

Delegated Decision

19 May 2020

County Durham Plan – Main Modifications Consultation



Report of Corporate Management Team

Geoff Paul, Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Councillor Carl Marshall, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek approval for consultation on the main modifications to the County Durham Plan resulting from the hearings sessions of the Examination in Public and as recommended by the Inspector.

Executive summary

- 2 The County Durham Plan seeks to ensure that County Durham is a successful place to live, work, invest and visit by focussing on supporting and creating vibrant communities by delivering:
 -) more and better jobs and sustained economic growth;
 -) a wide choice of high-quality homes that supports economic growth and meets the needs of all people;
 -) a high quality built and enhanced natural environment; and
 -) the necessary supporting infrastructure including transport, health and educational needs.
- 3 The submission draft of the County Durham Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 28 June 2019 for independent examination. Hearing sessions were held over four weeks from the 22 October 2019 to 4 December 2019 with one additional hearing held on 6 February 2020.

- 4 The council subsequently received the Inspector's post hearings advice. In it he sets out a number of main modifications he considers are necessary to make the plan sound including a number that the council have proposed during and following the hearing sessions (most in response to action points or questions from the Inspector).
- 5 The council have undertaken a sustainability appraisal, habitats regulations assessment and equalities impact assessment on all of the main modifications which, together with the main modifications themselves, it is proposed to consult on for eight weeks from 26 May 2020 until 21 July 2020. It should be noted that the consultation is only about the main modifications deemed necessary to make the County Durham Plan sound. This consultation is not about representing any previously submitted comments as these have already been considered by the Inspector nor for the submission of comments which do not specifically relate to a proposed main modification.
- 6 The representations received to the consultation and the council's responses to the representations will then be sent on to the Inspector. The Inspector will then provide his final report which will include his findings, recommendations and reasons. The plan will then be adopted by Cabinet and Full Council.

Recommendation

- 7 The Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration is recommended to agree the County Durham Plan main modifications for consultation for eight weeks from 26 May 2020 to 21 July 2020.

Background

- 8 All local planning authorities have a statutory requirement to prepare and maintain an up-to-date development plan for their area. The County Durham Plan seeks to ensure that County Durham is a successful place to live, work, invest and visit by focussing on supporting and creating vibrant communities by delivering:
-) more and better jobs and sustained economic growth;
 -) a wide choice of high-quality homes that supports economic growth and meets the needs of all people;
 -) a high quality built and enhanced natural environment; and
 -) the necessary supporting infrastructure including transport, health and educational needs.
- 9 The County Durham Plan was consulted on widely from 25 January 2019 until 8 March 2019. A total of 2,877 comments from 1,003 different respondents were received as well as several petitions. The submission draft of the County Durham Plan together with the evidence base and all representations made, with a council response to each, was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 28 June 2019 for independent examination. William Fieldhouse was subsequently appointed as Inspector and Annette Feeney as Programme Officer.

Examination in Public Hearings

- 10 Hearing sessions were held over four weeks from the 22 October 2019 to 4 December 2019. The hearings covered all aspects of the plan and were grouped under 14 matters:
-) legal and procedural requirements and other general matters;
 -) quantity of development needed in the county;
 -) strategic approach to accommodating development;
 -) green belt;
 -) strategic allocations at Durham City;
 -) transport proposals for Durham City;
 -) Durham University;
 -) housing land supply;

-) meeting specific housing needs;
-) economic development;
-) environment;
-) minerals and waste; and
-) other issues.

11 One additional hearing day was held on 6 February 2020 which was to revisit housing land supply.

Post Hearings Advice

12 As part of the report to Cabinet and Full Council for the submission of the plan the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration was authorised to ask the Inspector appointed to hold the Examination in Public to recommend modifications to the County Durham Plan submission document under Section 20(7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 necessary to satisfy the requirements of Section 20(5A) of the Act and make the document sound.

13 Therefore, following the completion of the hearing sessions, the council received the Inspector's post hearings advice. In it he set out several main modifications he considered necessary to make the plan sound. These were:

-) the northern and western relief roads should be removed from policy 23 of the plan. His conclusion was that overall, the adverse impact of the relief roads, individually and collectively, would be substantial and would not be outweighed by the limited benefits the roads would bring; and
-) the reference in policy 24 to a corridor of interest for a possible future Barnard Castle relief road should be removed from the plan. His conclusion was that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the relief road will be needed in the future or that any benefits it would bring would outweigh the adverse impacts.

14 The post hearings advice also refers to a number of main modifications that the council have proposed during and following the hearing sessions (most in response to action points or questions from the Inspector). The Inspector considers that they are all necessary to address soundness issues and will be effective in so doing. There are 194 in total (in addition to the 18 resulting from the removal of the three relief roads) but most are

relatively focussed or just ensure the policies are aligned with national policy. Some of the more significant main modifications proposed include:

-) the approach to development on unallocated sites (policy 6) has been made much more flexible which will likely result in more windfalls to come forward than would have with the approach originally set out in the plan. This is to provide flexibility in case other sites do not come forward and will ensure we meet our housing needs;
-) the deletion of the minor green belt deletions at Fernhill and Lumley Boys School;
-) amendments to the Aykley Heads policy to remove reference to ancillary uses (such as hotels) and the reference to the future development of the police playing fields and to limit car parking to no more than existing; and
-) older persons housing which is increasing the proportion of accessible and adaptable homes from 10% to 66% on future developments.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Directive

- 15 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory process integrated into the preparation of all aspects and stages of the County Durham Plan. An addendum to the SA which assesses the impact of the main modifications has been undertaken. A habitat regulations assessment of the main modifications has also been undertaken. Both documents will be published alongside the main modifications during the consultation.

Consultation

- 16 Paragraph 6.7 of the Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations requires main modifications to be subject to public consultation. The guide also requires the council to make it clear that the consultation is only about the proposed MMs and any policies map changes (and no other aspect of the plan), that they are put forward without prejudice to the Inspector's final conclusions and that all representations made will be taken into account by the Inspector.
- 17 This stage of consultation is not prescribed within the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. However, paragraph 6.7 of the Planning Inspectorate's 'Procedure Guide for Local Plan Examinations' requires that all proposed main modifications must be subject to public consultation and, where necessary, SA and habitats regulations assessment before the Inspector can make recommendations

on them. The Procedure Guide recognises (paragraph 6.8) that the precise arrangements for public consultation will vary from case to case but will follow general principles including that the scope and duration of the consultation will reflect those of the consultation held at Regulation 19 stage.

- 18 In order to ensure that the County Durham Plan can progress in a timely manner taking account of the current COVID-19 pandemic it is necessary to ensure that the flexible approach to consultation required in the current circumstances is reflected within the statement of community involvement. This is specifically acknowledged by Government's Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph: 077 Reference ID: 61-077-201200513) which encourages local authorities to undertake an immediate review and update policies within their statement of community involvements where necessary so that plan-making can continue.
- 19 In order to ensure that no one is unfairly disadvantaged hard copy documents will be posted to anyone who is unable to access the consultation material via electronic means and requests the documents to be sent. To take account of any delays for postage in the circumstances of the pandemic, it is proposed that the statutory six week consultation period is extended to eight weeks. The consultation on the main modifications will commence on 26 May 2020 and will run until 21 July 2020. This will also allow additional time for people and organisations that may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to respond to the consultation.

