

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

Question 36

Should we require new housing developments to meet the Building for Life 12 standard?

Yes, but this should read “require new housing developments to meet the latest Building for Life standard”.

The City of Durham Trust applauds good design and every year makes an Architectural Award to the best new building or renovation in and around the City of Durham. Naturally we support this proposal. Without it the sentiments in paragraphs 4.116 to 4.119 would just be empty words.

A further advantage is that Building for Life is a national standard so developers should be familiar with it. In addition it saves the Authority from having to devise its own standards, it can pick these up off the shelf.

However, we urge the Authority to drop the number 12 from its eventual policy and instead require the *latest* standard. Building for Life 12 is the most recent (2012) revision of a standard that has been around since 2001 and it seems likely that further revisions will be made before the Plan’s end point in 2033. This simple change would future-proof the policy.

Finally we would ask that as the Plan progresses through its *Preferred Options* and *Pre-Submission Draft* stages a footnote is added to refer to the source of information (we suggest <http://www.builtforlifehomes.org/>) and also an entry should be added to the glossary.