

Horden Parish Council

Horden Social Welfare Centre
Seventh Street
Horden, County Durham
SR8 4LX
Tel: 0191 518 0823

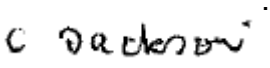
26 June 2026

Dear Member

You are summoned to attend the Horden Parish Council Meeting to be held in Horden Social Welfare Centre, Seventh Street, Horden on Thursday 2 July 2026 at 6pm.

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL ORDER OF BUSINESS **Meeting to be held 2 July 2026**

1. **Apologies for Absence** – to consider for approval.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – to receive declarations of interest from Members on items of the agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct.
3. **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 4 June 2026 (enclosed)** – to consider for approval.
4. **Public Participation** – to receive any representations or questions from the public in accordance with standing orders 3 e-g. ***Members of the Public are invited to address the Parish Council on matters relating to the agenda for up to 3 minutes per person during a period not exceeding 20 minutes.***
5. **Register of Delegated Decisions** – to note there are no additional decisions to approve.
6. **Damage and Incident Report (enclosed)** – to note no report to consider.
7. **Cemetery Burial and Income Report 25/05/26 –21/06/26 (enclosed)** – to receive the information.
8. **County Councillor Update** – to receive the information.
9. **Cash Withdrawals and Debit Card Transactions (enclosed)** – to approve report.
10. **Bank Transfer(s)** – to approve any transfer(s).
11. **Invoices for endorsement for payment (enclosed)** – to approve for payment.
12. **Members/Officers Allowances** – to consider any claims for approval.
13. **Participation Allowances** – to consider any underspend in accordance with council policies.
14. **Councillor Gifts** – Request from Councillor W Morrow.
15. **Memorial Rights Only Deeds** – to consider report.
16. **Durham County Council Consultations**
 - a) **DDC Selective Licencing Consultation** – to consider a response.
 - b) **County Durham Plan Scoping Consultation** – to consider a response.


Colin Jackson
Clerk to the Council
26 June 2026

To: All Members of Horden Parish Council/cc Public Notice

HORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held 4 June 2026

- Present:** Councillor W Morrow (Chairman)
 Councillors T Baldasera, C Cain, E Laing, C Robson, T Usher, J Ward, G Wetherell,
 F Winrow, R Bagnall, D Bellingham and F Leadbitter.
- Staff:** Mr C Jackson (Clerk to the Council) and Miss B Howarth (Assistant Clerk)
- HPC**
26/27/034 **Apologies for Absence**
RESOLVED: That apologies be **ACCEPTED** for Councillor C Armstrong, Apologies were conveyed to Officers for Councillor D Tait but not brought to the meeting.
- HPC**
26/27/035 **Declarations of Interest**
 No declarations of interest were made.
- HPC**
26/27/036 **Minutes of the Horden Parish Council Meeting held 7 May 2026**
RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- HPC**
26/27/037 **Public Participation**
 No members of the Public were present.
- HPC**
26/27/038 **Register of Delegated Decisions**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** there are no additional decisions to approve.
- HPC**
26/27/039 **Damage and Incident Report**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report.
- HPC**
26/27/040 **Cemetery Burial and Income Report April to May 2026**
RESOLVED: Council **RECIEVE** the information.
- HPC**
26/27/041 **County Council Update**
RESOLVED: Council **NOTE** the report.
- HPC**
26/27/042 **Cash Withdrawal and Debit Card Transactions.**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the debit card transactions totalling £50.00.
- HPC**
26/27/043 **Bank Transfer(s)**
 The Clerk stated that £60,000 was transferred from the CCLA account to the Current account.
RESOLVED: Council **ENDORSE** the transfer from the CCLA account to the Current account.
- HPC**
26/27/044 **Invoices for endorsement for Payment**
RESOLVED: Council **ENDORSE** payment of the attached schedule of invoices plus additional schedule totalling £41,927.36. Councillors F Leadbitter and W Morrow to authorise.
- HPC**
26/27/045 **Members/Officers Allowances**
 The Clerk advised that Members Participaction Allowances for 2026/27 would be processed on the last Monday in June, to all Members who did not notify in writing not to receive them. Payment will be made the following Thursday.
RESOLVED: Council to **NOTE** the information.
- HPC**
26/27/046 **IT Policy**
RESOLVED: Council **APPROVE** the IT policy.

