

Darlington Local Development Framework

Core Strategy

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An inclusive approach

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Foreword

In adopting this Core Strategy Development Plan Document, the Council has made the first and most significant step towards completing an up to date local development plan for the Borough, replacing parts of the Borough of Darlington Local Plan.

The Core Strategy sets out a vision, aims and objectives for planning new development in Darlington Borough over the next fifteen years and will help to realise the ambitions and priorities of 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', the sustainable community strategy for Darlington.

The Core Strategy contains policies that set out the broad principles about how much, where and when new development should take place, and what form it should take. It also outlines the sustainable transport and other infrastructure that will need to be provided to support it. It promotes economic growth and new housing to meet local needs and those of people who we anticipate will move to Darlington to work. At the same time, it safeguards and seeks to enhance the things that make Darlington distinctive, such as its abundance of greenery, its wealth of historic buildings and heritage, its vibrant market town character, attractive villages and areas of open countryside. Some important matters, such as retailing and the town centre, affordable housing and promoting renewable energy and sustainable developments are dealt with in greater detail.

The Core Strategy has been prepared so that as far as possible, it continues to be relevant in changing economic and political circumstances, and so that it provides a clear framework for the preparation of more detailed planning policy documents over the next few years. If you live or work in Darlington or want to develop or do business here, I recommend you read on, to find out how the planning policies in this document might affect you.

Ada Burns,
Chief Executive
Darlington Borough Council
May 2011

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1. INTRODUCTION

What is this document and why is it important?

1. The Darlington Local Development Scheme 2011-14 sets out the LDF documents that the Council will produce over the next 3 years, and the timetable for producing them.

2. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, A Vision for Darlington 2008-2021, Darlington Partnership 2008.

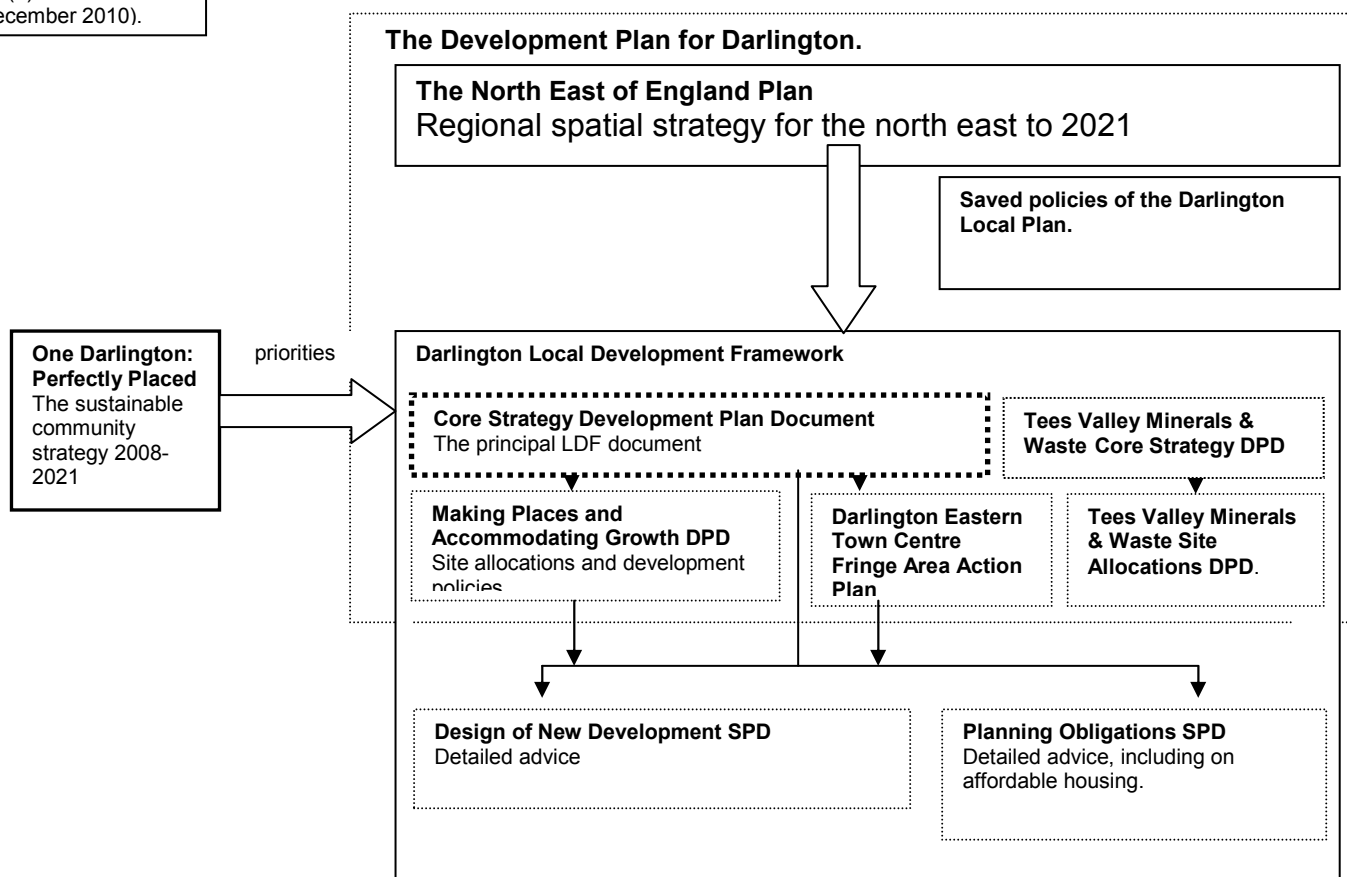
3. The North East of England Plan, as the Regional Strategy, is part of the statutory Development Plan, though the Government has signalled its intention to revoke Regional Strategies in Section 89(3) of the Localism Bill (13 December 2010).

