

The County Durham Plan

Annual Monitoring Report 2009/2010



Altogether better



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1 Introduction

Background

1.1 This document is the second Annual Monitoring Report to be produced by Durham County Council as a Unitary Council for the County Durham area. As Local Planning Authority the County Council has a duty to prepare and keep under review a statutory development plan for its area. Such a plan contains the relevant planning policies and proposals which set out priorities and guide future development and growth in the County in a sustainable manner. The review process should be hinged upon the publication of an Annual Monitoring Report on an annual basis.

1.2 In the interests of clarity the current local development plan for the County comprises of the parts of the individual Local Plans of the eight former local authorities which were 'saved' under transitional arrangements⁽ⁱ⁾ until such a time that they are superseded by a new development plan for the County, a Local Development Framework to be known as 'The County Durham Plan'.

Why monitor the development plan

1.3 Monitoring of current planning policies provides the Council and third parties with information on the performance of policies and identifies the key changes, challenges or opportunities within the County. It enables an assessment to be made as to whether current policies are achieving their objectives and, in particular, delivering sustainable development. Monitoring activity also enables the identification of any unintended consequences of policies, whether the assumptions and objectives that the policies are based upon are still relevant and if the policy targets are being achieved. In turn the findings highlight where adjustments and revisions to policies are required and inform the development of further new policies.

1.4 Furthermore, in monitoring the progress made in preparing the new 'County Durham Plan' against time scales and targets set out in the adopted project plan⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ any difficulties the Council is having in achieving these time scales and targets can be highlighted. Where variance from the project plan is identified, the actions required to bring plan preparation back in line with the project plan can be identified in the Annual Monitoring Report and implemented thereafter.

What is the scope of this document?

1.5 This Annual Monitoring Report covers the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. Given the period of time that has now elapsed between the end of the monitoring period and the submission of this document to Government Office North East, this document also seeks to provide an update to the end of December 2010.

Key Aspects of this Document

1.6 The components of this report are summarised as follows:

i A schedule of 'saved' policies approved under transitional arrangements can be viewed at www.durham.gov.uk
ii Please note this Annual Monitoring Report will monitor progress against the County Durham Local Development Scheme (December 2008). This document was superseded in May 2009 by a new Local Development Scheme, the revised scheme can be viewed at www.durham.gov.uk

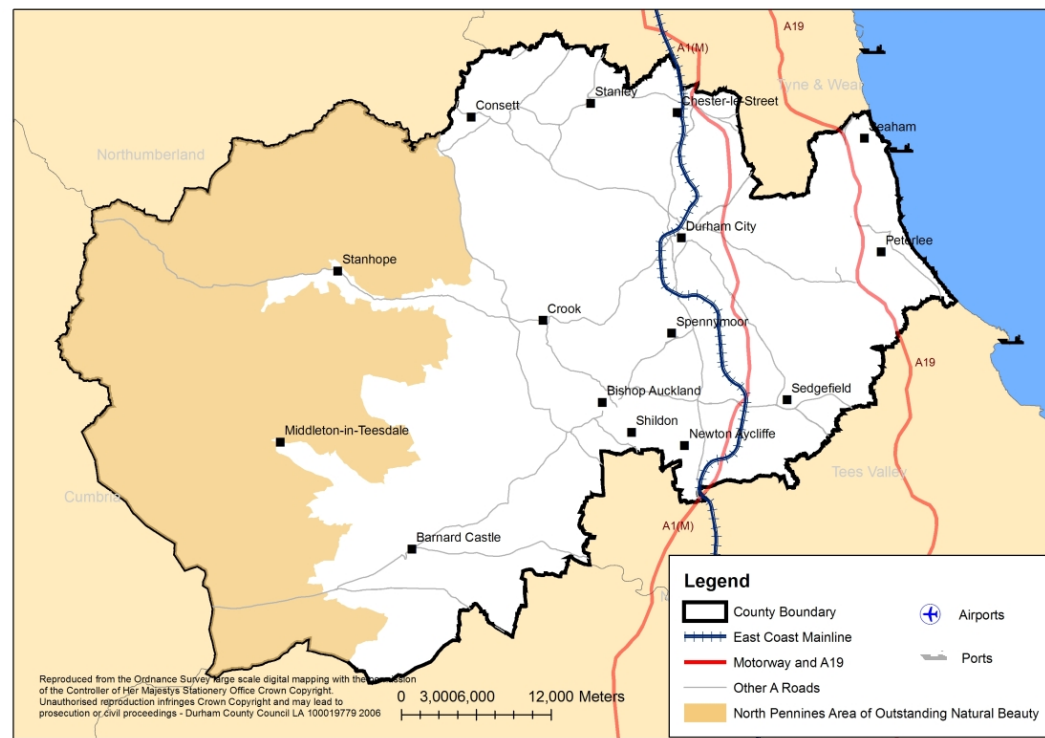
- **A County Portrait** - An overview of the key social, economic and environmental characteristics of the County is set out in Chapter 2 of this report.
- **Monitoring the adopted Local Development Scheme** - The Local Development Scheme is a project plan which sets out which new policy documents the Council intends to prepare which will form part of the forthcoming County Durham Plan; the scope of each and the time scales for producing them as agreed with central government. The preparation of these policy documents has to be done in accordance with several key stages. The Council is required to review its performance in actual delivery of these key stages against the time scales set out in the project plan and set out its findings in the report together with any actions deemed necessary to address the findings where applicable. This information is contained within Chapter 3 of this report.
- **Policy performance** - A key outcome of an Annual Monitoring Report should be to determine the effectiveness of the planning policies and methods through which they are implemented. As no part of the County Durham Plan has yet to be adopted, this AMR can not undertake this role. Similarly, given that the saved policies of the statutory development plan will be replaced by the new policies of the County Durham Plan we do not believe it is appropriate or necessary to report further on the performance of saved local plan policies.
- **Reporting upon indicators:**
 - **Core Output Indicators** - A set of 20 mandatory indicators required of all councils. This AMR reports on these indicators (see chapter 4).
 - **Contextual Indicators** - A set of indicators that take into account the social, environmental and economic circumstances that exist within the County. Information on contextual indicators continues to be collected and will be reported separately, as data becomes available.
 - **Other types of Indicators** - Once the individual development plan documents which will comprise the County Durham Plan are adopted we will also report upon a number of other types of indicators. These are:
 - **Local Output Indicators** - These indicators will monitor the performance of the adopted policies of the County Durham Plan.
 - **Significant Effects Indicators** - These indicators are linked to the Sustainability Appraisal objectives and indicators; these monitor any significant unintended effects of planning policies.
- **Confirmation of existing local planning policy framework** - Given that the Council is in the early stages of preparing 'The County Durham Plan' no new policies have been adopted and therefore there has been no change to the 'saved' planning policy framework since the transitional arrangements in 2007. An up to date list of these policies is contained within the Council's 'Compendium of Planning Policies' (April 2009).⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

2 The County in Context

2.1 County Durham is the largest unitary authority in the North East region and the fourth largest in England, being home to around half a million people, around a fifth of the region's population. It covers some 223,000 hectares from the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the west to the North Sea Heritage Coast in the east. County Durham has high quality landscapes rich in wildlife, attractive countryside, villages, historic towns and buildings and a restored coastline. The environment is one of the County's key assets.

