

OUR CITY NOT FOR SALE

SAVE OUR GREEN BELT

Durham City, world renowned World Heritage Site, known for its outstanding Norman Cathedral and Castle and described by Bill Bryson, travel writer, in his book *Notes from a Small Island* as a '**perfect little city**' is under threat from Durham County Council's plan to build on the protected green belt which surrounds it. The green belt provides the setting for the World Heritage Site, a green landscape bowl, and a buffer against urban sprawl. Durham City as the region's most important heritage and tourism asset should be accorded protection against over-development, retaining the integrity of a medieval city and the proper environment for the setting of the Cathedral and Castle.

We **are not against** progress and considered development and have a vision for the future of County Durham, which is to improve the economy of the **whole** County by making use of all its special assets, its people, industry, culture, environment and heritage. More specifically, we have set out our vision for the future of Durham City below:

- To promote the extraordinary assets of Durham City which in turn will support the overall economic performance of County Durham.
- To promote Durham City as a tourist destination.
- To protect the views and setting of the World Heritage Site
- To robustly defend the erosion of the Green Belt surrounding Durham City and prevent urban sprawl, except on sites, which do not erode the identity of a **small** historic cathedral city.
- To support the development of brown field sites within the City: County Hospital, Byland Lodge, Bus Depot, Whinney Hill School site, disused petrol stations, Old Shire Hall, empty retail sites on Dragon Lane.
- To encourage the development of purpose built blocks on university land for student accommodation to release houses for family occupation.
- To improve and promote a range of green transport and urban green spaces ie: the development of cycle paths, parks, footpaths, the use of mini buses and school walking buses.

We, the undersigned, endorse the protection of Durham City and its environs and its unique sense of place from over-development, for the benefit of future generations.