Next Steps

- 20 The representations received to the consultation and the council's responses to the representations will then be sent to the Inspector for his consideration. The Inspector will then provide his final report which will include his findings, recommendations and reasons. The plan will then be adopted by Cabinet and Full Council at the earliest opportunity.

Background papers

-) County Durham Plan - Main Modifications (March 2020)
-) Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Main Modifications
-) Inspector's Post Hearings Advice
-) County Durham Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft (2019)
-) Statement of Community Involvement (2020)

Other useful documents

) None.

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and 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). The NPPF gives guidance to local authorities in drawing up their local plans. The preparation of the plan, SPDs and the LDS have been informed by a continuous dialogue with the council's legal team.

Finance

The County Durham Plan has a continuing budget commitment for appropriate evidence gathering, consultation, printing and EIP costs.

Consultation

Minor modifications to the statement of community involvement will enable the consultation on the main modifications to the County Durham Plan to go ahead for an eight week period. The programme of consultation has been agreed with the council's corporate communications team and agreed by the council's consultation officers group and will be undertaken in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and the 2012 Local Plan Regulations.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The council acknowledges that, in exercising its functions, it has a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. This duty applies to all people defined as having protected characteristics under that legislation.

The council has carefully considered the likely impacts of the plan on persons with a protected characteristic at each stage of the process. An equality impact assessment has been prepared in partnership with the community engagement team.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

Protocol 1 Article 1: Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions including their property. The plan allocates land

for development which will affect landowners' rights to develop their land. It is noted, however, that rights afforded under this article are not absolute but qualified. Therefore, any interference with landowners' rights must be balanced against the wider public. It is lawful for a local planning authority to take action if that action is clearly necessary and proportionate. In this instance, such control is necessary and proportionate in the public interest to ensure that a local plan is in place to guide development across the county to 2035.

Crime and Disorder

The sustainable design policy now includes a criterion which seeks to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security.

Staffing

The resource required to progress the local plan is in place.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Not having an adopted local plan makes it more difficult to resist inappropriate development and also to provide the necessary certainty to facilitate appropriate development to support the local economy. Failure to make progress risks Government intervention.

Procurement

When required, consultants have been commissioned to deliver evidence studies in accordance with the council's procurement rules/procedures.

County Durham Plan Equality Impact Assessment

March 2020

Altogether better



Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

NB: The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Assessing impact on equality and recording this is one of the key ways in which we can show due regard.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	RED/Spatial Policy Team
Lead Officer	Spatial Planning Team Leader
Title	County Durham Plan (Submission Draft)
MTFP Reference (if relevant)	N/A
Cabinet Date (if relevant)	18/05/2020
Start Date	June 2016
Review Date	Reviewed June 2018 Reviewed November 2018 Reviewed May 2019 Reviewed February 2020

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice as appropriate (a copy of the subject can be attached or insert a web-link):

The County Durham Plan will replace the saved policies of the former District and Borough Local Plans and the Minerals Local Plan and Waste Local Plan. The County Durham Plan will provide broad strategic direction, a spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and will provide guidance and policy on the scale and distribution of new development, infrastructure provision and use of land and buildings to 2035. The aim of a local plan is to guide the future development of a place to improve the lives of its existing and future residents and meet the differing needs of our communities. All Plan documents are subject to extensive public and stakeholder consultation and participation and a key aim is to create equality of opportunity for all, including by treating some more favourably to avoid disadvantage.

A Statement of Community Involvement was produced (June 2018), to provide real opportunities for all to be involved in all aspects of planning, from plan making to determination of development proposals.

After the extensive consultation on the first stage of plan preparation known as Issues and Options stage of the County Durham Plan (CDP) in 2016, further consultation took place on the next stage of the CDP, Preferred Options, from 22nd June 2018 for 6 weeks. Following these consultations another consultation took place on the next stage of the CDP, Pre-Submission Draft, from 25th January 2019 for 6 week to 8th March 2019. The final consultation will take place from May 26th 2020 for 8 weeks.

This equality impact assessment will be continually reviewed and updated as the County Durham Plan develops. All comments made to the Pre-Submissison draft and the council's response are set out within a Statement of Consultation which is attached at Appendix 3.

Who are the main stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users):

Anyone who lives in, studies in, works in, visits, or has an interest in County Durham may be interested in the Local Plan. This includes the general public, council staff, Elected Members, developers and landowners, various partners, stakeholders from various sectors and interest groups or communities, and prescribed bodies as such as neighbouring authorities and Government agencies.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Y = Yes, N = No, ? = unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)	N	Y
Pregnancy and maternity	N	Y
Race (ethnicity)	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	Y
Sex (gender)	N	Y
Sexual orientation	N	Y
Transgender	N	Y

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause adverse impact. Record full details and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

N/A

How will this policy/proposal/practice promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

There is potential for both direct and indirect impacts for all of the protected characteristics groups. The County Durham Plan aims to promote equality in all of its objectives. It aims to reduce inequality of opportunity by various means across several themes or areas. The County Durham Plan has regard to the SCS and sets out our shared long-term vision for the county, our ambitions for the area and the priorities that partners and communities believe are important. It provides the blueprint to deliver long lasting improvements and sets the scene for the Plan. Similarly regard will be had to the County Durham Regeneration Statement which supports the SCS and seeks to create places that are attractive, well-designed, and well-managed, with good amenities and transport connections, providing a focal point for business and social interactions.

The County Durham Plan seeks to ensure that development is accessible to all and is well designed. This aims to eliminate disadvantage for some groups e.g. people without access to a car, people with a disability or illness, older people or those with limited mobility. This will also include in rural areas where accessibility is more problematic for some people. Design policies also include designing out crime therefore making people feel safer in new developments. The Spatial Vision of the Plan aims to create sustainable, balanced and regenerated communities and improve quality of life. Its aim is an accessible, well designed range and choice of housing, services and community facilities, complementing the area's thriving economy and meeting the needs of all existing and future residents.

The structure of this impact assessment will focus on the following objectives of the Plan pertinent to the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010. Further analysis of impact in relation to the protected groups is included in section two of this assessment:

Objective 1: Economic Ambition aims to improve the economic performance of County Durham by creating more and better jobs, increasing the employment rate and reducing unemployment, thereby increasing GVA (a measure of economic performance), household income demand for local goods and services and improving the resilience of the county's economy. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have a greater positive impact in relation to age (younger working age people), and gender (women) bringing women in line with the male employment rate.

Objective 2: Sustainable Communities aims to locate new development in areas which offer the best opportunity for sustainable development patterns, including means of travel other than the private car, thus ensuring that new homes and jobs are supported by a high quality environment, services and infrastructure and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have a greater positive impact in relation to age (older and younger), gender (women) and disability in terms of improved transport links and access to jobs and services.

