



## Report

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# Statement of Community Involvement

**Portland Park, Ashington**  
Arch Development Projects Ltd

February 2018

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been prepared by GVA on behalf of Arch Development Projects Ltd, its purpose is to report the comments and opinions raised during the public consultation events held with local organisations, stakeholders and the local community on what type of development they would like to see come forward on the town centre development site known as Portland Park. By way of context, the site was previously subject to planning consent for office uses as part of the relocation of Northumberland County Hall, however, the site will now come forward for alternative development proposals subject to consultation and further research into market demand.
- 1.2 Using the information gained from the public consultation, proposals for the site will be market tested and the proposals will be further developed. Following which further public consultation engagement will be held with the local community to explain the results from the initial round of consultations and how that has been shaped the proposals going forward.
- 1.3 This document details the levels of community engagement undertaken in preparing proposals for the next phase of Portland Park. Accordingly, this Statement is structured as follows:
- **Section 2: Relevant Planning Policy** – a description of the policy provisions for undertaking public consultation;
  - **Section 3: The Consultation Process** – a summary of the consultation process undertaken in respect of the development proposals;
  - **Section 4: Consultation Feedback** – a summary of consultation feedback and findings in respect of the development proposals, and;
  - **Section 5: Conclusions** – summary and conclusions on the consultation process.

## 2. Relevant Planning Policy

- 2.1 Community participation is a key objective in the Government's reform of the planning system, provided for through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Localism Act 2011. This Section of the Statement will provide an overview of Government policy and other guidance in relation to community involvement in the planning system as outlined in the following documents:

### National Policy Guidance and Legislation

- NPPF (March 2012)
- Localism Act 2011

### Local Policy Guidance

- Northumberland Local Plan Statement of Community Involvement (adopted February 2015)

### National Policy Guidance and Legislation

#### *National Planning Policy Framework*

- 2.2 The NPPF (at paragraph 189) recognises the importance of involving the community in the development of schemes and states that Local Authorities should, where they think it is beneficial, encourage applicants to engage with the local community before submitting their planning applications.

#### *Localism Act 2011*

- 2.3 S.122 of the Localism Act 2011 requires applicants to undertake consultation prior to submitting certain planning applications. The Localism Act 2011 requires the applicant to publicise the proposed application in such a manner likely to bring the proposed application to the majority of people who occupy premises in the vicinity of the land. The Act also requires the applicant to have regard to any responses to the consultation. Although this section of the Act is still to be commenced the approach to public consultation has taken the requirements of the Act into consideration.



## Local Policy Guidance

*Northumberland Local Plan Statement of Community Involvement (adopted February 2015)*

- 2.4 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Local Authorities (modified through the Localism Act 2011) are required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how the council intend to consult and involve communities and stakeholders in the preparation and review of local development documents and in the process of determining planning applications.
- 2.5 Northumberland County Council's (NCC) SCI was adopted in February 2015. The SCI sets out how and when the Council will consult with local communities and how the process will be carried out. Whilst there is no formal requirement within the SCI for public engagement to take place prior to the submission of a planning application the document also ensures that there is a process which will allow an opportunity for comments on formal proposals.
- 2.6 Mindful of the above, whilst this consultation process precedes the preparation of a planning application, the consultation is undertaken mindful of the general objectives of this guidance ensuring community engagement throughout the pre-application process.

### 3. The Consultation Process

- 3.1 The purpose of the community consultation process is to involve local organisations, stakeholders and the local community and invite them to comment on what they would like to see come forward on Portland Park.
- 3.2 Consultation needs to be strategically planned and properly integrated with project development. A five stage process in community consultation to ensure transparency and understanding and encourage participation throughout the process is outlined below:
- 1) Identifying the relevant community to notify about the proposals through the consultation process;
  - 2) Providing the community with information about the proposals;
  - 3) Recording and analysing the feedback on the proposals to ensure the development fits in with the requirements of the community;
  - 4) Addressing community feedback by amending proposals where appropriate and necessary; and
  - 5) Publicising the key findings and the applicant's response to them.
- 3.3 This is the first stage of consultation and further consultation events will be held with local organisations, stakeholders and the local community to report back on the findings of the consultation exercise and the results of the market testing.
- 3.4 The remainder of this Section details how Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the above consultation process have been undertaken.

#### Extent of Community Consultation

- 3.5 It was considered that given the nature of the proposals it would be appropriate to ensure that the consultation focused on garnering the views and opinions of users of Ashington town centre and Ashington residents as they have the strongest relationship to, and interest in the proposals and should therefore be consulted accordingly. In addition, consultation would include key stakeholders that could provide valuable input into the pre-application process.

##### *Principal Community Consultation Exhibition*

- 3.6 The principal community consultation event comprised of a two-day drop-in exhibition that took place on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 September 2017, between the hours of 1 and 7pm. It was held in a vacant shop unit at Wansbeck Square in the town centre. The venue was

chosen due to its accessibility by a range of transport options, including public transport and by those on foot in a location that would be widely known. In addition the town centre venue enabled opportunity for increased footfall from shoppers and visitors to the town centre who may have missed advertisement of the event.

- 3.7 Notification of the drop-in exhibition event was undertaken via a leaflet distributed to households and businesses which immediately surround the development site on 13<sup>th</sup> September. A copy of the leaflet and a distribution map are enclosed at Appendix I. In addition a press release detailing the event was published in the News Post Leader on 31 August 2017 to notify the wider public; the article is included at Appendix II. Information was also published on Arch and the County Council's websites. Furthermore the event is posted on social media channels, including Arch and the County Council's Linked-In and Facebook pages.
- 3.8 At the event two sets of consultation boards were displayed, these are enclosed at Appendix III. The boards set out two potential schemes for the site 'concept 1': a mixed use scheme incorporating a cinema/music venue and community facilities and 'concept 2' a retail-led regeneration scheme. The two indicative concepts shown were highlighted as being presented to simply stimulate discussion and were not presented as development proposals at this stage.
- 3.9 Representatives from Northumberland County Council, Arch Development Projects Ltd and its consultant team were available at the event to field a range of questions from the attendees. In addition, Cllr Richard Wearmouth and Cllr Veronica Jones attended part of the event.
- 3.10 The primary aim of the exhibition exercise was to stimulate discussion of the proposals and to gather opinions as to what form development would be preferred to come forward on the Portland Park site. To do this formal feedback forms were made available at the exhibition (Appendix IV). These could be filled in and returned in a box provided at the event.
- 3.11 In addition a copy of the consultation boards was made available via the Arch Developments website. This was widely publicised at the event and the website details were provided on the consultation boards. An electronic copy of the feedback form was also available via Arch's public consultation page, which provided those members of the community that were unable to attend the event the opportunity to provide their comments. The online consultation portal was made open for two weeks past the exhibition event.
- 3.12 Overall, the drop-in exhibition was well attended with around 235 visitors across the afternoon and evening. An attendance register was provided during the event but not all attendees registered on arrival.

*Additional Public Consultation Events*

- 3.13 Following the two day consultation exhibition, further focus-group events were held with students of Northumberland College, Ashington Academy and the Northumberland Church of England Academy.
- 3.14 Approximately 50 people attended the Northumberland College consultation event on 11 October and approximately 200 people attended the Northumberland Church of England Academy – Josephine Butler Campus on 11 October 2017 with the Ashington Academy event being held on 24 November. The consultation material presented at the colleges was the same as that displayed during the general public event and was advertised within college circulars.
- 3.15 Representatives from Northumberland County Council and Arch developments were on hand to discuss the proposals with the students and stimulate discussions as to what facilities and services they would prefer to see in the town centre.
- 3.16 The same questionnaires as the drop-in exhibition were provided which could be completed and submitted both during the college events and via post following the event.

## 4. Consultation Feedback

- 4.1 This Section of the Statement records the community consultation feedback received during the various consultation events held over the two month period. In total 560 feedback forms were received, to various degrees of completeness; therefore not all the figures presented below total to this amount.
- 4.2 For ease this section provides a summary of consultation responses received. The responses in full are documented at Appendix V of this report.

### Demographic and Geographic Range

- 4.3 The variety of events held across the two month consultation period enabled engagement with a wide cross-section of Ashington's demographic. This is illustrated in Figure 4.1 which details the indicated age-range of respondents. Whilst proportionately the majority of respondents indicated they were under 24 years of age (55% of the returned questionnaires), responses were received from all age ranges. The age ranges are also reflective of the local schools and colleges consulted as part of the process.

Under 16	16-23	24-44	45-64	65 plus	Total
208	102	67	119	63	559

Figure 4.1 Age Range of Respondents

- 4.4 Furthermore, 72% of respondents indicated they were residents of Ashington town with the remainder coming from towns and villages within a 3km radius, including Blyth, Cramlington and Newbiggin. Therefore the responses received are considered to be representative of Ashington's population and frequent users of the town centre.

### Visit Frequency and Motives

- 4.5 The majority of questionnaire respondents indicated that they frequented Ashington town centre for repeated visits throughout the average week, with 82% (439 respondents) stating they visited at least twice a week; notably 21% of respondents stated that they visit the town centre at least once a day.
- 4.6 The majority of these visits were undertaken for shopping (34%) with leisure the second most popular reason given for visiting the town (22%). Access to bus connections was identified by 17% of respondents with work purposes identified by 15% as the reason for their visits. Other popular reasons for visits to Ashington town centre were for taking children to school,

socialising, eating in restaurants, accessing healthcare (GP/pharmacy/dentist) and other services (banks).

## Preferred Development Proposals

- 4.7 The final question on the feedback form asked respondents to indicate<sup>1</sup> what form of development they would prefer to see developed at Portland Park. As illustrated in Figure 4.2 the most popular response was for a cinema/theatre to be brought forward on the development plots (366 respondents). Other popular options were additional retail units (314 respondents) and bars/restaurants (242 respondents), ten pin bowling alley (207 respondents) and a music venue (137 respondents).