Annual Governance & Accountability ReturnHPC
26/27/047**a) Internal Auditors Report****RESOLVED:** Council **RECEIVE** the information and **NOTE** recommendation 1:

1. To avoid any ambiguity the councils Standing Orders could, although not required, be amended to show the financial purchase limits shown in its Financial Regulations. This will ensure that consistent values are in place for the acquisition of all purchases between Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Council **APPROVE** recommendation 2:

2. Should undertake a data audit as soon as practicable to ensure future compliance with section O of the internal audit report and assertion 10 of the AGAR governance statement.

3. Should prepare and approve and IT policy.

Council **AGREE** to consider an action plan to take these recommendations into account.HPC
26/27/048**b) Annual Governance Statement**

The Clerk to the Council took Members through the required statements, advising of the Council's processes and procedures which would allow them to be assured in responding yes.

1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

3. We have assured ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business manage its finances.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

9. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee, we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.

RESOLVED: Council responded Yes to this statement.

10. We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during practices during the year under review.

RESOLVED: Council responded No to this statement. However, the council **NOTE** that the IT Policy has now been approved and the data roadmap has been completed.HPC
26/27/049**c) Annual Accounting Statements****RESOLVED:** that Council **APPROVE** the Annual Accounting Statements for 2025/26 to be signed by the Chairman with the minute reference being inserted once minutes are produced.HPC
26/27/050**Notification of Dates for Electors' Rights****RESOLVED:** that Council **APPROVE** the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights.

HPC Earmarked Reserves
26/27/051 **RESOLVED:** Council **APPROVE** the allocation of Earmarked Reserves.

HPC Thorpe Road Cemetery Teddy Bear SMILE Memorial Area
26/27/052 **RESOLVED:** Council **NOTE** the date.

HPC Sunderland Road Catering Van
26/27/053 **RESOLVED:** Council **ADVISED** the Clerk to contact the individual and deal with the query.

Meeting concluded at 6:32pm.

Hornden Parish Council Invoices for Payment May 2026

SUPPLIER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	Pay Ref:
A1 Trophies & Engraving	26.05.26	Engraving Chain of Office and Laminate Strip	£18.00	BACS
Amazon	01.06.26	Toilet Paper - SWC	£28.99	BACS
Amazon	01.06.26	Multisurface Polish - SWC	£9.79	BACS
Amazon	31.05.26	Vinyl Gloves, Hand Towels and Paddington Bear	£49.80	BACS
Co-operative Bank	01.06.26	BACS/FD Online Fees - May 2026	£69.28	D/D
Culligan (UK) Limited	18.05.26	Water Cooler Rental & Service - May 2026	£34.20	D/D
Durham County Council	14.05.26 RCVD 27.05..26	Building Compliance Charges SWC Lift and Boiler 2026/2027	£889.36	BACS
East Durham College	08.05.26	Employer Contribution - AL	£300.00	BACS
Grounds Management Association	01.05.26	Membership 31/05/2026 - 30/05/2027	£196.00	BACS
Wilf Husband	30.04.26	Top Soil	£420.00	BACS
Hutton Fire Protection Limited	28.05.26	Various Works Memorial Park, Sunderland Road and Cemetery	£264.00	BACS
ITC Service Limited	31.05.26	Unifi Security & Office 365 Officers & Domain/Hosting/Estate Management & 365 Backup - June 2026	£462.61	D/D
Magnum Cleaning Services	18.05.26	Window Cleaning - SWC	£45.00	BACS
Microshade Business Consultants Ltd	01.05.26	Hosted Application Service - Rialtas - May 2026	£215.76	BACS
MKM BS (Peterlee) Limited	27.05.26	Plywood Sheets - Cemetery	£133.03	BACS
Moorepay Limited	29.05.26	Payroll	£78.68	BACS
Network Rail	14.05.26	Station Road Water Pipe Rent 24/06/2026 - 23/06/2027	£52.19	BACS
Octopus Energy	12.05.26	Cemetery Lodge Gas & Electricity 13/04/2026 - 11/05/2026	£24.71	D/D
Octopus Energy	12.05.26	Welfare House Gas & Electricity 14/04/2026 - 11/05/2026	£26.67	D/D
PHS Group (was Citron Hygiene UK Limited)	21.05.26	Fuel Surcharge	£5.04	BACS
Pirtek Cleveland	28.05.26	Cemetery Tractor Repairs	£298.91	BACS
Playsafety Limited (RoSPA)	02.06.26	Annual Playground Inspections	£475.20	BACS
PPL PRS Limited	18.05.26	Music Licence 13.02.2026-12.02.2027 - SWC	£163.15	BACS
Scott Memorials of Distinction	22.05.26	Balance Memorial Stone Teddy Bear Memorial	£485.00	BACS
Scottish Power	06.05.26	SWC Gas 02/04/2026 - 06/05/2026	£747.11	D/D
Scottish Power	06.05.26	Cemetery Electricity 02/04/2026 - 06/05/2026	£44.64	D/D