Objective 3: Housing Need aims to deliver new housing, in a range of house types and tenures, that is accessible to, and meets the needs and aspirations of, County Durham's residents (including affordable, families with children, older persons, younger people, multigenerational housing, specialist housing, Gypsies and Travellers and those people wishing to build their own home) while making effective use of the existing stock. Self-build could have implications for younger people affording their own home, and so this objective is likely to have a greater positive impact on age (provision of older persons' housing, affordable and student housing also for younger people), disability and race (ethnicity) for positive impacts upon the GRT community.

Objective 4: Infrastructure aims to enable the delivery of the infrastructure – such as transport, health and education digital and green infrastructure that is required to support new and existing development and the economic, social and environmental ambitions of the county. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age and other protected groups such as disability.

Objective 6: Rural Economy aims to support and improve the rural economy by encouraging diversification, retaining and enhancing key facilities, infrastructure and services whilst promoting appropriate new development in rural settlements. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age.

Objective 11: Well Designed Places- aims to ensure the creation of high quality accessible buildings and places that reflects local distinctiveness, promote sustainability, support the transition to a low carbon future and achieve safe and secure communities. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age, pregnancy and maternity, race and disability.

Objective 12: Raising Aspirations aims to encourage greater prosperity by supporting education, training and research establishments that help to raise the aspirations, participation and attainment of young people, re-engage adults with work and lifelong learning, and develop workforce skills. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to younger people and minority groups who may face additional barriers to greater prosperity such as ethnic minority groups and disabled people

Objective 13: Tackling Deprivation and Inequalities aims to ensure that the regeneration needs of County Durham's communities are met in order to reduce deprivation, improve health and address social, economic and environmental

inequalities. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age, gender and disability.

Objective 14: Quality of Life aims to safeguard, enhance and provide a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities including green infrastructure and natural capital, and seek to prevent and address pollution issues to contribute to the quality of life, satisfaction and health and wellbeing of people who live, work within and visit County Durham, including addressing the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age and other protected groups such as disability.

Objective 18: Sustainable Transport- Ensure that new development can be easily and safely accessed by all modes of transport and, wherever possible, contribute to reducing the need to travel, thereby reducing the impact of traffic and congestion on air quality, the wider environment, business and the economy, communities and health. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have a greater impact in relation to age, and disability.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your findings?

Please **outline** your data sets and/or proposed evidence sources, highlight any gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record greater detail and analysis in the following section of this assessment.

The County Durham Plan aims to improve the county; its communities; economy and environment to make County Durham a successful place. It aims for equality of opportunity across all equality protected characteristics and identifies actions to eliminate inequality such as issues on the provision of affordable housing or tackling other social, economic and environmental issues. There is national, regional and local evidence available which shows that people from protected groups can face barriers in employment, access to services and information, participation in decision making and in consultation.

Evidence from the Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) suggests for example that deprivation links to protected characteristics, such as children from deprived areas being more prone to obesity or other health problems. Active travel and design and environmental improvements can help with health problems and improve quality of life, and improvement of sustainable travel modes and uptake in their use will improve the quality of life for all by reducing air pollution and congestion.

Equally, the County Durham Plan tries to address issues of inequality of opportunity which may not always be easily linked to protected characteristics. Rural issues, for example, or the affordability of housing can be experienced by many sectors of the community and can be linked to protected characteristics (e.g. the young find it more difficult to afford housing in some areas) but issues can also be separate and

may not easily be associated with protected characteristics (such as regeneration, green space provision or physical environment). Census 2011 and equality related evidence from the Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) has been used in section two of this assessment. <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2389/2011-Census>
<http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8461/Integrated-Needs->
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157058/report.aspx?c1=2013265921&c2=2092957698>

Consultation Update TBC

The Submission Draft with Main Modifications is to be consulted on.

There may be some circumstances, which are beyond the council's control, such as a time of national lock-down during the COVID19 pandemic, which may result in a variation to the involvement methods set out herein. In such circumstances, the council will at all times remain committed to involving the community as much as practicable.

During the COVID 19 pandemic the council has taken steps to ensure that the community, including groups with protected characteristics, can continue to be part of the consultation process.

The consultation will run from 26th May 2020 for 8 weeks instead of 6 weeks to ensure there is time for the community to engage in the consultation.

Further details are outlined in the SCI and SCI EQUIA

A main modification has been made to:

Policy 15 Addressing Housing Need- To meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities a minimum of 10% of the total dwellings on a site will be required to meet the needs of older people. This policy will continue to have a positive impact on older persons and people with disabilities as already stated in the EQUIA. This has been updated in the protected characteristics of **Age** and **Disabilities**.

There are no further changes to be made to this document. The EQUIA will be reviewed post consultation.

Examination Update October 2019 - February 2020

The submission of the County Durham Plan was subject to independent Examination to the Secretary of State in June 2019, public hearings were held between 22 October and 4 December 2019 and on 6 February 2020.

The selected venue was the Glebe Centre in Murton. The venue was fully accessible and there was a hearing loop installed for the examination. The venue was accessible by public transport. In addition, a return direct bus was put on by the council from County Hall on certain dates that were expected to gain high interest and attendance. All information regarding the venue and bus dates and times were posted on the County Durham Plan Examination page.

Consultation Update January – March 2019

The Pre-Submission draft of the Plan was consulted on across the county from 25th January until 8th March 2019. This involved many public events including: 22 drop-in events; members' drop ins; meetings with AAPs, meetings with Parish councils. A full consultation plan was put in place to ensure inclusivity including specific actions for consultation with hard to reach groups.

Following on from engagement undertaken with the Disability Partnership Group at earlier stages of the Plan preparation, two officers met again with the Disability Partnership Group. All support and comments were minuted and fed into the consultation. The People's Parliament was also engaged with at this stage of the consultation and again the members of the group were happy with the Plan and, again, all support and comments were minuted and fed into the consultation.

The venues used were, again, the most accessible available and we aimed to cover as much of the population as possible in the publicity of the events to ensure the consultation feedback was as representative as possible across the protected groups. A total of 2877 comments from 1003 different respondents were received.

All comments made to the Pre-submission draft and the council's response are set out within a Statement of Consultation which is attached at Appendix 3.

In addition, social media played a large part in the consultation process raising questions and communicating events. In total social media messages sent by the council were viewed 139,641 times.

Furthermore, following on from engagement that was undertaken at earlier stages of plan preparation officers met again with the 5 wardens who are responsible for the 6 local authority GRT sites during the 6 week consultation period. The wardens have been selected from the GRT community to represent their community's interests. Officers summarised the salient parts of the plan and discussed the Sites For Travellers policy with them in detail. The wardens were broadly satisfied with the policy approach and views raised during this session led directly to amendments of the policy being made. This has improved the policy in terms of equity in approach.

