

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

Policy 28 - Green Infrastructure

Question 36 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

The Trust welcomes this Policy as the green infrastructure within and around Durham City is an absolutely crucial component of its exceptional qualities.

Policy 31 - Suitable Design in the Built Environment

Question 39 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

The Trust welcomes the broad thrust of this policy but suggests that, in order to ensure consistency between the policy wording at sub-clause c and the explanatory text in paragraph 5.292, the wording “a high” in the first line should be replaced by “the highest possible”.

The Trust also considers that, regardless of the reference in paragraph 5.302 about the need for further evidence about compliance in County Durham with the recommended space standards, the Nationally Described Space Standard should be added to Policy 31 forthwith as a requirement, for all the reasons given in the body of paragraph 5.302.

Policy 33: Amenity and Pollution

Question 41 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

This is an important policy which the Trust supports, especially given the serious air pollution problems in the City.

Policy 42 - Trees, Woodland and Hedges

Question 49 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

As with Policy 28, the Trust welcomes this Policy because the tree groups within and around Durham City are absolutely crucial components of its exceptional qualities and must be managed and maintained; too many have been lost as collateral damage on development sites such as Student Castle (Claypath) and the former Milburngate House.

Policy 46 - Historic Environment

Question 53 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

The Trust considers that Policy 46 is very important for Durham City and welcomes the positive measures it sets out to protect, conserve and support beneficial uses for the historic environment.

Policy 47 - Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site

Question 54 - this is our preferred policy, do you have any comments?

The Trust is concerned that Policy 47 is generic to all World Heritage Sites, for example it avoids listing this World Heritage Site's 'Outstanding Universal Values' (which were revised in 2013). Policy 47 should be made more specific to this particular World Heritage Site, and there should be mention of the proposed extension of the Site (mentioned in the WHS Management Plan), with the boundary drawn along the top of the outer bank between Elvet and Framwellgate Bridges. It would also be beneficial to state an aim to promote the use of ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessments for new developments in and around the WHS.