

Durham Council Plan 2024 – 2028: Comments from the City of Durham Trust

The City of Durham Trust is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on this generally comprehensive and informative plan. In particular we welcome the Vision and the focus on Well Being and Equality and Inclusion.

We are, however, surprised to see only one mention of the statutory *County Durham Plan* which is just referenced as a document in the section on the Economy. Similarly, there are no references to the important contribution made across the County by the Area Action Partnerships and Parish/Town Councils, nor to the Neighbourhood Plans that provide the statutory planning framework in support of the Local Plan. The Council's Plan needs to be integrated more explicitly with these other important drivers of improvement in the County.

In the context of 'Our Environment' there is no mention of increasing the provision of renewable energy sources, and of electric car charging points. Additionally, the protection and enhancement of blue and green infrastructure generally, not just tree planting, should be included.

In the context of 'Our Education' there are mentions of Durham University and schools, but no mention of the special contribution made by Further Education Colleges. This is another missed opportunity to integrate with powerful agencies in the County.

In the context of 'Our Council' improved record keeping and easy public accessibility to these records should be included.

Our final comment is about the proposed Measures of Success. It is good that these are included in each section, but they are not quantified as targets. They are mostly relative rather than actual targets – to achieve more of something, or less of something. We would like to see more actual quantitative measures of progress.