2.2 Lying at the heart of the North East region with conurbations to the north and south, County Durham has overlapping labour and housing markets with these areas and parts of the County fall within the Tyne and Wear and Tees Valley City Regions. The western part of the County is bounded by the adjacent Counties of Northumberland, Cumbria and North Yorkshire.

Map 1 County Durham in Context



2.3 The key spatial legacy of the rise and fall of the mining, steel and other heavy industries is the dispersed settlement pattern of towns and villages, with a built environment which reflects their industrial past, but separated from one another by tracts of open countryside. The County, though commonly regarded as a predominantly rural area, varies in character from remote and sparsely populated areas in the west, to the former coalfield communities in the centre and east, where villages tend to accommodate thousands rather than hundreds. Around 90% of the population lives east of the A68 road in approximately half of the County by area.

2.4 Each of the 12 major towns in the County act as service centres for the surrounding communities, providing employment, shopping and key day to day services. The role of the towns in County Durham varies widely. Some provide vital services to isolated communities

whilst others have grown to provide a much wider range of services for both the town and other communities nearby. Whilst there are over 200 settlements within the County, 94% of the population live within a 5 mile radius of the 12 major towns.

2.5 The towns and villages which grew as a result of mining and other heavy industries have concentrations of poor quality private sector housing, with high numbers of older terraced properties in need of investment. Affordable housing issues, previously associated with the more remote communities in the west of the County, as well as Durham City, now extend to all parts of the County.

2.6 The 2001 Census indicates the limited diversity in the County's population compared with larger urban areas though it is estimated that the proportion of the black and ethnic minority population may have risen more recently to around 2% with the influx of Eastern European migrant workers. The largest ethnic minority group in the County are gypsies and travellers, either migrant or settled.

2.7 County Durham has met and exceeded the 2010 target set out in Regional Spatial Strategy for the generation of electricity from renewable sources, one of the few counties to do so nationally. The County remains a source of economically important minerals to meet society's development needs. However, it needs to move towards more sustainable methods of managing waste by providing additional facilities for the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.

The County at a Glance

The People:

Population size: Population 493,607 (*DCC Pop. Estimate 2007*). Projections show this is set to increase to 496,895 (+0.7%) by 2016, and 511,008 (+3.5%) by 2026 (*DCC independent projection*).

Population composition: 49.10% of population are male. 50.90% of population are female. (*DCC Pop. Estimate 2007*).

Age: 23.13% of the population are aged 0-19. 59.75% of the population are aged 20-64. 17.12% of the population are aged 65+. (*Register .General. Mid 2007 Population Estimate*).

Ethnicity: 99.04% British. 0.25% Irish. 0.67% Other White. 0.08% White and Black Caribbean (Mixed). 0.13% White and Asian (Mixed). 0.08% Other Mixed.

Health: Male life expectancy at birth is 74.9 years. Female life expectancy at birth is 79.2 years. (*DCC*).

Qualifications: 29.11% people with no qualifications. 19.50% people with level 1 qualifications. 20.40% people with level 2 qualifications. 8.63% people with level 3 qualification. 15.26 people with level 4 qualifications. 7.11 people with other qualifications/unknown. (*Census 2001*).

Religious Profile: 83.52% - Christian. 0.12% - Buddhist. 0.08% - Hindu. 0.03% - Jewish. 0.22% - Muslim. 0.09% - Sikh. 0.17% - Any other Religion. 9.32% - No Religion. 6.44% - Religion not stated. (*Census 2001*).

Car Ownership: 31.44% households with no car or van. 44.37% of households with one car or van. 24.19% of households with 2 or more cars or vans. (*Census 2001*).

Deprivation: Durham ranked 50th out of 149 Local authorities. 12.6% of County Durham population is in top 10% of nationally deprived population. 45.7% of County Durham population is in top 30% of nationally deprived population. (The index of Multiple Deprivation 2007).

The Place:

Household Tenure: 66.9% Owned (Households). 22.09 Social rented (Households). 7.6% Private Rented (households) or Living Rent Free (Households). 4.15% vacancy rate. (*Census 2001*).

Household Size: Average household size in Durham is 2.3 people. (*Census 2001*).

Housing mix: 17.28% Detached; 37.13% Semi detached; 40.40% Terraced; 5.04% Flat/maisonette/apartment. 0.15% other. (*Census 2001*).

Community Safety: 10 Burglary offences per 1,000 household. 12 Violence against the person per 1,000 household. 3 Theft of a motor vehicle offences per 1,000 population. (*British Crime Survey 2008/09*).

Special designations: 93 Conservation Areas, 3,036 Listed Buildings, 226 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 6 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). 4 Special Protection Areas (SPAs), 84 Sites of Special scientific interest SSSI's, 60,000 ha of access and common land, 4 Designated Landscapes for their value at national or international level, 16 Historic Parks and Gardens, 6 National Nature Reserves., 9 Local nature Reserves, 66 Priority Species and 32 Priority Habitats. (*DCC 2009*)

Educational provision: County Durham has: 287 schools comprising: 12 nursery school; 228 primary schools (of which 86 have nursery places); 36 secondary schools; 10 special schools; and 1 pupil referral centre.

The Economy:

Employment: 75.8% of the working age are economically active. 22.2% of the working age are economically inactive. (ONS Annual Population Survey (2007)). Unemployment Rate 4.7% in July 2009. (ONS).

Employment by Occupation 2008: Soc 2000 major group 1-3 - 37.7%. (1) Managers and senior officials -12.8 %. (2) professional occupations - 11.9%. (3) Associate prof & technical -12.8%. Soc 2000 major group 4-5 - 21.8%. (4)Administrative & secretarial - 11.5%. (5) Skilled trades occupations - 10.3%. Soc 2000 major group 6-7 - 16.7%. (6) Personal service occupations - 8.1%. (7) Sales & customer service occs - 8.5%. Soc 2000 major group 8-9 - 23.8%. (8) Process plant & mac.operatives - 9.7%. 9 Elementary occupations - 14.0%. (Notes: Numbers and % are for those 16+ % is a proportion of all persons in employment).

Qualifications: 29.11% people with no qualifications. 19.50% people with level 1 qualifications. 20.40% people with level 2 qualifications. 8.63% people with level 3 qualification. 15.26% people with level 4 qualifications. 7.11 people with other qualifications /unknown. (*Census 2001*).

Minerals: County Durham has 30 mineral sites which have planning permission for mineral working. In addition there are also a large number of sites in restoration or aftercare and a number of sites which are classed as dormant where working could resume following the issue of modern working and restoration conditions. (DCC).

Waste: County Durham has: 15 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC); 29 Waste Transfer Stations (WTS), 8 recycling sites and 9 digesters/composting facilities, together with 7 operational landfill sites. (DCC)

3 Progress in Preparing the County Durham Plan

Background

3.1 The new County Durham Plan^(iv) will comprise a portfolio of planning documents. These comprise of two main types:

- Development Plan Documents which will set out specific planning policies;^(v) and
- Supplementary Planning Documents which will provide detailed guidance regarding compliance with adopted planning policies.