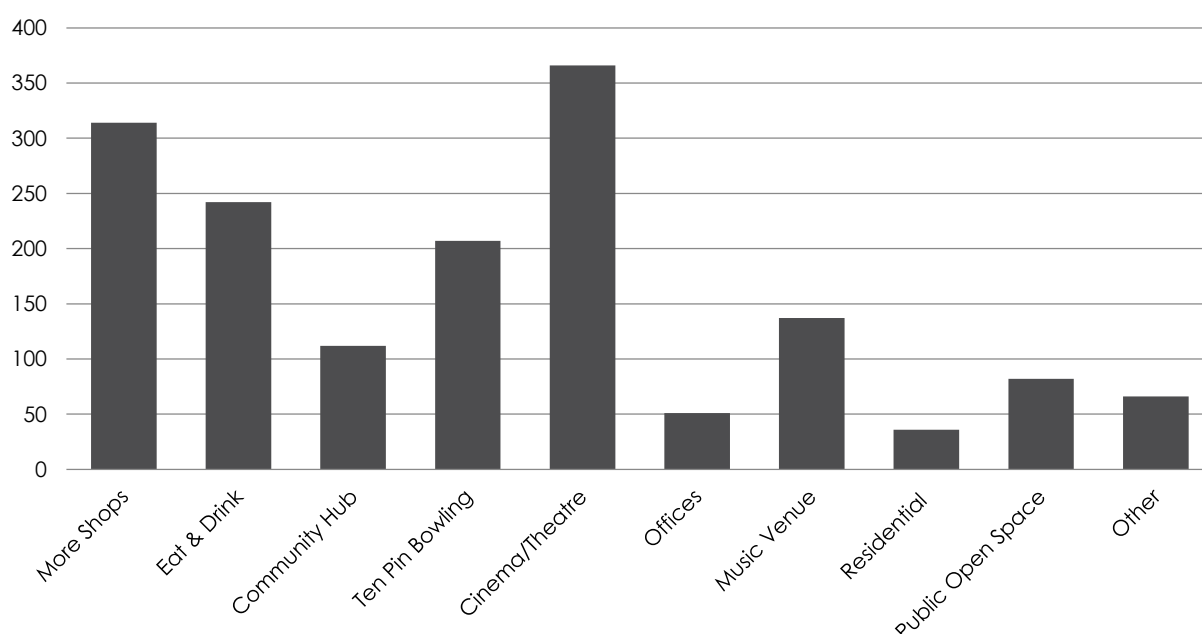


Figure 4.2 Preferred development options for Portland Park

## Other comments and suggestions:

- 4.8 Questionnaire respondents were also asked if they had any other comments or suggestions. Figures 4.3 and 4.4 (below) and Appendix V (attached) detail the names of suggested operators or uses listed on the forms.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents could select multiple options

Suggested Retail Operators / Occupiers/Uses and Leisure Uses for Portland Park			
Aldi	Primark/Topshop	Home Bargains	JD Sports
Claire's Accessories	TK Maxx	H&M/River Island	Fast food outlets – KFC, Nandos, Spud U Like.
Clothing Shops	Disney Shop	Dunelm	M&S
Millies Cookies	Paperchase	Perfume Shop	Schuh
Next	Pandora	Pet Supplies/ Pets at Home	Peacocks
Smiggle Stationary	Starbucks/Costa	Tiger Shop	Fat Face
Halfords	Mountain Warehouse	Debenhams	Lush
Children's play area	Public House	Music Venue	Cinema with restaurants i.e. Nandos, Wagamamas, Frankie and Bennys.
Indoor Retail Park or attractive shopping plaza	Climbing wall or Gymnastics centre	Bowling Alley/Indoor Bowls	Boutique Hotel
Swimming Pool	Outdoor Stage Area or Sports Facilities (inclusive of football pitches)	Indoor Snow Skiing – Xscape and/or Ice Rink	Cinema or Theatre
Casino	Indoor Market or smaller independent shops	Outdoor Paintball & Go Karting centre	Gym

Figure 4.3 Suggested future operators/ facilities (retail and leisure)

Non retail, leisure or office suggestions for Portland Park			
Bus Station	Northumberland College Campus	Student accommodation or bungalow developments.	Car Parking
Public toilets	County Hall	Metro Station or Rail Link	Event Space or Community Hub

Figure 4.4 Future operators/ facilities (non-retail/leisure)

- 4.9 Many of the suggestions expanded upon the question 5 of the questionnaire regarding development options naming specific operators and chains that would be sought after within the town. In direct relation to the alternative retail, office and leisure uses put forward for discussion, the majority of respondents would prefer to see a wider retail offer naming specific national retailers with a particular preference for a Primark (31 responses). Improved access to chain restaurants as part of a wider town centre scheme containing a cinema, theatre, ten pin bowling alley and/or music venue was also a recurring theme amongst suggestions. Others would prefer to see improved leisure opportunities with a climbing wall, indoor ski dome and a new indoor bowling green suggested, the latter being popular with the older generations who had previously played indoor bowls in the former Leisure Centre. Other responses suggested improvements to public facilities and infrastructure including a Metro station, public toilets, car parks and children's play area.
- 4.10 The uses suggested were wide ranging although key themes can also be identified which differ from the suggested retail, office and leisure options. These comprised a new and improved bus station (10 responses) a return to the original County Hall proposals (32 responses) which was often noted as bringing footfall to the town and an alternative use of the site for all or part of the College Campus was also noted within 25 responses.

## Summary

- 4.11 The consultation events were well attended and received by the residents and users of Ashington town centre. All of the questionnaire respondents indicated that resided within 3km of Ashington, with respondents covering a range of age groups within the community. Therefore, the responses are considered to be broadly representative of Ashington's population and those that use the town centre most frequently.



- 4.12 In the context of looking toward alternative uses for the site in the future, it is evident that respondents would like to see a mixed-use scheme come forward at Portland Park with increased retail choice, food and drink establishments and leisure/entertainment facilities (cinema, bowling, music and sports) representing the most popular responses received. In addition, it was also evident that respondents would like to see public realm improvements to the attractiveness of the town centre.

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Arch Development Projects Ltd would like to thank those who attended the consultation events and provided feedback on the future development options of Portland Park throughout the consultation process.
- 5.2 A concerted effort was made to present the proposals to the local community and stakeholders in the spirit of community consultation. The reaction to the overall community consultation process was overwhelmingly positive with 560 questionnaire responses received at the end of the two month consultation period.
- 5.3 The feedback from the community consultation process has demonstrated that overall, there is strong support for a mixed-use redevelopment of the site. In particular residents and users of the town centre would like to see an improved retail offer with a greater level of presence from national retailers. Respondents would also like to see a wider range of leisure facilities including new bars, restaurants and cafes and new entertainment opportunities headed by a cinema bowling and/or music venue for the town centre. This mixed-use vision would accord with the wider regeneration aspirations for Ashington in line with the Ashington Investment Plan.
- 5.4 The results of this consultation process will be considered further as part of the market testing exercise for potential future uses and further consultation will take place in due course.

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## **Statement of Community Involvement – Appendices, Portland Park.**

**Arch Development Projects Ltd**

February 2018



Appendix I –  
Exhibition  
Notification  
Leaflet

# Public Consultation: The Next Phase of Portland Park

Portland Park is a major regeneration site which is being delivered by Arch on behalf of Northumberland County Council. Works to create a new road network are already underway to improve traffic congestion and help pedestrians move around the town quickly and easily.

This public consultation event is being held so we can hear your views and understand what facilities you would like to see come forward in Ashington Town Centre.

Drop in public exhibitions will be open on:

- **Wednesday 20 September 2017**
- **Thursday 21 September 2017**

Between: **1pm and 7pm**

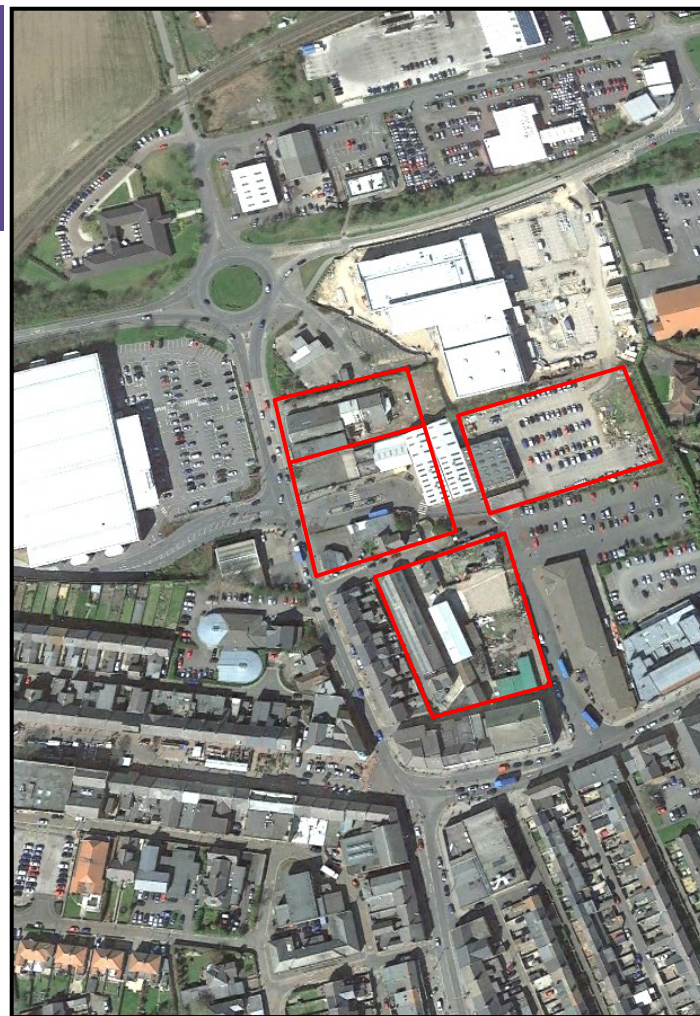
At: **Unit 1, Wansbeck Square,  
Ashington, NE63 9XL**

Representatives of Northumberland County Council, Arch and GVA will be on hand to discuss your ideas and answer any questions you may have. Feedback received will be highly valued and will help shape the proposals for the site going forward.