Based on the feedback we received from our 2019 consultation, the following objective has been amended to reflect this as follows:

Objective 3: Housing Need: As the Plan does seek to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers the council is proposing a minor modification for clarity, to specify Gypsies and Travellers in the supporting text alongside other specified residents.

There has been feedback from Teesdale Action Group that not safeguarding some specific cycle superroutes within the Plan goes against the Pre-Submission Objective 14 'Quality of Life' referenced in the Pre-Submission EqlA

Objective 14: Quality of Life aims to safeguard, enhance and provide a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities including green infrastructure and natural capital, and seek to prevent and address pollution

issues to contribute to the quality of life, satisfaction and health and wellbeing of people who live, work within and visit County Durham, including addressing the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age and other protected groups such as disability

This objective remains the same. It is still being achieved and is delivered in part via Policy 22. through encouraging cycling and transport for users

Policy 22 criteria (a) delivering, accommodating and facilitating investment in safe sustainable modes of transport in the following order of priority: firstly those with mobility issues or disabilities.

Policy 22 criteria (b) describes how we will provide well designed, permeable and direct routes for walking, cycling and bus access so that new developments clearly linked to existing services

The cycle super routes are not safeguarded in the plan this is because the Plan is not the appropriate place for this level of detail. They will be identified in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) which is a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level which enable a long term approach for planning cycling and walking. This plan will be created across a number of key areas across Durham and detail network plans for walking and cycling which identifies preferred routes and car zones for further development as well as a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements for future investment. Having LCWIPs in place will ensure that consideration is given to cycling and walking in local planning and transport policies and strategies as well as making the case for future funding for walking and cycling infrastructure.

Consultation Update June – August 2018

The Preferred Options was consulted on widely from 22nd June until 3 August 2018, including a significant number of public events including 19 drop-in sessions across the County over the 6 week period. A full consultation plan was put in place to ensure inclusivity including specific actions for consultation with hard to reach groups. The venues used were, again, the most accessible available and we aimed to cover as much of the population as possible in the publicity of the events to ensure the consultation feedback was as representative as possible across the protected groups. A total of 4004 comments from 1140 different respondents were received. All comments made to the preferred options and the council's response are set out within a Statement of Consultation which is attached at Appendix 3. In addition, social media played a large part in the consultation process raising questions and communicating events. In total social media messages sent by the council were viewed 438,633 times.

The responses from the 2018 consultation have been used to inform and shape the

Pre-Submission draft; this included drop-in events: at Primary Schools and Secondary Schools and AAP events across the county; with the older persons task group; NHS Estates group; and at a Party in the Park event at Consett.

Following on from engagement that was undertaken at earlier stages of plan preparation officers met with the 5 wardens who are responsible for the 6 local authority GRT sites during the 6 week consultation period. The wardens have been selected from the GRT community to represent their community's interests. Officers summarised the salient parts of the plan and discussed the Sites For Travellers policy with them in detail. The wardens were broadly satisfied with the policy approach and views raised during this session led directly to amendments of the policy being made. This has improved the policy in terms of equity in approach.

Based on the feedback we received from our 2018 consultation, the objectives have been amended to reflect this as follows:

Objective 1 – 'Economic Ambition' – has been amended to include reference to 'improving the resilience of the county's economy', which will have positive impacts, for example, for young and old age groups and females

Objective 3 – Housing Need – has been amended to include 'a range of house types and tenures' that will have a positive impact on groups with varying needs such as accessibility, family needs, specialist housing needs.

Objective 11 – Well Designed Places has been amended to include the word 'accessible' when referring to high quality building and places. This will have a positive impact on disability groups and young people and older people.

Objective 18 – 'Sustainable Transport' has been added as an objective in the plan (see above) which includes easily accessible and safe forms of sustainable transport with reference to reducing the negative impact traffic and congestion has on communities and health.

Consultation Update 2016

Extensive consultation took place on the Issues and Options from the 24th June 2016 for 6 weeks. The venues used were the most accessible available and we aimed to cover as much of the population as possible in the publicity of the events to ensure the consultation feedback was as representative as possible across the protected groups. A total of 4,932 responses were received from 823 respondents. Responses, together with an outline setting out how they have been considered, are set out within a Statement of Consultation which is available within the Member's Resource Centre. In addition, social media played a large part in the consultation process with social media messages viewed 438,633 times. The Issues and Options document was accompanied by an emerging evidence base to identify all issues affecting the county's people.

We received a variety of representations which covered issues such as affordable or adaptable housing; fast food outlets and children; children walking to school; Gypsies and Travellers; and disabilities. These were considered in the formulation of the Preferred Options.

The County Durham Plan was also been discussed at disability groups and officers also attended teen parent groups to discuss the County Durham Plan.

Consultation feedback has been used to shape the Preferred Options as follows:

The Vision has been amended to include reference to health and quality of life for disadvantaged groups at the request of Adult Services.

Objective 13 – ‘Tackling Deprivation and Inequalities’ – has been amended to include reference to improving health as part of bolstering the objective to address inequalities at the request of Adult Services.

Objective 14 – ‘Quality of Life’ – has been amended to include reference to addressing the needs of those with disabilities at the request of the Disability Access Forum.

In relation to young people, mention is made of the ability to access the further education system in rural areas in the ‘Supporting a prosperous rural economy’ section of the Plan.

We received support for the inclusion of a policy within the Preferred Options of not allowing Hot Food Takeaways within 400m of educational establishments to protect the health of children and young people. This is our approach.

We received representations on the lack of rental accommodation for the age group 55+. The vision has been amended to include reference to ‘balanced communities’.

Preferred Options includes a policy which requires 10% of housing on housing schemes to be private and intermediate housing which increase the housing options of older and disabled people, to include: level access flats, bungalows, sheltered or extra care housing, or multi-generational housing. This was as a result of a variety of representations on older persons’ housing issues and a majority of support.

Dementia issues have informed the General Development Principles policy and the design policies.

We have worked with the police and Children’s Services to develop a policy on Children’s Homes.

The sustainable communities objective has been changed to include reference to travel by means other than the private car.

Housing needs objective has been changed to include reference to young people.

Representations were received that the strategy for the natural and historic environment should reference the needs of people with physical or sensory disabilities and an acknowledgement under Disability Discrimination legislation that reasonable adjustments should be made to facilitate access. This has informed the Preferred Options.

- Representations were received on air quality and health. The need to combat poor air quality is one of the reasons why the council are proposing a Durham City Sustainable Transport Delivery Plan and an Air Quality Management Strategy and Action Plan. The Plan aims to deliver improvements in air quality and this can be linked to protected characteristics such as age and disability, as children and older people and those with existing health problems can be more affected by poor air quality.
- The Delivering Sustainable Transport policy, Durham City Sustainable Transport policy and Provision of Transport Infrastructure policy reflect representations from Access for all and learning disabilities forums.

Screening Summary

On the basis of this screening is there:	Confirm which refers (Y/N)
Evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics which will proceed to full assessment?	Y
No evidence of actual or potential impact on some/all of the protected characteristics?	N

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Spatial Policy Manager	Date:03/05/19
Service equality representative sign off: Equalities Team Leader	Date: 03/05/19

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to section two.