3.2 This section of the Annual Monitoring Report sets out the progress made on such documents by the new Unitary Council, as set out in the Council's original adopted project plan, the Local Development Scheme^{(vi)(vii)}. In addition this section of the document provides an update on progress in preparing such documents from 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010. While providing an update for this latter period is not strictly required, it will update the analysis and provide more recent information.

Progress against the original Local Development Scheme (December 2008)

3.3 Due to a number of uncertainties regarding the structure of the new organisation at the outset of establishing the new unitary Council, the level of staffing and financial resources to be made available, it was decided that the number of planning policy documents scheduled for production in the first tranche should be kept to a realistic and deliverable quantity. The production of a Core Strategy Development Plan Document was thus prioritised to provide the strategic direction and heart of the County Durham Plan which is the foundation and link for all other documents in the Plan. In addition, 3 Area Action Plans were originally prioritised in order to provide an appropriate planning policy framework to facilitate the delivery of the County's South and East Durham Growth Point Initiative.^(viii) A Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document was also prioritised, to encourage better quality design, and a Statement of Community Involvement was also included in the schedule.

3.4 The milestones for producing these documents during the monitoring period are set out below, together with a summary of progress made and whether the milestone was achieved.

iv The County Durham Plan is the name for the new Local Development Framework for the County
v Please note the Council can prepare a third type of planning document known as an Area Action Plan. These are used to provide a planning framework for areas of change and areas of conservation. Area Action Plans will have the status of Development Plan Documents.
vi "What We're Doing and When" (December 2008)
vii A key purpose of this project plan is to inform the community and interested parties about what planning documents are being prepared and the appropriate time at which they can get involved.
viii Growth Point status had been designated by former Labour government and sought to delivery a significant level of additional housing and employment development in and around Peterlee, Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor.

Table 1 Progress in achieving milestone in original Local Development Scheme (December 2008)

| Document | Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Core Strategy DPD | Preparation of submission development plan document and the sustainability appraisal report including ongoing consultation. Jan 2009 – Apr 2010 | Consultation undertaken on Core Strategy Issues Paper, 7 October to 27 November 2009. Preparation of Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, December 2009 to May 2010. Consultation undertaken on draft Sustainability Appraisal Document, 29 May to 17 July 2009. Technical Consultation Report: Identifying Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Safeguarding Mineral Handling, Processing and Transportation Infrastructure in County Durham - consultation undertaken 10 July 2009 to 11 September 2009. | Yes. |

Table 2 Growth Point Area Action Plans - Progress in achieving milestone in original Local Development Scheme (December 2008)

| Document | Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Growth Point Area Action Plan: Peterlee | Preparation of submission development plan document and the sustainability appraisal report including ongoing consultation. Jan 2009 – Apr 2010 | While early work was undertaken to prepare this document, work ceased on its preparation due to a decision to prioritise the Development Allocations document. | Not applicable. |
| Growth Point Area Action Plan: Central and Eastern Bishop Auckland | Preparation of submission development plan document and the sustainability appraisal report including ongoing consultation. Jan 2009 – Apr 2010 | While early work was undertaken to prepare this document, work ceased on its preparation due to a decision to prioritise the Development Allocations document. | Not applicable. |
| Growth Point Area Action Plan: Spennymoor | Preparation of submission development plan document and the sustainability appraisal report including ongoing consultation. Jan 2009 – Apr 2010. | While early work was undertaken to prepare this document, work ceased on its preparation due to a decision to prioritise the Development Allocations document. | Not applicable. |

Table 3 Design and Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document - Progress in achieving milestone in original Local Development Scheme (December 2008)

| Document | Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|---|--|--|--|
| Design and Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document | Preparation of draft supplementary planning document and sustainability appraisal report. Jan 2009 - August 2009. Draft Supplementary Planning Document and Sustainability Appraisal Report issued for public consultation September 2009 - October 2009. | During the monitoring period the draft report was prepared for public consultation. Public consultation occurred on draft SPD from 1 February 2010 to 31 March 2010 | No. Consultation on draft SPD took place five months after date scheduled in the Local Development Scheme. |

Table 4 Statement of Community Involvement - Progress in achieving milestone in original Local Development Scheme (December 2008)

| Document | Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Statement of Community Involvement | Preparation of draft report, Jan 2009 to August 2009. Draft report issued for public consultation, September 2009 to October 2009. Consideration of consultation representations, Nov 2009 to December 2009. Adoption and publication of document, February 2010. | The draft report was prepared during the monitoring period. | No. Document was prepared during the monitoring report, but was not adopted until May 2010. |

The revised Local Development Scheme (May 2010)

3.5 As a result of a rapidly changing context, a new national policy direction, and additional requirements for evidence gathering, it was clear that the Local Development Scheme needed to be reviewed to ensure that the programme remained up to date and relevant. A revised Local Development Scheme was therefore prepared and agreed by the Council Cabinet in May 2010. This is available to view or download from our website at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/ldf>.

3.6 The revised Local Development Scheme introduces major changes to the programme of plan preparation. Following the Coalition Government's announcement that it no longer intends to support the previous Government's Growth Point programme, rather than prioritising the Core Strategy DPD and preparing 3 Area Action Plans for Spennymoor, Bishop Auckland and Peterlee, the revised Local Development Scheme sets out revised plans to prepare Development Plan Documents in three tranches.

3.7 Priority continues to be given to the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD, which will be the principal planning document of the County Durham Plan. It will set out the overarching strategy for the future development of the County. Once adopted it will cover the period up until the end of 2030 and it will include a vision and strategic objectives, a spatial strategy for non minerals and waste development, core policies, strategic sites and a framework for monitoring and implementation. The Core Strategy DPD will set out the strategic minerals and waste content of the County Durham Plan through a Minerals Delivery Strategy and a Waste Delivery Strategy. All other planning documents within the County Durham Plan will need to conform to the Core Strategy DPD.

3.8 The second priority for the Council will be to prepare:

- Development Allocations DPD - This DPD will deal with new sites for development. It will identify appropriate sites for new development required by the Delivery Strategy for the County. It will explain the rationale for their selection, taking into account the County's requirements for housing and industry, the transport infrastructure which would be needed to allow new development, and the sensitivity of the surroundings. The Development Allocations DPD will also provide the detailed framework for the delivery of the South and East Durham Growth Point.
- Development Management DPD - This DPD will expand on the policies within the Core Strategy and will include more detailed policies for the management of development. While the Core Strategy will set out our vision and aspirations in fairly broad terms, the Development Management DPD will be more specific. It might, for example, identify the type and size of retail units allowed outside town centres or the control of hot food takeaways. It will also carry forward, where appropriate, existing development management designations made in former district council local plans.
- Gypsy and Traveller DPD - This DPD will describe how the council will meet its obligations to provide accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers. The DPD will establish the number of equipped caravan pitches which need to be provided across the county, and identify appropriate sites for them.
- A Proposals Map - This will show the areas of operation of all of the policies contained within DPDs. For example, it will show areas which have been allocated for specific types of development, such as industrial estates and retail areas.

3.9 The third priority for the Council will be to prepare the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD. This DPD will develop the strategic minerals and waste content of the Core Strategy DPD. Where needed and justified it will allocate new non-strategic minerals and waste sites. This DPD will also include a number of development management policies which together with the Core Policies of the Core Strategy DPD will be used to determine new planning applications for minerals and waste development.

