

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Constituent

June 2020

Thank you for your email raising your concerns about the Local Plan.

I recognise that the Local Plan is a matter which has evoked strong views across Darlington as the scope of the plan sets out the basis for long lasting changes to the landscape of our town.

Darlington Borough Council's Local Plan sets out an ambitious strategy for continued growth and business expansion, along with the allocation of land for housing developments, which is integral in contributing to the long-term progression in our town.

Setting out a local plan and submitting the proposal to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is key to retaining democratic oversight of Darlington's future development. The Local Plan will ensure developers are compelled to progress their developments in accordance with the strategy of Darlington Borough Council, which takes into account infrastructure and service considerations. Without a local plan in place Local Planning Authorities are severely restricted in how they can limit developments and risk facing legal challenges when they wish to do so.

The removal of the road through Springfield Park from the original draft of the Local Plan by Darlington Borough Council has removed a key concern that I shared with local residents.

I believe that adopting a local plan is in the best interests of the town and I look forward to the outcome of the consultation.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

PETER GIBSON MP

*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

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