Scottish Power	06.05.26	Memorial Park Electricity 02/04/2026 - 06/05/2026	£32.43	D/D
Screwfix	20.05.26	Fire Exit Signs	£35.94	BACS
Select Telecom Limited	30.04.26 RCVD 12.05.26	Admin Phone Lines/Calls/Internet - May 2026	£171.80	D/D
Shoreline Fire Compliance Limited	02.06.26	Service Intruder Alarm - Memorial Park	£72.00	BACS
Shoreline Fire Compliance Limited	02.06.26	Bi-Annual Service Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting - Memorial Park	£120.00	BACS
Shoreline Fire Compliance Limited	02.06.26	Bi-Annual Service Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting - SWC	£120.00	BACS
Shoreline Fire Compliance Limited	02.06.26	Bi-Annual Service Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting - Sunderland Road	£120.00	BACS
Treasured Memories Limited	26.05.26	Memorial Plaque - LJ&R J	£136.02	BACS
Vodafone	20.05.26	Mobile Phones	£49.00	D/D
Wex	18.05.26	Equipment Fuel	£93.89	D/D
Wex	31.05.26	Vehicle Trackers	£14.40	D/D
OTHER PAYMENTS				
Co-op Bank	07.05.26	Wages Week 5	£5,172.25	BACS
Co-op Bank	14.05.26	Wages Week 6	£5,197.54	BACS
Co-op Bank	21.05.26	Wages Week 7	£5,158.45	BACS
Co-op Bank	28.05.26	Wages Week 8	£5,157.85	BACS
Durham County Council	02.06.26	Superannuation Weeks 5 - 9	£6,751.85	BACS
HMRC	02.06.26	PAYE Weeks 5 - 9	£7,986.82	BACS
		Hornden Parish Council MAY 2026 TOTAL	£41,927.36	

Thorpe Road Cemetery Report 25.05.2026 to 21.06.2026

INTERMENT (inc. Ashes)			
PLOT	DETAIL	RESIDENT	FEE
S26	FULL BURIAL	YES	£355.00
N56	FULL BURIAL	YES	£355.00
G236A	FULL BURIAL	YES	£355.00
		TOTAL	£1,065.00

PURCHASE OF PLOT - EXCLUSIVE RIGHT			
PLOT	DETAIL	RESIDENT	FEE
S26	NEW PURCHASE	YES	£355.00
		TOTAL	£355.00

SUPPLY OF IMMOVABLE MEMORIAL			
PLOT	DETAIL	RESIDENT	FEE
GARDEN D 80	NEW MEMORIAL & KERBS	YES	£240
S18	NEW MEMORIAL	YES	£120
G637	REPLACEMENT & KERBS	YES	£150
G638	NEW MEMORIAL & KERBS	NO	£560
L150	NEW MEMORIAL	YES	£120
G368B	NEW MEMORIAL	YES	£120
N33	ADD INSCRIPTION	YES	£75
GARDEN D 53	ADD INSCRIPTION	YES	£75
N56	ADD INSCRIPTION	YES	£75
		TOTAL	£1,535.00

SUPPLY OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE			FEE
		TOTAL	£0.00

MISCELLANEOUS			FEE
		TOTAL	£0.00
		TOTAL INCOME	£2,955.00

Horden Parish Council 13
25 Jun 2026

County Councillor Report

1. Community Progress

Throughout Jun there have been many meetings with council officers and directors to make progress on matters relating to Horden such as allotments and the cockerel ban. On allotments, officers have been requested to develop a risk mitigation strategy linked to transferring council control to associations. This is to protect our tenants and the council from a huge financial impact in the future. In addition, the cockerel ban is being addressed so that we are meeting national legislation and preventing an all out cull which is wholly unnecessary.

