

**DECISIONS SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BEFORE
MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2026**

CABINET

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

PRESENT – Councillors Harker (Chair), Garner, McCollom, McEwan, Porter, Curry, Roche and Wallis

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Dulston and Henderson

C57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**C58 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON
ITEMS ON THIS CABINET AGENDA.**

Representations were made by the Parkland Heritage Network, The Hummersknott Residents Group / Bull Field Protection Group and Harrowgate Hill Ward Councillor.

C59 KEY DECISIONS:-

**C60 DARLINGTON BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW - CONSULTATION ON DRAFT LOCAL PLAN
2025-2042 AND SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Cabinet Member with the Economy Portfolio introduced the report of the Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection to present the responses and recommended amendments to the Draft Local Plan 2025-2042. It was explained that the amendments would be included within the pre-submission version of the Local Plan that will, subject to Council approval be published for further consultation in September/October 2026 prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public by the government deadline of 31 December 2026.

The report seeks delegated authority for the Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection, in consultation with the Economy Portfolio Holder, to allow minor editorial amendments to the Draft Plan prior to consultation. It was clarified that any comments received during this time, will be considered prior to the submission to the Secretary of State and further necessary changes agreed under delegated authority for the Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection in consultation with the Economy Portfolio Holder.

It was detailed how the Darlington Local Plan was adopted in February 2022 covering the period 2016 to 2036. The Local Plan is up to date and not due to review until it is five years old, whilst the plan remains up to date, there were benefits to reviewing the plan early. The report stated how the Local Plan provides a vision and a guide for the delivery of sustainable development over the next 15 years. It was explained how it is about planning for resident's future needs in terms of housing, and how to protect and nature the local environment whilst to provide homes, workplaces and leisure in future.

The report indicated how during the consultation undertaken between 6th March 2026 and 28th April 2026, 100 responses which resulted in more than 650 comments to consider from individuals and organisations.

RESOLVED – It is recommended that Cabinet note the content of this report and recommend to Full Council that: -

- a) The suggested amends to the local plan are applied
- b) Note the comments received during the first consultation;
- c) Council agree a further minimum six-week period of consultation in line with the requirements of Regulation 19.
- d) Authority is delegated to the Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection, in consultation with the Economy Portfolio Holder, to make any necessary changes to the documents referred to above before they are submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

REASON - The recommendations are supported by the following reasons: -

(a) Local Planning Authorities must prepare a Local Plan that sets out the local planning policies for their local planning authority area. Government guidance requires that Local Plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and be consistent with national policy, in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

**DECISIONS DATED –
FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026**