

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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## **Question 14**

*If you have chosen one of the first three options listed above, what are the exceptional circumstances to justify any Green Belt deletions?*

City of Durham Trust finds no exceptional circumstances that might justify any Green Belt deletions. Case law and Ministerial statements have made clear that Green Belt protection takes precedence over meeting Objectively Assessed Need (OAN). Developers will argue that Durham City is the strongest housing market area in County Durham and therefore the Green Belt should be significantly reduced to allow major outward growth of the city. In fact, the Green Belt has fulfilled exactly the purposes for which it was designated and developers continue to come forward with major schemes in the villages around the city and further afield, with the welcome physical and social regeneration benefits this can bring.