I am expecting to sign off the Local Networks ToRs when they are presented to me on 2 Jul. I have been through the prepared Governance documentation that will be front loaded into the process so that, starting Sep 26 grants can be applied for; there is currently £190k per LN of which there are 12. This will become £90k PFY.

2. Local Matters

A D-day celebration at Horden Comrades was a great success and this week as a mark of AFD, a visit to The Story was arranged with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Co Durham in attendance. Also, a meeting with East Durham Veterans Trust was arranged where it was discussed that regular support for veterans in Horden could be provided.

As a board member for 2 Pride in Place committees, Crook and Peterlee East I was delighted to learn that the boundary line for Peterlee East is going to incorporate a greater area of Horden. These areas are chosen around population and bringing in a bigger area of Horden will help to increase the provision for our village.

3. HYCC/Robinson House

The notice to quit from previous Trustees at HYCC will expire at the end of Oct. At this time the building can be transferred, and it is hoped that a consortium of support will team together so that this can become a viable success, especially for the young people of Horden and perhaps Nursery provision.

The Director of Adult Services has made attempts to gain information on the consultation of Robinson House. Across the county accommodation such as this is rare, especially in East Durham. He will inform me when he has made contact with Believe, who own the building so that we can support residents if required.

4. Master Plan

An oral court hearing to discuss the 2 remaining points contested is planned for 7 Sep 26. The cost to the council (tax payer) is currently around 13.5k and this is expected to double.

(Electronically Signed)

Cllr Dawn Bellingham
Horden and Dene House

Cash Withdrawals & Debit Card Transactions:

