

Gateshead Council response to the Northumberland Draft Local Plan Consultation

Background

1. Northumberland County Council is consulting on its Draft Local Plan and supporting documents. The Local Plan provides a set of policies, proposals and allocations that outline how and where land is to be developed within Northumberland. The document considers how factors, such as, economic and housing growth can be accommodated.
2. The draft Local Plan replaces the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy that was withdrawn from examination in July 2017. Minimum targets for residential development in the emerging Plan are now much lower than the previous version of the Plan, and the Plan now makes clear that housing need does not provide justification for any revisions to Green Belt boundaries in Northumberland.
3. Gateshead Council shares a border with Northumberland to the North West and as a result is being consulted on the Plan. Comments have regard to the potential implications of the Local Plan document on development growth across Gateshead. This is particularly in the context of Gateshead's established Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan and the next phase of its Local Plan (Making Spaces for Growing Places), which is set out in the attached annex.
4. The deadline for the consultation response was 15th August 2018 and therefore our draft comments have been forwarded to Northumberland County Council subject to approval by Cabinet.

Implications of Recommended Option

5. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – No financial implications directly arise from this report
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – No human resources implications
- c) **Property Implications** – No property implications

6. **Risk Management Implication** – No risks associated with the consultation
7. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – No equality or diversity implications
8. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – No crime and disorder implications
9. **Health Implications** – A strategic objective of the plan is to further improve health and wellbeing
10. **Sustainability Implications** – Sustainability is a key underpinning principle across all strategic objectives
11. **Human Rights Implications** – No human rights implications
12. **Area and Ward Implications** – Northumberland County Council's Draft Local Plan could potentially have implications across the Borough, although adhering to the duty to co-operate should resolve any issues.



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Spatial Policy and Delivery

Local Services
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
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15 August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Northumberland Local Draft Plan – Draft Plan for Regulation 18 Consultation (July 2018)

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the full draft of the Northumberland Local Plan, it is important to note that this response should be considered as a draft, and is subject to approval by cabinet on 18th September 2018. In recognition of the cross-boundary implications of the strategic priorities identified in Northumberland's emerging Draft Plan, Gateshead Council wishes to submit this response to consultation on your draft plan.

Our representation, mainly in support, relates to the duty to co-operate imposed by the Localism Act 2012. We are willing to discuss this further with you and would be more than happy to host further discussion to incorporate this into your plans.

Legal Compliance

We feel that the Draft Local Plan Document has been prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements.

Duty to Cooperate

Without regional strategies, the delivery of infrastructure, homes and economic growth will require strong cooperation between our authorities. The 'duty to co-operate' is a legal requirement of the plan preparation process. It is

the first thing that the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will look at in examining an authority's plan.

We are content with the way in which cross-boundary working has developed and continues with Northumberland County Council; we feel that working together can only further strengthen the policies of the two councils.

Transport

The overall approach of the Plan towards transport, promotion of sustainable connections and support other more sustainable modes of travel (TRA 1) is supported and considered sound.

Northumberland has previously produced detailed work on traffic impacts of their development proposals, but there's no indication as to whether that has been updated in the light of changes to housing numbers. We would suggest that this information is updated and shared to gauge the impact of proposals on Gateshead.

Green Belt

The overall approach to Green Belt is supported, as it involves only minor changes to either the general extent or the detailed boundaries, including in those locations where significant change could have an effect on Gateshead

Summary

It is increasingly important that local authorities cooperate in preparing Local Plans in order to coordinate strategic issues that cross administrative boundaries. Gateshead Council hopes that through constructive dialogue, the issues highlighted above can be resolved in a positive manner.

Yours Faithfully,



Neil Wilkinson

Spatial Development
Development & Public Protection
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