If not proceeding to full assessment please return completed screenings to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of potential impact please contact the corporate research and equalities team for further advice at equalities@durham.gov.uk

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details on impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups, advancing equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers for and/or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions. Devise and record mitigating actions where necessary.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities by eliminating disadvantage for different age groups where possible.</p> <p>The County Durham Plan aims to address the needs of younger people, whether the very young or the student population who will be predominantly young people. This links to SCS and the Government's Every Child Matters.</p> <p>Objective 1: Economic Ambition aims to improve the economic performance of County Durham by creating more and better jobs, increasing the employment rate and reducing unemployment, thereby increasing GVA (a measure of economic performance), household income and demand for local goods and services.</p>	<p>-Between 2001 and 2011 the population of County Durham increased from 493,678 to 513,242, an increase of 4.0% which is higher than the 2.2% rise seen in the region but lower than the 7.1% seen across England & Wales.</p> <p>-The latest 2016 mid-year population estimate for County Durham shows a population of 521,800 an increase of 4,027 people since mid-2014 and a 5.9% increase since 2001. County Durham has experienced a higher rate of growth than the north east region (3.3% over the period 2001-2015), but a considerably lower rate of growth when compared to England as a whole (10.8% from 2001-2015).</p> <p>-County Durham has an out of work benefit claimant count, of young people aged 18-24, of 5.9% this is compared to 5.5% of the same age group in the North East and 3.2% of the same age group in the UK. Improving economic performance of County Durham will have a positive impact on young people</p>	<p>1) Impact will be assessed through the preparation of the Local Plan, so that wording of policies or framing can be addressed if required. Any representations received during these stages which have a bearing upon policies will be considered.</p> <p>3) The Plan contains policies such as Policy 30 and Policy 22 on Promoting Sustainable Transport. Policy 23 Durham City Sustainable Transport</p>

<p>This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have a greater positive impact in relation to age (younger working age people).</p> <p>Objective 2: Sustainable Communities This objective aims to provide sustainable development which includes transport other than private car which will be particularly beneficial for younger people who are less likely to drive and/or have access to a car and potentially some older people who may be more likely to rely on public transport and have issues regarding accessibility into and around the city. This will have a positive impact on older and younger people who will be more likely to rely on public transport.</p> <p>Objective 3: Housing Need The County Durham Plan aims to address the needs of older people and reduce the concentration of older people in older, poorer quality housing. Affordable homes policies will benefit younger people trying to get onto the housing ladder including rural housing issues. The objective also addresses families with children, older persons, multi-generational housing,</p>	<p>who are not in work and want to work and are able to work.</p> <p>2014 based population projections for County Durham indicate that from 2016 to 2035 the county's population aged 65 or over will increase from 105,200 to 146,300 (a 39% increase) and those aged 75 and over will increase from 45,00 to 75,700 (a 65.6% increase). This age group is project to increase more than any other age group in the county.</p> <p>There has been widespread support at workshops, drop-ins and online responses to the 'Pre-Submission' consultation, for providing homes for older people according to their needs and for providing affordable housing for people including younger people according to their needs. The 2019 Pre- Submission Consultation responses have revealed support for the provision of housing for older people, without restricting these types to older people only.</p>	<p>includes school travel plans to try to influence behaviour.</p> <p>4) The Plan contains Policy 11 Rural Housing and Employment Exception Sites and Policy 15 on Addressing Housing Need. Both policies will help provide affordable housing. This will benefit younger people who are getting onto the housing ladder for the first time or who wish to stay in their local area but have previously been unable to afford it. Policy 15 also includes provision for older people and for disabilities, which has been modified further to require a minimum of 10% of total dwellings on a site meet the requirements for older persons, and meet M4(2) standards. This will contribute to provision of 66% of dwellings meeting M 4(2) standard on sites of 5 dwellings or more. which will continue to have an increased positive impact on older persons. The requirement to provide for self- build developments could also benefit younger people wanting to develop their own</p>
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<p>specialist housing and those people wishing to build their own home. The impact will be positive for older people and younger people as there will be more houses provided to meet their differing needs.</p> <p>Policy 15 Addressing Housing Needs- Meeting the needs of older persons and people with disabilities has been modified to require a minimum of 10% of the total dwellings of a site meet the needs of older people. This will continue to have a positive impact on older person.</p>	<p>Housing needs in County Durham have been developed in line with the government's standard methodology as set out in Planning Practice Guidance and reflect the government's Technical Consultation published on the 26th October 2018 which proposed that 2014-based data should provide the demographic baseline for assessment of local housing need.</p> <p>This results in 1,287 homes per annum. Planning Practice Guidance notes that the standard method for assessing local housing need provides the minimum starting point for determining the number of homes needed in an area. In this context, the Guidance notes that authorities should also consider previous delivery levels. Over the past 5 years (2013/14 - 2017/18) the council has delivered on average 1,308 homes. The Plan seeks to deliver homes to meet the housing needs of older people. The Plan supports a variety of dwelling types, to support needs, this includes providing bungalows and level-access dwellings.</p> <p>The council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has evidenced a need for affordable housing in County Durham. The policy in the County Durham Plan provides a means to deliver affordable housing across County Durham to meet needs. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, pursuing</p>	<p>homes. Provision for vulnerable people is also supported. Policy 16 concerns Durham University Development, Purpose Built Student Accommodation and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This seeks to address the accommodation needs of students, whilst maintaining mixed and balanced communities. It is recognised that students are predominantly younger age adults, which is why this policy falls within the scope of the EQIA. This policy ensures that student housing needs are a factor in determining applications and requires applicants to consider the specific types of accommodation proposed, relative to student housing needs. The policy requires that the impact of student accommodation is considered on amongst other things, general housing. This could benefit older and younger people or young families as the intention of the policy is that new student</p>
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<p>Objective 4: Infrastructure aims to enable the delivery of the infrastructure – such as transport, health and education and including green infrastructure that is required to support new and existing development and the economic, social and environmental ambitions of the county. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation to age and other protected groups such as disability.</p> <p>Objective 6: Rural Economy Addressing rural issues aims to improve</p>	<p>sustainable development requires attention to viability. An assessment of viability has been undertaken through the Local Plan Viability Assessment. This evidence base has informed realistic targets for the delivery of affordable housing that will meet the needs of young and older people in the community.</p> <p>The policy text and supporting text of the Utilities, Telecommunications and other Broadcast Infrastructure policy ensures that all new build or major renovations (both residential and commercial) are served by a high speed and reliable broadband connection. This can be an issue for children for schoolwork and older people who have problems accessing services and so will benefit these groups. It could also benefit the pregnancy and maternity strand as carers may work from home more.</p> <p>It was raised at the Disability Partnership meeting that designs need to be accessible to groups with accessibility issues such as older people, young people and pushchair users, as well as wheelchair users. The</p>	<p>accommodation is not developed at the expense of general housing. We received a lot of support for the inclusion of older persons' housing issues and text on these issues has been included in the Addressing Housing Need Policy (Policy 15).</p>
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<p>outcomes for younger and older people through retention of key facilities and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.</p> <p>Objective 11: High Quality Design aims to ensure that all new development incorporates the highest quality of design and innovation, reflects local distinctiveness, promotes sustainability, low carbon and achieves safe and secure communities.</p> <p>Objective 12: Raising Aspirations Will encourage greater prosperity by supporting education, training and research establishments that help to raise the aspirations, participation and attainment of young people, re-engage adults with work, lifelong learning, and develop workforce skills, which will have a positive impact on young people who will be interacting with these services throughout their lives.</p> <p>Objective 13: Tackling Deprivation and Inequalities Ensuring the regeneration needs of the county's population aims to reduce deprivation and social economic and environmental inequalities. For example children from deprived areas are more prone to obesity and health issues.</p>	<p>objective has now been amended to include the word accessible.</p>	
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<p>Active travel and design and environmental improvements can help with health issues and improve quality of life. This also links to Policy 28 on Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure, which aims to improve broadband access</p> <p>Objective 14: Quality of Life aims to Safeguard, enhance and provide a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities including green infrastructure and seek to prevent and address pollution issues to contribute to the quality of life, satisfaction and health and wellbeing of people who live, work within and visit County Durham, including addressing the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities.</p> <p>Objective 18 Sustainable Transport aims to provide sustainable means of transport. This will benefit young people who will be less likely to have access to a car and also some older people who may be more likely to rely on public transport and have issues regarding accessibility into and around the city.</p> <p>The objectives are delivered through the</p>	<p>The needs of older people with mobility difficulties is covered by the Housing need and Quality of Life objectives. The Plan supports a variety of dwelling types, to support needs, this includes providing bungalows and level-access dwellings.</p> <p>The supporting text of the Delivering Sustainable Transport policy, Durham City Sustainable Transport policy and Provision of Transport Infrastructure policy underline the importance of having people with mobility issues, including older people at the top of the transport hierarchy so that their needs are considered first when planning transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective 18 also focuses on reducing inequality for those without access to a car-young and older people.</p>	
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policies of the Plan. Each objective being delivered by a variety of policies. Other example policies connected to these objectives are the Rural Housing and Employment Exception Sites (Policy 11) and Housing Allocations.