1.1 This document is the principal document of the Darlington Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a set of documents¹, which will eventually replace the adopted Darlington Local Plan. It sets out how the Borough will develop over the next fifteen years (2011-2026), providing the spatial planning framework for the many plans and strategies prepared by the Council and its partners. In particular, it will help to deliver spatially the priorities of the sustainable community strategy 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'².

1.2 The Core Strategy is the key document of the statutory Development Plan³ for the Borough. The development plan informs a range of implementation plans and decisions on planning applications.

1.3 When the Core Strategy and its daughter documents are adopted, the Development Plan will be as depicted in Figure 1.1 below.

Figure 1.1: The Eventual Local Development Framework for Darlington



1.4 'Saved' policies of the Darlington Local Plan remain part of the development plan until superseded by an adopted development plan document. Appendix 1 sets out the 'saved' Local Plan policies that Core Strategy policies will supersede.

1.5 Other LDF documents are being prepared in accordance with the Local Development Scheme 2011 - 2014 or any successor.

1.6 This document is the Council's LDF Core Strategy. It sets out an overall vision of how Darlington Borough and places within it should develop, and the strategic objectives that will ensure key spatial issues are addressed. This is followed by planning policies, arranged around seven themes, and information about how, when and with whose resources the strategy will be delivered. The document also includes information about how progress in delivering the strategy will be managed and monitored, and a Key Diagram (see inside back cover) that illustrates the broad locations to which the policies refer.

4. The five Tees Valley local authorities are Darlington, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Councils. More details about the Minerals and Waste documents can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/planningpolicy

1.7 This Core Strategy deals with all land use and development issues affecting Darlington, except for minerals and waste (see Figure 1.1); these are covered in the Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, prepared jointly by the five Tees Valley local authorities⁴. Minerals Safeguarding Areas will be illustrated on the Darlington LDF Proposals Map. An Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been published alongside this Core Strategy.

1.8 Preparation of this Core Strategy is in accordance with the required procedures set down in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, and in accordance with the timetable in the Council's Local Development Scheme 2011-2014.

1.9 Appendix 2 lists the studies that have underpinned policy development, while Appendix 3 lists the plans and programmes that have been taken into account in preparing this document.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.10 A Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment, has been carried out at key stages in the preparation of this LDF Core Strategy.

5. Darlington Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report, June 2010.

Full details can be found in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal report⁵. The Appraisal has taken place alongside policy development, so that feedback from the appraisal process could shape the policies included in this document.

