

# **Supporting Statement for Duns Local Place Plan**

Prepared by:

A Heart for Duns in partnership with Duns Community Council and the  
Duns Community-led Planning “Town Team”

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## Introduction

This Supporting Statement forms part of the Local Place Plan submission to Scottish Borders Council and is accompanying the Duns Local Place Plan dated 15/01/2025. The Local Place Plan is submitted on behalf of the Town Team by A Heart for Duns, a community development trust serving Duns and District and a [community-owned body](#) authorised to submit an LPP to Scottish Borders Council (SBC).

The Local Place Plan drafting, and community engagement to inform the plan, was a collaborative process facilitated by A Heart for Duns, and included members of Duns Community Council and Duns community, represented by a Community-led Planning “Town Team”. The Town Team is also grateful for advisory support from Borders Community Action and Scottish Borders Council in preparing this plan and supporting information.

## Contact details

Email address: [townteam@dunsclp.uk](mailto:townteam@dunsclp.uk). This email address is accessed and monitored by:

Johnny Fisher (Consultant)

Anne McNeill (A Heart for Duns)

Lindsay Wood (A Heart for Duns)

## **Regard given to the Local Development Plan**

Each project proposal is mapped to the relevant LDP policies, and the LDP settlement plan for Duns is addressed directly with regard to land use, specifically allocations for housing developments. Most proposals are well aligned to LDP policies, but where proposals could result in amendments to the LDP, they are discussed in further detail to present the community's case for the proposal and why they are integral to a balanced place-making strategy.

## **Regard given to the National Planning Framework**

Each project proposal is mapped to relevant NPF4 policies. Most proposals are well aligned to NPF4 priorities, but where proposals could be seen to contradict NPF4 priorities, they are discussed in further detail to present the community's case for the proposal as part of a balanced place-making strategy.

## **Regard given to the Locality Plan**

The priorities in the Locality Plan is outlined as background context, and each proposal is mapped to the relevant Locality Plan priorities. In general the LPP is very well aligned to the Locality Plan.

## **Reasons for amendments being sought to the Local Development Plan**

The primary amendments recommended to the Local Development Plan are around the allocations for housing development. Where allocations for development have not been taken up since the last LDP, we request that allocations for future development are considered within the timeframe of this plan to stimulate new building. Some plot sizes seem over-optimistic in terms of numbers of housing units, and we ask that more realistic consideration is given to the need for space for parking, given the rural location of Duns and the need for residents to travel if they are to access an acceptable choice in service provision.

## **Community support for the Local Place Plan**

The Local Place Plan has been drafted on the basis of a community survey, that sought out opinions from people in different community segments, particularly the most vulnerable. The survey gained feedback through public meetings, focus groups, online surveys and visits to schools. Approximately 300 people took part in this process.

The findings from the survey were presented to community members through a further series of public events, focus groups and an online feedback form, in order to confirm whether the findings resonated with community members. The LPP has been drafted using the findings from the main survey that met the strongest support in the follow-up process. The first draft of the LPP was amended following feedback from SBC planning departments and community stakeholders who were identified and sought out as missing voices.

After the SBC and community council notification period (9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025), “Duns Playfest” was added to the list of local Events on p8, in response to a community request. This is a minor and non-contentious change that improves the plan.

The survey found that people want Duns to flourish as a multi-generational town where families thrive together, and where people can grow old with dignity near to their loved ones. While achieving equity is a goal of many smaller projects, aspirational growth projects are also seen as essential for sustaining and building on the gains made through the smaller projects.

Duns people identified several key assets that are important to Duns now and are likely to be important to Duns in the future. They said they love the town park and the Duns Castle grounds. People are proud of the history, the historic buildings, the community swimming pool, the open and pleasant Market Square, Reiver’s Week and the Jim Clark Rally, among other things. The Keep Duns Blooming Marvellous team got special recognition for their tireless efforts.

With so much to offer, people need better information and signs to know what they can do in Duns. Attractions, amenities and pathways need to be well maintained, publicised, and more accessible for residents, for people in nearby villages, and for visitors from further afield. Top concerns include limited public transport, lack of informal activities for young people, opportunities for housing, careers and adult education, and a call to rejuvenate neglected town spaces.

## **Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4**

The proposed Local Place Plan and Information Notice were sent on 09/04/2025 to:

List of Councillors to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Donald Moffat
- John Greenwell
- Mark Rowley

List of Community Councils to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston
- Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus
- Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome
- Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth
- Swinton and Ladykirk

As no proposed amendments or comments were submitted by the above Councillors and Community Councils during the consultation period, which ended on 09/05/2025, the Local Place Plan is now submitted for registration.

## **Appendix**

Information Notice to Councillors (separate document)

Information Notice to Community Councils (separate document)