

**Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum Working Group
12 June 2018, Miners' Hall**

1. Welcome and apologies

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

Apologies: David Miller, Angela Tracy.

2. Notes of 5 June 2018

The date in the last line of item 5 was amended from 15 to 12 June. The notes were then agreed and **Sue** will post them on the website.

Matters arising:

- With reference to the first bullet point of item 3, it was emphasised that the lack of an agreed definition of “strategic” is a matter of record, not just our opinion.
- With reference to item 4, it was **agreed** that **John A** would draft the revision of the opening section of Chapter 5, *Progressing the Plan*.

3. DCC's Preferred Options

John A focussed the initial discussion on **housing issues**. It was very pleasing that DCC has accepted the new standard methodology for calculating housing need. Approximately 6000 new dwellings would be needed in the County during the plan period. The only additional housing proposals in Our Neighbourhood were about 50 houses on the former police skid pan and an unspecified number at Fern Hill. **John A** will contact AECOM about the assessment of these sites. He will also ask Carole Dillon, in accordance with the revised guidance, for the housing need figure for Our Neighbourhood. He will also ask her whether DCC will produce an executive summary for the consultation on the *Preferred Options*. And finally he will ask her for the full SA report.

There followed some discussion about whether we **need to amend any policies** in the light of the *Preferred Options*. It was noted that they have yet to be published for consultation and might still be amended themselves. It was **agreed** that **all theme convenors** should study the implications of the *Preferred Options* for their particular policies, using the mapping prepared by John L. This should be done for reporting to the working group on 3 July.

John A noted that DCC had tried hard to improve the **student accommodation** policies and these would be a third option to consider during the SA process. This “third option” possibility might apply to other policies as well and that should be made clear in the convenors’ analysis.

4. Sustainability Appraisal of Policies in Theme 1 Sustainability

There wasn't time to do this in full but we clarified various points about the process. In particular, we need a list of the various characteristics of impacts. Peter pointed out that the Non-technical Summary of the *Preferred Options* SA Report (Appendix 5 (1) in the Cabinet papers for 13 June) contains a helpful scoring system and impact characteristics. It was **agreed** that **Sue** and **John L** would meet to consider these and develop a proportionate system for our use. Everyone was happy that they understood what was required, but it will still be important to discuss the SA with the

AECOM consultants on 26 June to check that we are on the right lines.

5. Proposal for Additional Office Development on the Milburngate House Site

John L noted that he had commented on the proposal on behalf of the Sidegate Residents' Association. Their main concerns were the loss of yet more residential accommodation, further amendment to the agreed planning permission, and additional non-residential traffic using the access road from Framwellgate Peth. Additional concern was expressed about the need for another office block when several are already planned for the site. Could one of those be used instead for residential accommodation? **John A** will draft a response and John L will send him the SRA response.

6. Arrangements for AECOM Visit on 26/27 June

Ros reported that AECOM has still not submitted a work brief. **Ros** will check this with Debbie Lamb from Locality. We need to impress on them the urgency of the task and that we are the clients.

7. Any other business

Sue asked **all** to let her have any corrections or further information about **open spaces**. Her report would be on next week's agenda.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19 June following the 9.00 am Forum meeting at the Miners' Hall.