6. Natura 2000 is a European network of protected sites which represent areas of the highest value for natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community.

1.11 Screening has also been carried out to establish the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The screening report concluded that there would be no significant detrimental effects of the Core Strategy, nor is it likely to give rise to any significant detrimental effects, on Natura 2000 sites⁶. The potential for cumulative effects will be monitored through the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Contact details

1.12 To contact a member of the Planning Policy Team, please telephone 01325 388644 or e-mail planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk.

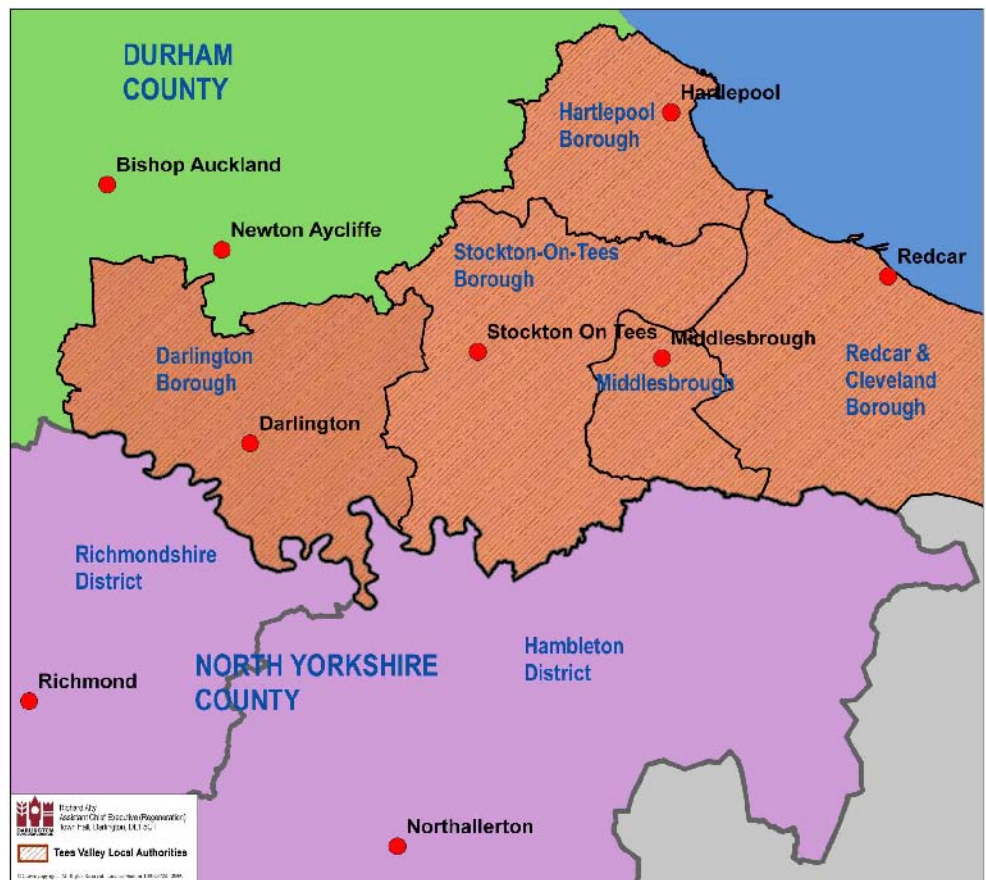
2. DEVELOPING A SPATIAL VISION FOR DARLINGTON

2.1 In developing a spatial vision and strategic objectives to guide the preparation of this Core Strategy, consideration was given to how Darlington currently is and to the local plans and strategies that are currently shaping the future of the Borough. Also considered were the issues the Borough faces over the next 15 years or so, and the wider national, regional and sub regional policy context. Having clear links to other plans, policies and programmes will help the Borough to make the strongest possible case for the funding required to implement the spatial policies and proposals contained in this document.

Overview of Darlington Borough

2.2 Darlington Borough is a unitary local authority area that lies at the western end of the Tees Valley, a sub-regional grouping also including the unitary authorities of Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees. The Borough is regarded as the 'gateway' to the Tees Valley and the wider North East region of England, lying adjacent to the Yorkshire and Humber region, with which it shares a boundary, formed by the River Tees.