Progress against the revised Local Development Scheme (May 2010)

3.10 During the last nine months major progress has been achieved in preparing the County Durham Plan:

- The Local Development Scheme was revised and adopted in May 2010 (see below).
- The Council's Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in May 2010.
- A Statement of Consultation on the Core Strategy Issues Paper was produced,. This document reports back on what consultees said in response to the Core Strategy Issues Paper consultation. This document was published on 4 June 2010.

- Consultation was undertaken on a Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, from 13 June to 6 August 2010. Over the same period consultation took place on a draft of the County Durham Settlement Study and Green Belt Assessment Scoping Paper. We also undertook a survey, via Durham County News and online, on key issues for the Core Strategy DPD. Overall the consultation exercise was the most extensive the Council has ever undertaken on a planning document. Over 80 separate meetings and events were held, including,
 - 4 presentations to Steering Groups;
 - 3 workshop events for stakeholders;
 - 18 drop in events for members of the public
 - 29 Area Action Plan Forum and Board meetings attended;
 - 12 presentations to Parish Council Sub-Committees and Forums; and
 - 1 young persons event.
- In December 2010 the Council produced a feedback report on the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation.
- Annual Monitoring Report 2009/2010 - This document was produced and submitted to Government Office North East by 31 December 2010.

Table 5 Core Strategy DPD - Progress against the revised Local Development Scheme (May 2010)

| Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Preparation of Issues and Options Report to May 2010 | Report prepared in time with LDS | Yes |
| Issues and Options consultation - June to July 2010 | Consultation occurred 10 June to 6 August 2010 | Yes |
| Period of consideration of representations on Issues and Options Report - August 2010 to February 2010. | Representations considered and further consultation identified as being necessary. | Yes |

Table 6 Development Management DPD, Development Allocations DPD and Gypsies and Travellers DPD - Progress against the revised Local Development Scheme (May 2010)

| Milestone set out in Local Development Scheme | Summary of progress made | Has the milestone been achieved? |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Preparation of Issues and Options Report August 2010 to February 2012. | Early work undertaken. Priority is however be given to progression of Core Strategy DPD, in particular via consultation on a number of consultation reports. This work is essential to progress the Core Strategy DPD and provide the basis for the Development Management DPD, Development Allocations DPD and Gypsies and Travellers DPD. In addition early work has been undertaken to provide the basis for the Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD. | Yes |

3.11 As part of the continuous engagement activities that are planned on the Core Strategy DPD (between the formal Issues and Options stage (June to August 2010) and Publication (currently scheduled for July 2011), the following seven consultation documents were released on the 3 December 2011:

- County Durham Settlement Study.
- Durham City Green Belt Site Assessment (Part 2)
- Technical Consultation Report: Energy Minerals in County Durham
- Technical Consultation Report: Need for a North West Durham Green Belt
- Technical Consultation Report: New Minerals and Waste Sites in County Durham
- Technical Consultation Report: Safeguarding Mineral Resources for the Future
- Technical Consultation Report: Towards a Minerals Delivery Strategy for County Durham.

Area Planning Activities

3.12 Work is continuing on series of masterplans and planning briefs for various town centres and identified development areas throughout the County, to support regeneration and town centre improvements. The programme is continuing to evolve and it is possible that some of these studies may develop as Area Action Plans (AAP's) in the future. As this area planning programme develops, any additional AAP's will be reflected in the Local Development Scheme.

Progress in compiling and updating the evidence base

3.13 In order to ensure the County Durham Plan is robust and representative of the issues and challenges throughout the County, a range of supporting documents are required. The evidence base includes the following studies and supporting documents:

Economic justification for the County Durham Plan

3.14 The development of the County Durham Plan is based upon the the principle that the plan should achieve a significant uplift, or 'step change', in the economy to radically improve the prospects of the County. A [report](#) has been produced to set out the economic case supporting the strategic objectives and policies proposed in the Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) October 2008

3.15 The [County Durham Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008](#), was commissioned jointly by the County Council and former District Councils. It is based on the requirements set out in PPS3 and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Guidance produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We have undertaken the first annual review of the SHMA and we intend to consult and publish it during the first half of 2011.

Economic Viability Study

3.16 We are producing a report which looks at the economic viability of delivering the affordable housing targets set out in the SHMA. This report will be published in February 2011.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and 5 Year Housing Supply

3.17 As the local planning authority for the County, national planning policy (Planning Policy Statement 3: *Housing*) requires us to carry out a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to assess future land for housing. Further information can be found in the [Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment](#), and an update is provided in Section 4.

Transport Evidence Base

3.18 We are looking to commission work to ascertain the likely impact of the County Durham Plan on the key junctions of the Strategic Road Network (A1 and A19)

Transport Model and Durham City Relief Road Studies

3.19 Studies have been prepared to assess the viability of [relief roads](#) being proposed to the north and west of Durham City as part of comprehensive transport improvements within the city. The reports should be considered in conjunction with other measures to address the impact of the business and housing needs of the City.

3.20 Relief Road Transport Modelling is being undertaken to gather robust and credible justification for the requirement for both the proposed Durham Northern Relief Road; and the proposed Durham Western Relief Road. This is taking place in three phases:

Phase 1: Baseline Evidence

3.21 The evidence for both the Northern and Western Relief Roads needs to be justified in terms of baseline modelling while demonstrating existing congestion, air quality and capacity issues in Durham City itself to ascertain:

- The amount of traffic using Durham City Centre as a through route;
- The amount of traffic coming from outside Durham City;
- The amount of traffic accumulating from discretionary trips;
- Traffic peaks;
- Congestion hot spots;
- Congestion issues at key junctions and the length of such delays.

3.22 This evidence can be demonstrated by various methods as deemed appropriate, but may include travel times and queue lengths for example.

3.23 Evidence regarding the degree by which existing congestion and capacity issues are having a detrimental impact on Durham City's attractiveness as an economic hub is fundamental. This is with regard to knock on effects on the ability of Durham City to accommodate new businesses due to increasing pressure on the highway capacity.

Phase 2: Testing Alternatives

3.24 The Core Strategy will be required to demonstrate that the proposed Northern and Western Relief Roads are the most appropriate option against other reasonable alternatives. These reasonable alternatives must be considered as part of the plan making process and are likely to include (but not exclusively):

- Workplace parking charging;
- Public transport fare subsidies;
- Road user charging;
- An additional Park and Ride scheme; and,
- Durham Inner Relief Road.

3.25 Where alternatives are dismissed, the reasoning for this must be clearly presented.

Phase 3: Scenario Testing

3.26 The Core Strategy seeks to guide development across the County up to 2030 and for this reason policies need to be 'future proofed' wherever possible. Scenario testing will help to inform this, as well as demonstrating the effectiveness of the proposals.

Employment Land Review

3.27 An Employment Land Review (ELR) is currently being undertaken. We are seeking to identify suitable sites for possible employment development up to 2037. This is programmed to be completed in April 2011. The study will provide an up to date assessment of the portfolio of employment sites within the County and from this, make recommendations on the future of these sites and where there are gaps within the provision of sites.

3.28 Final recommendations will identify suitable sites for possible employment development up to 2037. These recommendations will provide the evidence base to inform policies within the County Durham Plan, specifically in allocating new sites for employment provision.

