

Durham County Local Plan Preferred Options report Submission by City of Durham City Trust

Sustainable Development

The City of Durham City Trust welcomes this Statement.

Spatial Vision for County Durham

Question 1 - This is our preferred Vision. Do you have any comments?

Paragraph 3.1 references the *County Durham Sustainable Community Strategy* and footnote 2 should link to it, but the link is broken. The Sustainable Community Strategy page on the County Durham Partnership website (<http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8453/Sustainable-Community-Strategy-link-unavailable>) links to the *Sustainable Community Strategy 2014 – 2030* and this appears to be the document referenced in *Issues and Options*. This is dated November 2014 and predates the Brexit referendum (23 June 2016) which changed the economic climate. We made these points in our submission on *Issues and Options*.

We have been unable to locate a more recent version of the SCS, and the 2014 document has limited value given the major changes that have taken place since then. We broadly support the Spatial Vision but feel it needs a sound justification.

Objectives

Question 2 – These are our preferred Objectives. Do you have any comments?

Paragraph 91 of the NPPF (2018) says "Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places...". While inclusivity is mentioned later in individual policies, it is important enough to be included in the Objectives. We suggest Objectives 13 and/or 14 could be updated to incorporate this.

Question 3

The City of Durham City Trust welcomes this Statement.