

25. Will the release of council-owned Green Belt sites result in a loss of land for recreational uses?

council-owned land identified for potential release from the Green Belt that currently serves an operational purpose such as playing fields, will not automatically change land uses, should, following the examination of the Local Plan, the site be de-designated from the Green Belt. Any proposed change of operational use would follow a review of the purpose and need for the land. Where the council is satisfied that the current use is no longer required or can be delivered from another location or in an alternative way, the land will only then be declared surplus to operational requirements. For example, where land currently is used to provide sports pitches, the land will continue to be used for that purpose until a time when they are deemed surplus to requirements and are no longer needed. The loss of existing sports facilities will not be allowed unless an equivalent or better quantity and quality replacement provision is provided.

26. What is safeguarded land?

Safeguarded land is land that is released from the Green Belt to help meet anticipated longer-term development needs beyond the plan period. It would not be allocated for any development in the current Plan. It would no longer benefit from Green Belt status, but would still be safeguarded from any development such that no development could take place within that area until it is formally allocated for development (if still needed) through a future review of the Local Plan.

27. What are Settlement Breaks?

Settlement Breaks are areas of land outside the designated Green Belt that we consider should also be similarly protected from development in order to maintain separation of built-up areas within South Sunderland and the Coalfield area.

28. We bought a house recently why didn't the search pick the proposed Housing Growth Areas up?

The Core Strategy and Development Plan has not been adopted therefore its designations and policies will not show up on local searches. After this current stage of consultation the draft Plan will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for an independent examination (a form of public inquiry), and only if declared 'sound' and fit-for-purpose will the council be able to formally adopt it, only then will the designations and policies come into effect.

29. Who are Gypsy and Travellers?

Gypsy and Travellers is the term used to refer to all Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers. There are several Gypsy and Travellers communities, each with different histories and traditions.

For the purposes of planning the Government's 'Planning Policy for Traveller sites' defines Gypsies and Travellers as "Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excluding members of an organised group of Travelling Showpeople or circus people travelling together as such".

Sunderland does not currently have any 'pitch' provision for gypsies and travellers. However, unauthorised encampments do spring up within the city, temporarily providing a place to stay for gypsies and travellers who are passing through the city, or are here visiting relatives or friends.

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30. Who are Travelling Showpeople?

Travelling Showpeople are members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows. Most Travelling Showpeople are members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain which aims to protect the interests of its members through its codes of rules and the legal and constitutional processes of the land.

For the purposes of planning the Government's 'Planning Policy for Traveller sites' defines Travelling Showpeople as "Members of a group or organisation for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers".

Within Sunderland, in particular within the Houghton and Hetton area, there is a well-established community of Travelling Showpeople.

31. What is a Gypsy and Traveller pitch?

The term 'pitch' refers to the space required on a site to accommodate a gypsy and traveller household.

32. What is a Travelling Showpeople plot?

The term 'plot' refers to the space required on a site to accommodate a household of travelling showpeople. These are sometimes referred to as 'yards'. In addition to the basic on site facilities, plots also include an area to store and maintain their show equipment. Travelling Showpeople sites often need to combine residential, storage and maintenance uses.

33. What is an unauthorised encampment?

This is where Gypsies and Travellers are camped on private land (including council-owned land) without the landowners' permission.

34. When will we know more detail on layout of the developments?

A series of Development Frameworks for the sites have been undertaken, to provide better understanding of the sites and potential layouts that could be built on the sites. The fine detail of what will be built will come at the planning application stage when a developer proposes a scheme. Their proposals will need to include the requirements of the relevant policies in the Local Plan. The council will consult with residents and other stakeholders on the planning application before it is decided.

35. The infrastructure of Sunderland (eg. schools and doctors' surgeries) is already under strain and more housing and people will make it worse. What will the Local Plan do to address this?

The council has worked with the agencies responsible for delivering medical services, schools and transport infrastructure and has published a Publication Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy and Development Plan. The Publication Draft IDP identifies the infrastructure requirements for Sunderland. All local authorities are required to prepare an IDP alongside their draft Local Plan, to consider the wider infrastructure implications of planned growth on the area's physical (roads, rail and utilities), social (education and community facilities) and green infrastructure (playing fields and open spaces) and where enhancements will be necessary.

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36. Roads are already at capacity. 13,410 new homes will add to the problem. What plans are there to deal with this?

As part of preparation of the Publication Draft Plan, we have carried out detailed analysis of the potential traffic impacts and identified where sections of the road network and key junctions are likely to need to be improved and capacity-enhancement measures introduced to help support the delivery of the city's future housing and employment needs. These schemes are set out in the Core Strategy and Development Plan and detailed further in the supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and evidence base studies.

37. I have been consulted on the plan before, why should I submit comments again?

It's important to have your say as this is your last opportunity to tell us what you think. This consultation is slightly different to previous rounds of consultation. Although it will be run by the council, its purpose is to seek your views on whether the Plan and associated documents are sound (i.e. appropriate, based on robust evidence and consistent with government policy) and legally compliant before it is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by an Independent Planning Inspector.