Figure 2.1: Darlington's neighbouring local authority areas



2.3 Darlington is a historic market town, surrounded by open countryside with many attractive agricultural villages. The town's development has been closely associated with the railway age and associated manufacturing. On the one hand, this past industrial activity has left a legacy of unused and underused land, but on the other, it has bestowed a wealth of buildings of architectural and historic interest dating from the railway age and the subsequent Victorian period, to complement buildings and urban layouts reflecting the town's Quaker community.

2.4 The Borough's range of cultural facilities, such as the Dolphin Centre, Civic Theatre and the Head of Steam Railway Museum, contribute to a good quality of life, and help attract visitors. An abundance of street trees and open space within the urban area contribute to the town's distinctiveness and biodiversity, particularly the green corridors along the River Skerne, Cocker Beck and Baydale Beck. Outside the urban area, a magnesian limestone escarpment forms higher land and a rare ecosystem at the northern fringe of the Borough. An attractive, biodiverse and often wooded landscape has evolved along the River Tees corridor, complemented by more recent community woodland planting, especially at the urban fringe. The Borough hosts a variety of habitats and species, including some, like the black poplar and the great crested newt, that are rare and/or declining regionally or nationally.

2.5 The Borough has excellent national and international transport links, by rail (East Coast Main Line), road (A1/M) and air (Durham Tees Valley Airport). The town centre provides employment, shops and services for large parts of North Yorkshire and south and west Durham and the western part of the Tees Valley.

2.6 The Borough's current population is about 100,100¹, made up of 46,000 households². It has an ageing population, caused by declining birth rate over recent decades and by out-migration of young well educated adults seeking better employment opportunities elsewhere; more than 20% of the population is of retirement age or older³. There are also marked contrasts in the life chances and quality of life of people in the Borough, according to where they live. 31% of the Borough live in seven wards that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country⁴, whilst about 7% live in two wards that are amongst the least deprived nationally. There is a 13-year difference in life expectancy between the best and worst wards, and unemployment varies from 12.2% for the inner Central ward (Mar 2010), to 1.7% in the suburban Hummersknott ward.

2.7 The Borough has a relatively high proportion of older terraced housing as well as a variety of more modern detached, semi detached houses, townhouses and flats. These meet most local needs, as well as some of the needs arising from the continued expansion of Catterick Garrison, and those of higher income people with employment in the Tees Valley⁵. However, some housing is no longer suitable for modern needs and aspirations, and overall, there is not enough to meet all the needs identified⁵.

2.8 The Borough's economy has performed strongly over recent years shifting from its past reliance on manufacturing to one with a wider, more resilient base⁶. Specialist engineering⁷, the now dominant service sector (business and professional services) and public sector employment (public administration, healthcare and education) are the most significant employers, whilst a relatively high proportion of the local workforce (28.2%)

1. ONS 2008 based subnational population projections.

2. CLG statistics. Mar 2009.

3. ONS mid 2007 population estimates.

4. 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation.

5. Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2009.

6. Darlington Gateway Strategy, December 2006 by BDP/King Sturge/Regeneris/CI:P

7. e.g. Cummins Engines, Whessoe, AMEC, and Cleveland Bridge.

8. 60.4% of working age in 2008, increasing to 62.2% by 2021 (ONS 2006 based projections).

9. 2008 figures for NVQ levels 2+, 3+ and 4+.

10. Most of these can be found at www.communities.gov.uk

11 The RSS sets out the long term spatial development strategy for the region – see side note 3, section 1.

11. Tees Valley Unlimited coordinates strategic economic development and other programmes subregionally, to improve overall economic performance.

12. Tees Valley Unlimited, July 2010.

are in professional, senior or managerial roles, or skilled jobs. The Borough has a projected increasing potential workforce⁸, with relatively high skills and higher education achievements⁹, and has economic activity and overall employment rates consistently above sub-regional and regional levels.

National Planning Policy Context

2.9 This Core Strategy has been drawn up in accordance with the most up to date national planning policy and advice. National planning policy is set out in planning policy guidance notes, planning policy statements, ministerial statements and circulars issued by the Government¹⁰.

