

COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

WHAT WE'RE DOING AND WHEN

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

June 2019

THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is an essential part of the plan preparation process. It is a project plan that represents an agreement with central government outlining the arrangements for producing this new plan. It is the starting point for all interested parties to find out about the council's emerging planning policies in respect to a particular area or issue. It illustrates the relationship between the individual documents currently proposed and how they fit into the council's wider strategies. This project plan supersedes any previously adopted by Durham County Council.

THE COUNTY DURHAM PLAN

The County Durham Plan (Local Plan) is being produced in accordance with government legislation and guidance. It provides a new and up to date policy context against which all planning applications and development proposals will be assessed and determined. It will be a key influence and steer in the manner in which the county will develop and prosper during the plan period and beyond.

COUNTY DURHAM PLAN STRUCTURE

The **County Durham Plan** sets out the spatial vision and strategic objectives for future development of the county, including minerals and waste, to which all supporting documents must conform. It will contain policies and site allocations to deliver these objectives, on which planning applications will be determined. The County Durham Plan will also contain a framework for monitoring and implementation.

The **Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations** document will develop the strategic minerals and waste content of the County Durham Plan. Strategic components of the waste and minerals including strategic sites where justified and necessary will be allocated in the County Durham Plan. Where needed and justified the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations document will allocate non-strategic minerals and waste sites.

The **Policies Map** uses an Ordnance Survey base to depict the areas to which each of the policies contained within the County Durham Plan will apply. For example, it will show areas which have been allocated for specific types of development, such as industrial estates and retail areas; and designations such as conservation areas, where special controls apply.

MILESTONES

The key milestones for the production of each document that makes up the development plan are shown in Figure 1 below.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The County Durham Plan is subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). It considers the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policies and proposals. This will allow the County Durham Plan to comply with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC).

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Each year an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be prepared to assess progress on the delivery of the County Durham Plan and to review the effectiveness of County Durham Plan policies. The AMR is published each year and assesses the following factors:

- Progress on the delivery of the County Durham Plan compared with LDS milestones.
- Reasons for any variance and proposed actions.
- Any factors that may impact on the following year's LDS milestones and planned action.
- The need for new evidence or research.
- A review of policy effectiveness.
- A trajectory of future housing provision against housing requirements.

The LDS will be reviewed and rolled forward when necessary to take account of changes to national or regional policy, progress on the programme, milestones and the content of the AMR. The flexible nature of the system means that new documents can be added to the LDS as circumstances change.

Figure 1 – Local Development Scheme Milestones