Retail and Town Centre Study

3.29 The Durham County Council Retail and Town Centre Uses Study (Nov 2009) assesses the local shopping and leisure patterns. The study provides a health check of the main town centres within the County to determine the strengths and weaknesses of our centres as well as advising where extra shopping and leisure provision are required. The study has now been fully completed and was adopted by the Council in May 2010. It is fully compliant with PPS4 and comprises a quantitative assessment, a qualitative assessment and an Executive Summary.

3.30 The Study will provide the key evidence base for retail and town centre policies within the County Durham Plan. Policies will include adopting a hierarchy of our town centres and allocating sites for new retail provision where the study has identified a recognised need. The study will also be used in assessing relevant planning applications, providing an up to date picture of retail need and capacity.

3.31 A further study has been produced that looks at potential retail requirements based on proposed housing growth figures in the Issues and Options Report. This again will inform policies in the County Durham Plan.

Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment July 2007

3.32 A Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment, published in 2007, provides the basis for housing and planning policies. This identifies a requirement for 61 additional pitches county-wide to offset a current shortfall (requiring five small permanent sites), and a further 37 pitches to accommodate household formation between 2007-2015. The Assessment

identifies the need to take a long-term view of site management; for remedial action to improve conditions on several local authority-owned sites; and for support to address mental and physical health issues in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Further work on their accommodation and land requirements, as well as those of Travelling Show People, will inform the evidence base for the County Durham Plan. Monitoring of the delivery of the required provision will be carried out in future years and reported in a future Annual Monitoring Reports.

Durham Green Infrastructure Strategy

3.33 We are producing a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County, which will help to identify and link up important green spaces, such as parks and other environmental features. This will help to ensure more sustainable places across the County.

Open space, sports and recreation survey

3.34 In 2009, the Council commissioned the consultants, JPC/Leisure and the Environment, to produce an [Open Space Needs Assessment](#) (the OSNA). This is one of the studies which all local authorities are required to complete; detailed requirements are set out in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17). The OSNA looks at the quantity, quality and accessibility of all of the open space, sport and recreation facilities in the County. This includes:

- parks and gardens
- semi-natural open spaces, such as woods and commons
- amenity open spaces: grassed areas which are open to the public, but which don't have a specific function
- children and young people's space: playgrounds and youth shelters
- Allotments
- outdoor sports space – designated pitches, courts, greens, etc.
- churchyards and cemeteries
- education space: grounds owned by schools, colleges and universities
- golf courses

3.35 It follows the following five stages:

1. Identifying local needs: the consultants carried out questionnaire surveys, looked at information already held by the council, and arranged a programme of meetings with key agencies and organisations.
2. Audit local provision: every site in the County was visited and quality assessed against rigid standards.
3. Setting provision standards: establishing how much open space in each category residents should expect to have, and what quality it should be.
4. Application of provision standards: establishing deficiencies, i.e. where open space is lacking, either in terms of accessibility, quantity or quality, and trying to predict future needs.
5. Drafting policies and implementation plan: working out how to make sure all areas have the right amount of safe, accessible and attractive open space.

3.36 The final assessment forms part of the evidence-base for the preparation of the County Durham Plan.

Playing Pitch Strategy

3.37 The Council commissioned a "Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport and Physical Activity Strategy" in November 2010. This will comprise a further element of the national policy (PPG17) requirement, to complement the completed Open Space Needs Assessment and the forthcoming Indoor Facilities Study to complete the Council's evidence base in terms of PPG17 requirements. The project will be carried out in accord with Sport England's "Toolkit", looking at playing fields - pitch sports (football, rugby, cricket and hockey) and non-pitch sports (bowling greens, Multi-use games areas (MUGAS), tennis courts, etc). The brief seeks to achieve a 5 year Playing Pitch Strategy and a robust needs and evidence base. The project has a target completion date of the end of March 2011.

Planning for low carbon in County Durham

3.38 The Planning for Low Carbon in County Durham Study assists the development of planning policy in the County Durham Plan to help us to deliver targets for decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources. The study reviews relevant national and regional planning policy resulting in some key recommendations for policy development at the county-scale. It also assesses options for renewable and low-carbon technologies.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

3.39 A [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#) (SFRA) has been prepared to give us an overview of areas that may be susceptible to flooding. It considers not only the risk of flooding from the River Wear, the River Tees and their tributaries, but also an overview of flood risk from coastal waters, groundwater and from surface water run-off. It assesses the likelihood of flooding within County Durham today, and as the risk of flooding increases over time due to climate change. The SFRA is part of the evidence-base to support the County Durham Plan. It helps inform the selection of sites for future development.

Water Cycle Strategy

3.40 The Water Cycle Strategy has been commissioned to address the water infrastructure required to support the Council's growth and development plans, to ensure an adequate supply of clean water and safe disposal of waste, and protection from flooding, without detrimental impact on the environment. The study will also incorporate a Surface Water Management Plan to determine actions to manage the risk from surface water flooding in identified critical drainage areas. The report will be published in March 2011.

Landscape and Visual Impact Studies for Wind Turbines

3.41 The study assesses the potential of North & South Durham Coalfield, East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain wind resource areas to accommodate wind farm development. The studies provide a greater understanding of the landscape impact of wind farm development in the areas which are identified in the RSS as offering the potential to accommodate wind energy development. They explore impacts on the landscape in terms of both character and cumulative impact. The purpose of the studies is to provide the relevant councils with a tool they can use to assess planning applications in their area and to help inform the development of Local Development Frameworks. To view a copy of the documents please click on the following link which takes you to an external website [Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity](#).

Migratory Birds Study April 2009

3.42 The study investigates breeding, wintering and migratory bird species and numbers within the areas of former districts of Sedgefield, Wear Valley, Teesdale, Derwentside and Easington (the study also includes Stockton and a 10km buffer strip extending into adjacent authority areas. The study was completed over a two month period in February and March 2008 which affected the extent of the data collection and analysis that could be undertaken. This will produce a concise database which will help to identify the potential impacts of development on sensitive bird species.

Landscape Assessment/Strategy 2008

3.43 The [County Durham Landscape Character Assessment](#) is a detailed assessment of the character of the County. It works within the framework of Countryside Character Areas and Natural Areas, identifying variations in landscape character at a sub-regional and local level. It was undertaken by the Council's Landscape Section with the assistance of the Countryside Agency and consultants Shiels Flynn.

3.44 The assessment is based on a detailed GIS (Geographical Information Systems) database of landscape elements which was used to identify landscape types and character areas at a number of levels from regional landscapes, like the North Pennines or the West Durham Coalfield, to local landscapes like parklands and wooded denes.

3.45 The [County Durham Landscape Strategy](#) builds on the County Durham Landscape Character Assessment, analysing the issues affecting the landscape, setting out objectives and establishing priorities for conservation and improvement. It was formally adopted by the Council in 2008.

Waste Information and Work ongoing/Waste Management Facilities

3.46 For the County's communities to be truly sustainable, there is a need to become self-sufficient and develop alternative and less damaging forms of waste management focused on prevention, source reduction, recovery, re-use and recycling. There is also a need to break the link between economic growth and waste growth. Significant new management capacity is needed to continue to divert waste from landfill, especially with forecast population growth.

