

## Comment

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Event Name	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Regulation 19)
Comment by	Bishop Auckland Cycling Club (Mr Richard Cowen - 1250729)
Comment ID	DBLPPS62
Response Date	10/09/20 09:38
Consultation Point	Policy IN 2 Improving Access and Accessibility (Strategic Policy) ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Processed
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.5
Question 1b	
Do you consider that the Local Plan sound?	No

### Question 2

Do you consider that this part of the Local Plan is  Effective  
unsound because it is not: (tick all that apply)

### Question 3a

#### Your Comments

Please give details of why you consider that this part of the Local Plan is not legally compliant or unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to Cooperate.

While the Club welcomes this Policy, we believe there are shortcomings to it.

We would certainly want all provisions in this Policy to remain and acknowledge that it provides a framework rather than details. However, we represent that the following issues also need to be considered

1) The Policy correctly identifies safety as an issue for cyclists. If people do not see cycling as being "safe", they will not take it up. Clearly, the safest cycle routes are off road and we accept that there

are many such routes in Darlington. However, there does not appear to be any provision to describe how cycleways will be made safe.

2) Policy IN1 refers to the Tees Valley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan but this does not give details as to how cycling will be made safer

3) There should therefore either be a supplementary document to address how cycling provision will be made or reference to one of the recognised plans already in place which make provision for cycling, such as the London Cycling Design Standards. In particular, methods of separating cycle lanes from motorised vehicles and priority for cyclists at traffic lights need to be addressed.

For example, if the development at Conniscliffe for 1500 houses should proceed, the cycle infrastructure along the A67 needs considerable extension and improvement to encourage residents from this estate to cycle into the town centre. There needs to be some description as to how this infrastructure would be provided in a way that is attractive and safe for new residents.

4) We welcome point e) of Policy IN2 but are concerned about the words "where possible" in relation to changing facilities. We represent that this allows too much freedom to avoid this requirement. If people are to be encouraged to cycle to work, it is essential that proper changing facilities are provided for them.

#### Question 4

##### Changes Sought

*Please Note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. There is the opportunity to attach Word or PDF files before submitting your comment.*

**After this stage, further submissions will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues identified for examination.**

**Please set out what change(s) to the Local Plan you consider necessary to make it legally compliant or sound. You will need to say why this change will make the Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording for any policy or text.**

As stated above, reference to some detail as to how cycle routes will be improved, extended and made safe

Greater clarity as to when changing facilities are provided at places of employment

#### Question 5

##### Attendance at Examination Hearings

**If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate in the examination hearings?** Yes, I wish to participate at the examination hearings

##### Question 5a

##### Participation at Examination Hearings

*Please note the inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the examination hearings.*

**If you wish to participate at the examination hearings, please outline why you consider it to be necessary?**

If suitable provision is made in the submission document to cover the above points, then this is not necessary. However, if they are not included, then it may be necessary to attend to explain why these changes to the document are being sought.

**Question 6**

**Do you request to be notified that the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 22(3) of the regulations and to be notified of the adoption of the Local Plan?**

Yes, I request to be notified