

**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 NOVEMBER 2015**

**DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM
CABINET
3 NOVEMBER 2015**

C70. KEY DECISIONS - (2) Planning For Darlington's Future Housing Needs and the Development Plan Implications - The Cabinet Member with Economy and Regeneration Portfolio introduced the report of the Director of Economic Growth (previously circulated) informing Cabinet of new information on housing needs; setting out how this affects local plan preparation and the Council's consideration of planning applications for new housing; what the Council can do through the planning process to boost housing delivery in the short to medium term; and requesting that consideration be given to the housing projections of housing needs.

A Member in attendance at the meeting addressed Cabinet in respect of the report and the figures contained within it, particularly relating to Middleton St George, as she believed that the figures did not take into account properties with planning permission that had yet to be built. References were also made to the impact of affordable housing; the ageing population; and the Neighbourhood Plan for Middleton St George. The Director of Economic Growth and the Cabinet Member with the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio responded thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the objectively assessed housing need for 9,900 new homes over the 20 years from 2016 to 2036, as detailed in the submitted report, be endorsed.

(b) That the need for about 500 new homes every year be noted, and that the figure be used as the basis for calculating the number of years of housing land supply within the borough, in considering planning applications for new housing.

(c) That a report setting out the proposed housing requirement for the Borough be considered at a future meeting of Cabinet.

(c) That officers stop work on the making and growing places development plan document, and prepare a new local plan for the Borough, with a timetable for the latter to be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet in spring 2016 for Members' consideration.

(d) That in the short to medium term, officers be authorised to work with landowners and builders to bring forward new housing on suitable sites that might not have been previously identified though the plan making process.

(e) That Cabinet receive a report as soon as possible, setting out the draft planning policies that could be agreed as interim planning policies for use in determining planning applications.

REASONS - (a) To set out the Council's response to the implications of up to date housing needs data for plan making and decision taking in relation to new housing development.

(b) To clarify how planning applications for new housing will be dealt with.

(c) To clarify how the Council will help boost new housing delivery through the planning system in the short term and in the longer term.

(d) To clarify the Council's intentions on development plan preparation, and the agreement of interim planning policies.