
TOWN CENTRE FRINGE CONSULTATION

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Members regarding the consultation on the Town Centre Fringe Masterplan and introduce the presentation to be made to Scrutiny on the 25 October 2012.
2. This is an opportunity for Members to comment on the consultation process and outcomes and make any recommendations for further consultation work prior to the adoption of the Masterplan

Summary

3. The Town Centre Fringe Masterplan was consulted on widely in the late spring/early summer of 2012.
4. The results of the consultation have been collated and considered and a small number of changes to the Masterplan are proposed.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Members note the content of this report and the presentation.
 - (b) Members comment on the consultation and the proposed changes to the Masterplan.

Richard Alty – Director of Place

Background Papers

Town Centre Fringe Masterplan Consultation Issues and Options
Town Centre Fringe Masterplan Consultation Cabinet Report
Maps and Plans As previously circulated in the report of March 1st 2012

Timothy Crawshaw : Extension 2048

S17 Crime and Disorder	Safety and security has been a key consideration in developing the Masterplan options.
Health and Well Being	The Masterplan has been designed to ensure the creation of a walkable and liveable environment, with walking and cycling provision designed in.
Sustainability	The Masterplan will be subject to sustainability appraisal, integral to which is reducing carbon emissions. All policies are tested and amended to ensure the most sustainable outcomes, including to keep carbon emission to a minimum, including promotion of the use of renewable energy in new developments. Specific work has been integrated in to the Masterplan to promote the use of low carbon technologies and energy efficiency.
Diversity	Equalities Impact Assessment (EqA) and Disability EqA are integrated into the preparation of the Masterplan.
Wards Affected	Central, Northgate, Park East
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	The Masterplan has been developed within existing resources with the support of Single Programme funding and the Homes and Communities Agency
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The LDF Core Strategy is the spatial expression of 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'. The regeneration of the Town Centre Fringe is a key deliverable in One Darlington Perfectly Placed
Efficiency	The workload proposed assumes resources at existing level in Strategy and Commissioning, no additional requirements being placed on the team, and the availability of staff time from key officers across the Council whose service requirements need to be reflected in the LDF in a coordinated way.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. In January of 2012 Cabinet approved the consultation on the Masterplan as described in the Issues and Options Report and maps that have previously been presented to this Committee.
7. The consultation process commenced with a presentation to Place Scrutiny where the plans were considered and discussed.
8. A number of resolutions were made and specifically that Place Scrutiny be kept up to date with the consultation and the subsequent amendments to the Masterplan.
9. In addition a number of transport related resolutions were made including:-
 - (a) The exploration of possibilities to integrate the Masterplan into the LTP3 implementation
 - (b) The need for further information on car parking
 - (c) The need for more information regarding the highways infrastructure.
10. These resolutions have been acted upon and the Masterplan is currently informing the emerging Car Parking Strategy and designs to improve bus movements on and across the inner ring road.
11. The Masterplan was consulted on widely over the late spring/early summer of 2012. In response to local concerns and interest in the Masterplan there were specific targeted events in Northgate, Central and Park East Wards.
12. In addition to this every resident and business was written to, comments were invited based on both press coverage and articles in Darlington Together Magazine and one to one sessions were undertaken with businesses that may be affected over time by the Masterplan.
13. The stakeholder, agents and industry contacts that are held to be consultees on the Local Plan were also consulted and this included statutory bodies such as English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
14. Specific events were held with developers and agents in parallel with the consultation on the Economic Strategy.
15. Specific meetings were held with key landowners.
16. A programme of events was undertaken in schools and colleges.

Outcome of Consultation

17. Overall there was general support for the ambitions of the Masterplan. Where concerns were expressed these were replied to directly to further understand these. In most circumstances this extra information and explanation allayed these concerns.

18. A specific issue came out of the Central Ward consultation regarding Eastmount Park. Local residents were concerned over plans to develop the park, particularly after the recent planning consent for housing on an adjacent site. These concerns were recognised and the re-drafted plan will not show this park as being available for development.
19. Overall, based on the consultation there are very few changes proposed to the Masterplan that was presented to Cabinet to agree to the consultation. The redrafted plans, subject the views of Place Scrutiny, are to be prepared for adoption in early 2013, a few months behind schedule.
20. As a result of the publicity and the supporting work that was undertaken regarding the historic environment in the area the Railway Heritage Enquiry Group was inaugurated. This Group is working as a partnership of the community, Council, industry experts and specialists groups to capitalise on and celebrate Darlington's Railway Heritage.