

Darlington Local Development Framework

Core Strategy: Issues and Options

Summary of Consultation Responses

April 2008

Take Part in Planning Darlington



Core Strategy: Issues and Options Consultation Summary

The Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is a very important central document in the Local Development Framework. It will set out broad guidance on the amount and location of new development in the Borough and areas where development will be limited. It will provide information on the use of land, buildings and infrastructure for the next 20 years.

It will set out the planning parts of Darlington's Community Strategy - One Darlington: Perfectly Placed as well as the complementary Climate Change Strategy. It will draw on other Council strategies which can have an impact on the development and use of land. These include the Local Transport Plan, the Darlington Gateway Strategy and the Open Spaces Strategy. It will also implement the policies of the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy and other regional and sub regional strategies.

The Consultation

The consultation period ran from 7 January to 15 February 2008. The programme of events and activities to involve the public and other interested groups included:

- (a) Throughout the consultation period 15 Morning/Evening/weekend drop-in sessions at the Council's Talking Together events complemented by additional events at the Cornmill Centre, Morrison's (North Road), Hurworth Grange, Sadberge and Heighington Village Halls and High Coniscliffe Primary School;
- (b) Presentation to Special Meetings for the Community Partnerships and Voluntary Sector, the Rotary Club, CVS and Middleton St George Parish Council representatives during the consultation period;
- (c) Members Briefing and Members Workshop on the 3 January and 15 February;
- (d) Presentation and discussion with members of GOLD at Havelock Community Centre on 16 January;
- (e) Presentation to, and discussion with, Darlington Planning Forum on 7 February;
- (f) Planning for Real workshop with 27th Darlington Brownie pack on the 21 and 28 January.
- (g) Presentation to, and discussion with the Darlington Partnership's Economy and Environment Sub-Group on 28 February.

An advertisement publicising the consultation was placed in The Northern Echo on 7 January. The drop-in consultation events were advertised in The Northern Echo and Darlington Advertiser on 4 and 16 January respectively. The January and February editions of the Town Crier carried a full page editorial publicising the opportunity to comment. The consultation was also publicised in Cockerton East and Haughton East Ward Councillors newsletters. Consultation events were advertised locally and letters were sent to residents.

In addition, 922 letters were sent out to interested organisations, agencies and residents to notify them about the consultation, and to provide them with information about the Core Strategy. The information included the document itself, a summary leaflet and a general leaflet providing information on the Core Strategy and the Local Development Framework. A dedicated page about the Core Strategy was on the Council's website, with all documents available there, together with an on-line reply form.

General Response to the Consultation

101 written responses were received during the consultation period, of which only 15 were posted using the on-line reply facility. A list of all respondents can be found in Appendix 1. The majority of the comments were made on response forms. In addition to responses from statutory organisations and planning agents/representatives, 35% of responses came from the general public, an increase on previous consultations. Verbal comments were also recorded at the various consultation events held.

Summary of Responses

This document contains a summary of all responses made on the Core Strategy, theme by theme. Officers have considered the responses and their comments are found after every issue.

All respondents raised useful points, though not all were Core Strategy issues. These will be addressed as appropriate in other Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Several respondents suggested further studies and data should be developed. Some are ongoing and others may need to be undertaken. The findings from these studies, where appropriate will be fed into the next stage of the Core Strategy or into the preparation of other Planning Documents.

Next Stage

Relevant comments made will be considered alongside the Sustainability Appraisal findings and new information identified in the officer comments boxes. Further targeted consultations to progress officer comments will also be undertaken. Together these will form the basis of the next stage; the Core Strategy: Preferred Options. Consultation on the Preferred Options is expected in Autumn 2008.

Further Information

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