

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group  
3 July 2018, Miners' Hall**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

**Present:** John Ashby, Sue Childs, Roger Cornwell (Chair), John Lowe, John Pacey, Angela Tracy, Ros Ward.

**Apologies:** Pippa Bell, Ann Evans, Peter Jackson, David Miller, Matthew Phillips.

**2. Notes of 19 June 2018**

Item 8: The date of the next meeting was corrected. The notes were then agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

**3. Revision of Themes**

It was **agreed** that Theme 4 Housing would be considered on 10 July.  
Possible changes to references to the university would also be dealt with on 10 July.

Theme 5 Transport would be considered on 17 July.

It was **agreed** that we should revise the themes without being constrained by the *Preferred Options*. That was a transitional document that would change before being finalised. This approach would also help to ensure that we take full account of the responses we received during the public consultation.

If we have objections to the *Preferred Options* we can voice them in our representations in the hope that the County Plan will be amended accordingly.

**4. Revision of Theme 6 Community**

Angela had distributed 5 papers before the meeting:

**For Policy C1** Provision of Facilities for Arts and Culture:

- Revised Theme 6 Introduction with updated context for arts and culture
- Revised Policy C1 with consultation comments and deletions
- Revised Policy C1 without consultation comments and deletions
- Notes on the concept of a Whole City Approach to Arts and Culture / Creative City

**For Policy C2** Community Hub: Revised Policy C2 with consultation comments and deletions

**General Points:**

Angela noted that the vision needed amending. Sue explained that all the vision statements in the themes would be amended as previously agreed. Angela stated that it was necessary to check that the policies matched the objectives. The context needed updating. The university's cultural strategy document needs to be added to the evidence base. Sue asked that all additional evidence documents should be notified to her: **All**.

**Policy C1** Provision of Facilities for Arts and Culture: the following were **agreed**:

- There would be no specific site proposals in C1 but suggestions in the Projects.
- In C1.1 all criteria must be met, but we need to distinguish between new facilities and extensions. This clause allowed the university's ambitions for a new concert hall.
- C1.2 was not needed provided that C4 made explicit reference to the protection of facilities for arts and culture.
- C1.3 should make it clear that underused open spaces were for events not buildings and that it was a project not a policy. The reference to the use of empty shops should be included in Theme 3 Economy. C1.3 was thus not needed.
- Fowler's Yard should be an arts quarter and not designated for business, so Policy E2 would need amending (**Pippa**). A café would be permitted as an ancillary use.

It was **agreed** that we needed to check the consistency of wording for all policies with regard to the introductory words for lists of criteria: where they all required, or was it a matter of fulfilling only the applicable ones? This needed great clarity.

**Policy C2** Community Hub: the following were **agreed**:

- This was a project not a policy so C2 was not needed.
- Policy C3 would be the enabling policy for this project. This needs highlighting in the text of C3. Witham Hall in Barnard Castle constituted a model for the project.
- The Community Hub would not be a tourist information office. It would include information for residents about events in the area.
- It would not rival, but be complementary to, Visit County Durham whose value would be acknowledged.

### **Whole City Approach**

It was **agreed** that this approach to arts and culture needed significant attention when we re-write Chapter 5. The aim was to promote a creative city.

The revision of the remaining Theme 6 Community policies was postponed to a later date (**Roger**).

## **5. DCC's Preferred Options**

Theme convenors had circulated papers commenting on the possible impact of DCC's **Preferred Options** on our proposed policies. It proved a useful exercise to assist with revising the plan and also for preparing our representations. These need to be approved by the Forum in time for the deadline of 3 August. They will be considered at the Forum meeting on 24 July.

## **6. Any other business**

We need to schedule the revision of Chapter 5 and Appendix A. Colleagues' holiday arrangements made it difficult to decide. **Ros** will check with AECOM whether they need these sections of the plan to do the Sustainability Appraisal. If they do not need them, we can leave Chapter 5 until September.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 10 July at 9.00 am at **Antioch House**.