



# Darlington Local Plan 2016-36

*Stage 2: Local Plan Submission- Evidence Base- Policy - Delivery*

*Highlight Report (10)*

Progress	Comments / Actions
<p><b>Housing and Masterplan Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mater Plan Meetings ongoing – Third round of meetings have taken place for Skerningham and Greater Faverdale. Strategic level highway modelling is in the process of being commissioned. Meeting to be held with consultants JMP on 8<sup>th</sup> March 17 which will provide greater clarity on timescales but it is likely model outputs will be available June/July.</li> <li>• Member visit to Skerningham held 24<sup>th</sup> February 17. Similar visit to be arranged for Faverdale area by end March 17.</li> <li>• Meeting held with MSG Parish Chair with a view to setting up a workshop with developers/landowners/parish/ward members. Principle of joint working agreed.</li> <li>• Meeting between Heighington School and potential developers was held 1<sup>st</sup> March 17 and JA invited to attend Heighington Parish Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 17 to discuss a similar joint working proposal to that in MSG.</li> <li>• DN attended Association of Parish Councils Meeting 1 March 2017 to provide an update on local plan progress. Key feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ parish councils want to get to a position as quickly as possible where there is more certainty and control over detrimental development.</li> <li>○ There had been an expression earlier from one representative that the process felt rushed but most understood the need for rapid progress.</li> <li>○ The importance of community infrastructure and supporting/improving village services was discussed.</li> <li>○ There does seem to be a continued resistance to an overreliance on online based information with some Parish Councils.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• EA approval to spend the £200k Levy on a detailed appraisal for Flood Risk in the Town Centre Fringe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Town Centre and Retail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Town Centre Board 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Consultants being commissioned to undertake an update of the retail study. Brief to be prepared by week ending 10<sup>th</sup> March 17.</li> <li>• Town Centre Conference arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017</li> </ul>	<p><i>Workshop to be setup asap (date TBC –Target End March 17)</i></p> <p><i>To be picked up within Town Centre Fringe theme.</i></p>

<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsite will be significantly overhauled week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to include designated pages for topic areas and site specific areas.</li> <li>• One Darlington update to be delivered week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Primary purpose is to direct people to the new format of the website which will evolve over the coming months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Staffing and resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Petch has left the authority and the Policy Manager post will be advertised externally in the coming weeks. A provisional interview date of the 7th April has been set. In the meantime David Nelson will continue in 'acting up' role.</li> <li>• James Langler now in Planning Officer post as of 13th Feb 17. Additional Planning Officer (Fiona McCall) start date 13 March 2017).</li> <li>• Excel training conducted 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017. Feedback has been very positive and attendees have lots of additional skills that will be of use for storing and interrogation various data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Programme Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routemap shared with masterplan groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General consensus that outline timetable is challenging but achievable.</li> <li>○ Project plan currently remains unaltered from that previously circulated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 1 to 1's to be arranged with group leads to seek assurances on the above.</li> </ul>	<p><i>To be arranged by JA/DN to be completed by end of week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> March 17.</i></p>
<p><b>Governance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitations and Terms of Reference for Local Plan Steering Group issued to organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris McEwan</li> <li>○ Members on Reference Group</li> <li>○ John Anderson and Dave Winstanley - DBC</li> <li>○ Simon Brown – Highways England</li> <li>○ Marie Kiddell – HCA</li> <li>○ Matthew Good – HBF</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Allison Fellows/Martin Waters – TVCA</li> <li>○ Simon Smales - ATLAS</li> <li>● Quad of aims for Topic Groups revised for consistency.</li> <li>● Pro forma for Terms of Reference produced (example to be circulated at the meeting)</li> <li>● Briefing session on ‘planning fundamentals’ held with group leads 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.</li> <li>● Masterplan groups working on Terms of Reference, Governance Structure and ensuring relevant landowners engaged.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Task Group Leads.</i></p> <p><i>Developers/landowners</i></p>
<p><b>Other Key Tasks</b></p>	<p><b>Comments / Actions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Internal workshop to refine Sustainability Appraisal Framework into more specific parameters and document work on strategic sites. Estimated to be completed in April.</li> <li>● ONS data sets to be reviewed. This task cannot be planned until OAN methodology is known and is a risk to the timetable.</li> <li>● Conversation regarding Heighington developments to be organised following learning from Middleton St George and consideration of school options.</li> <li>● Administration support to be kept under review.</li> </ul>	<p><i>JL</i></p> <p><i>IN</i></p> <p><i>DN/FMC</i></p> <p><i>DN/JA</i></p>
<p><b>Key Milestones</b></p>	<p><b>Comments / Actions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All topic specific theme group meetings held with external representatives by end March 17.</li> <li>● TOR for Task Groups agreed by next meeting and invites issues.</li> <li>● See high-level plan for up to date timetable.</li> </ul>	<p><i>ALL LEADS</i></p>
<p><b>Risks</b></p>	<p><b>Comments / Actions</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Risk Log:</li> <li>○ Two applications for neighbourhood plan areas received for Hurworth and Low Consicliffe. Even keeping support to the statutory minimum this will be resource intensive.</li> <li>○ White Paper published February 2017. Key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing uncertainty around OAN and planning obligations. Additional consultation to be undertaken on both with no definitive timescales set as yet.</li> <li>○ Growth agenda remains.</li> <li>○ Acknowledgement that planning not the only barrier so greater pressure proposed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Planning policy</i></p> <p><i>2x Policy Officers to attend PAS Event on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and distribute feedback</i></p>

on developers.

- Need to engage smaller house builders.
- Suggested 5 year review periods for plans (down from 10).
- Suggested change from plans having to demonstrate 'the most appropriate' strategy to 'an appropriate strategy'.
- Suggested change to require plans to identify opportunities to thrive.
- Task groups taking longer to get up to speed than anticipated. Additional work being undertaken to set topic specific expectations.
- HCA Capacity funding still outstanding.
- Capacity and complexity of highway modelling.
- Power and Utilities Capacity.

*Planning Policy*