

Online comment received 12/9 from Phil Wood, Hurworth

Para 3.2 Ageing population – accessibility and economic provision of services. Smaller dwellings will be key issues to meet needs. An assessment of the service needs and relative costs needs to be included. With the majority of the current population in the Urban area alongside the ageing population the need for additional housing is primarily in that urban area.

Para 3.3 This emphasise the comment above (3.2) The positioning and mix of developments to take account of these issues will be fundamental to the assessment.

Para 3.4 The links with the A1(M) depend on which part of the borough is referred to as Northbound access from the east is arduous and affects how people organise their lives. The sustainability of the current Town Centre will require consideration of how it might look by 2036. Sustainability assessments will need to include how the plan will deliver a sustainable town centre in the face of accelerating changes in shopping habits. Those Market Towns which appear to be successful have moved towards being a place to visit more than a place to shop.

Para 3.7 The plan should identify how economic growth is to be stimulated, apart from simply providing space or providing buildings, and how it will affect better education and health provision including both the quality and cost.

Para 4.4 Table 1 By the time the local plan is complete The UK will no longer be in the EU and an assessment as to how this might affect current predictions and requirements needs to be considered.

Para 4.5 Table 2 If Education, Health/Social Care, Police plans and needs are not covered in these reports then they need to be included separately .

Para 4.7 Table 3 As in 4.5 Economic and quality issues as referred to in Para 3.3 do not appear to have been included. 87 % of the population live in the urban area and are likely to provide the greatest demand for additional housing and would logically be the key to meeting national targets rather than focusing on smaller areas. The demands of developers to build in villages are not to provide affordable housing and such housing will only be provided by the public sector funding. Providing additional Housing, including aspirational housing, close to the Town Centre will provide greater numbers and more impact on economic development than a rural focus.

Para 5.3 Figure 1 It is not clear why, in this matrix, all items do not have an effect on all the others.