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Dear Harvey

## **RENEWED CONSULTATION 1CORE CCAAP (LDF) – SEEKING CLARIFICATION**

We are writing to you as an interest group concerned with transport, infrastructure, active travel, and its relation to public space and provision of local services.

It appears that substantial Greenfield development has now been included into the latest city plans (previously consulted on as 1Core and Area Action Plan, now included under the LDF umbrella).

We would like to register our grave concerns about this new agenda. We have serious doubts that Newcastle City Council has a good track record for planning and designing a sustainable and people-friendly infrastructure for the long-term.

We can evidence this through the CABE's assessment (attached) of a recent massive Greenfield development: Great North Park is lacking a clear town centre and is "akin to an out-of-town industrial estate surrounded by large car parks". Its transport methodology is questionable too.

Another example of a heavily compromised development would be New Eldon Square where Newcastle City Council was seemingly bulldozed into maximisation of retail space as an ultimate aim, creating a far from pleasant streetscape ignoring simple architectural rules for people-friendly street dimensions, people movements and sightlines for space clarity. Transport has been prioritised in favour of buses and taxis, and cycling downgraded and sidelined in the process and the final reality.

The council is apparently forgetting that, ultimately, it's the people who Make Places as it is people who shop, work and live in these places, for the long-term, and not the retailers (New Eldon Square) or the developers (Great North Park).



This prompts a series of questions, listed in no particular order.

1. We have submitted a consultation response in the previous 1Core/CCAAP consultation. Can you please acknowledge receipt and tell us how your team has taken our consultation response into consideration?
2. Can you please give the full history of the changes to the 1Core since the Newcastle Cycling Campaign has provided their feedback back in March 2011? We are deeply concerned about a potential scope change.
3. A consultation report for the previous consultation is available and we have requested it a while back from your team. We have not received anything to date. Please forward this Consultation Feedback report.
4. How is the 1PLAN vision and indeed other sustainability, climate change and community, active travel strategies serviced or affected by the updated 1Core?
5. Have other solutions been considered, such as higher density living, Brownfield, and infill utilization to harvest our existing services and infrastructure in a better, more integrated and people-friendly local way.
6. What is the rationale behind the proposed Greenfield development?
7. Please assure us that with new development active travel, walking and cycling, will be seen as the main mode of travel within the development, as well as outside connecting to main employment site, notably the city centre. Please make sure and confirm to us that sufficient developers' contribution will be sought with concrete improvement plans of a cycle network in place to ensure best outcome of the developers' contribution.

You will be aware that cycling can deliver on many of these aspects touched on above. We need the political will and technical expertise to adapt our public space to make Everyday Cycling possible and inevitable for everyone. With national devolution of power for transport decisions as well as the Equality Act 2010 (providing equal opportunity for all) in mind, it will be the council who has to show leadership.

Yes, these are hard times and we are looking to the council - politicians and officers - to take the lead and guide Newcastle and its people through this transition with inspiration and innovation, with enthusiasm, a sense of belonging and care.

Please acknowledge receipt, and let us know when we can expect an answer from you.

Thanks and regards

The Newcastle Cycling Campaign