28/05/2026 – DVLA – Car Tax NJ22 YBO – CJ - £230.00

10/06/2026 - Cash Withdrawal – Petty Cash – CJ - £50.00

TOTAL £280.00

Horden Parish Council Invoices for Payment June 2026

SUPPLIER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	Pay Ref:
Amazon	15.06.26	Outdoor Ashtray - SWC, Bulk Bag Sweets & Sweet Bags - Teddy Bear's Picnic	£54.45	BACS
Big Science UK (Neil Harrison)	09.06.26	Big Science Show	£300.00	BACS
CN 24Hour Locksmith (C Naylor)	20.06.26	Fire Door Closer and Boiler Room Door - SWC	£250.00	BACS
Corona Energy	16.06.26	CREDIT - Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/04/2026 - 30/04/2026	-£157.30	CREDIT
Corona Energy	16.06.26	Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/04/2026 - 30/04/2026 - RECHARGE	£143.19	D/D
Corona Energy	16.06.26	Sunderland Road Pavilion Electricity 01/05/2026 - 31/05/2026	£136.37	D/D
Crazy Creatures (J Morris)	10.06.26	Petting Zoo 29/07/2026	£240.00	BACS
Creative Youth Opportunities	09.06.26	Teddy Bears Picnic Event	£900.00	BACS
Culligan (UK) Limited	15.06.26	Water Cooler Rental & Service - June 2026	£34.20	D/D
Durham County Council	04.06.26	Trade Waste 2026/2027 - SWC (£144.55 x 8 and £144.64 x 1)	£1,301.04	D/D
Durham County Council	04.06.26	Trade Waste 2026/2027 - Cemetery (£257.08 x 7 & £257.04 x1)	£2,056.60	D/D
P & L A Evans Carnival Fun Fairs	10.06.26	Fun Day 19/07/2026	£1,680.00	BACS
HHC&VTR	17.06.26	Buffet for 20 People - S.M.I.L.E.S	£120.00	BACS
Microshade Business Consultants Ltd	01.06.26	Hosted Application Service - Rialtas - June 2026	£215.76	BACS
Mitchell Digital Limited	22.06.26	Web Host & Support 26/27	£480.00	BACS
Octopus Energy	15.06.26	Cemetery Lodge Gas & Electricity 12/05/2026 - 14/06/2026	£30.14	D/D
Octopus Energy	15.06.26	Welfare House Gas & Electricity 12/05/2026 - 14/06/2026	£31.33	D/D
Geo Robinson & Son	31.05.26 RCVD 15.06.26	10 x Keys Cut	£26.30	BACS
Scottish Power	08.06.26	SWC Electricity 06/05/2026 - 08/06/2026	£549.52	D/D
Scottish Power	04.06.26	Cemetery Electricity 07/05/2026 - 04/06/2026	£38.35	D/D
Scottish Power	04.06.26	Memorial Park Electricity 07/05/2026 - 04/06/2026	£26.59	D/D
Scottish Power	10.06.26	SWC Gas 07/05/2026 - 10/06/2026	£449.54	D/D
Screwfix	08.06.26	Cutting Discs	£20.99	BACS
Screwfix	09.06.26	Strimmer Line & Cutting Discs	£56.98	BACS
Select Telecom Limited	31.05.26	Admin Phone Lines/Calls/Internet - June 2026	£162.72	D/D
Steadfast Security	19.06.26	Annual Maintenance Door Access System - SWC	£352.80	BACS
Steadfast Security	19.06.26	Annual Maintenance Interuder Alarm - SWC	£130.80	BACS
Storm Entertainment	09.06.26	Facepainting	£150.00	BACS
TJ's Heating & Home Improvements	15.06.26	Remove and Repair Tiles Men's D/S Toilets - SWC	£295.00	BACS
TJ's Heating & Home Improvements	15.06.26	Supply & Fit Hallway Light & Main Office Light	£235.00	BACS
Vodafone	20.06.26	Mobile Phones	£49.00	D/D
Wex	08.06.26	Equipment and Vehicle Fuel - Cemetery	£190.99	D/D
Wex	22.06.26	Vehicle Fuel - Iveco Pickup	£49.45	D/D
OTHER PAYMENTS				
Co-op Bank	04.06.26	Wages Week 9	£5,212.00	BACS
Co-op Bank	11.06.26	Wages Week 10	£5,158.25	BACS
Co-op Bank	18.06.26	Wages Week 11	£5,542.98	BACS
Co-op Bank	25.06.26	Wages Week 12	£5,622.78	BACS
Co-op Bank	25.06.26	Participation Month 3	£4,461.60	BACS
Wave	11.06.26	Cemetery Water 11/03/2026 - 10/06/2026 (£121.00 pcm)	£180.34	D/D
Horden Parish Council JUNE 2026 TOTAL			£36,777.76	

Hornden Parish Council

Improving Exclusive Rights of Burial: Memorial Only Rights

Purpose of the Report

To present a proposal for the introduction of a Memorial-Only Permit Deed and seek Council approval to progress to policy drafting, consultation, and implementation planning.

Background

The current cemetery management process requires families to repurchase full Exclusive Rights of Burial, costing between £355 and £2,090, even when no further interments are intended and only memorial repair or reinstatement is required.

This has created several challenges:

- Families are often unable or unwilling to pay full rights fees for memorial work alone.
- Older graves remain unrestored, contributing to health and safety risks.
- Cemetery appearance is negatively affected.
- The existing process lacks flexibility and does not reflect modern cemetery management practice.
- Older deeds (often 10-year grants) and historic memorial standards have contributed to the current condition of many plots.

Identified Issues

Impact on Individuals

- Significant financial burden.
- Pressure to make decisions during bereavement.
- Lack of clarity around rights and responsibilities.
- Barriers to achieving emotional closure through memorial upkeep.

Impact on the Organisation

- Increased administrative workload.
- Reduced customer satisfaction.
- Difficulty maintaining cemetery safety and appearance.
- Missed opportunities for sustainable revenue generation.

Proposed Solution: Memorial-Only Permit Deed

A **low-cost, time-limited permit** granting memorial rights only, without interment rights.

Key Features

- Valid for **5–10 years**, renewable.
- Covers memorial repair, reinstatement, or replacement only.
- Maintains full compliance with cemetery legislation and ICCM guidance.
- Ensures the Council retains oversight of memorial safety and standards.
- Provides a clear, accessible alternative to full rights repurchase.

Benefits for Families

- Reduced financial burden.
- Greater accessibility to maintain loved ones' memorials.
- Clearer understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Benefits for the Council

- Improved cemetery appearance and safety.
- Enhanced customer satisfaction and community trust.
- Streamlined administrative processes.
- Sustainable income through renewable permits.
- Better long-term management of older graves.

