



Masterplans seek to enhance County Durham communities

A series of masterplans to enhance the vibrancy of County Durham communities was discussed by councillors at Cabinet on Wednesday 17 November.

Durham County Council has prepared draft masterplans for Newton Aycliffe, Peterlee, Stanley, and Crook, Willington and Tow Law, as part of its Towns and Villages programme. Together with a new regeneration framework for Durham City and an updated version of the Chester-le-Street Masterplan, the documents set out projects aimed at boosting the prosperity of each location for generations to come.

From improving transport links and infrastructure, including creating new pedestrian and cycle routes; to enhancing leisure facilities, repurposing vacant buildings, expanding employment sites, installing free town centre Wi-Fi, and exploring opportunities to provide more housing – both public and private sector projects are included.

Durham County Council has been preparing masterplans for larger towns in the county for a number of years, as part of its commitment to regeneration and attracting investment.

The next round of masterplans has been brought forward to support future funding bids and the region's recovery from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

We are also consulting on a masterplan for land at Sniperley Park, an allocation for a sustainable urban extension to deliver 1,700 new homes along with associated services and facilities to create a vibrant and self-sustaining mixed community.

A public consultation will take place on the masterplans for all of the towns from Monday 29 November to Friday 14 January next year.

Following the consultation, the final masterplans will support the council and its partners to bid for funding, providing a strategic overview of regeneration plans for the area.

To find out more about public consultation events, and to read and comment on the documents please visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultation or please call: **03000 267335** or **03000 261908** or **03000 263967**.