If you are unable to attend but would like to share your ideas on what you would like to see come forward in the Town Centre, the consultation boards and an electronic feedback form will be available at:

[www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-developments/public-events/portland-park-2](http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-developments/public-events/portland-park-2) from 20 September until 5 October 2017

For more information about the event, please contact Arch on **01670 528 488** or email [enquiries@arch-group.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@arch-group.co.uk)





## Appendix II – Press Notice

31st August 2017

## Public invited to share views on next phase of Portland Park

The public are being invited to have their say on the next stage of plans for the Portland Park site.

Portland Park is Northumberland County Council's major regeneration site in the heart of Ashington. The site is being delivered by Arch on behalf of Northumberland County Council which has already seen works start to create a new road network system designed to improve existing traffic issues within the town centre as well as to help pedestrians move round the town more quickly and easily.

Arch and Northumberland County Council are organising two public consultation sessions being held to encourage as many people as possible to attend and have their say on what facilities they would like in the town centre.

Those ideas and views are intended to be collected and developed to inform a new masterplan for the Town, will be shared again with the public in the near future.

The two public consultation sessions will take place on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st September, from 1pm-7pm at Wansbeck Square Ashington

The consultation material will be made available on-line after the public consultation events have finished, with the public also having the opportunity to provide comment electronically should they not be available to attend the sessions.

Peter Jackson, Leader of Northumberland County Council said: "The Council is determined to work with local people to create a new centre to the town which the community can be proud of. In addition I can confirm that the County Council will deliver the £2.9 million make over of Hirst Park and that the County Council has committed funds to further develop the £190 million Ashington to Newcastle passenger rail connection. The future for Ashington and the surrounding area is definitely exciting."

Cllr Richard Wearmouth Chair of Arch said: "We're looking at potential community uses, how we can enhance the environment in the town and how we can attract business use. We want to involve local residents in giving their views on what they would like in their town centre, and start a new exciting chapter in the development of the town. We are confident that working with the people of Ashington we can create a fantastic new development for Ashington that people will be proud of".

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors:**

### **Contact for further information**

Alexandra Wiley, Arch Marketing and Communications Manager:

Tel: 01670 528495

email: [alexandra.wiley@arch-group.co.uk](mailto:alexandra.wiley@arch-group.co.uk)

[www.archnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk)

### **About Arch**

Arch operates as an investment and asset-based business with a £280m portfolio of commercial and residential property, the profits from commercial activities are reinvested to support economic and social development across Northumberland.

Wholly owned by Northumberland County Council and with a board drawn from the public, private and third sectors, Arch brings a distinctive and enterprising approach to promoting economic growth in Northumberland. It is a commercial business with an economic and social mission, wholly dedicated to taking care of its customers and investing in Northumberland's communities.

Arch is changing the face of Northumberland by:

- investing in residential and commercial property
- building new homes for sale and rent
- developing high quality industrial and commercial workspace
- implementing major projects across Northumberland
- managing an effective property portfolio
- attracting investment and promoting business growth.





## Appendix III – Exhibition Boards



# WELCOME

Delivered by  
**Arch**  
The Northumberland  
Development Company

In partnership with  
**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

Thank you for attending today

## Background

Portland Park is Northumberland County Council's major regeneration site in the heart of Ashington. Back in July 2016 planning permission was approved for the redevelopment of this part of Ashington Town Centre, which included new and upgraded highway infrastructure and a new office building for Northumberland County Council.

Following that approval, the County Council have decided to refurbish their existing offices and remain in Morpeth. However works have started on site to create a new road network system designed to improve the existing traffic issues within the Town Centre; as well as to help pedestrians move around the town more quickly and easily.

Improvements to Station Road have been completed by Northumberland County Council, designed to open up the road to one way traffic and provide on-street parking.

## What is today about?

The construction of the new road network system is fully underway, and will create four development plots. The aim of this event is to seek ideas and feedback from the community as to how they would like the site to be developed.

We've provided some initial concepts on the next two boards to help you come up with your own ideas of what you might like to see.

You are invited to complete a questionnaire to provide your views and suggestions on what facilities you would like to see created in Ashington Town Centre, subject of course to financial viability and sustainability.