3.47 Data on waste capacity, movements and deposits is notoriously difficult to collect, and provide. Although the picture is improving, largely as a result of the Environment Agency now providing some data on a more systematic basis, it remains an unreliable picture in many areas. However a comprehensive set of data and analysis of existing and projected waste arisings, existing capacity, and the projected 'capacity gap' is set out in the [Waste Technical Paper](#). Data on waste capacity provided in the monitoring year is set out in Section 4.

Technical Papers

3.48 In addition to the above pieces of evidence, a series of topic-based Technical Papers were produced during 2009 to research the scope of planning issues that need to be addressed in the County Durham Plan. The Technical Papers provide a shared evidence base to support wider council policy formulation and review. The following themes have been covered in the papers:

- Housing
- Tourism
- Heritage
- Design and Local Distinctiveness
- Open Space, Recreation, Leisure and Play
- Settlements & Green Belt
- Community & Cultural Facilities
- Retail & Town Centres
- Diversity
- Water
- Community Involvement
- Contamination and Pollution
- Biodiversity & Geo-diversity
- Strategic Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency & Small Scale Renewable Energy
- Delivery & Infrastructure
- Rural Dimension (Rural Proofing)
- Employment, Education & Skills
- Deprivation (inc. Health, Community Safety, Neighbourhood Quality, Income, Crime & Disorder)
- Waste
- Minerals
- Transport and Accessibility
- Landscape
- Population and Demographics

3.49 These Technical Papers are intended to be 'living' documents that will be updated periodically when appropriate. Three were reviewed and republished in May 2010. These were Minerals, Waste, and Energy Efficiency & Small Scale Renewable Energy. Papers on Transport and Rural Dimension as still in preparation.

What we intend to do during 2011

3.50 During 2011 our priority will be the progressing the Core Strategy DPD through a number of key consultation stages. We intend to consult extensively on the Core Strategy DPD. Between January 2011 and March 2011 we intend to consult on a number of reports which collectively will consider the following:

- The spatial interpretation of the Sustainable Community Strategy Vision;
- Core Strategy objectives;
- Overall Spatial Strategy for the County Durham Plan;
- Sustainable Development Policy;
- Overall Housing Requirement, spatial strategy for housing, affordable housing, rural exceptions housing and executive Housing;
- Spatial Strategy for retail development and town centre uses;
- Approach to Gypsy and Traveller provision;
- Spatial Strategy for employment land and Strategic Employment Sites;
- Spatial Strategy for transport and strategic sites;
- Spatial strategy for Green Infrastructure enhancement;

- Renewable Energy and Heat Target; and
- Waste Delivery Strategy;
- Tourism;
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan and contribution to infrastructure requirements.

3.51 We also intend to consult on draft policies. The majority of this consultation is programmed to take place in April and May 2011.

3.52 Following the continuous engagement phase of the preparation of the Core Strategy a final Submission version will be produced. Following agreement by Cabinet this will then be published for consultation in July 2011. In the absence of any critical objections, the document will then be submitted to CLG and the Planning Inspectorate in November 2011. The Examination in Public is then expected to take place in March 2012 with Adoption in July 2012.

Anticipated longer term work programme 2012 to 2015

3.53 We have already outlined above what we intend to do during 2011, and work will continue on the preparation of the DPDs as set out in the Local Development Scheme.

3.54 We currently anticipate that we will consult on Issues and Options for the Development Management DPD, Development Allocations DPD and Gypsy and Traveller DPD and Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations DPD in 2012, with publication, submission and examination for all three documents in 2013, with adoption scheduled for early 2014.

3.55 The priority for the Planning Policy Team will be those DPDs that are clearly vital to spatial planning in the County, especially those to which resources have already been committed. However there are other DPDs that would be desirable, given sufficient time and resources, and those which might be deemed necessary as the plan preparation progresses. These include a number of Area Action Plans. These are listed below:

- Durham City Area Action Plan;
- Spennymoor Area Action Plan;
- Peterlee Area Action Plan;
- Bishop Auckland Area Action Plan;
- Stanley Town Centre Area Action Plan;
- Consett Area Action Plan;
- Newton Aycliffe Area Action Plan;
- Barnard Castle Town Centre Area Action Plan; and
- Chester-le-Street Area Action Plan.

4 Monitoring of Indicators

Core Output Indicators

4.1 In February 2008 CLG published '[Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators – Update](#)'. This requires Unitary planning authorities such as Durham County Council to report on 20 indicators in their Annual Monitoring Reports.

Core Output Indicators

Business development and town centres

Data on the following indicators is likely to become available through the emerging Employment Land Review.

BD1: Total amount of additional employment floor space – by type

BD2: Total Amount of employment floor space on previously developed land – by type

BD3: Employment land available – by type

BD4: Total amount of floor space for 'town centre uses'

Housing

H1: Plan period and housing targets

The County Durham Plan will cover the period 2011-2030. The Table below summarises the requirements of Policy 28 of the North East Regional Spatial Strategy. This policy specifies the level of net additional dwellings which should be provided per annum in each of the seven former Districts (and the County as a whole) for the period 2004-2021 (and an assumption about the average annual rate of provision beyond 2021 that is equal to the average rate for 2004-2021).

Table 7 Policy 28 - RSS Housing requirement for County Durham (by former District)

| Locality | 2004-11 | 2011-16 | 2016-21 | 2004-21 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Derwentside | 320 | 270 | 200 | 270 |
| Chester-le-Street | 100 | 130 | 130 | 120 |
| Wear Valley | 280 | 160 | 145 | 205 |
| Durham | 250 | 220 | 190 | 225 |
| Easington | 370 | 215 | 70 | 235 |
| Teesdale | 70 | 80 | 75 | 75 |
| Sedgefield | 280 | 260 | 225 | 260 |
| County Durham | 1,670 | 1,330 | 1,035 | 1,385 |

Although RSS currently remains part of the development plan, the government has made it clear that it intends to revoke RSS through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill. The County Durham Plan will therefore need to establish an overall housing requirement for the plan period, as well as setting out how this will be distributed across the County.

H2(a): Net additional dwellings – in previous years

The Table below shows the net number of dwellings completed over five years (1st April 2004 to the 31st March 2009) for each former district.

Table 8 Net additional dwellings in County Durham 2004-2009 (by district)

| Locality | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | Total to date |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Derwentside (1) | 200 | 348 | 434 | 596 | 418 | 1,996 |
| Chester-le-street (2) | 25 | 152 | 88 | 139 | 97 | 501 |
| Wear Valley (3) | 255 | 331 | 522 | 550 | 248 | 1,906 |
| Durham (4) | 216 | 434 | 469 | 436 | 301 | 1,856 |
| Easington (5) | 117 | 346 | 599 | 440 | 209 | 1,711 |
| Teesdale (6) | 94 | 58 | 48 | 36 | 37 | 273 |
| Sedgefield (7) | 114 | 131 | 201 | 200 | 116 | 762 |
| County Durham | 1,021 | 1,800 | 2,361 | 2,397 | 1,426 | 9,005 |

The table clearly shows that there was a decrease in housing completions in the 2008/09, when compared with the levels for 2006/07 & 2007/08 respectively. The national and global recession inevitably impacted on the delivery of new homes across County Durham. People's restricted ability to secure mortgages, house builders' inability to access funding at reasonable interest rates, the overall viability of schemes and the

reluctance of some landowners to sell land at depressed land values has subsequently meant that house building levels have declined. Housing completions are still occurring though, albeit at a reduced rate, mainly due to public private partnerships and private developers finishing off nearly complete sites.

