

Statement of Representations Procedure and availability of documents

Darlington Borough Local Plan

Proposed Submission Local Plan
2016 - 2036

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) – Regulation 19

What are we doing? - The Council is inviting comments, known as representations, on the Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 Proposed Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19) document. This statement sets out how and by when to make such representations, how to express interest in appearing at the Examination in Public, as well as where to find the proposed submission documents and supporting evidence.

What is the Local Plan? - Darlington Borough Council has prepared a Proposed Submission Local Plan 2016- 2036 which will be the framework for growth, provide strategic and non-strategic policies to help determine planning applications and allocate sites to achieve the development requirements of the Borough over the plan period.

Where does the Local Plan cover? - The Local Plan when adopted will apply across all of the Darlington Borough.

Where can I view the document? – During the representations period a copy of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal will be available for inspection on the Council's consultation portal:

<https://darlington-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>

The supporting evidence documents are available for inspection online at:

<https://microsites.darlington.gov.uk/local-plan/document-library/>

Due to the current restrictions paper copies of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal can be viewed **strictly by appointment only between the hours of 10.00 and 15.00** at the Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT.

Appointments must be booked 24 hours prior to attending the Town Hall to view the documents. Bookings will be in hour slots (if you feel you may need longer you can book a longer slot or additional slots at a different time. It is important that you turn up in time for your booking or you may be refused entry and will need to rebook). **Bookings can be made by contacting the Planning Policy team on either 01325 406724 or by email at planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk.** You will have to provide your full name, address and contact number when making a booking for Track and Trace purposes. You will be asked about Coronavirus symptoms when booking an appointment, and when entering the building – please do not attend if you have symptoms.

On arrival for an appointment you will be met by a member of the planning staff and shown to a private room which is regularly cleaned, when you have finished you will be escorted out of the building.

When can I comment? – The representation period runs from **Thursday 6 August 2020 to 5 pm on Thursday 17 September 2020.**

Any representations received after this date will not be considered. Only representations received within the representations period have a statutory right to be considered by the Inspector at the Examination.



Where can I comment? – The Council encourages representations on the content of the Proposed Submission Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal to be submitted electronically at:

<https://darlington-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>

Alternatively, representations can be returned by:

Email to: planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk

Post to: Planning Policy, Darlington Borough Council, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

The Council would encourage those responding by email and post to use the comments form available at:

<https://microsites.darlington.gov.uk/local-plan/>

What can I comment on? - This final consultation stage on the Darlington Local Plan prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in Public is your chance to make representations on whether the Proposed Submission Local Plan is legally compliant (has been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation) and whether it is 'sound' i.e. positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Representations are required to set out how they relate to 'Soundness' and 'Legal Compliance'

How can I participate in the Examination and be notified of progress on the Local Plan?

By using the consultation portal or the comments form you can request to participate in the Examination in Public and be notified of any of the following:

- The submission of the Local Plan for examination
- The publication of the Inspectors recommendations/ report of the examination of the Local Plan
- The adoption of the Local Plan

If you choose not to submit representations using the consultation portal or the comments form, you must specifically request if you wish to participate in the Examination and be kept informed of the progress of the Local Plan at any of the stages outlined above.

What happens to the Representations? – Representations made will be submitted to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate along with all proposed submission documents and considered as part of the Examination in Public by the Planning Inspector.

The Council is aiming to complete the submission by December 2020.

Further Information – For further information please contact the Planning Policy Team by:

Email: planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk or **Phone:** 01325 406724