38. What is legal compliance?

An Independent Planning Inspector will be appointed to assess whether the Core Strategy and Development Plan meets the legal requirements of section 20(5) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Duty to Co-operate under section 20(5) (c), to be considered lawful. The Planning Inspector will assess legal and procedural compliance before going on to assess a plan's soundness. A Representation Guidance Note has been published to help you better understand legal compliance of the Plan and how you should tailor your comments to this round of consultation.

39. What is a test of soundness?

If the appointed Planning Inspector is satisfied that all legal and procedural requirements have been satisfied, the Inspector will go on to examine whether the Core Strategy and Development Plan meets the four tests of soundness identified in paragraph 182 of the National Planning Policy Framework. A Plan must be:

1. **Positively prepared:** This means that the plan's evidence base has objectively assessed the need for homes, jobs, services and infrastructure requirements for the city and has taken into account unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities, where reasonable to do so. Objectively assessed needs must contribute towards achieving sustainable development.
2. **Justified:** This means that the plan's evidence base, from which the policies are derived, is balanced, credible and robust. The policies identified in the plan must form the most appropriate development strategy for the city when compared to alternative strategies which have previously been consulted upon.
3. **Effective:** This means that the plan can demonstrate and prove that it can deliver what it sets out to do within the timeframe of the plan.
4. **Consistent with national policy:** This means that the policies and strategy within the Core Strategy and Development Plan should align with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework and help to deliver sustainable development.

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A Representation Guidance Note has been published to help you better understand legal compliance of the Plan and how you should tailor your comments to this round of consultation.

40. How can I make representations?

The quickest and easiest way for you to respond is online at <http://sunderland-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>. You will need to register to make a representation. If you have already registered during a previous consultation simply enter your username and password

If you prefer, you can download the representation form and guidance note from the council website www.sunderland.gov.uk/CSDP or you can pick up copies from a drop in event or Sunderland Civic Centre Reception.

41. What is the deadline for comments?

The consultation will run for 6 weeks, **from Friday 15 June to Friday 27 July**. All feedback should be returned by **5pm on 27 July 2018 via:**

Online at <http://sunderland-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

Email: planningpolicy@sunderland.gov.uk; or

Post to: Strategic Plans, Civic Centre, Burdon Road, Sunderland SR2 7DN

42. Can I attend the Public Examination?

If you would like to attend the Public Examination into the Core Strategy and Development Plan, you will need to register your interest to be heard by completing Q6 and Q7 of the Representation Form, which is available online to download.

43. What happens next?

After this consultation, the council will collate all responses and submit them along with the Core Strategy and Development Plan to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination. If you would like to be notified of the submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State, when the Planning Inspector's Report is published, detailing the recommendations, or when the Core Strategy and Development Plan is adopted, please complete Q8 on the Representation Form, which is available online to download.

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44. How can I speak to someone?

The council will be hosting a series of staffed public drop-in events across the city and welcomes anyone who wishes to find out more, or who has questions, to come along and talk to council staff. These events will take place as follows:

Date	Time	Venue Address
18 June 2018	9.30-11.30am	Bunnyhill Community Room, Hylton Lane, Sunderland SR5 4BW
18 June 2018	4.30-7pm	Wessington Primary School, Lanercost, Washington NE38 7PY
19 June 2018	11am-1.30pm	Houghton Sports Complex Dance Studio, Station Road, Houghton le Spring DH4 5AH
20 June 2018	9.30-11.30am	Thorney Close Action & Enterprise Centre, Thorndale Road, Thorney Close, Sunderland SR3 4JQ
22 June 2018	4.30-6.30pm	Ryhope Community Centre, Black Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0RX
16 July 2018	9.30-11.30am	University Sports Hall, Chester Road, Sunderland
17 July 2018	4.30-7pm	Barnwell Primary School Sports Hall, Whitefield Estate, Houghton le Spring DH4 7RT
18 July 2018	5-6.30pm	Bunnyhill Community Room, Hylton Lane, Sunderland SR5 4BW
19 July 2018	4.30-6.30pm	Silksworth Community Centre, Tunstall Village Road, Sunderland SR3 2BB
20 July 2018	10-12noon	Washington Millennium Centre, The Oval, Concord, Washington NE37 2QD

Alternatively you can ring the council's Strategic Plans team on (0191) 561 1577.

45. Will my comments be made public?

A copy of all comments will be made available for the public to view and reviewed by a Planning Inspector, and therefore, cannot be treated as confidential. Data will be processed and held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

Please note that we cannot provide anonymity or accept comments marked 'private' or 'confidential'. The council has a duty not to accept comments which may reasonably be considered offensive, racist, discriminatory or threatening. These, along with other non-relevant statements will be destroyed.

46. Where can I find the council's supporting evidence?

Our evidence base to date can be found on the council's website at www.sunderland.gov.uk/CSDP. Reference copies of the evidence will also be made available to view at the Civic Centre.

Copies of the evidence base will also be available to view at the staffed drop-in events identified above.