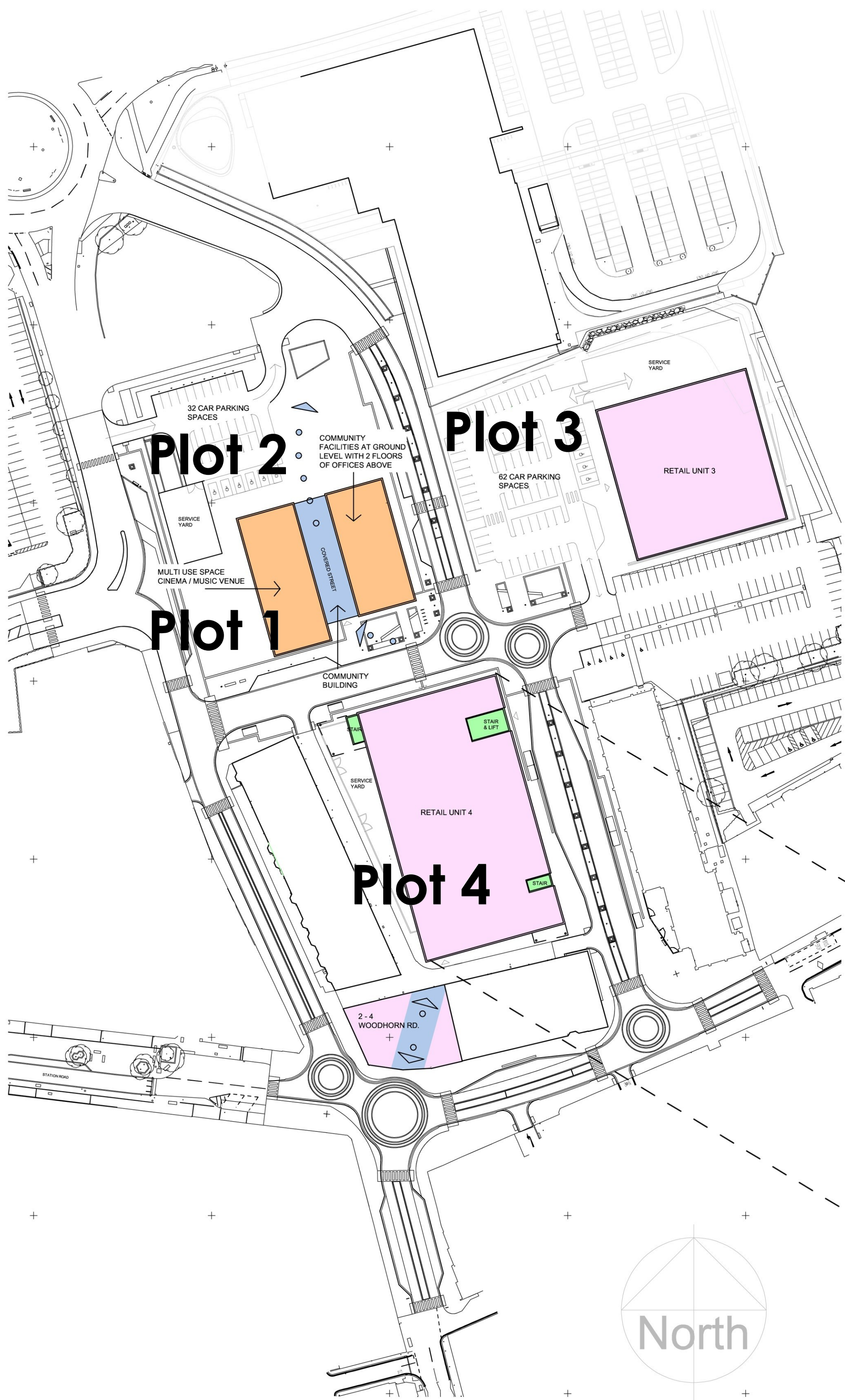
Location of Portland Park



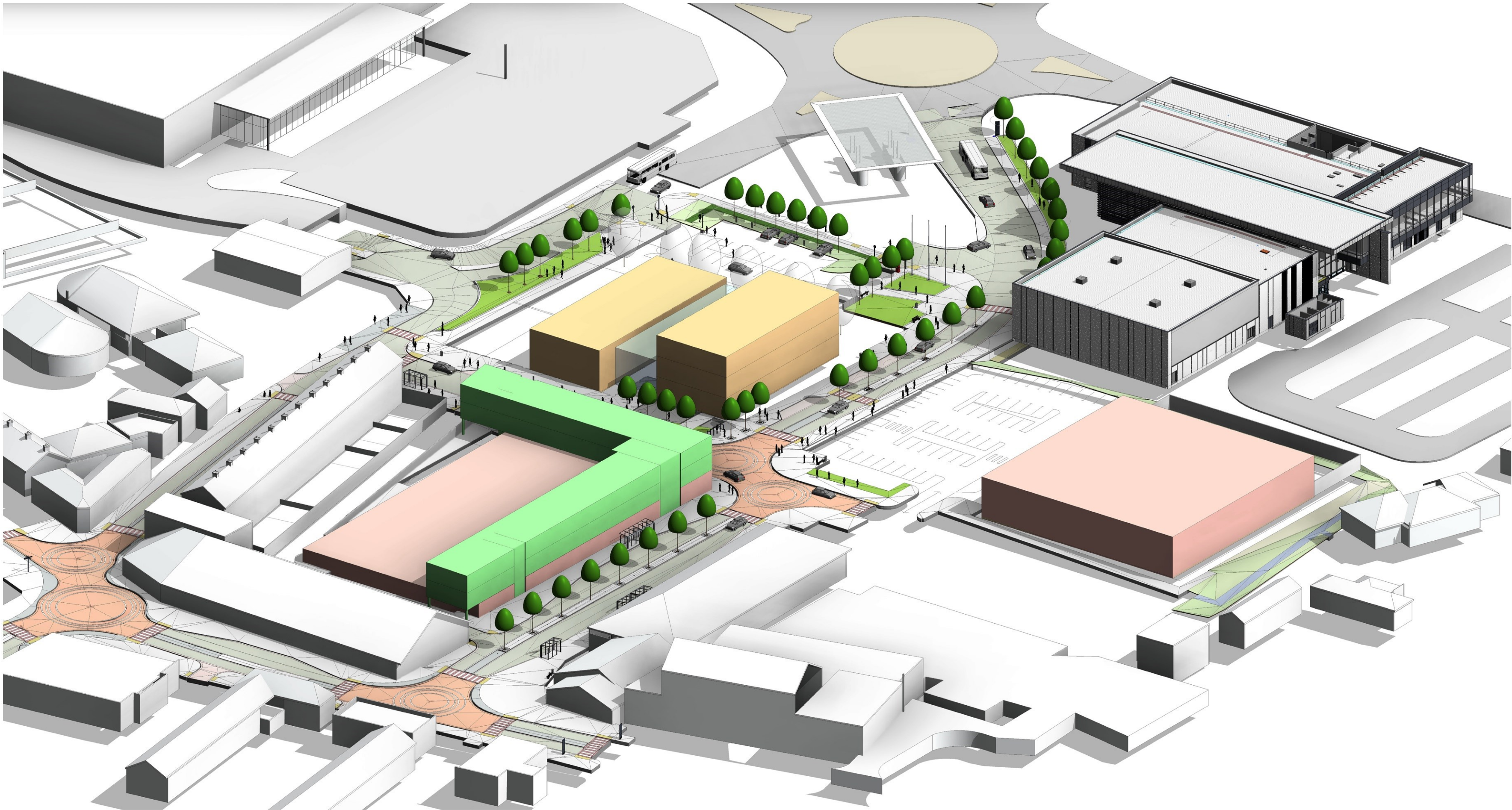
# Concept 1

Delivered by  
**Arch**  
The Northumberland  
Development Company

In partnership with  
**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council



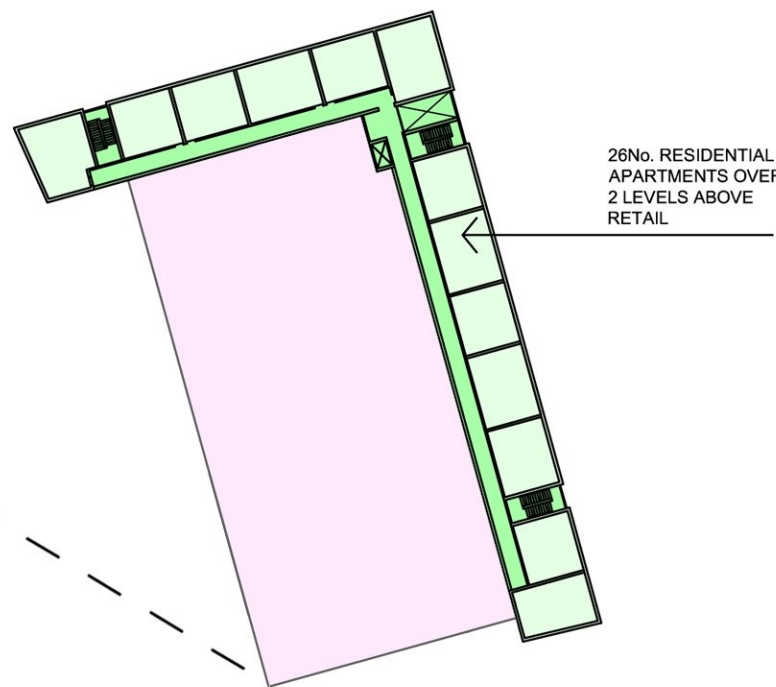
SITE PLAN (GROUND FLOOR)



MASSING STUDY

Concept 1 comprises:

Plot 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cinema / Music Venue</li><li>• Community Facilities</li><li>• Offices above community facilities</li></ul>
Plot 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car parking</li></ul>
Plot 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail</li></ul>
Plot 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail</li><li>• 24 Residential apartments (over two levels) above retail</li></ul>
Throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car parking</li><li>• Public open space, connecting the development with Station Road</li></ul>



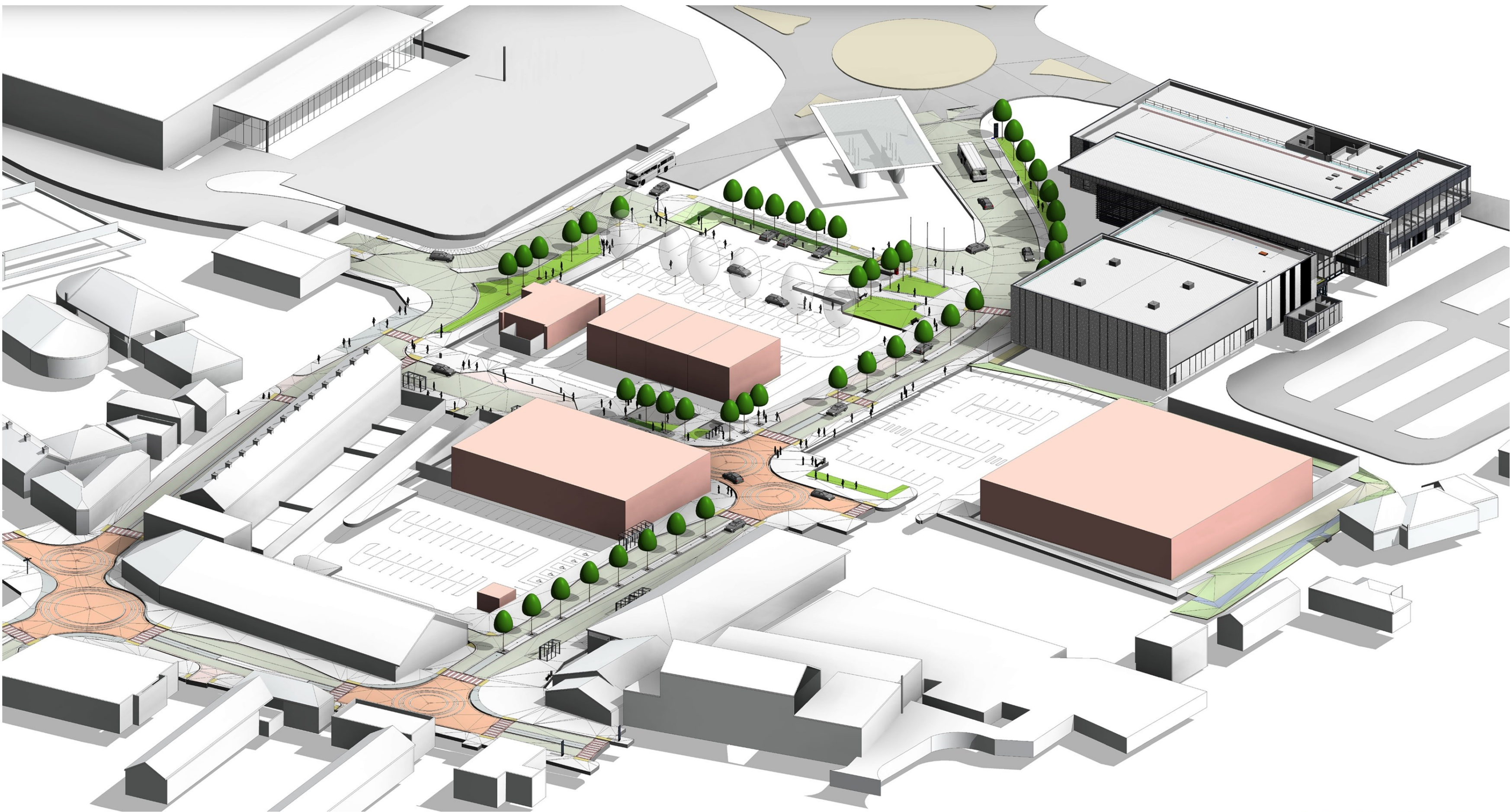
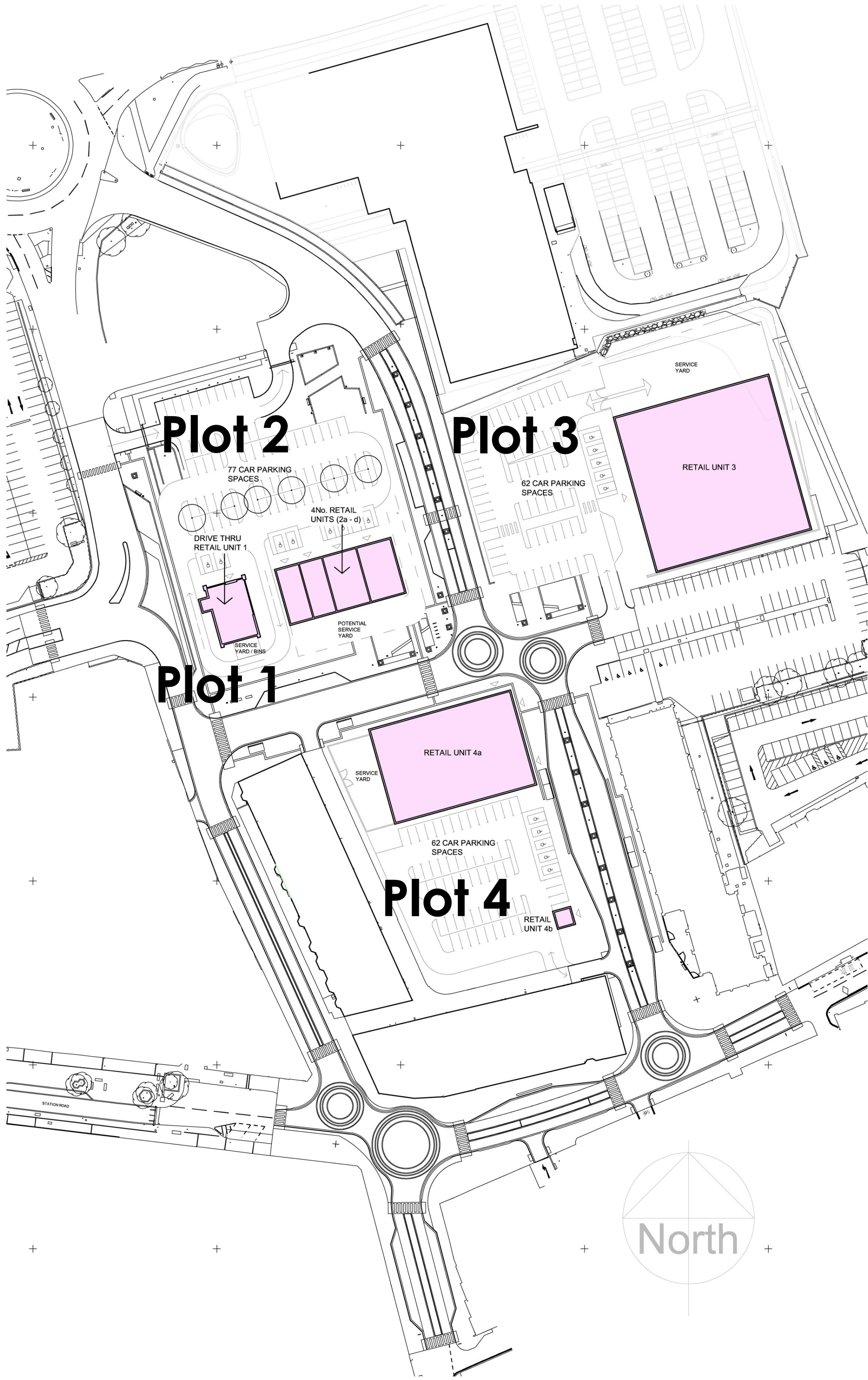
FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR PLAN (EXTRACT)



