

Cabinet

24 July 2012



County Durham Policy Framework

Report of Corporate Management Team

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Councillor Neil Foster, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development

Purpose of Report

1. To present a number of key policy documents that outline and shape the approach for Regeneration and Economic Development in County Durham. Through the refreshed Regeneration Statement and the County Durham Plan Preferred Options (and associated documents) we are restating our aim to *shape a County Durham where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential.*

Background

2. County Durham is continuing to face some key challenges in regards to regeneration. We have recognised that, a stagnating national economy, an underperforming local economy, high numbers of unemployed, an ageing population and sweeping public sector cuts could all impact upon our aspirations as we move forward. Therefore, it is imperative for County Durham to take forward a coherent policy framework which builds on our key strengths and assets to boost economic growth and enable residents and businesses to take advantage of opportunities in Durham, the region, the nation and the world.

Policy Framework

3. The County Durham Regeneration Statement which was developed in 2009 and refreshed in 2012, underpins the Altogether Wealthier theme of the Sustainable Communities Strategy for County. It sets an integrated economic development, planning, housing and transport policy framework for County Durham and outlines the County Durham Economic Partnership's approach to delivering its ambitions. The Statement specifies the spatial, social and economic priorities over the coming years whilst recognising the tough economic climate that still exists and the altered landscape of economic development and regeneration.
4. Despite the substantial challenges facing the County, we have made a good start in our new ambitious approach. Our emerging County Durham

Plan provides a coherent spatial planning framework for the next 20 years guiding the future development of County Durham to improve the lives of its existing and future residents. The Plan also sets the framework to support the development of a thriving economy in County Durham while at the same time protecting those things that are important to us all. With improved economic performance central to the Plan, it identifies a number of sites for new employment, housing and infrastructure to accommodate the growth needed to achieve these ambitions.

5. Accompanying the Plan, the Local Development Scheme sets out the timescales for the next stages of the Plan's preparation and the Statement of Community Involvements sets out the standards the Council will meet when consulting on the Plan and planning applications.
6. A number of draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) also accompany the Plan and give further detail on most of the Strategic Allocations that will deliver the Spatial Approach. The draft SPDs included are: Aykley Heads; Sniperley Park; North of Arnison; Sherburn Road; and Lambton Park Estate.
7. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies existing and future infrastructure requirements that need to be addressed to deliver the County Durham Plan's vision for growth. It also shows how, when and where the Council and its partners will address these infrastructure requirements.
8. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) ensures new development makes a proportionate and reasonable contribution towards delivering the infrastructure required to support growth. CIL is also a mechanism which can be used to supplement other funding streams which will deliver strategic infrastructure over the Plan period. In the accompanying document we have out how we propose to implement the CIL, the rationale for its use and the Preliminary Charging Schedule

Recommendations

9. Members are asked to agree the accompanying reports and documents.
 - **County Durham Regeneration Statement Covering Report**
 - County Durham Regeneration Statement 2012
 - **The County Durham Plan Preferred Options and Supporting Documents Covering Report**
 - County Durham Plan Preferred Options
 - Five Supplementary Planning Documents
 - Local Development Scheme
 - Statement of Community Involvement
 - **County Durham Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Covering Report**
 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan
 - CIL Rationale and Preliminary Charging Schedule

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

See Accompanying Reports

Staffing –

See Accompanying Reports

Equality and Diversity –

See Accompanying Reports

Accommodation –

None.

Crime and Disorder –

None.

Human Rights –

None.

Consultation –

See Accompanying Reports

Procurement –

None.

Disability Discrimination Act –

None.

Legal Implications –

None