



# Another step forward for the new Local Plan

**Over the summer, we heard from local residents, businesses, potential developers and others about how they think Darlington should grow over the next 20 years and what sites they think could be used for new development.**

The recent consultation on Strategic Issues and Options has now finished. The views you expressed are being considered to help finalise the vision, aims and objectives of the Local Plan. A new local plan is vital to ensure Darlington continues to thrive and provide a great place to live for its growing population.

Popular issues raised in the consultation were the amount of new housing that is being planned and whether the economic growth forecast is likely to materialise. The forecasts of future growth are aspirational, but realistic, because new employment sectors and housing are already appearing.

Concerns were also raised about the ability of the highway network and other infrastructure to cope with the level of growth. Environmental issues were raised; how we will ensure that the Borough's distinctive flora and fauna is allowed to flourish, and that existing green spaces and countryside are protected. Work will be carried

out to ensure that we understand the impacts and can identify improvements.

In response to the call for housing sites, more than 30 potential sites were put forward. Over the coming months, information will be collected to find out which ones could be used to reach the target of 10,000 new homes by 2036. This target includes homes that are already being built and those that have been given approval such as West Park Garden Village and Central Park.

Visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/localplan) to find out more about what others have said, and keep up to date with what's happening, including when key meetings are taking place and the next opportunity to comment.

## **Central Park: a prime example**

The growing Central Park neighbourhood already includes the National Biologics Manufacturing Centre, the popular Business Central and 108 homes so far. Further housing and development is planned for the brownfield site, and Keepmoat figures show that 84 per cent of the labour comes from within 30 miles of Darlington. The development is providing homes and employment in a sustainable way.