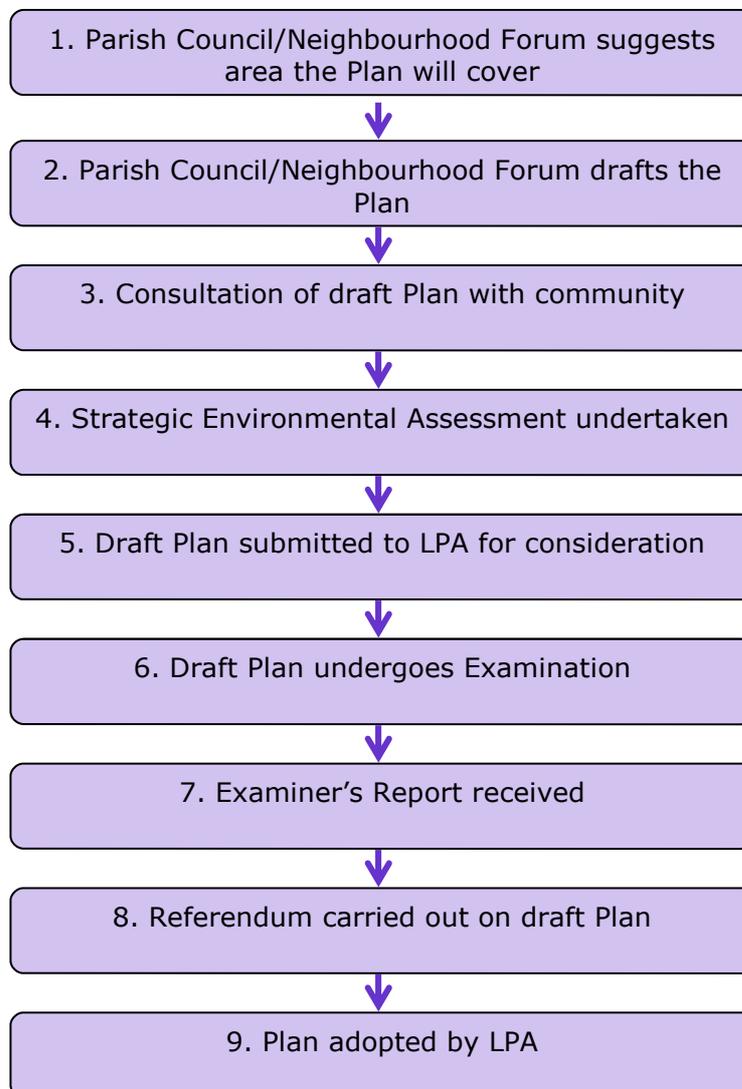


## Neighbourhood Development Plans - The Process

The procedure for producing Neighbourhood Plans are summarised in the following flow chart with more detailed information provided below. The information is based on the available information and may be subject to change.



1. The Parish Council/Neighbourhood Forum initiates the Neighbourhood Plan, suggesting the area that they wish to cover. The suggested area needs to be agreed by the Local Authority.

2. There are currently no restrictions as to what kind of content can be in a Neighbourhood Plan although its focus should be on issues relating to development in the local area.

3. The Parish/Neighbourhood Forum undertake extensive consultations on the plan with the community and the wider area. It is essential that Neighbourhood Plans reflect how residents believe the future of their area should be shaped. There must be a full and effective consultation in order for people to be able to contribute to the Plan. Consultation is also important as it will give an indication of the support for the Plan before committing to the referendum.

4. The draft Plan will also have to conform with the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). It is anticipated that a screening procedure to determine whether the proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have an environmental impact upon the environment. If the answer is 'Yes' then a minimum SEA will be needed. The cost of which will fall to the Parish Council/Neighbourhood Forum.

5. The draft Plan is then considered by the Local Planning Authority to satisfy that it is suitable to go forward to independent examination. This is primarily to do with legal compliance matters, e.g. that the body putting the plan forward is a qualifying body, the plan is consistent with the designated area and is in general conformity with the Development Plan.

6. Subject to the LPA agreement, the draft Plan will then be subject to independent examination. It is anticipated that the Parish/Neighbourhood Forum will nominate a suitably qualified independent examiner which has to be agreed by the Local Planning Authority. The cost of the examination will fall to LPA. The Examiner will consider whether the Plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with the Development Plan for the area.

7. The Examiner's report will not be binding. They will be able to recommend that the Plan is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should be refused. The Local Planning Authority will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the Plan the LPA will invite the Parish Council/Neighbourhood Forum to make modifications to the plan. Where the report recommends that the proposal is to be refused, the LPA will do so.

8. Where the examination is favourable, the draft Plan will then be subject to a referendum, organised and paid for by the Local Planning Authority. If more than 50% of those who vote (not those who are eligible to vote) agree with the Plan, then it will be passed to the Local Planning Authority with a request it is adopted.

9. Once adopted the Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the Development Plan for the area. There is a presumption that Local Authorities will adopt plans provided they are in conformity with the Development Plan. There is no formal recourse for communities (apart from a Judicial Review) should the Local Authority refuse to adopt the Plan.