

Gateshead Council response to the Northumberland Draft Local Plan Consultation

Policy Context

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 The draft Local Plan replaces the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy that was withdrawn from examination in July 2017.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. The response attached reflects the potential implications of the Local Plan document on development growth across Gateshead, 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).
4. The deadline for the consultation response is 13th March 2019 and therefore our draft comments have been forwarded to Northumberland County Council subject to approval by Cabinet on 19th March 2018.

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

Annex

Paul Johnston
Spatial Policy and Delivery
Local Services
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

13th March 2019

Dear Mr Johnston,

RE: Northumberland Local Plan – Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19)

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the Publication Draft Northumberland Local Plan (NLP). As neighbouring local authorities, cooperation on strategic cross-boundary issues can positively influence sustainable development in Gateshead and Northumberland. In broad terms, Gateshead supports the proposals within the NLP, and we are satisfied with engagement that has, and continues to take place between the Councils under the Duty to Cooperate. Although we do not wish to raise any substantive issues with the NLP, we would like to highlight the following areas of work:

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. In our previous response Gateshead suggested that work on the traffic impacts of development proposals should be updated and shared to gauge the impact of proposals on Gateshead.

The intention of Northumberland to share the final results of transport assessments of development with Gateshead is welcomed and will facilitate future collaboration.

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.

Minerals and Waste

Gateshead Council supports the approach to minerals and waste as set out in the Plan. We continue to work collaboratively with Northumberland County

Council and other local authorities in the region on minerals and waste planning issues, including as part of the duty-to-cooperate.

Summary

Gateshead Council welcomes the opportunity to consider, and comment on the Publication Draft NLP. We look forward to continuing to work positively and constructively with Northumberland County Council on cross-boundary issues.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Wilkinson', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark that contains the text 'Gateshead Council'.

Neil Wilkinson

Environment, Housing and Planning Manager