have to plan positively and promote sustainable development.
- 1.3 The preparation of a NDP is a complex and lengthy process and takes around 2 years. The main steps in preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan are set out in **Figure 2**. Penrith is at the early stage of this process (Preparing the Plan).

Figure 2. Neighbourhood Plan Process



- 1.4 The Executive of Eden District Council designated Penrith as a neighbourhood area at its meeting on 6th September 2016. The designated Neighbourhood Area is the same as the Town Council Boundary and is shown on Figure 1 (**Page 8**).
- 1.5 A steering group, the Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (PNDPG), has been established in order to progress the Plan and ensure that it reflects the wishes, interests and aspirations of Penrith's community. It comprises Town Councillors who are members of the Planning Committee and non-council members with specific expertise or an interest in the proposed policy topics. The PNDPG also includes representatives of the Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFs), Penrith Business Improvement District (BID), Eden Valley Artistic Network, Churches Together, Penrith Action for Community Transition (PACT), Cumbria Youth Alliance, Penrith Chamber of Trade, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Newton Rigg College and an individual representing health and minority issues.
- 1.6 The PNDP has been prepared taking into consideration extensive community engagement and involvement. A stakeholder event for community groups and businesses was held on 15 March 2017. This was followed by public consultation events on 18 March and 1 April 2017 where the views of the public were gathered. Questionnaires were also available for the public to pick up and complete from the Town Council Website <http://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/neighbourhood-plan/> , from our facebook page, from the local Library and via Survey Monkey.
- 1.7 Once made part of the development plan the PNDP will be used to help make decisions on planning applications in the area in conjunction with Eden District Council planning policies and national planning policies and guidance (**Figure 3**). Planning policy in Eden District is changing and a new Local Plan will soon replace the policies in the Core Strategy.

Figure 3. Relationship of the PNDP, Eden Planning Policy and National Planning Policy

