



**APPLICATION COM/232618 FOR
DEREGISTRATION OF PART OF COMMON
LAND AT THE SANDS, DURHAM**

**THE DEREGISTRATION AND EXCHANGE
OF COMMON LAND AND GREENS
(PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS
2007**

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT
PROOF OF EVIDENCE
MIKE ALLUM ON BEHALF OF DURHAM
COUNTY COUNCIL**

4 February 2021

- 1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF EVIDENCE**
- 2 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

- 1.1 My name is Mike Allum and I am the Spatial Policy Manager at Durham County Council. I have been employed by the Council in this position since 2014.
- 1.2 The Spatial Policy Team which I manage is responsible for preparing the council's transport, economic, housing and planning policy as well as providing policy advice on planning applications and supporting the preparation of neighbourhood plans.
- 1.3 I hold the following qualifications: a Postgraduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning and I am also a member of the RTPI. I have worked as a Planner in local government since 1995.
- 1.3 I understand my duty as an expert witness to the Inquiry and I have complied with and continue to comply with that duty. The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this inquiry is true. I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true professional opinions.
- 1.4 My manager at the present time is Stuart Timmiss who is the Head of Development and Housing. However, Mr Timmiss is due to leave the employment of the Council in March 2021. I have therefore agreed to give the evidence that he would have given at the Inquiry had he not left the Council's employment.
- 1.5 I confirm that I have read the contents of Mr Timmiss' Proof of Evidence dated 27 November 2020. I now endorse and adopt its contents which covers the background to the new Council HQ move to the Sands, the socio-economic benefits of the new HQ, the socio-economic benefits of the redevelopment of the Aykley Heads site and the socio-economic impacts if this application before the Inspector is refused.

2. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1 For the reasons set out in Mr Timmiss' Proof of Evidence I am of the view that the relocation of the Council HQ to the Sands will bring significant financial and other benefits to Durham City Centre. The development of the Aykley Heads site will bring very substantial economic and environmental benefits to Durham. The refusal of the application, subject of this Inquiry, would result in

substantial adverse economic impacts for the Council as well as adverse social impacts for visitors to the City Centre.