

## Comment

<b>Consultee</b>	Mrs Margaret Moyes (1170346)
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
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<b>Event Name</b>	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Reg. 19) Sustainability Appraisal
<b>Comment by</b>	Mrs Margaret Moyes (1170346)
<b>Comment ID</b>	DBLPSA13
<b>Response Date</b>	16/09/20 09:08
<b>Consultation Point</b>	Sustainability Appraisal - Publication August 2020 ( <a href="#">View</a> )
<b>Status</b>	Processed
<b>Submission Type</b>	Web
<b>Version</b>	0.4
<b>Nature of response</b>	
<b>Do you agree with this content?</b>	Object

### Please tell us why

The plan is not sound for the following reasons:

1. The Housing requirements are exaggerated. The plan proposes several thousand more new homes than are needed. Housing numbers from the govt. ONS state that approx. 177 homes need to be built each year whereas DBC using their own consultant put the number at approx.433. The population of the town has been reduced by the fact that many East Europeans who lived and worked here have returned to their own countries and will be further reduced by the Europe wide falling birth rate.

2. All options have not been fully considered.

Greenfield sites seem to be the first choice for housing development whereas the town is in dire need of the regeneration of the town centre and in particular the town centre fringe which is run down and unsightly. Brownfield sites here have not been considered yet they would be suitable for the affordable and social housing which is needed far more than housing three miles away on the outskirts. This would bring people back into the centre without the need for transport and thus cut carbon emissions.

3. The plan fails to consider existing environmental assets. Losing swathes of countryside to housing is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the population. Footpaths used by many for recreation will be lost. Large allocations of greenfield land for housing should be removed from the plan.

See separate comment on Skerningham

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<b>Event Name</b>	Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 (Reg. 19) Sustainability Appraisal
<b>Comment by</b>	Mrs Margaret Moyes (1170346)
<b>Comment ID</b>	DBLPSA16
<b>Response Date</b>	16/09/20 15:22
<b>Consultation Point</b>	Strategic Development Option 2: North and North East Darlington ( <a href="#">View</a> )
<b>Status</b>	Processed
<b>Submission Type</b>	Web
<b>Version</b>	0.5
<b>Nature of response</b>	
<b>Do you agree with this content?</b>	Object

### Please tell us why

The skerningham Development goes against several of DBC's sustainability objectives:

**1.9 (3)** Improve health and wellbeing of all and promote healthier lifestyles. Skerningham provides the people of Darlington with the largest area of accessible quality countryside available to them. It has many footpaths and is well used for recreation by walkers and cyclists. In the past it has been used for sponsored walks by national charities such as Diabetes UK. It features prominently in DBC's own publications such as "Walk the Darlington Way", "Walks Around Darlington" and "Exploring Skerningham Country".

**1.9 (7)** Provide development which reduces reliance on private vehicles. Low density urban sprawl will generate high carbon emissions. Residents will need to drive either into town on already congested roads or are more likely to travel to Teessie Park or Newton Aycliffe for shopping, longer but much less congested journeys.

**1.9 (13)** Protect and enhance biodiversity. Far from protecting biodiversity the plan will damage it for future generations with the loss of woodland, hedgerows, flora and fauna. There have been no site investigations and therefore no information regarding existing flora and fauna which is likely to include red and amber listed species and broad leafed woodland including rare black poplars. The river Skerne which runs through Skerningham is part of the Bright Water project implemented by Durham Wildlife Trust to regenerate the whole of the Skerne river with funding from the National lottery. Durham Wildlife Trust have not been informed about the Skerningham development.

This site should be removed from the Local Plan.

It is the most scenic part of the town's urban fringe and together with sites 252,049 and 088 which are on the west side of the A167 it