

**BARNARD CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**18 FEBRUARY 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Moorhouse (Town Mayor) (in the Chair); Councillors Blissett; Miss Blissett, Harrison, Peat and Sutherland.

**Also in attendance:** One member of the press.

**Officers:** Mr King (Town Clerk) and Mrs Woodward (Deputy Town Clerk)

**95. ACCEPTANCE, OR OTHERWISE, OF APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Child, Kirkbride, Chatterjee and Mrs Thompson. It was also reported that former Councillor Raw's resignation had been received.

**Resolved** – That the information be noted and the apologies be accepted.

**96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with this Council's adopted Code of Conduct (Minute 10/May/18 refers), Members were asked whether they had any personal, pecuniary or prejudicial interests in any matter on the agenda and, if so, to declare those interests at this point of the meeting. Members were reminded that a declaration could be given later in the meeting if a need arose during discussion.

**97. COUNTY DURHAM PLAN – PRE-SUBMISSION DRAFT 2019**

Received – a report seeking approval for a response to the County Durham Plan – Pre-Submission Draft consultation, to be made before the deadline of 4.30pm on Friday 8 March 2019.

Members were reminded that the need for a new County Durham Plan originally arose when the county wide unitary council was established on 1 April 2009 to replace the former county council and the seven district councils. Following public inspection of the plan in early 2015, the draft plan was withdrawn. Durham County Council (DCC) restarted the structural planning process with an assessment of the 'Issues and Options' in the summer of 2016. The Preferred Options Draft was subsequently considered by the town council in July 2018. The Pre-Submission Draft of the plan was published on 24 January 2019.

The consultation draft plan was available via the DCC website <http://durhamcc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/presub>

This was the third and final stage of consultation on the County Durham Plan, which would provide the policy framework for the county to support the development of a thriving economy, which the county council contended would ensure that residents could experience the benefits that ensued as a result. The Plan had been prepared in accordance with the most up-to-date National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) published in 2018.

One of the key factors in the plan was the allocation of housing across the county of Durham up to 2035. This version of the plan had reduced the allocation of housing (most notably in West Durham) as a result of the revised NPPF.

Comments made on previous plans were circulated (preferred options draft plan in November 2012; pre-submission draft local plan in December 2013; issues and options draft plan in July 2016; and second preferred options draft plan in July 2018).

The town council's submission to the 'Preferred Options' draft plan in July 2018 was circulated for discussion, annotated to show what (if any) changes had resulted in the latest draft.

Comments on the current draft were formulated in response to the 'soundness' of the plan i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective, consistent with National Policy and legally compliant.

Recommended responses were set out to five areas of the plan which remained unaddressed: (Policy 2 Employment Land – Employment Allocations; Policy 4 Housing Allocations; Policy 9 Retail Hierarchy and Town Centre Development; Policy 24 Allocating and Safeguarding Transport Routes and Facilities; and Policy 30 Sustainable Design), based on earlier submissions, for the approval of full council.

**Resolved** – (a) That a proposed consultation response on the County Durham Plan – Pre-Submission Draft 2019, be approved and submitted via Durham County Council's on-line portal; and

(b) That a formal approach be made to Visit County Durham to seek replacement or revision of the 'Town Tourism Plan' for Barnard Castle which is a component of the Durham Tourism Management Plan.