

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum**  
**26 June 2018, Miners' Hall**  
**Special Meeting with AECOM Consultants**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** John Ashby, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, John Lowe, John Pacey, Angela Tracy, Ros Ward.

Alastair Peattie, and Rosie Cox from AECOM.

**Apologies:** David Miller, Matthew Phillips.

The meeting was quorate.

Roger welcomed Alastair and Rosie to the meeting and introductions were made.

**2. Discussion with AECOM Consultants**

The outline programme for the visit was agreed and the following main points were discussed:

- Issues concerning the **Lovegreen site** were identified. They included the need clarify the site boundary and the extent of it in the green belt, the need to move the electricity sub-station, and flood risks.
- **Housing need assessment:** We need to ensure that we have a robust evidence base. Locality can provide an independent assessment. We need to review our housing figures using the most up-to-date available data. We are not trying to block any DCC housing plans as most of their proposed allocations are outside our area. We are trying to identify all available and suitable sites in Our Neighbourhood. We are not including any that are in the green belt.
- **Durham University sites:** We should rely on the DCC's assessments of these sites that have been prepared for the County Plan and we should support the allocations.
- **Timescale for AECOM reports:** The site assessments have to be completed before the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) can be done. They would hope to complete the site assessment report by 10 July. The consultants will undertake the SA and we do not need to use the matrix of sustainability objectives and probing questions. They will use a narrative approach that focuses on housing allocations where the site assessments are critical. There are examples on their website. They will also prepare the environmental report and the non-technical summary. They expect to take about 2 months to prepare the SA once they have received our draft plan. We might need to consult Historic England before submitting the SA.