

## **Matter 1 – Legal and Procedural Matters – including the Duty to Cooperate**

**Issue 1** – Has the Plan been prepared in accordance with statutory procedures and Regulations?

### *General Introduction*

Q1 Overall, has the Plan been prepared in accordance with the relevant legal requirements set out in the 2004 Act and 2012 Regulations?

At the town planning meeting I attended there were a number of questions I asked which were not answered is there not an obligation on the council to have people in attendance who can answer any question relating to the plan. I was in the meeting for around 2 hours going through the plan and there were many questions that were not answered satisfactorily. Some examples of the questions:

- Have other considerations been given to the utilisation of Brenda Road /Toft Farms Sites as an extension of Seaton Carew to turn it into caravan/sports development – answer given was not sure but this land has been identified for heavy industry so probably not
- What industries are the council actively encouraging to come to Hartlepool – answer we don't encourage industries we wait for organisations to approach us such as 360 jump.
- Sporting facilities how are people supposed to get from one side of town to the other when public transport around the town especially when the bus routes between Seaton Carew and Hartlepool stop around 7 p.m.

This raises a number of concerns re the council's vision and consideration as to what the council are doing to attract new businesses/industries to the town.

Q3 Has the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with all relevant organisations on strategic matters of relevance to the plan's preparation, as required by the Duty to Cooperate?

Is there not a duty of care required by the council to listen to its residents and act accordingly? The council have a tendency to implement then consult an example of this is the recent parking charges in Seaton Carew, where decisions have been made without base line data to measure the impact of the introduction of parking charges. Only when challenged did the council confess to not having base line data to measure success of the parking scheme, other than financial gain.