Rural proofing has been carried out on the Plan too. There are links to Equalities issues. For example, housing affordability may be a particular problem for younger people in some rural areas. Rural proofing has aimed to ensure that policies do not adversely affect rural areas or issues.

The Delivering a Wide Choice of High Quality Homes chapter seeks to cover the other aspects of housing such as providing housing that is affordable, is of the right type and meets the needs of all sections of society. This includes older people. The affordable housing policy includes provision for a payment through the Section 106 agreement where viability means that delivery is below the levels of affordable or older people's housing set out in the policy.

We have worked with the police and Children's Services to develop Policy 18 on Children's Homes.

<p>In order to promote healthy lifestyles in young people, the Plan contains wording in Policy 31 Hot Food Takeaways which says that proposals for Hot Food Takeaways outside of defined commercial centres but within 400m of an existing or planned school or college building will not be permitted. There was a lot of support for this at consultation</p>		
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Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities by eliminating disadvantage for disabled people and ensuring accessibility for all.</p> <p>Disabled people have a potentially higher reliance on public transport. Therefore developments, including employment and housing need to be accessible. The Plan also acknowledges the housing needs of disabled people.</p> <p>Objective 2: Sustainable Communities aims to locate new development in areas which offer the best opportunity for sustainable development patterns, including means of travel</p>	<p>County Durham has a higher percentage of permanently sick and disabled people than the North East average, representing nearly a quarter of the overall population.</p> <p>The policy text and supporting text of the Visitor Attractions Policy ensure that developments were accessible to all. This will benefit people with disabilities.</p>	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>3) Reasonable adjustments have been made where required.</p> <p>4) Policy 30 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment aims to ensure convenient and attractive access</p>

<p>other than the private car, thus ensuring that new homes and jobs are supported by a high quality environment, services and infrastructure and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages.</p> <p>Objective 3: Housing Need aims to deliver new, high quality housing that is accessible to, and meets the needs and aspirations of, County Durham's residents (including affordable, families with children, older persons, multi-generational housing, specialist housing, gypsies and travellers and those people wishing to build their own home) while making effective use of the existing stock. Policy 15 Addressing Housing Needs- Meeting the needs of older persons and people with disabilities has been modified to require a minimum of 10% of the total dwellings of a site meet the needs of older people. This will continue to have a positive impact on older person.</p>	<p>The supporting text of the Durham University Development, Purpose Built Student Accommodation and Houses in Multiple Occupation Policy includes the requirement that the development should be accessible and appropriate to disabled students.</p> <p>The Plan has been amended to include reference to addressing the needs of disabled people which will provide an overarching principle across all policies within the plan. This includes providing homes that can be adapted to meet the needs of groups such as disabled groups.</p> <p>Responses from the Disability Partnership group were that it was a positive to see specialist housing in plan consult with Alzheimer's and Dementia Society, visually impaired groups, disabled groups etc.</p> <p>The policy text and supporting text of the Utilities, Telecommunications and other Broadcast Infrastructure policy ensure that all new build or major renovations (both residential and commercial) are served by a high speed and reliable broadband connection. This can be an issue for older people and young people who</p>	<p>for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people. It also includes 'designing out crime'. The policy is supported by a Supplementary Planning Document which requires new residential development to reflect 'Building for Life 12' standards. These standards focus on three main topic areas which achieve, amongst other things: better access to and provision of facilities and services; meeting local housing requirements; ensuring developments are easy to navigate and find your way around and making sure adequate car parking and storage are included.</p> <p>Policy 15 on Addressing Housing Need also includes provision for older people and for disabilities has been modified to require a minimum of 10% of the total dwellings of a site meet the needs of older people and meet M4(2) standards. This will contribute to provision of 66% of dwellings</p>
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<p>Objective 4: Infrastructure aims to enable the delivery of the infrastructure – such as transport, health and education and including green infrastructure that is required to support new and existing development and the economic, social and environmental ambitions of the county. This objective is pertinent to all groups but is likely to have greater positive impact in relation protected groups such as disability in relation to delivery of (for example) digital infrastructure. Disability groups may benefit from further infrastructure support to access these services and may be at higher risk of being restricted in their movements.</p> <p>Objective 11: High Quality Design aims to ensure that all new development incorporates the highest quality of design and innovation, reflects local distinctiveness, promotes sustainability, low carbon and achieves safe and secure communities.</p>	<p>may have problems accessing services or more likely to be housebound and so will benefit this group.</p> <p>The Sustainable Design policy also makes specific reference to ensuring convenient and attractive access for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people. It was raised at the Disability Partnership meeting that the improvements to cycle lanes would impact positively on wider groups such as wheelchair users, parents with pushchairs etc. It was also noted that Reference to strategic cycle routes is useful to wheelchair users particularly if not alongside traffic routes.</p> <p>The needs of those with mobility difficulties is covered by Quality of Life objective as well as the Housing Need objective. The Plan supports a variety of dwelling types, to support needs, this includes providing bungalows and level-access dwellings.</p>	<p>meeting M 4(2) standard on sites of 5 dwellings or more. This will continue to have a positive impact on people with disabilities. Provision for vulnerable people is also supported. The supporting text for Policy 23 on Durham City Sustainable Transport covers the needs of disabled people..</p> <p>The Submission Draft contains the requirement for housing schemes to increase options of disabled people, to include: level access flats, bungalows, sheltered or extra care housing or multi-generational housing.</p>
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<p>Objective 13: Tackling Deprivation and Inequalities aims to ensure that the regeneration needs of County Durham’s communities are met in order to reduce deprivation, improve health and address social, economic and environmental inequalities.</p> <p>Objective 14: Quality of Life aims to Safeguard, enhance and provide a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities including green infrastructure and seek to prevent and address pollution issues to contribute to the quality of life, satisfaction and health and wellbeing of people who live, work within and visit County Durham, including addressing the needs of those with physical and mental disabilities.</p> <p>Objective 18: Sustainable Transport aims to deliver easily accessible and safe public transport, which will benefit people with accessibility issues. Improved pedestrian areas in the city to allow more</p>	<p>The INA identified that “Personal safety” is the highest critical need identified for people with learning difficulties.</p> <p>We are continuing to proactively work with disability groups to ensure opinions on the Local Plan are incorporated through the consultation process.</p> <p>Following consultation, objective 18 has been introduced to also focuses on reducing inequality for those without access to a car-disabled people, older people. The supporting text of the Delivering Sustainable Transport policy, Durham City Sustainable Transport policy and Provision of Transport Infrastructure policy underlines the importance of having people with disabilities or access issues at the top of the transport hierarchy so that their needs are considered first when planning transport</p>	
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<p>even and easy access to pedestrians will also have a positive impact on disability groups where accessibility is an issue.</p> <p>The objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan. Each objective being delivered by a variety of policies. Other example policies connected to these objectives are the Development on Unallocated Sites in Built Up Areas policy; Visitor attractions; Allocating and Safeguarding Specific Use Employment Sites Retail Hierarchy and Town Centre Development and Development in the Countryside policies.</p>	<p>infrastructure. The policy on delivering sustainable transport does seek to ensure safe access to all sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Responses to the 'Pre-Submission' consultation have raised the issue of demand for disabled parking. The Sustainable Transport Delivery Plan will help alleviate the demand for this type of parking as other forms of transport become easier, more convenient and safer for disable people to use.</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (workplace only)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is
N/A	N/A	N/A

