

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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## **Question 19**

*In order to ensure the delivery of affordable housing where there are issues of viability, is it appropriate to allow some market housing on exception sites?*

The City of Durham Trust considers that there needs to be a well-founded base of evidence before deciding Question 19. We understand that Question 19 arises from concerns about supporting a prosperous rural economy. Parts of rural Durham do suffer from over-pricing of housing caused by the attractiveness of the area for second homes and for retirement. Affordable housing to meet local need is vital throughout the County. However, evidence will be helpful to define what constitutes 'affordable' in the context of rural County Durham, and in which particular rural villages in County Durham does the issue raised in Question 19 actually arise.