

The County Durham Plan - Update for Durham City Residents

During the week beginning Monday 17th October 2011 the Planning Policy Team from Durham County Council held a number of drop-in events to update residents of Durham City on the County Durham Plan and its potential implications.

We sought to provide more detail in regards of:

- Potential development at Aykley Heads;
- The three possible green belt sites (Sniperley, Newton Grange, Sherburn Road); and
- The possible routes of the Northern and Western Relief Roads.

Four events were held at:

- Framwellgate Moor Community Centre
- Durham Town Hall
- St. John's Church Nevilles Cross
- Belmont Community Centre

We were very pleased with the interest shown in the events with over 500 people attending. The main topics of discussion with residents were:

- Most residents agreed with the need to attract private investment into the County.
- Some questioned whether Durham City provides the best opportunity to attract investment to benefit the City and the County as a whole.
- Some concerns over the possible scale of development in Durham and in particular the phasing of any new development up to 2030.
- Residents were generally pleased to see that the possible green belt sites would be sustainable communities with green spaces and local facilities rather than just large housing estates.
- A generally positive response to the proposal to provide new parkland at Aykley Heads and not to develop the whole site for employment. Also residents were reassured that the views to and from the Cathedral had been considered.
- There was much discussion in relation to the need for the two new relief roads and whether the benefits in relieving congestion could be achieved by encouraging cycling, walking and increase the use of public transport.

We hope these drop-in events were useful to residents and that they appreciated the opportunity to look in more detail at the proposals in the County Durham Plan. Any comments that were made have been recorded and will be used to inform the next stage of the Plan's preparation.

The final decision on which sites in Durham City will be needed to meet the needs of the City and the objectives of the Plan will be made next year.

The illustrations provided at the drop-in events give an idea of what these sites may look like if they go ahead.

If you are interested in viewing the information displayed at the drop-in events the exhibition boards are still available to be viewed at:

- Abbey Sports Centre
- Bowburn Library
- Newton Hall Library

The information is also available on the Council's website at:

www.durham.gov.uk/ldf