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities by eliminating disadvantage for disabled people and ensuring accessibility for all.</p> <p>The County Durham Plan includes themes which are relevant to pregnancy and</p>	<p>The County Durham Plan advocates design and location of development to make it accessible by public transport, for those with access issues and safe for all.</p> <p>The policy text and supporting text of the Utilities, Telecommunications and</p>	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>3) Policy 30 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment aims to ensure convenient and attractive access for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users</p>

<p>maternity such as accessibility and transport links.</p> <p>Objective 2 Sustainable Communities aims to locate new development in areas which offer the best opportunity for sustainable development patterns, including means of travel other than the private car, thus ensuring that new homes and jobs are supported by a high quality environment, services and infrastructure and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages.</p> <p>Objective 11: High Quality Design aims to ensure that all new development incorporates the highest quality of design and innovation, reflects local distinctiveness, promotes sustainability and achieves secure communities.</p> <p>Objective 14: Quality of Life aims to safeguard, enhance and provide a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities including Green Infrastructure and seek to address pollution issues to contribute to the quality of life, satisfaction and health and wellbeing of people who live, work within and visit County Durham.</p>	<p>other Broadcast Infrastructure policy ensure that all new build or major renovations (both residential and commercial) are served by a high speed and reliable broadband connection. This is likely to benefit home working.</p> <p>The policy text and supporting text of the Visitor Attractions Policy ensure that developments were accessible to all. This will benefit people with access issues which could include parents/carers with buggies and/or young children and pregnant women.</p> <p>The Sustainable Design policy also makes specific reference to ensuring convenient and attractive access for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people.</p>	<p>and for disabled people. It also includes 'designing out crime'.</p>
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<p>Objective 18: Sustainable Transport aims to deliver sustainable means of transport and infrastructure, which will have a positive impact for mothers and young children with improved pedestrian access and transport.</p>	<p>It was raised at the Disability Partnership meeting that the improvements to cycle lanes would impact positively on wider groups such as, parents with pushchairs etc. It was also noted that reference to strategic cycle routes is useful to pushchair users particularly if not alongside traffic routes. Improved public transport will also have a positive impact on people with young children as accessibility will be improved for pedestrians and pushchair users and routes will be joined up and safer.</p>	
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Protected Characteristic: Race (ethnicity)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities.</p> <p>Objective 2: Sustainable Communities aims to locate new development in areas which offer the best opportunity for sustainable development patterns, including means of travel other than the private car, thus ensuring that new homes and jobs are supported by a high quality environment, services and infrastructure and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages.</p> <p>Objective 3: Housing Need aims to deliver new</p>	<p>In County Durham ethnic minority communities are a relatively small number of the population. According to the 2011 Census, 98.1% of Durham’s population is white British. 1.9% is ‘other ethnic group’, the largest component of this being mixed race and Asian. We also have a significant population of Gypsies and Travellers who are either migrant or settled in the County.</p> <p>The INA identified that ethnicity has a variety of impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, as migrants may bring different lifestyle choices or have 	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>3) Translation and interpretation requests will be considered in line with corporate guidance.</p> <p>4) The Plan contains Policy 17 concerning site provision for Gypsies and Travellers. By treating GRT communities differently, the policy ensures that provision is made for their housing needs and cultural lifestyle and therefore ensures equality of opportunity whilst ensuring accessibility to services for those on the sites.</p>

<p>housing that is accessible to, and meets the needs and aspirations of, County Durham's residents including affordable, families with children, older persons, younger people, student population, gypsies and travelers, addressing accommodation needs for residents of County Durham</p>	<p>access issues with healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Specific issues for Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities in relation to housing, access to information and services ✓ Lack of accurate, up to date information on number of migrant workers. <p>Engagement was undertaken at earlier stages of plan preparation. Officers met with 5 wardens who are responsible for the 6 local authority GRT sites during the 6 week consultation period. The wardens were selected from the GRT community to represent their community's interests. Officers summarised the salient parts of the plan and discussed the Sites For Travellers policy with them in detail to ensure that the wardens fully understood the objectives policies and relevance of the CDP to them. It also gave them a chance to raise any concerns and respond to the plan. The wardens were broadly satisfied with the policy approach and views raised during this session led directly to amendments of the policy being made. This has improved the policy in terms of equity in approach.</p>	<p>5) Policy 30 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment aims to ensure convenient and attractive access for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people. It also includes 'designing out crime'.</p>
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	As Gypsies and Travellers are considered as residents of County Durham, they have been explicitly mentioned in objective 3 for clarification.	
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Protected Characteristic: Religion or belief		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities.</p> <p>The objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan. Each objective being delivered by a variety of policies.</p> <p>Objective 3 – Housing Need The provision of multi-generational housing may have a potential positive impact on religious groups that live in multi-generational households as part of their culture.</p>	<p>In County Durham 72 percent of people state their religion as Christian; around 0.19% percent as Buddhist; 0.12% Hindu; 0.37% Muslim, 0.12% Sikh, 0.04% Jewish and 26.8 percent as having either no religion or not stating their religion (Census 2011).</p>	<p>As 1) above</p>

Protected Characteristic: Sex (gender)		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?

