

CHAPTER 1: FOREWORD

To be added:

Words by the Member of Parliament (Roberta led the campaigns for a neighbourhood plan and for a Parish Council)

Words by Durham County Council's Leader or Portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration

Words by Chair of the City of Durham Parish Council, Cllr Elizabeth Scott

1.1 The most important feature of a neighbourhood plan is that it is prepared and agreed by local people. The work is normally carried out by a parish or town council on behalf of its local community. **In our area there is no local council at present as we are** However, until May 2018 Durham City was 'un-parished'. In order for the **local community's wish in 2012 for a neighbourhood** plan to be prepared, the County Council **has** enabled the setting up of the Durham City Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

1.2 The Forum **has** adopted the name 'Our Neighbourhood' for the area covered by the Plan, which is shown on Map 1 on page 4 (<http://npf.durhamcity.org.uk/the-plan/maps/>). **Work on the Plan began in 2014 It has taken nearly three years to prepare** and **has** provided the opportunity for continuous consultation throughout. **It is now time These consultations enabled the Forum** to find out what people who live and work in the area, and those who visit, think of the policies and proposals **in this draft as the Plan developed. The City of Durham Parish Council assumed responsibility for the Plan in 2018.**

1.3 There are four matters to be borne in mind when **reading and using assessing the content of this draft** Plan:

1. Its policies, when **agreed adopted**, will have statutory force, i.e. they will be relevant in the consideration of planning applications by the County Council, and they will need to be in compliance with the current adopted development plan, which **at the time of writing (October 2018)** is the **set of "Ssaved Ppolicies"** of the City of Durham Local Plan;
2. Quite early in the lifetime of **our the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan** a new **Statutory Llocal Pplan** - the County Durham Plan - will be adopted. **Our The Neighbourhood Plan** policies will then need to be reviewed, and if necessary changed, to bring them into compliance with this new County Durham Plan. **We will It has been possible to** seek to future-proof **our the Neighbourhood Plan** by having regard to the emerging County Plan;
3. The **Neighbourhood Plan** should be read as a whole - the planning policies all relate to one another even though they appear under different themes, so common aspects only appear in one policy to avoid repetition;
4. **Our The Neighbourhood Plan occupies Part A of this document; Part B** presents an opportunity go beyond the planning policies in identifying the actions needed by statutory, community and other bodies to achieve the vision and objectives of the **pPlan**.

1.4 **We It is hoped that many people will take the opportunity to contribute to making our the Durham City Neighbourhood Plan one which is proves to be** effective and truly representative of the wishes of local people for a sustainable future for this beautiful and historic city.