



County Durham
Economic Partnership

MINUTES

Meeting	County Durham Economic Partnership Board – Extended invitation for Local Plan
Date of Meeting	Thursday 5 th July 2018
Time	13.30 – 15.30
Venue	Town Hall, Durham

Attendees:

Brian Tanner	Chair
Sue Parkinson	Vice Chair & Chair of the Business, Enterprise & Skills Group
Michelle Cooper	County Durham Community Foundation
Tarryn Lloyd Payne	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Angela Brown	Partnerships, Durham County Council
Andrew Wilson	North East Fund
Adam White	AAP, Durham County Council
Andy Palmer	Transformation & Partnerships, Durham County Council
Michelle Gorman	Visit County Durham
Laura Martin	Housing, Durham County Council
Paul Fiddaman	Karbon
Cllr John Clare	Durham County Council
Kate Abson	County Durham Housing Group
Michelle Robinson	Spatial Policy, Durham County Council
Stuart Timmiss	Head of Planning & Assets, Durham County Council
Jon Gluyas	Durham University
Mike Allum	Spatial Policy, Durham County Council
Graeme Smith	Spatial Policy, Durham County Council
David Loudon	Durham University
Dawn Fairlamb	New College Durham
Allison Gittins	Durham Business Group
Ian Thompson	Head of Regeneration and Local Services, Durham County Council
Colin Steel	Livin
Sean Brodie	Livin
Liz Charles	Food Durham/DCA

1. **Welcome**

BT welcomed everyone to the meeting. BT discussed the vision for the CDEP Board. "We wish to see County Durham as a highly valued centre for growth and innovation with a vibrant local economy with high value employment opportunity, a quality housing offer and a highly skilled local workforce"

The top priority for CDEP is to improve the employment rate we are failing to close the gap on the national average, but we now up to the NE average now.

2. **County Durham Plan – Stuart Timmiss, had of Planning & Assets DCC**

ST gave a presentation to the Board on the County Durham Plan:

- How much development and direct where it should go
- Provides a catalyst for investment providing certainty to business, communities and developers
- Provides a consistent approach to development and resisting inappropriate development

The previous plan Inspector's Interim Report was quashed and we were required to withdraw the plan. Since the last examination a lot has happened, planning has been approved for various sites, new sites have come forward and most importantly the economy has moved on.

There are still challenges:

- Poorly performing economy
- Continued austerity and decreased public sector funding
- Businesses require good infrastructure and suited to a range of international, national, regional and local markets
- Lack of higher paying jobs
- Low land values in many areas makes viability difficult
- Ageing population with decreasing numbers of working age people
- Changing shopping patterns affecting our town centres

£3.4bn has been committed in the pipeline for County Durham. The main focus for Housing is around the main towns. We have looked at all of the towns in the County and provision of schools in the area etc. Looking now to have more affordable housing 5-25% and be more flexible where it should go. Have to be pragmatic and see where there is need. Looking at infrastructure and how viable this is going forward and how we can contribute to that. Broadband is now in and working around rural areas.

The consultation for the County Durham Plan went live on 22nd June and will close on 3rd August at 4.30pm. Everyone is encouraged to submit response.

3. Summary & Next Steps – Brian Tanner

Questions/comments

It was asked in relation to housing provision how they had come to the level of housing needed? The government have identified and simplified and given it a formula. Already have 17000 planning permissions committed. 10% maybe won't come forward. Previous plan had 6000 houses in green belt now only have 2500. Every settlement has got commitment and allocation going forward. We are confident that with the existing commitment apart from around 10% they will all come forward but this is something we will review and monitor.

There have been changes in the High Street and with the move from County Hall to Freemans Quay on the horizon, it seems that infrastructure is needed for that move to happen, therefore how do you make provision for this? ST mentioned that this is a County Plan and not just Durham City. Looking at all movements, there is a raft of work on sustainable travel opportunities with Park and Ride and Northern Relief Roads. There is a sustainable plan for Durham, but there is still a lot of work being undertaken, some are still at the beginning of the process. We are working closely with developers across the city and there are opportunities for city centre to have more people spending in the area.

Are the requirements for Older People is 10% is this enough to meet provision. ST replied No as no one wants to build bungalows apart from RSL. Working with the Housing Forum whilst looking at the next stage of the plan and we need to make sure we are getting the right homes for the right people in the right areas but support is needed. The Plan will be reviewed every five years and not shelved so we need to keep ongoing dialogue going.

BT thanked ST and the group took part in workshop discussions that would feed into the County Durham Plan Consultation:

4. Key Areas of influence; Workshops

- **Economic Ambition**
- **Right Homes in Right Places**
- **Rural employment issues**
- **Supporting infrastructure**