# Concept 2

Delivered by  
**Arch**  
The Northumberland  
Development Company

In partnership with  
**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council



MASSING STUDY

Concept 2 comprises:

Plot 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail</li><li>• Retail / Drive Thru facility</li></ul>
Plot 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car parking</li></ul>
Plot 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail</li></ul>
Plot 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retail</li></ul>
Throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car parking</li></ul>

SITE PLAN (GROUND FLOOR)



# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Delivered by  
**Arch**  
The Northumberland  
Development Company

In partnership with  
**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

## Thank you for attending today

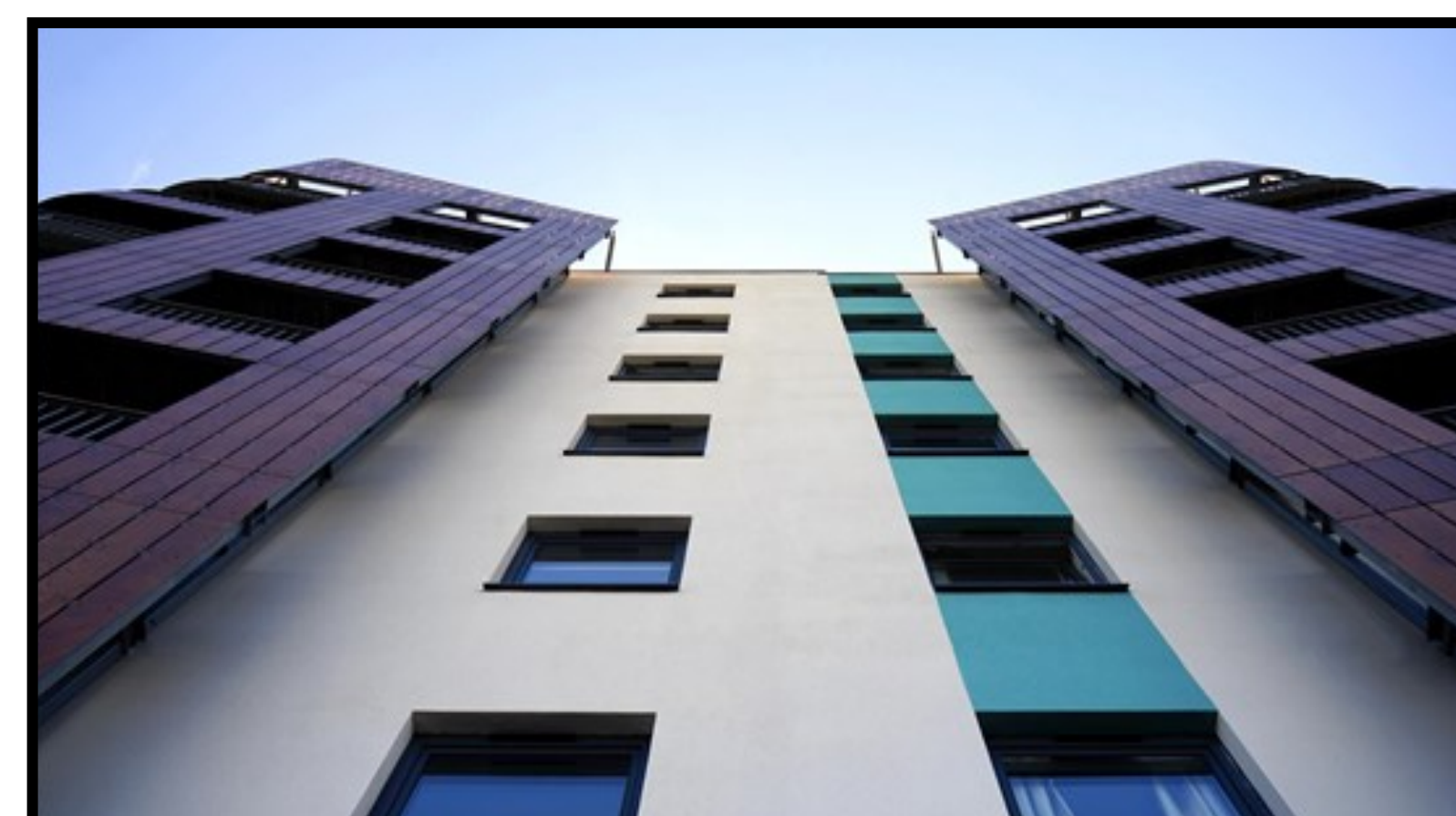
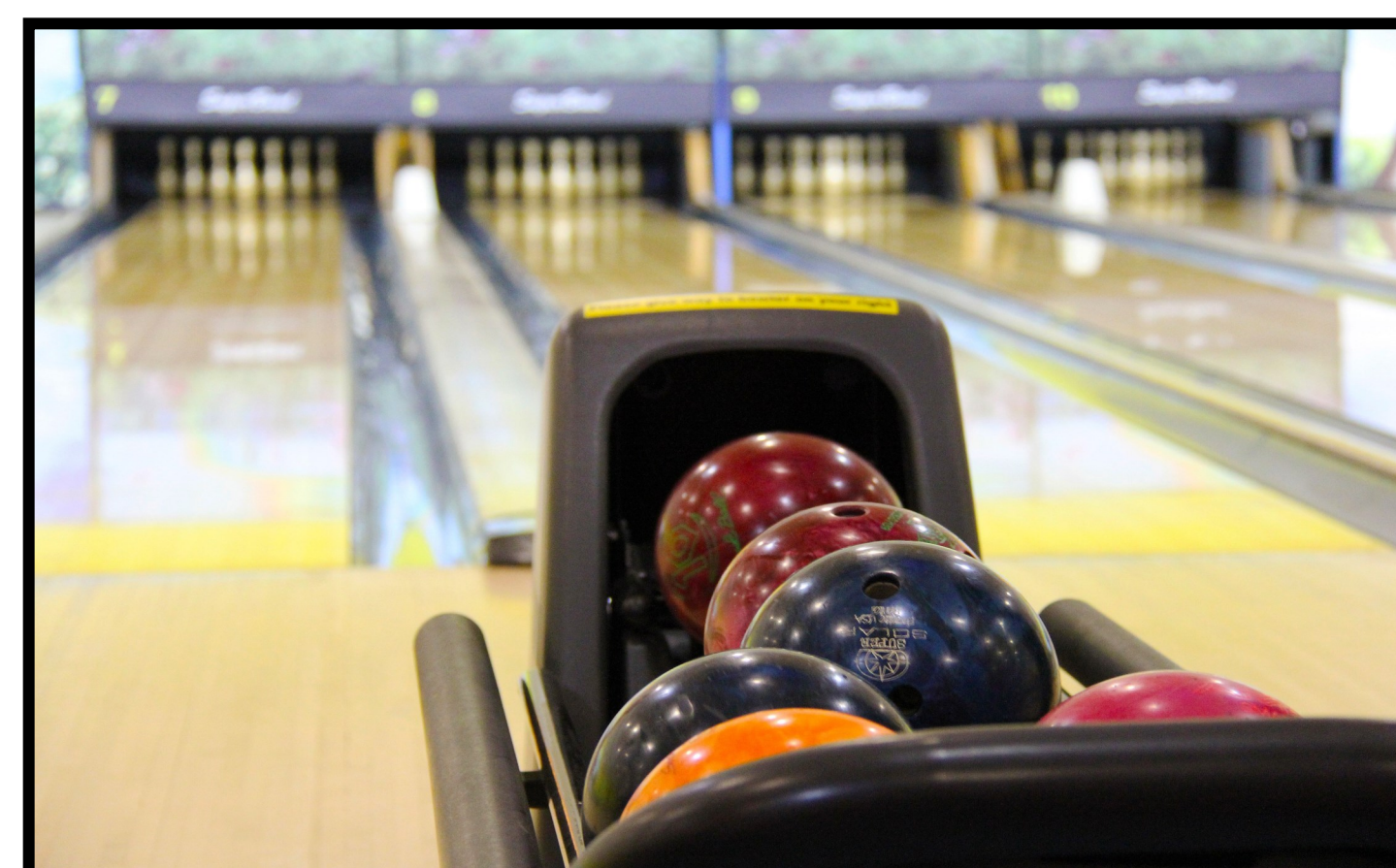
Comments received today will be considered alongside discussions we are having with the Planning Department at Northumberland County Council and third parties. Suggestions received will be market tested and further developed. Following this process, a further public consultation will be carried out to consult on the final development options before a planning application is submitted to the Council.