H2(b): Net additional dwellings – for the reporting year

Table 9 Net Additional dwellings for the reporting year by former Durham County District

| New additional dwellings 2009/10 | Number |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Former Chester-le-Street | 158 |
| Former Derwentside | 320 |
| Former Durham City | 154 |
| Former Easington | 175 |
| Former Sedgefield | 5 |
| Former Teesdale | 106 |
| Former Wear Valley | 265 |
| County Durham | 1183 |

Table 10 Gross affordable housing completions for the monitoring period by former County Durham District

| Gross affordable housing completions | Number |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Former Chester-le-Street | 48 |
| Former Derwentside | 8 |
| Former Durham City | 33 |
| Former Easington | 17 |
| Former Sedgefield | 54 |
| Former Teesdale | 16 |
| Former Wear Valley | 47 |
| County Durham | 223 |

H2(c): Net additional dwellings – in future years, and H2(d): Managed delivery target

Planning Policy Statement 3: *Housing* (PPS3) outlines the Government's objective of ensuring that the planning system delivers a flexible, responsive supply of land. PPS3 states that local planning authorities should identify sufficient specific deliverable sites to deliver a rolling 5-year supply of housing.

We are currently updating the 2008/09 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to cover a period from the 1st April 2009 to the 30th September 2010. The SHLAA is being undertaken in partnership with representatives from Durham County Council and the development industry and comprises:

- Durham County Council;(Planning Policy; Highways; Asset Management; Housing Strategy);
- Highways Agency (HA);
- Home Builders Federation (HBF);
- Chartered Surveyor;
- Housing and Communities Agency (HCA);
- Northumbrian Water Ltd;
- Planning Consultant; and,
- Registered Social Landlord (RSL).

A consultation event took place in November 2010 to allow wider stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils, Area Action Partnerships and the public an opportunity to comment on the draft suitability of sites. These comments have now been processed and following a Partnership meeting on the 13th December 2010, are in agreement with the final suitability position of sites. An agreement methodology for estimating the likely achievability of sites has also been agreed.

This information is currently being used to prepare trajectories in order to ascertain a 5 year land supply. This information is to be presented at a local level (example for each of the main towns); Delivery Area and at a County level. We aim for the Partnership to consider and agree these in March 2010 prior to being published for information.

H3: New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land

1139 dwellings were provided on previously developed land during the monitoring period.

(Please note this figure is not 100% due to data availability.)

H4: Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller)

Within this monitoring period, no net additional pitches for Gypsies and Travellers were provided within the County.

H5: Gross affordable housing completions

The Table below shows that 223 affordable housing units were provided across the County during the monitoring period, indicating that house builders still appear to be willing to build affordable housing, perhaps due to the fact they can often be sold on to a housing association. This compares favourably to the 169 affordable homes that were build in the County in 2008/09, which itself was an improvement on previous years.

Affordability issues have often been more of a problem in the more remote rural areas of Teesdale and Weardale, which are attractive to second home owners and for retirement, and in Durham City, due to private letting student accommodation with related impacts on local communities and house prices. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment however, shows that there is a more general need for social housing in all parts of the County, and a policy to deal with the issue will need to be developed through the County Durham Plan.

Table 11 Affordable housing provision

| Affordable housing provision | 2009/2010 |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Number of Units | 223 |

H6: Housing Quality – Building for Life Assessments

No data was available in respect of this indicator for the monitoring period, despite its identification as a Core Output Indicator.

Environmental Quality

E1: Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding and water quality grounds

The County continues to have a good record in complying with flood advice received from the Environment Agency. There have been very few applications approved in the monitoring period where the Agency has felt it necessary to maintain an objection on flood risk grounds. However, there are occasions where the balance of planning considerations leads the planning authority to reach a different view. This occurred in respect of three school applications, all in outline form and all in flood zone 1. Planning permissions included relevant conditions and requiring flood risk to be addressed at the detailed design stage.

No planning permissions were granted for developments contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency during the 07-08 monitoring period and only a single application was granted permission contrary to Agency advice during 08-09 (this decision being against the officer's recommendation). This demonstrates that the Council is continuing to adhere to the advice of the Environment Agency on this important issue.

E2: Change in areas of biodiversity importance

This indicator shows losses or additions to areas of biodiversity importance.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Six Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been designated under the European Union Habitats Directive. The six SACs which are wholly or partly within the County are listed below. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period. They cover an area of 44,416.9 ha in total.

Table 12 Special Areas of Conservation in County Durham

| Site Name | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Eden Dene • Durham Coast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moor House - Upper Teesdale • North Pennine Dales Meadows | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Pennine Moors • Thrislington Plantation |

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been designated under the Wild Birds Directive. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period. They cover an area of 44,982.77 ha in total.

Table 13 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in County Durham

| Site Name | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northumbria Coast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Pennine Moors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast |

Ramsar Sites

Stretches of the Durham Coast are designated as part of two Ramsar Sites, the Northumbria Coast and the Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast Ramsar sites. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period. They cover an area of 67.31ha in total.

International Biosphere Reserves

Moor House - Upper Teesdale National Nature Reserve was designated as the United Kingdom's first International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) under its Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) in 1976. The designation covers 7,386 hectares. There have been no changes to the extent of this designation during the monitoring period.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

There are 84 SSSIs either wholly or partly within County Durham, covering approximately 48,053.41 ha. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

Six SSSIs in County Durham have been designated as National Nature Reserves under section 19 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period. They cover an area of 5,142.95 ha in total.

Table 14 National Nature Reserves in County Durham

| Site Name | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassop Vale • Castle Eden Dene • Derwent Gorge & Muggleswick Woods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Coast • Moor House-Upper Teesdale • Thrislington Plantation |

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are statutory designations made by local authorities under the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949. There are currently the 30 LNRs within County Durham. There have been no changes to the extent of these designations during the monitoring period. They cover an area of 776.9 ha in total.

Table 15 Local Nature Reserves in County Durham

| Site Name | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allensford Woods • Bishop Middleham Community Wildlife Garden • Blackhall Grasslands • Bracken Hill Wood • Byerley Park • Chapman's Well • Cong Burn Wood • Cow Plantation • Coxhoe Quarry Road • Crow Trees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daisy Hill • Deep Dene • Ferryhill Carrs • Greencroft Heath • Harperley and Pea Woods • Horden Grasslands • Kyo Bogs • Limekiln Gill • Little Wood • Low Newton Junction • Noses Point | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pity Me Carrs • Raisby Way and Trimdon Grange Quarry • Sacriston Wood • South Stanley Woods • Steeley Hill, Cornsay Colliery • The Moor • The Whinnies • Willington North Dene • Wingate Quarry |

Local Sites

Durham currently has 308 (formerly 310) Local Wildlife Sites and 68 Local Geological Sites. The only change over the last year has been the de-designation of two Local Wildlife Sites bringing the total to 308.

