



#### A. Introductory Letter From County Executive Clark

Please allow me to introduce the 2012 Comprehensive Development Plan Update. This plan envisions a future for New Castle County that includes variety and flexibility in housing options, commercial, office and industrial space to meet the changing demands of our community. The plan also includes an ongoing commitment to the preservation of land for agriculture, natural and recreational areas. In the development and implementation of this plan we face great challenges, as no one can truly predict the future. But as Benjamin Franklin stated: "If you fail to plan you are planning to fail."

Although this plan uses the most reliable data available, we need a plan that can adapt to our constantly changing society and evolving world economy. Balancing the needs of employers who wish to locate or expand their businesses in New Castle County with the quality of life that makes New Castle County a desirable place to live is vital for the future growth of our community. If we hope to compete in the global marketplace, we must respond to our citizens' need for employment opportunities and develop standards that possess clarity, predictability and consistency, but do not degrade quality of life issues. This plan attempts to strike that balance.

The plan stresses sustainability, flexibility and safety because these are the basic principles of comprehensive planning. The plan addresses fiscal responsibility because taxpayers deserve the best use and value of their tax dollars. Without solid financial positioning, the primary responsibility of New Castle County to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents is jeopardized. This plan incorporates those elements and provides a blueprint for balanced and sustainable growth in the years to come.

As part of the 2012 Comprehensive Development Plan Update process, we reached out and received input from numerous and diverse groups and individuals. I would like to thank all those who helped in the creation of this document. New Castle County government is committed to working with our citizens, the business community, non-profit groups and other governments to help secure a future that meets the needs of today and tomorrow. I look forward to working with all of you in keeping New Castle County a great place to live, work, and raise our families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul G. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul G. Clark  
County Executive