We would appreciate your views on what you would like to see in the Town Centre, and would be grateful if you could fill in a questionnaire and place it in the comment box provided.

If you are unable to fill out a questionnaire today but would like to comment, feedback can also be provided via post (address details found on the feedback form) or via the online questionnaire that can be accessed at:

[www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-developments/public-events/portland-park-2](http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-developments/public-events/portland-park-2)

Any electronic or postal responses should be received by Thursday 5 October 2017.







Appendix IV –  
Feedback  
Form

## Portland Park Public Consultation Feedback Form

1. How old are you?

Under 16 ☐ 16-23 ☐ 24-44 ☐ 45-64 ☐ 65 plus ☐

2. Are you an Ashington Resident?

Yes ☐ NO ☐

If no where do you live:.....

3. How many times a week do you visit Ashington Town Centre?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8+ ☐

4. What are you main reasons for visiting Ashington Town Centre?

If your reasons are a combination of those listed below, please order from 1 – 5, with 1 being your main reason and 5 being your least.

Work ☐

Shop ☐

Leisure ☐

Bus Connections ☐

Other (please specify below) ☐

Please provide additional comments

**5. What would you like to see developed on Portland Park?**

If you would like to see a number of the suggestions below, please identify your top 3 priorities, 1 being the highest priority and 3 the lowest.

More shops with a wider range of goods	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greater choice of places to eat and drink	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community hub offering a variety of services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ten pin bowling or an alternative leisure offer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cinema or theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music venue	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public open space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide additional comments or other suggestions

Your feedback is important to us.

An electronic version of this form can be accessed at

<https://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-developments/public-events/portland-park-2> and submitted to [enquiries@arch-group.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@arch-group.co.uk) by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Alternatively please submit completed hard copies to:

Arch Development Projects Limited  
Wansbeck Workspace  
Wansbeck Business Park  
Ashington  
NE63 8QZ





## Appendix V – Schedule of responses

### GVA

Central Square, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3PJ

GVA is the trading name of GVA Grimley Limited, an Apleona company

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### Our offices

Birmingham  
Bristol  
Cardiff

Dublin  
Edinburgh  
Glasgow

Leeds  
Liverpool  
London

Manchester  
Newcastle

Q1. Age Group					Q2. Are you an Ashington Resident			Q3. How many times a week do you visit Ashington Town Centre ?								Q4. What are your main reasons for visiting Ashington Town Centre?										Q5. What would you like to see developed on Portland Park?										
Under 16	16-23	24-44	45-64	65 plus	Yes	No	Comment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	If your reasons are a combination of those listed below, please order from 1-5, with 1 being your main reason and 5 being your best					If you would like to see a number of suggestions below, please identify your top 3 priorities										Comments					
																Work	Shop	Leisure	Bus Connections	Other	More Shops with a wider range of goods	Greater choice of places to eat and drink	Community hub offering a variety of services	Ten pin bowling or an alternative leisure offer	Cinema or Theatre	Offices	Music Venue	Residential	Public Open Space	Other						
				1	1		Portland Estates, Ashington					1					1				Bank. We do not want anything close, but County Hall. The people of Morpeth are not the only people who live in Northumberland															
				1	1					1							1	1											1				Would like to see County Hall here.			
		1			1							1					1	1						1									An indoor market supplying a greater range of goods than the current market would be great. Many stalls holders on the current market pack up their stalls and leave early due to poor weather conditions.			
		1			1							1					1		1				1													
			1			1	Stakeford			1							1	1	1										1				Outdoor swings and slides etc for small children. Outdoor bowling green, indoor bowling green. To connect with existing leisure centre.			
			1		1						1						1	1	1				1						1				Like the concept. Main concern would be about takin business or football away from the shops on Station Road.			
			1		1																Don't visit as there is nothing here, can do shopping online or in Asda. Prescription from Lintonville.			1							1	Indoor market. Would ideally like the original plan to be implemented eg County Hall.				
				1	1					1							1																Hoping it wont turn out to be more office blocks.			
				1	1						1						1	1	1	1	1												As the Council have closed both indoor bowls centres, leaving hundreds of elderly and others with an outlet for sports, health, fitness and social think an indoor bowls area is a must. It is cheap to install and run and enable Northumberland to once again develop the sorts for all ages as we are now behind every other County.			
			1			1	Newcastle						1			1							1		1	1	1									
		1			1						1						1	1	1		Music. Ashington lost its sense of community a long time ago. Our main heritage is the mines but when we JAZZ Ashington up we don't use local artists. We don't support our FM Community Radio Station we even lack the ability to add memories to add to the history books.		1					1					Open building with aim of hosting events. Conferences, public parties, music events, festivals, pantomimes, tea dances, political surgeries, town meetings. Need a diverse changeable space for people to host events and bring Ashington's sense of community back.			
				1		1	Stakeford					1				1	1				Used to when the old leisure centre was open.			1									Ashington was a huge mining town and bowls were the miners pastime. Now it has been destroyed by closing the indoor bowls leisure centre. Number of older people played at the centre are now stuck in the house all winter and cant be good for their health.			
	1				1		Stakeford					1					1	1	1														Indoor bowls			
				1	1		Newbiggin						1		1		1		1	1	Family visiting scarce		1										1	Children's Park/free or low cost activities		
				1	1								1				1				Used to be in Ashington 5 times a week. 4 times for bowls but have no indoor centre now.				1								Indoor bowls			
				1		1	Newbiggin								1				1		Like to see indoor bowls facility as it keeps the elderly health and gets us out the house in the winter to meet friends.			1		1							Indoor bowls as have to travel a distance in the winter. When driving not so good for elderly who drive.			
			1		1							1					1	1														1	Stick to original plan. County Council not a Morpeth Council. Not enough people to maintain a cinema, music. Do not need more shops or food outlets. Do not need housing in the centre. The original plan is what is needed.			
			1		1										1		1	1			Create a destination at Wamb3ck Square (Sports Director or Weatherspoons) to compliment the new Portland Park development (college/retail). Man street benefits from a disfunction at end end one which is a boosted by the reopening of the railway station.		1													
			1												1		1		1				1										Original plan should have been scrapped. Retail ok but plenty empty shops. Don't need more food outlets. What employment will this bring in have interested companies been advised. What is the cost?			
				1	1										1			2	3								1						Proper bus station similar to Morpeth. Large mural on the wall facing weatherspoons (old wallaw cinema) Depicting Ashington's past, present and future. Any monies allocated for redevelopment of Ashington should not be spend on redevelopment of Morpeth or County Hall.			
				1	1							1					1	1																Ideally something built that would bring jobs to Ashington. Moving County Hall here and people working here would start spending money here and start aiding the redevelopment of this town.		
		1			1								1				1	1								1										
		1			1												1	1	1															More variety of retailed by names eg M&S TK Maxx like Manor Walks - very good shopping centre.		
		1			1						1						1	1																Just to make people stay in the town instead of having to travel		
		1			1							1					1				Eating lunch/dinner			1									1	Concept 1: has the right balance. Rest to keep residents in Ashington than have travel out of Ashington.		
		1			1							1					1	1			Banking facilities				1									Outdoor adventure playground near leisure centre facility.		
			1		1		Newbiggin			1							1		1															Only being allowed 3 suggestions above the idea of a music venue is also a good one. However non of the proposals cater for bus users. The only thing any successful centre needs is a decent bus station.		
		1			1												1	1			Banking			1										Would personally like to see extended leisure facilities (climbing wall) feel that providing something that cannot be found elsewhere locally (music facility) may be more of a draw o users.		
		1			1												1						1											Further education/training for young people with learn disabilities/difficulties. Business opportunities on site for work experience within the community. Multi-storey car park for longer parking term.		
			1		1										1		1	1	1		Provide a music venue for young people and choirs				1									Rail service to the museum		
		1			1						1						1	1	1															County Hall would have brought Football onto the main street which would have encouraged decent shops to come to Ashington. Lets hope the Council shake their magic money tree and help the people of Ashington to prosper.		
			1			1	Stakeford	1									1				Bank. Would come more often if we had a bowling club which would cover all ages.			1										Indoor bowls required. Having to travel to West Clentford or North Shields - please send results to my address - Doug Curry, 11 Bowfell Gardens, Stakeford, NE65 5HA		
			1			1									1		1						1											Ashington Bus Station is a mess and also unsafe crossing the roads in the bus station. Need decent shops and more to create jobs. Community venue somewhere for people to gather, something for the older and younger age groups.		
			1			1									1	1																				
		1			1			1									1				No entertainment in Ashington (family) shops are poor quality need footfall for big business to come which is what County Hall promised, plus the rail links would be more viable as workers would use it.					1							Not residential unless it is student accommodation. Would like to see a project with some predicted footfall as County Hall. Purpose built college. Cinema/complex would be good too. I have to travel to Cramlington for entertainment. Few facilities for children such as trampolining park or something similar.			
				1		1											1	1			Occasionally for community events													Like to see the original plans and bring the council buildings here. Would then enhance everyone's experience and then retail and leisure developments would have followed. Massive disappointment and now the potential investors for Morpeth have pulled out so nobody is a winner. Need jobs so residential then have income to visit restaurants cinema etc.		
				1		1						1					1	1			Leisure, banks													Interesting to see proposed traffic flow around area.		
				1		1		1									1																	Something for younger residents, an open space to play basketball etc bench seating so they can socialise. Provision for the bowlers since the institute was taken away. Quality shops to make it worthwhile to travel here.		
				1		1					1						1				Banking facilities, space for better class market			1										Ashington needs high quality shops which attract people. Cinema/theatre multi entertainment complex would have same benefit covering in the main street like Cramlington would also be beneficial. Large car parks are useless without facilities to visit.		
				1	1												1	1		1	Banking close to charity shops. Drop high street rents, encouraging much better retailers into town. Keep car parking free. Concept 1 is obviously the best of the two.			1									Spend money to cover in the main street both sides of the bridge. Make it weatherproof. Will attract better shops like Manor Walks Shopping Centre as example. Cinema/theatre would be useful addition as would decent restaurants.			
		1			1										1		1	1					1											Rail connections to Newcastle and surrounding towns.		
		1				1	Blyth					1				1					Metro/train access will have a big input to the surrounding area in Blyth etc. That decision will draw footfall and more businesses into the area.				1											
				1	1							1					1	1			I shop to met friends and bring grandchildren on Market Day and visit the library often and kids love soft play at the leisure centre.			1									Very much welcome a nice meeting place for the people and visitors to Ashington. Like the plaza at Morpeth with some nice shops and music played at xmas. I think it would be great for trade too. It would be said if it is waste on mediocre buildings, it is a chance to put Ashington on the map. Ashington deserves to be			