Condition of sites of biodiversity importance

With the exception of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), no information is currently available to indicate the health of any of these biodiversity sites.

SSSI condition - While information is not available for the end of the monitoring period, the latest information from Natural England indicates that 98.99% of SSSIs in County Durham met the PSA target^{(ix)(x)}, 12.93% were reported as in favourable condition^(xi), 86.06% were unfavourable but recovering^(xii), 0.92% were reported as in unfavourable condition with no change^(xiii), 0.09% were reported as in unfavourable condition and declining^{(xiv) (xv)}.

E3: Renewable energy generation

The sub-regional renewable energy target for County Durham to 2010 given in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is 82 MWe installed capacity (all renewables technologies).

At 31st March 2010 the installed capacity figure in County Durham was 95.11MWe. The County has therefore met and exceeded its 2010 target. It is anticipated that permitted wind energy sites will be operational before the end of 2010 bringing the total installed capacity to around 137 MW, thereby exceeding the target by a substantial margin.

Following the announcement of the revocation of the RSS by the Coalition government, future renewable energy targets will need to be established through the County Durham Plan, which will form the basis for monitoring future performance.

-
- ix PSA target: The Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.
 - x Meeting the PSA target: If a SSSI unit is currently assessed as being in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, it is described as 'meeting the PSA target'.
 - xi Favourable: Favourable condition means that the SSSI land is being adequately conserved and is meeting its 'conservation objectives', however, there is scope for the enhancement of these sites.
 - xii Unfavourable recovering: Unfavourable recovering condition is often known simply as 'recovering'. SSSI units are not yet fully conserved but all the necessary management measures are in place. Provided that the recovery work is sustained, the SSSI will reach favourable condition in time. In many cases, restoration takes time. Woodland that has been neglected for 50 years will take several years to bring back into a working coppice cycle. A drained peat bog might need 15-20 years to restore a reasonable coverage of sphagnum.
 - xiii Unfavourable no change: This means the special interest of the SSSI unit is not being conserved and will not reach favourable condition unless there are changes to the site management or external pressures. The longer the SSSI unit remains in this poor condition, the more difficult it will be, in general, to achieve recovery.
 - xiv Unfavourable declining: This means that the special interest of the SSSI unit is not being conserved and will not reach favourable condition unless there are changes to site management or external pressures. The site condition is becoming progressively worse.
 - xv (Source: Natural England, November 2010: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/report.cfm?category=C.CF>)

**Table 16 Operational Renewable Energy Development In County Durham Generation As % Electricity Use:
Position at 31 March 2010**

| | Installed Capacity (MWe) | Output (GWh p.a.) | % Co. Durham household electricity | % Co. Durham electricity use | Equivalent no of households |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wind | 82.38 | 194.83 | 22.61 | 8.62 | 45,062 |
| Biomass | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Landfill | 12.27 | 75.24 | 8.73 | 3.33 | 17,416 |
| Hydro | 0.46 | 2.19 | 0.25 | 0.09 | 506 |
| Total | 95.11 | 272.26 | 31.59 | 12.04 | 62,984 |

**Table 17 Approved Renewable Energy Development In County Durham Generation As % Electricity Use:
Position at 31 March 2010**

| | Installed Capacity (MWe) | Output (GWh p.a.) | % Co. Durham household electricity | % Co. Durham electricity use | Equivalent no of households |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wind | 42.50 | 100.51 | 11.66 | 4.45 | 23,247 |
| Biomass | 20.00 | 101.60 | 11.79 | 4.50 | 23,518 |
| Landfill | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hydro | 1.660 | 7.85 | 0.91 | 0.35 | 1,817 |
| Total | 64.16 | 209.96 | 24.36 | 9.3 | 48,582 |

Table 18 Operational And Approved Renewable Energy Development In County Durham Generation As % Electricity Use: Position at 31 March 2010

| | Installed Capacity (MWe) | Output (GWh p.a.) | % Co. Durham household electricity | % Co. Durham electricity use | Equivalent no of households |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total | 159.27 | 482.22 | 55.95 | 21.34 | 111,566 |

Minerals

M1: Production of primary land won aggregates by mineral planning authority

The figures for this indicator as set out the table below are derived from the North East Regional Aggregates Working Party (NERAWP) Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report for 2008, published February 2010. Due to the way mineral information is collected by the NERAWP no information is available for the monitoring period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Table 19 Production of primary land won aggregates within the monitoring period (2008 figures).
Source: North East Regional Aggregates Working Party (NERAWP) Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report for 2008, published February 2010.

| Crushed Rock (as at 2008) | Sand & Gravel (as at 2008) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3,036,126 tonnes | 183,000 tonnes |

a. Source: North East Regional Aggregates Working Party (NERAWP) Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report for 2008, published February 2010

M2: Production of secondary and recycled aggregates by mineral planning authority

No information is available for this indicator. The only relatively recent data available is collected and published by the NERAWP and is unsatisfactory for the purposes of this Report. This data is only produced on a regional basis, and the latest data available was published in February 2010, reporting for the calendar year 2008. The only other information available is from a CLG survey which was commissioned to establish estimates for arisings and use as an aggregate of construction and demolition waste in 2005.

Despite this being a Core indicator, we are currently uncertain of how reliable information will be collected in order to publish figures for this indicator in future. No figures specific to County Durham are available. It is also believed that significant quantities of material are recycled and re-used on site on building projects. This means that a significant proportion of this waste stream is not recorded and there is no way around this at present.

Waste Management

W1: Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority

Table 20 New waste management capacity

| Reference and site | Potential Capacity | Waste Management Type |
|---|---|--|
| CMA/4/42 - Mainsforth Colliery site, Mainsforth Road, Ferryhill. AAA Skip and Plant Hire. | 15,000tpa. Conditions Not Discharged And Ea Has Taken Action. | Proposed extension to existing composting processing facility. |
| CMA/1/43 - Bunker Hill Farm, Leadgate | 11,000tpa | Green waste, composting. |
| CMA/6/42 - Eden Hall, Hamsterley | 20,000 | Waste Transfer Station. |
| CMA/4/44 - Brennan & Coates Haulage Ltd, Thistle Road, Littleburn Lane Industrial Estate, Langley Moor. | 15,600 tpa | Scrap metal. Ferrous and non-ferrous |
| CMA/4/45 - Tursdale Business Park, Tursdale, Durham. | 150,000tpa | MRF/Recycling. |
| Total Capacity = 211,600 | | |

In the monitoring period, a total additional capacity of 211,600 tonnes waste granted approval, the majority of which was for recycling; composting; and waste transfer. 15,600 tonnes of metal recycling capacity was also permitted. No new landfill capacity was permitted during the monitoring period. This shows that the County is continuing to move away from landfilling, towards recovery and reuse. (The exception to this trend was a minor non-commercial development at Old Durham Farm, Durham). The saved policies of the Waste Local Plan are continuing to provide for the County's waste management needs and are proving effective.

W2: Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type by waste planning authority

A total of 274,501 tonnes of Municipal Waste arose in the period. This is a continuing reduction on previous years (highs in the 05/06 period of 295,386 and 281,927 tonnes in 2008/09). Of this, approximately 33% was re-used or recycled. 60% was landfilled. This is a reduction on last year's 68% landfilled.