<p>The County Durham Plan aims to improve quality of life for men and women. Equality of opportunity for all is an overall aim.</p> <p>The County Durham Plan includes themes which are relevant to gender such as employment, safety, accessibility, and transport links as women sometimes have less access to a car.</p> <p>In line with Objective 1: the County Durham Plan aims to improve the economic performance of the county. This will benefit working age men and women and its evidence base acknowledges that at present there are lower numbers of women in employment.</p> <p>Objective 2: Sustainable Communities aims to locate new development in areas which offer the best opportunity for sustainable development patterns, including means of travel other than the private car, thus ensuring that new homes and jobs supported by a high quality environment, services and</p>	<p>The balance of males and females within the County is fairly evenly split and there are 251,280 (49 percent) males and 261,962 (51 percent) females living in County Durham (Census 2011). Looking at older age groups (aged 70+) there is a higher proportion of women.</p> <p>Evidence from the INA suggests that differential impact relating to gender includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment • Employment – particularly work patterns, ‘traditional’ work roles • Equal pay • Care responsibilities and gender – linked to access to services and employment • Health – in relation to gender prevalence of certain conditions and access to information/advice/care • Personal safety concerns – also linked to age with issues for e.g. younger men or older women living alone. <p>The housing needs analysis is now based upon the new Government methodology, ‘standard method’, for assessing housing need</p>	<p>As 1) above</p> <p>3) Policy 30 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment aims to ensure convenient and attractive access for all users whilst prioritising the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people. It also includes ‘designing out crime’.</p>
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<p>infrastructure and in turn new development supports the vitality, viability and economic performance of our towns and villages.</p> <p>Objective 11: High Quality Design aims to ensure that all new development incorporates the highest quality of design and innovation, reflects local distinctiveness, promotes sustainability and achieves secure communities.</p> <p>Objective 13: Tackling Deprivation and Inequalities Ensuring the regeneration needs of the county's population aims to reduce deprivation and social economic and environmental inequalities. For example children from deprived areas are more prone to obesity and health issues. Active travel and design and environmental improvements can help with health issues and improve quality of life. This also links to Policy 28 on Utilities, Telecommunications and Other Broadcast Infrastructure, which aims to improve broadband access.</p> <p>The objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan.</p>		
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Each objective being delivered by a variety of		
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Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities and promotes design and location of development to make it accessible by public transport and safe for all, especially those who feel vulnerable.</p> <p>The objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan. Each objective being delivered by a variety of policies. Examples of policies which deliver the objectives related to this protected characteristic would be Sustainable Design in the Built Environment (Policy 30). Both emphasise safety of all.</p>	<p>No accurate data is available about the number of lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in County Durham. However Government and Stonewall estimates state that between 5 percent and 7 percent of the population is lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). This would amount to between 25,000 and 35,000 people in County Durham.</p>	<p>As 1) above</p>

Protected Characteristic: Transgender		
What is the actual or potential impact on stakeholders?	Explain your conclusion considering relevant evidence and consultation	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>The County Durham Plan aims to reduce inequalities and promotes design and location of development to make it accessible by public transport and safe for all, especially those who feel vulnerable.</p>	<p>We have no accurate data on transgender populations.</p> <p>Issues of personal safety, privacy, crime and fear of crime are relevant to transgender people</p>	<p>As 1) above</p>

<p>The objectives are delivered through the policies of the Plan. Each objective being delivered by a variety of policies. Examples of policies which deliver the objectives related to this protected characteristic would be Sustainable Design in the Built Environment (Policy 30). Both emphasise safety of all.</p>		
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Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings stating the main impacts, both positive and negative, across the protected characteristics.

This is an impact assessment of the County Durham Submission Plan which has been produced in line with Government policy. Planning is a statutory function and consultation and examination are key requirements.

The County Durham Plan aims to promote equality through its spatial vision and in all of its objectives and policies. No negative impact has been identified. It aims to reduce inequality of opportunity by various means across several themes or areas and will have a positive impact across all of the protected groups but is likely to have a greater positive impact in relation to age (young and older), disability and gender (women). A key priority of the council and its partners is to improve economic performance and reduce deprivation in County Durham to ensure that all of its residents have equal access to quality job opportunities. Over the last 30 years the county has gone through significant structural economic change with the decline of its traditional industries and the pressure of globalisation. The County Durham Plan will ensure that sustainable communities are established across County Durham, in line with national planning policy. It will do this by supporting the development, infrastructure, jobs and housing needed, making better places and ensuring prosperity and equality of opportunity for all whilst improving and protecting the county's environment, heritage, landscapes and local distinctiveness.

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

Sustainable Communities are a key aim of the planning process, as outlined in national policy. Hence they are the key aim of the County Durham Plan. Sustainable communities are communities in which people wish to live work and spend time - "They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all." The County Durham Plan is part of a statutory process which aims to involve all interested stakeholders in the spatial planning of their area for the future.

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
1) Impact to be assessed during engagement phase, so that wording of policies or framing can be addressed if required. EQIA will be updated again to take into account any relevant comments before re-assessment of Submission Draft	Policy Officer, Spatial Planning Team Spatial Policy Manager		County Durham Plan Submission Draft.
2) Monitoring of impact will be carried out through Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) once the Plan is implemented and until then will be through the representations received to wording of proposed policies.	Policy Officer, Spatial Planning Team Spatial Policy Manager		Adopted County Durham Plan/EQIAs for Local Plan Submission stages and Adopted Plan
3) Any changes during the examination process (on main modifications), which would have a bearing upon policies or options will be considered, would require further engagement. Continue to consult in accordance with Statement of Community Involvement.	Policy Officer, Spatial Planning Team Spatial Policy Manager		EQIA of County Durham Plan Submission Draft and Adopted Plan

Review

Are there any additional assessments that need to be undertaken? (Y/N)	
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	2019 – on consultation of main modifications, prior to adoption.

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Spatial Policy Manager	Date: 3/05/19
Service equality representative sign off: Equalities Team Leader	Date: 3/05/19

Please return the completed form to your service equality representative and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk