

**Kirklees Council:  
Local Plan 'Call for  
Sites'**

**DLP BRIEFING NOTE 158**

Prepared by  
**DLP Planning Consultants**

April 2014

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## **Introduction**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 Kirklees Council withdrew its Core Strategy following initial feedback from the Planning Inspectorate. It is now the Council's intention to produce a Local Plan with a 'Call for Sites' and Early Engagement Consultation ending on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This represents an important opportunity to promote new and previously considered sites for allocation in the new Local Plan.

## **Background**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 Kirklees Council submitted their Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for formal examination. In the Core Strategy, the Council proposed a housing requirement of 22,470 for the period 2010-2028. The revoked Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) previously set a housing requirement of 30,600 for the period 2004-2026. The Council considered the significantly reduced housing requirement in the Core Strategy to be consistent with the Government's localism agenda.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013 the Planning Inspectorate; Mr Roland Punshon, wrote to the Council over concerns with *'the content of the Core Strategy, the process by which it has been prepared and documentation which supports it'*. The Inspector outlined that the Council had not fulfilled the 'duty to co-operate' as Kirklees has been identified as an isolated housing market. The Inspector recommended that the Core Strategy be withdrawn until the duty to co-operate can be fully demonstrated. Kirklees Council subsequently withdrew the Core Strategy.

The latest Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the period 2012/2013 confirmed that the Council currently has 2.45 years supply of housing; this is significantly below the requirement set out at paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework. We anticipate that the new Local Plan will set out an increased housing requirement and this will require the identification of more sites to meet the housing need; including those currently within the Green Belt.

## **The Local Plan: 'Call for Sites' and Early Engagement**

The new Local Plan will set out how the District will develop over the next 15-20 years and will identify specific sites for development including housing and employment land. The Local Plan will need to be robust and based upon up-to-date evidence.

The Council is currently accepting sites and representations via the 'Call for Sites' and Early Engagement Consultation which ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The 'Call for Sites' is an opportunity to promote sites for allocation in the new Local Plan. The Council is also requesting feedback on the vision, objectives and relevant content of the Local Plan via a series of questionnaires.

Moving forward the Council will be undertaking a Green Belt Review which will consider releasing sites submitted as part of the current round of consultation. This could indeed lead to the release of land from the Green Belt to accommodate the identified housing requirement.

It is therefore important that any representation made to the Council establishes what the housing requirement should be and assesses a sites availability, suitability and achievability. For those sites within the Green Belt it is also necessary to evaluate the role and importance of the site as part of the Green Belt.

## **DLP Planning Consultants – Strategic Planning Research Unit (SPRU)**

In promoting a specific site for allocation, it is essential that the case is supported by a robust assessment of the housing need for the plan period. DLP's Strategic Planning Research Unit (SPRU) is highly experienced at critically examining the evidence base for Local Plans and producing their own independent objectives assessment of housing need.

If you require more information or would like to discuss the promotion of land through the Local Plan process please contact one of our offices listed on the following page.

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