Expected Outcomes

For Individuals

- More affordable memorial maintenance.
- Improved clarity and decision-making.
- Increased ability to preserve family memorials.

For the Council

- Enhanced public perception and satisfaction.
- Improved cemetery appearance and safety.
- Reduced administrative burden.
- Continued revenue through renewable permits.

Financial Implications

A full fee proposal will be presented following Council approval to proceed. Fees will be set to:

- Ensure affordability for the community.
- Maintain cost recovery for administration and compliance.
- Provide a sustainable revenue stream.

10. Recommendation:

Council is recommended to approve the report, set the fees and the duration of the Deeds.

Brooke Howarth
Assistant Clerk

New Selective Licensing Scheme proposal

Introduction

We want to ensure that private rented properties in County Durham offer our residents a choice of safe and well managed accommodation.

Our Selective Licensing Scheme, which supports this goal, started in April 2022 and ends on 31 March 2027. We are proposing to introduce a new scheme when the current scheme expires.

So, ahead of the March date, we have been doing the following:

- reviewing the evidence which supports having a selective licensing scheme in various areas across the county,
- its impact in the areas we currently operate it.

What's happening now?

To bring in a new Selective Licensing Scheme in April 2027, we must consult again on all aspects of it, including the:

- reasons why we need selective licensing
- proposed selective licensing areas
- proposed licensing fees
- proposed licence conditions

Whether you're a landlord, tenant in the private rented sector, local resident or business, or someone else with an interest in housing, we want to hear your views on the proposals for this new scheme.

Key elements of the proposed Selective Licensing Scheme

The key elements of the new scheme beyond April 2027 are:

- 20,000 properties covering 27% of County Durham by area, and 38% of the estimated private rental sector (PRS) total meet the criteria for designating an area under selective licensing and are proposed to be included in the scheme.
- Mandatory licence application for every PRS property within the defined scheme.
- Landlords must pass a 'fit and proper person' test in advance of receiving a licence.
- Support for landlords to comply with the licence.
- Licence designed to promote good landlord practice and be capable of being enforced.
- Property inspection regime in place.
- Enforcement in cases where appropriate.

Proposed selective licensing areas

There are 87 areas that we propose are designated for selective licensing under the new scheme. To find out if a property will require a licence, please use our property checker. Simply type in the postcode and it will tell you the following:

- Whether the postcode will be 'Included' or 'Not included' in a designated area
- Settlement - the area the postcode is in



Dear Sir/Madam,

Durham County Council is preparing a new County Durham Plan, which will guide development and investment across the County over the coming years.

We are now inviting your views as part of the Scoping Consultation, running from 22 June to 17 August 2026. This is the first formal stage in developing the new Plan and provides an important opportunity to help shape its direction from the outset.

Why a New Plan is Being Prepared

The existing County Durham Plan, adopted in 2020, requires a full update due to:

- Changes in national planning policy and guidance
- A significant increase in housing need (over 50%)
- The need to ensure continued alignment with national requirements

What This Consultation Covers

At this early stage, we are seeking views on key issues and priorities, including:

- Housing growth and spatial options (how and where development should occur)
- Economic development and employment land
- Infrastructure and transport
- Environmental protection and climate change
- Place-based priorities across the County

We are not proposing detailed policies or site allocations at this stage. Instead, we are asking for feedback on the key themes and options that will shape the Plan.

Call for Sites

The Council has already undertaken a Call for Sites, which received over 800 submissions for potential development. The sites which were submitted have now been published online at: <https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/en-GB/projects/countydurham-plan-callforsites/3>. The map provides limited details,

including the site ID, site area, and proposed use. Please note that these sites are shown for information purposes only at this stage, while the assessments are undertaken. They are currently being assessed to determine their suitability, availability, and deliverability. The findings will be published in Spring 2027, alongside consultation on the proposed Local Plan and supporting evidence.

How to Take Part

You can view the consultation documents and submit your comments online at:

<https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/localplan>

A simplified version of the consultation materials is also available to help residents highlight key issues.

What Happens Next

All responses received will be carefully considered and will help shape the next stage of the Plan, including the Draft Plan consultation in 2027.

Your views are important in shaping the future of County Durham. We encourage you to take part and share your feedback.