

OBJECTIVE 5: WELLBEING

To protect health and community facilities and ensure that these have the capacity to support any needs generated by new development and a changing population.

Policy 9 Protecting and Enhancing Health and Community Facilities

There will be a presumption in favour of the protection of existing community facilities. The change of use of existing community facilities, will only be supported for other health, education or community uses such as community halls, local clubhouses, health centres, schools, public houses and children's day nurseries.

When a non-community use (e.g. housing) is proposed to replace, either by conversion or redevelopment, one of the facilities, such development will only be supported when it can be demonstrated that:

- a) There is no longer a need for the facility or suitable and accessible alternatives exist.

- b) That it is no longer economically viable to provide the facility.

- c) That the site has been unsuccessfully marketed for sale in its current use.

Proposals for new community facilities and improved access to existing community facilities on the Pategill, Raiselands, Scaws and Wetheriggs estates will be supported.

Background/Justification

- 6.38 Penrith is identified in the ELP 2014-2032 as Eden's "Main Town" (Policy LS1 Locational Strategy). As Eden's Main Town, Penrith will benefit from development appropriate to that of a larger town. This will include improved town centre facilities, development of strategic employment sites, large-scale new housing sites and an improved strategic road transport network and public transport system.
- 6.39 The PNDP will support the aims of the ELP 2014-2032 strategy of supporting development appropriate to Penrith's role as Eden's Main Town by protecting and enhancing existing community and health facilities that serve the town and the wider surrounding area.
- 6.40 Planning policy in the ELP 2014-2032 also aims to support "Thriving Communities" with community services and facilities, such as schools, healthcare, recreation and other community facilities (Local Plan Policy paragraphs 4.34.1 to 4.24.3).

- 6.41 To ensure that quality of life is maintained and, where possible, enhanced the PNDP identifies and seeks to protect key community facilities. Being a land use plan the PNDP can protect buildings and land, but not the services run from those buildings. The running of services is not a land use planning matter, however the loss of the buildings from which such services are run is, and development of these buildings will only be permitted in line with the criteria identified in PNDP Policy 9. This policy uses the same criteria as set for rural facilities in Policy COM1 Principles for Services and Facilities in the Eden Local Plan 2014-2032.
- 6.42 Alongside the surrounding countryside, greenspaces and recreation, the town's services and facilities are key elements to ensuring the town retains its valued quality of life. They contribute to achieving the social role of sustainable development identified in national planning policy. They provide accessible local services that meet the needs of the community and support health, social and cultural wellbeing. A particular need has been identified to improve community facilities and access to such facilities on the Pategill, Raiselands, Scaws and Wetheriggs estates. The PNDP seeks to support such improvements.

Supporting Town Council Actions

1. For all major new developments, developers will be encouraged to liaise with the Northwest Ambulance Service to provide Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs).
2. To work with EDC, CCC and the NHS to encourage the expansion of healthcare facilities at the Old Fire Station site.

Relevant District Planning Policies:

Eden Local Plan 2014-2032:

COM1 Principles for Services and Facilities

Penrith Town Council Strategic Priorities:

Health and Wellbeing; Community Engagement.

Policy 10 Walking and Cycling

The provision and enhancement of walking and cycling links within the town especially between existing and new residential areas and key destinations, such as the town centre, employment sites, schools and other community facilities will be supported. Where appropriate, new development should include walking and cycling infrastructure that is of high-quality design and accessible to all.

To ensure new development meets this policy, assessment will be made against the following:

1. Where necessary and feasible, provision of links to existing open spaces, green infrastructure and watercourses (rivers, becks and streams) and water features (e.g. ponds).
2. Connections to the existing network of walking and cycle path routes, where this is feasible, including ease and directness of any new connections created to the existing footpath and cycle path network (**Map B, page 139**).
3. The design of the foot and cycle paths within the development site should be legible and permeable (structured to provide routes to distinctive places and allow easy navigation around the site).
4. Design that ensures access for all users.
5. Where necessary, inclusion of signage that is of high-quality design, appropriate to the local context and avoids clutter.
6. Routes of all kinds should be designed in such a way as to be as safe as practicable, appropriately lit and to minimise opportunities for crime.
7. Include native trees and plant landscaping that is easily maintained and suitable for the route and its context.

Background/Justification

- 6.43 Policy 10 outlines a set of principles that will be used to ensure that, where appropriate, new development improves the environment for all so that Penrith becomes a walking and cycle friendly town. Some traffic management and sustainable transport measures have already been identified as part of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support delivery of the Eden Local Plan 2014-2032.
- 6.44 The approach set out in Policy 10 is in line with that set out in the ELP Policy DEV3 and supports the aim of Cumbria's Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) to achieve health and wellbeing throughout life. LTP3 highlights people are eating more and doing less physical exercise than in previous generations. LTP3 encourages more people to walk and cycle to get to school, work, and for other journeys, rather than using their car. In some cases, e.g. where an existing route is not adjacent or related to existing walking and cycling routes it may not be feasible to create new connections to the existing walking and cycling network.

Relevant District Planning Policies:

Eden Local Plan: 2014-2032

DEV3 Transport, Accessibility and Rights of Way **Penrith**

Town Council Strategic Priorities:

Health and Wellbeing; Transport.

Supporting Town Council Actions:

To work with the Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council to make footpaths and bridleways accessible for all users.