[illegible]

			1		1										1	1	1	1	1										More regular buses. State of the art toilets with permanent staff to maintain them. Decent shops music venue and that people can afford. Massive reduction for people to afford the leisure centre nice place to meet people and socialise.		
				1	1					1							1	1	1	1		Car parking is needed, retail would be welcome if they can be persuaded to come.	1	1		1					
				1	1						1							1	1	1			1				1		Ariel walkway between blocks		
			1		1							1						1	1	1			1			1	1				
			1		1													1	1	1		Bus station in Ashington	1				1	1			
				1	1														1	1		Main bus station such as Morpeth or Hexham is an essential. Cinema would be nice.									
				1	1														1	1			1					1			
				1	1															1			1							Jobs and services	
			1			1													1	1	1	1	1						County Hall site 900 jobs investment for existing retail and shops		
			1																		What Morpeth has is good need something like it in Ashington. Good shops and toilet facilities and decent bus station. More police less rubbish on streets.								1	More contact with local Elect Counsellors for information	
					1																		1						No play facilities for small child (i.e 0-10 years) in the west end of Ashington. Would like to see playground provided at Portland Park		
					1	1														1		Ashington needs a new lease of life, the main street was a success, cinema would be good, bowling, something for the younger generation help them have pride in their community/	1				1		1		
					1	1																	1							Indoor retail park need to include cinema. Consult with known store to pull people into the town otherwise going to Silverlink, Metro Centre or Newcastle	
				1	1															1			1				1			County Hall or somewhere good for meals and rins for the older generation. Cinema	
			1		1															1			1							No reason to come to Ashington cinema would bring me up from college area. Cinema, skating rink, theatre for entertainment.	
					1	1														1			1							Plans need to be followed through and employment brought into the area. The NCC should still be relocated to Ashington.	
					1	1																			1	1				Having an entirely retail offer would not benefit the town. Retail offers limited employment and requires an appropriate level of custom and revenue. Is there sufficient economic strength and depth a retail offer would undoubtedly fail. Whatever is done should generate the existing town centre. The reinstatement of the rail station would be encouraged.	
			1			1														1	1	Healthcare - Doctors surgery	1				1	1			Plenty of free parking.
				1																					1	1	1	1			Indoor retail space similar to the design on Concept 1. Smart park area consisting of a boating lake with enclosed fencing. Youth centre with various time for all age groups. Public facility as a hall but can be turned into an ice rink or sports court with different dates and times.
					1	1															1	1	1	1	1					Original plan - County Hall	
			1																				1			1	1	1			Leave County Hall for development which will give best benefits for regeneration.
				1																		Indoor bowling	1				1	1			County Hall to be reinstated.
				1																						1					Indoor bowling brought back since it was taken away.
					1																	There is currently nothing gin the town centre to attract me. If I need to go shopping or go out with friends Ill go to Newcastle, Silverlink or Tynemouth.	1				1		1		
					1	1														1		Visit town centre mainly Asda, Aldi never the High Street.	1				1			Greater range of shops with High Street brands not just phone shops and charity shops. Similar to Morpeth and Sanderson Arcade also retail park at Cramlington (Manor Walks Vue Cinema area). Regular weekly market venue for local producers and small business.	
			1		1																		1							No housing	
			1		1															1			1							Do not agree that this is a public consultation offering all possibilities. Option to relocating County Hall to Ashington should remain and do not feel this has been addressed. The decision to stop was an arbitrary political decision and no financial argument has been put forward. The options above do not offer the same benefit as County Hall relocation.	
					1	1																Shopping for food and cleaning products. Using the leisure centre. Bus connections for going to Newcastle generally very poor and to get around the area.	1		1		1		1		High quality retail not just charity shops with good parking. Cinema which is affordable with good parking. Music venue possibly incorporating open air capability and parking. Good quality places to eat and promote local produce not unhealthy fast food establishments with good parking. Good road infrastructure not the bottle neck which has been there since Asda was given the old Portland Park.
				1		1																No more housing we need something like good shop to get people back to Ashington.								1	
				1		1																You need to give people a reason to visit Ashington from outside and bring in people with large disposable income.	1				1	1		1	More retail units is a very poor choice considering you cant fill shops at the moment. Ashington has been left behind other Northumberland towns i.e. Morpeth, Alnwick and Amble.
					1	1																Bank	1				1	1			Not normally a negative person and I do appreciate that this development has been thrust upon Arch due to a change in mind of the current Council however there are empty units in the business parks. I think one leisure suggestions i.e. cinema are positive but I think it may struggle to survive considering Vue is only a few miles along the road. However add 10 pin bowling which is affordable some nice shops and restaurants and you may attract more people into Ashington wanting to spend.
				1																		Only occasionally visit the town centre, unfortunately there are no shopping or leisure offers that appeal to me.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I would caveat that the offer around food and drink would need to be very different to the current venues.	
				1																			1							Ashington needs something based on original plan instead of County Hall maybe the college or part of the college. Whatever happens it needs football.	
				1		1																	1							Retail depends entirely on the shops provided. People will go if its decent shops same old tired brands or shops out of the reach of Ashington folk would be suicidal for development. No residential at all.	
				1		1																	1				1				Keep people updated.
				1		1																	1							Provide indoor bowls.	
						1																									Greta opportunity to deliver a new attractive and new jobs to Ashington.
					1																		1			1	1				Would love to see shops such as Primark, The Perfume Shop, Costa (Style shop), Dunelm, an Ashdene style pub, No fast food joints, Pet Supplies store, Clothes shops and M&S.
					1																										Wider range of shops are needed i.e clothing shops, DIY store, electrical store, pet store, M&S food store. A decent restaurant along the lines of Ashdene, a decent coffee shop, i.e. Nero, Costas, cinema would do well saying as Cramlington or Silverlink is closest.
					1																		1			1					Ashington needs something that will attract people to the town. i.e offices or industry that will create jobs and therefore people will hopefully have more money to spend in the town centre which in turn could attract a wider range of retailers to the town.
				1			1															Need better quality of shops up Main Street as well as more down in new development.	1	1			1	1			We need people to shop and come for leisure into Ashington day and night.
				1		1																	1				1				Give people regular updated on decisions made via websites etc.
				1		1																Prefer concept one. Something along the lines of Alnwick Playhouse/cinema/theatre.	1				1				
					1																		1				1				Like to see more elderly residential eg Crown Bowling rink could be a centre of excellent for the whole of Northumberland. Relocation of County Hall from Morpeth would have been preferred.
					1																					1	1	1			Indoor bowling (crown facilities). All of these have been closed. Would have preferred relocation of County Hall from Morpeth.
				1																			1				1				Bus Station undercover similar to Morpeth. Not bus stops on the street with public toilets. Plus Primark store. Park are with large outdoor screen.
				1																		At present the shops on the street struggle to survive more retail elsewhere will only exacerbate that situation.					1	1	1		County Hall. We may end of up yet another retail park. We should do nothing without a great deal of further thought.
				1																		Lynemouth	1				1				All in one bus station, under cover. Park area with adequate seating.
					1	1																To make a representation at 1 Wansbeck Square	1					1	1		Flats 1 & 2 bedrooms for single people and young/ old couples preferably low cost accommodation. Mixed small and medium sized retail units at low cost and low rates for start up businesses.
					1	1																Exercise walking and look at the town. Paintings to mining and pit wheels show this is a backward looking town. Some say it is our heritage but so was TB, rickets and diphtheria. Look to the future not the past.					1		1		
					1	1																								Ashington needs education and jobs, no money in Ashington to support retail. Training and student accommodation to give Ashington highly trained people to bring industry here. Better transport links - Metro.	
					1	1																				1		1	1		Like to see the original proposal of County Hall being developed on the site together with retail units and residential properties as per the plans previously submitted by NCC. Mick Moffatt, 168 Pont Street, Ashington, NE63 0PX (m-xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx)
					1																	Please contact Vici Richardson @ 07725 038 212 / xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx					1	1	1		Wansbeck Gymnastics and trampolining are looking for permanent space within Ashington. The club has outgrown its current home and we are looking to expand within the community offering disabilities, community hall hire space for Karate clubs and dance clubs. We currently have over 400 members and over 200 on the waiting list. As a club we offer training to 15+ giving qualifications to volunteers and young leaders and this has lead into jobs within the club and when coaches go off to University.
					1	1																									County Hall No. 1
				1		1																My main reason regarding this consultation is to request the URGENT REINTRODUCTION OF INDOOR BOWLING FACILITIES in the East Northumberland area, following the total closure of indoor bowls at both Ashington and Cramlington by the recent County Council labour administration.	1				1	1	1		
			1			1																									As a retailer on Station road, my concern that Big Name retailers will take units at the new site and pull out of Station Road. This will be the end of Station Road. We do not need residential housing in the centre of town. Car parking is a big problem in Ashington. We need something to bring jobs to Ashington. Concept One would be ok with less retail space and more for leisure/entertainment.
					1	1																				1					If public space is a feasible option then a green border would be a mist but a delight.

