

COUNTY DURHAM LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

WHAT WE'RE DOING AND WHEN

November 2022

THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a project plan outlining the arrangements for producing a local plan and other associated documents. It is the starting point for all interested parties to find out about the council's emerging planning policies and procedures in respect to a particular area or issue. It also 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 (the Plan) provides a new and up to date policy context against which all planning applications and development proposals will be assessed and determined. Following an Examination in Public, the appointed planning inspector found that, subject to a number of modifications, the Plan was sound. The Plan was therefore adopted by the Council on 21 October 2020.

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 Development Plan Document (M&WDPD)** will supplement the strategic minerals and waste content of the County Durham Plan. It will contain detailed development management policies and any non-strategic minerals and waste allocations which are considered necessary to meet the future needs of County Durham.

Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in the County Durham Plan. SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan. The timetables for the preparation of relevant are included in this LDS. SPDs will be added to the LDS where their timetables are known.

MILESTONES

The key milestones for the production of each document are shown in Figure 1 below.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The County Durham Plan was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA). It considers the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policies and proposals and ensures we comply with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). The Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Development Plan Document will also be subject to SA.

FUTURE DOCUMENTS

In addition to the documents specifically mentioned in this LDS there will be other documents that support the County Durham Plan in addition to the SPDs coming forward in the future including development briefs and masterplans for many of the allocations in the Plan.

Estimated timescales for future documents are shown in the table below.

	Reg19 consultation	Submission	EIP	Adoption
Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD	Nov 2022 - Jan 2023	May 2023	Sept 2023	Jun 2024
	First consultation	Second consultation	Adoption	
Developer Contributions SPD (incl. Affordable Housing, Specialist Housing, Open Space, Biodiversity, Education, Health, SuDs)	NA	Jan/Feb 2023	Apr 2023	

Housing Needs SPD	Jan/Feb 2023	Jun/Jul 2023	Sept 2023
County Durham Design Code SPD	Jan/Feb 2023	Jun/Jul 2023	Sept 2023
Trees, Woodland and Hedges SPD	Jan/Feb 2023	Jun/Jul 2023	Sept 2023
Solar Power SPD	Jan/Feb 2023	Jun/Jul 2023	Sept 2023
Ecology SPD	Sept/Oct 2023	Feb/Mar 2024	May 2024

MONITORING AND REVIEW

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

- progress on the delivery of the County Durham Plan and associated documents 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; and
- 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

County Durham Plan Documents	2022		2023											2024										
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J				
Minerals and Waste Allocations	19	19					S						E		IR			M	M		FIR			A
Developer Contributions SPD						A																		
Housing Needs SPD													A											
County Durham Design Code SPD													A											
Trees, Woodland and Hedges SPD													A											
Solar Power SPD													A											
Ecology SPD																								A

- DPD
- 18 Start and Call for Sites (Reg 18)
 - Consideration of Representations
 - 18 Consult on Draft Plan (Reg 18)
 - 19 Regulation 19 Consultation
 - S Submission
 - E Examination
 - IIR Receipt of Inspectors Reports
 - MM Main Modifications Consult
 - FIR Final Inspectors Report
 - A Adoption
- SPD
- First Stage Consultation
 - Second Stage Consultation
 - A Adoption