

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

Question 27

Do the existing Green Belt boundaries serve the five Green Belt purposes of: checking the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas; preventing neighbouring towns merging into one another; assisting in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; preserving the setting and special character of historic towns; and assisting in urban regeneration?

The City of Durham Trust responds in the absolute affirmative. The existing Green Belt boundaries were meticulously drawn and independently examined and approved in the City of Durham Local Plan 2004. In the 12 years that have passed nothing has materially changed in relation to checking the unrestricted sprawl of the built-up area of Durham City; preventing the city merging into surrounding towns and villages; assisting in safeguarding the countryside that surrounds and penetrates the city from encroachment; preserving the setting and special character of this historic city: and assisting in urban regeneration in many towns and villages around and beyond the city.

There are particular very minor adjustments that can be considered as flagged up for the Examination in Public of the now withdrawn County Plan. We therefore accept the commitment in Paragraph 4.70 to an assessment of the existing Green Belt to ensure the boundaries are still appropriate. This is the correct approach, not an assessment for development sites that would be least harmful to the purposes of the Green Belt.