

Response to Inspector's Matters Issues & Questions on Darlington Local Plan

Matter 3 – Vision, aims, objectives and spatial strategy

Q 3.2 and Q 3.3 - No the settlement hierarchy is not well evidenced and housing allocations are clearly not proportionate to the need in those areas, resulting in overwhelm of service villages and other small village sites. Development should instead be prioritised to redevelop the large areas of urban brownfield sites that Darlington has in its Town Centre Fringe.

Q 3.4 - No, development limits often take in whole areas despite less than 45% of it in Skertingham for example being used for housing. The development limit should be defined as the edge of the housing allocation within the site so as not to damage existing habitat, landscape, or allow excess urban sprawl without justification.