

**Darlington's Local Plan –
A response from Hurworth Parish Council**

DBC Question	Hurworth Parish Council's Response
1. Is the period up to 2036 the right period for the new local plan?	Given changing economics, due in part to the Referendum, we would like to suggest ten years as a more relevant time-scale. This would fit with central government policies too.
2. Do you agree with the range of matters that we propose to cover in the new local plan?	HPC is supportive of the proposal to build new villages. This protects the history and heritage of our current villages and prevents these existing villages from merging into towns. We would like to see the reinstatement of development boundaries to delineate new and existing settlements. We would like to see Traveller sites earmarked and subject to the same consultation process and regulations.
3. Is the vision still the right one?	HPC likes the council's vision. It is town-centric and affirms the need to develop around existing resources and where there is most need. We would also like to see a reference to environmental sustainability. We also believe it would be helpful to have a glossary of terms (see further comments below*) and that a definition, specific to Darlington, of the word 'sustainable' would be most helpful.
4. Are the aims and objectives linked to this vision still the right ones?	From the layout of this present document, it is not clear to us what the aims and objectives are. We would like to see an easy-to-navigate document for non-specialists. The insertion of clear headings and sub-headings would go some way to provide clarity. *HPC would like the new plan to be simple in language and accessible to the lay-person. Where jargon is unavoidable, then a glossary of terms would be useful. For example, a definition of the term 'sustainable' and what this actually means for Darlington would aid clarity and understanding.
5 & 6. Are the issues highlighted the right ones? Are there any other issues?	HPC would like to see some specific thought, reference and response to the question, 'How do you increase the value of sites at growth zones to make them more attractive to developers?' For example using natural land borders to differentiate between less desirable and more desirable potential sites, investment in adjacent areas etc etc.
7. Are there any issues/themes for which we have not identified the right starting point?	Are the figures for the projected population growth absolutely accurate given the recent release of the Sub-National Populations Prediction data? Also, have you eliminated the possibility of 'double counting' with neighbouring authorities?
8. Is there any further research needed?	Has any research been undertaken into where people live in Darlington in relation to where they work in terms of percentages? This would be useful to inform transport links.
9. Do you support or object to any of the potential strategic	HPC supports town centre developments as those have immediate access to all facilities. HPC supports development at Middleton St George due to the

options...?	<p>road and rail infrastructure near the airport site.</p> <p>The notion to build a new settlement to the west of the A1 is a good suggestion as villages are desirable and existing villages would not merge into towns/large conurbations.</p> <p>The proposed sites demonstrate logical thinking due to the infrastructure being in place.</p> <p>We do not support large character-changing developments of Hurworth village as this will mean this location will lose its desirability and unique character. Moreover, villages are part of our national heritage and should be preserved.</p>
10. Any other options...?	<p>How can the Council ensure that sites with full permission are indeed brought forward by Developers?</p> <p>As a town, why couldn't we forge a strategy to support first-time buyers to access the property ladder?</p> <p>Have we considered establishing a think-tank with key stakeholders such as Handles Bank, Yorkshire Bank, Darlington Building Society etc (alongside developers) in order to renovate existing properties within the town? Such a scheme could be unique to Darlington in order to grow our town in an innovative way.</p>