			1		1	Bedlington													1				Retail and cinema alternative leisure I think would work well and indeed be used. However <u>Please</u> conduct research into how a theatre or community hub would affect current locations such as the YMCA with a well used stage, theatre and art gallery having other facilities as this in the town would severely affect them and could result in damaging the charity. By all means contact us on xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Good luck.
			1		1	Bedlington					1	1	1	1	1				1		1		County Hall as was planned.
			1		1												1		1		1		The provision of more retail will simply kill Station road which is the main street in Ashington. We have a sports complex but no indoor bowls/cinema/10 pin bowling perhaps you could incorporate those into one of the plots. Open space is a premium - the development at Intonville will only make the environment more congested with traffic/pollution.
			1		1							1	1	1	1	1							Ideally lets have County Council Headquarters here over other major office (Parliament) alternatively how about casino/strip club/brothel at least these will bring increased footfall. All retail is done online so no shops needed and no football, entertainment would also be subject to internet so less likely to be used.
				1	1							1	1	1	1	1			1		1	1	Very pleased with new business like approach. All proposals must be viable and sustainable. Indoor bowling (not ten pin bowling) would be good as there are no indoor bowling since they close the old Ashington leisure centre. Cinema would be absolutely wonderful!
				1	1	Lynemouth		1					1	1	1				1		1		
				1	1				1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
			1	1														1	1		1		Ice rink as the one in Whitley Bay and Newcastle are very well used. Nice restaurant would go hand in hand. We don't need more offices in Ashington when we have two business parks that have places to build. We have retail spaces on the main street but all there is is Charity shops or phone shops really nothing to make you want to come A Pimark would be very well received. Car Parking.
			1	1									1							1			Car parking is needed. A Bowling alley and Ice rink would bring people to Ashington because these facilities are not in or near by areas. No offices as there are two nearby office sites not in full use. Do not build retail sites until you have businesses ready to move in we do not need anymore empty buildings. Pimark would be a great advantage to Ashington we are a poor community and need shops I benefit us.
			1		1							1		1					1	1	1	1	Would like to see a better quality of shops and more for young people.
				1	1			1	1													1	A proper bus station with covered in waiting area. A cinema would be nice for the community I would like the original plan of the NCC offices reinstated as originally planned.
				1	1					1			1	1	1	1	1		1				I favour concept one. We do need more retail shops. Quality clothing shops are needed. Altht emoment we only have Asda and Sports Direct. A cinema is also a good idea if it will bring people in. People would come if we had decent shops too. We still need investment in Ashington.
				1															1				Pimark, Home Bargains, Claires Accessories, Paper Chase, Clintons, H&M, Pandora, Millies Cookies, Schuh
				1	1								1	1	1	1						1	Smiggle stationary shop, Claires Accessories, Disney shop, Pets at Home, Paper Chase, Tiger Shop
				1	1					1				1	1	1	1		1	1			Facilities for young people of Ashington to go to. Decent shops, Mountain Warehouse, Fatface, Halfords, Costa Coffee, outdoor stage area for live music in the summer months.
				1		Ashington							1	1	1	1			1	1			Claires Accessories, Disney Shop, Pets at Home, Smiggle, Build a Bear, Paper Chase, Pimark, Entertainment Shop, Pandora, Peacocks, Schuh, Clarks, Costa Coffee, stage for live music, bigger shops
1					1								1		1	1					1		I do not see a retirement for residential in view of existing provision and bulks under development. Alternative leisure/ten pin bowling if it cannone be incorporated into this development consider option to tag onto leisure centre facility. YMCA could be further developed as a music venue.
1				1	1									1	1	1	1						
				1	1					1				1	1	1	1						
				1	1															1	1		I would like to see a nice park where families could go for a nice walk including a play area. Paddling pool, possity and ara where bands could play etc.
				1	1					1				1	1	1						1	
				1	1																		Would like to see original project to relocate HQ of NCC to Ashington. This excellent appropriate planned scheme would have made a massive contribution to the regeneration of Ashington to SE Northumberland and would have benefitted all residents longer term. Quality retailers would have came to the town and up to 900 staff would be in the town centre location. The new proposals are not fit for purpose and unlikely to give any positive outcome. Original scheme was properly costed and would have saved tax payers £16m over 25 years. I am therefore at a loss as to why the new conservative administration at County Hall would have scrapped this excellent scheme. It is clearly spiteful and vindictive to have scrapped the scheme. The Conservative leadership does not understand the needs of SE Northumberland which was built on lies and untruths, no thought given to the regeneration at all other than stopping the investment. I encourage Arch and any sensible elements within the NCC leadership to develop the original plan and move County Hall to Ashington to benefit all residents.
			1		1					1				1					1				
			1		1																1		Childrens Activity Centre. Public open space. Development of the park for the children of Ashington to be able to enjoy to play safely. Blyth and Morpeth have excellent facilities for children, we have nothing. Parks in Ashington are all old and unsafe.
				1	1								1	1	1						1		Proper taxi rank.
				1	1					1				1	1	1	1						Please ensure any development is dementia friendly. This will bring people into the town who feel isolated. This will also help people with any other disabilities. Need disabled charging facilities/lockers accessible for community.
				1	1									1	1								Needs an indoor shopping complex with well known shops. Not Pound Shops or charity. Infor door and drinks places and possibly a cinema to attract people back to the High Street.
			1			North Tyneside				1				1	1	1			1				Childrens activity centre/soft play.
				1	1																		No more offices, have industrial parks in the areas with offices siting empty. Don't need more shops as the main street needs to be improved with what it has to offer. How many phone shops and charity shops can you squeeze into one stretch of street no wonder nobody hardly comes here. Most people would opt to go to Morpeth or Cramlington instead of Ashington. Get a better standard of shops in the area.The area lacks things for children and families eg cinema, bowling, clip and climb area and a whole host of other activities for all ages. Indoor bowling green for the older generation or squash courts as the new leisure centre has does not provide this facility. The notice board stipulated another 24 residential apartments, there are new builds being built all over Ashington, dont need anymore in the centre. Cinema was only mentioned in Concept 1, Concept 2 was for retail which doesnt offer much to us or even challenge the area. Looks like youre taking the easy option on the plans.
			1			1				1				1					1	1			Cinema and bowling should be under one roof. Need entertainment for the kids and adults too. Nothing to do in Ashington on an evening apart from go to a pub.
				1	1	Widdington		1						1	1	1	1			1	1		Ashington is badly lacking good shopping facilities even though the town has good footfall. Possibly lack of public transport and money to spend elsewhere. Need undercover shopping with larger units attracting main High Street shops. Perhaps 2-3 with either offices or bowling alley/music venue. To avoid using the High Street possible stop traffic using it and putting a glass perspex cover over and have a daly market down the middle. Charity shops and small retailers would benefit from having a resident market. Many crafters would probably benefit. Most towns have shopping centres, Ashington lags way behind making me shop in Cramlington for clothing or other items.
			1		1					1					1	1	1		1				County Hall should come to Ashington. Arch should do original plan and invest property in Ashington and save money in the long term for tax payers. Social Media of Counsellor Wearmouth is not fit for public office and should be no where near making decisions on Ashington. Ashington has been treated disgracefully by the Tories and something should be done to stop them.
				1		Newbiggin									1				1		1		Indoor bowling facility for all ages in the bowling community. Range of indoor bowlers covers the whole of Northumberland and since the closing down of local bowls facilities has meant a lot of people can no longer do something that keeps them active and that they enjoy. Those that do, have to travel miles out of their way.
				1		Newbiggin				1					1		1				1		Indoor bowling green would be ideal to replace the ones that have been closed in Northumberland area. A lot of people young and old are not able to travel to the ones that are available i.e. West Denton and North Shields. It is an excellent way to keep fit for older people and a competitive sport for both young and old. It is a place for people to socialise.
				1	1																		Original proposal was to create an anchor to enourage local development and greatly increase footfall/new people to the town. Latest proposals are predominantly aimed at existing locals in one of the most deprived areas of the North East to fund / encourage national retail and leisure providers into the area thus the current options are fundamentally flawed. Town deperately requires new businesses which can offer well paid employment and attract people to both invest and live int he local area. The NCC headquarters fully met those requirements and would have offered instant stimulus to the overall regeneration of the area. It would be of great interest to understand the costs incurred in the following: 1) determination of renegotiating of the contracts with the main contractors/sub-contractors and professional consultants, 2) redesign costs, retendering and negotiation and general procurement 3) wasted costs in piling works that have already been completed to accommodate the original design 4) design and refurbishment of the Morpeth site 5) purchase costs and associated professional fees in acquiring the land on the Ashington site 6) compounded interest costs on money borrowed to fulfil the above.
				1	1	Loughorskey		1							1						1		This is a great opportunity to give the town a centre, something it desperately lacks at the moment. Town squares are ne of the best features of many continental towns. A very large piazza lined or edged with maple trees would be innovative, attractive, available for all kinds of activities, pop concerts, festival, market stalls, passagoe even. Morpeth's tiny square works quite well, but you need to think BIG I
				1	1																		I tend to go to other towns for clothes shopping as there is very limited choice of my choosing. I do not socialise in Ashington other than bingo or public houses as there is very little to offer. As a single parent with teenage sons, I would like the new development to have leisure facilities suitable for family entertainment and where my sons could also go when unaccompanied by me day or evening.
				1		Guidepost				1					1	1	1	1			1	1	A multi purpose theatre/cinema with conference centre with nice places inside and out to have a bit to eat and a drink. The Phoenix in Blyth is full with events perhaps one per week. Vue in Cramlington appears to be quiet but has 9 screens perhaps people may well travel to the most northerly cinema in the area especially with good free car parking. Need to attract people outside of Ashington to shop and visit. What can we offer that is better than Cramlington or Morpeth? Ashington has a geographical advantage over many towns as there is no major competition north of us so can we get visitors to stop here and spend their month.
				1															1	1			It is very rare I come to the town.

[illegible]

[illegible]







208	102	67	119	63	395	155		94	79	89	50	79	28	28	86	197	453	294	229	153		314	242	112	207	366	51	137	36	82	66					
37.2%	18.2%	12.0%	21.3%	11.3%	71.8%	28.2%		17.6%	14.8%	16.7%	9.4%	14.8%	5.3%	5.3%	14.9%	34.2%	22.2%	17.3%	11.5%	1326																
559																																				

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