



# Darlington Local Plan 2016-36

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

*Highlight Report (11)*

Progress	Comments / Actions
<p><b>Housing and Master plan Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan Meetings ongoing – 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 be arranged for Faverdale area by end April 17.</li> <li>• Workshop held with key stakeholders in MSG on 30 March 17 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parish Council</li> <li>○ Ward Members</li> <li>○ Developers and Landowners</li> <li>○ MSG Primary School</li> <li>○ DBC Planning, Education and Highways</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The event was well attended and feedback was positive. Workshop discussions were held key topics including social and community uses, transport, infrastructure and placemaking. Useful feedback was received on both existing issues and potential opportunities for future development of the village.</li> <li>• Key messages were there was general support for working towards a cohesive plan for the village to deliver greater certainty and better services and infrastructure than currently available. Additional education and retail provision were key priorities. It was also apparent that the existing community is heavily reliant on private vehicles.</li> <li>• It is hoped that this could be the start of collaborative working and officers are establishing some high level development objectives (based on the feedback received) which could be put to numerous uses including; local plan allocations, SPD's, Neighbourhood Plans etc.</li> <li>• OAN methodologies due for consultation 'soon'. Proposal is to run the scenarios to give an idea of how this would impact numbers although a final methodology may not be agreed by government until Autumn 17.</li> </ul>	

### **Town Centre and Retail**

- 2nd Darlington Town Centre Conference held 21.3.17
- Key conference attracted ca 70 attendants. Darlington Town Centre wants to remain a vibrant, viable and vital place and held its second conference to discuss future options. In line with future regeneration projects the Town Centre in Darlington will have to create a new Town Centre Action Plan by Autumn 2017 to define and implement new activities and projects.
- Cllr McEwan outlined the findings of the Town Centre conference to audience as:

The Darlington Town Centre has many strengths through retail and leisure offers. This need to be enhanced via the cultural and tourist offers and could culminate in the 2025 Darlington Stockton Railway festivities. The Town Centre Board needs to be reinvigorated to take the development of the Town Centre Action Plan 2017 forward. The Council will be vital in co-ordinating the plan with private sector businesses involved. This plan will be added as key evidence for the draft submission of the Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 and key output of the Town Centre and Retail Thematic Group.

### **Communications**

- Microsite now overhauled to include designated pages for topic areas and site specific areas. Content to be built upon with direction from theme leads.
- One Darlington update to be delivered May 2017.
- Online 'Newsletter' to be generated to send out to people who have registered their details on the website
- Cllr McEwan attended Longfield School on 29 March 17 to provide overview of planning in Darlington.

### **Staffing and resources**

- Place Strategy Manager advert has now closed. Interview date set of the 7th April. David Nelson will continue in 'acting' role.
- Fiona McCall joined the team on 13 March 2017 in a planning officer role.
- Project Management training booked for the team on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

<p><b>Programme Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 to 1's ongoing with theme leads and progress thus far has been reassuring.</li> </ul>	
<p>Governance:</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> <li>○ Allison Fellows/Martin Waters – TVCA</li> <li>○ Simon Smales - ATLAS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Masterplan groups working on Terms of Reference, Governance Structure and ensuring relevant landowners engaged.</li> </ul>	<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>• White Paper Consultation response to be provided by 2 May 17.</li> <li>• Workshop to consider appropriate Sustainability Appraisal criteria to assess potential sites and policies. To be held week commencing 24 April 17. Attendees to be Statutory consultees (Natural England, Environment Agency &amp; Historic England), Theme Leads, Other Stakeholders including Combined Authority, Adjacent Authorities, Utilities Providers, Network Rail, Public Health, NHS CCG etc.</li> <li>• ONS data sets to be reviewed. This task cannot be finalised until OAN methodology is known and is a risk to the timetable.</li> <li>• Conversation regarding Heighington and Hurworth 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> <li>• PAS to produce a member briefing presentation which could be provided</li> </ul>	<p><i>DN</i></p> <p><i>JL</i></p> <p><i>IN</i></p> <p><i>DN/FMC</i></p> <p><i>DN/JA</i></p> <p><i>DN</i></p>

Key Milestones	Comments / Actions
<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>
Risks	Comments / Actions
<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 on developers.</li> <li>○ Need to engage smaller house builders.</li> <li>○ Suggested 5 year review periods for plans (down from 10).</li> <li>○ Suggested change from plans having to demonstrate ‘the most appropriate’ strategy to ‘an appropriate strategy’.</li> <li>○ Suggested change to require plans to identify opportunities to thrive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Task groups taking longer to get up to speed than anticipated. Additional work being undertaken to set topic specific expectations.</li> <li>○ HCA Capacity funding bid unsuccessful.</li> <li>○ Capacity and complexity of highway modelling.</li> <li>○ Power and Utilities Capacity.</li> <li>○ Combined Authorities apportionment of SEP figures.</li> <li>○ Times for PINS to set examination dates are currently increasing (Redcar advised likely to be 5 months).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Planning policy</i></p> <p><i>2x Officers attended PAS Event on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017</i></p> <p><i>Planning Policy</i></p>