Regional Planning Policy Context

2.10 This Core Strategy has also been drawn up to be in general conformity with the Regional Strategy (RSS)¹¹, 'The North East of England Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021', published by the Government in July 2008. The RSS sees Darlington as having a key role in contributing to regional economic growth, and a gateway to the Tees Valley and North East. It recognises that the Borough's unique, accessible location and market town character make it perfectly placed to attract high quality employment in the financial, business services, logistics and advanced engineering and public sectors, which may otherwise not locate in the region. It specifically identifies brownfield opportunities in Central Darlington as a priority for development, and land in the Faverdale and Heighington Lane areas as key employment locations. It also acknowledges that the Borough's road and rail infrastructure, together with Durham Tees Valley Airport on the eastern boundary of the borough, could make it pivotal as a gateway and interchange in helping to achieve a regional renaissance.

2.11 The references throughout this Core Strategy subsist until the necessary parliamentary authority is obtained to revoke the RSS, after which the references to the RSS will be redundant.

Sub-Regional Policy Context

2.12 The five Tees Valley local authorities, and their private and public sector partners, work together to tackle the key economic challenges in the Tees Valley, through Tees Valley Unlimited¹¹(TVU) and Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership. The Economic and Regeneration Statement of Ambition¹² provides the framework for this, recognising that the economy is the key challenge. Its two ambitions are to drive the transition to the high value, low carbon economy, and to create a more diversified and inclusive economy. The priorities flowing from this include bringing land forward for development and upgrading utilities, supporting manufacturing and supporting growth in the service and retail sectors, including government department relocations. The statement also recognises that to achieve these ambitions, the transport network must be fit for purpose, the housing offer must be attractive to people wanting to invest and locate in the Tees Valley, and the environment, particularly green infrastructure and major regeneration areas, needs to be improved. The emerging Tees Valley Economic Regeneration Investment Plan will detail how the ambitions will be delivered over the next 5-10 years, will inform and reflect on the 'single

conversation' with government agencies, One North East and the Homes and Communities Agency, and will identify priorities for intervention and provide a robust evidence base for external funding opportunities such as the Regional Growth Fund.

13. The Tees Valley was awarded Housing Growth Point status in 2008.

14. Creating Thriving Communities in the Tees Valley, Tees Valley Living, July 2010.

2.13 Through a major mixed use scheme at Central Park and the redevelopment of surplus school sites, the Borough is also contributing to meeting Tees Valley Housing Growth Point¹³ targets. Looking further ahead, the Statement of Ambition and associated investment plan will help to deliver the sub-regional strategy for housing regeneration 2010-2020¹⁴, particularly by providing more housing for graduates, families and knowledge economy workers. Priority is given to development in and around the town centres, avoiding areas of flood risk and achieving higher standards of design and sustainability in new housing, including zero carbon living. It will also mean providing more accessible and affordable homes, and improving the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock.

2.14 The Tees Valley Local Authorities are also preparing joint Minerals and Waste development plan documents, and worked together to prepare the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008). Technical studies such as a strategic flood risk assessment, a Gypsy and traveller accommodation needs assessment and a strategic housing market assessment were also commissioned jointly.

2.15 There are some planning issues affecting Darlington that extend beyond the Borough boundary, mostly into the rest of the Tees Valley, but also into other adjacent local authorities in North Yorkshire, and into County Durham. Those for which there has been specific consideration are set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Cross boundary issues considered in this Core Strategy

Issue	Where it is dealt with in this Document
In and out-commuting from neighbouring populations centres, and to other locations in the A1(M) and East Coast Railway corridor to the north and south. Connectivity between the Borough and the rest of the Tees Valley sub region.	Policies CS1(Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy) and CS19 (Transport).
Recognising the role of Durham Tees Valley Airport as an economic driver.	Vision Objectives 3 and 8 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS5 (Employment Land), CS19 (Transport)
Low but sustained pressure for new housing in the Borough, arising from ongoing expansion and dispersal of service personnel from Catterick Garrison in Richmondshire District into nearby civilian communities.	Policy CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs)
Darlington is part of an upper income housing market that extends from the south-west of Darlington and its rural areas across the south of the Tees Valley as a whole and into North Yorkshire.	Policy CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs)
The town centre is a major sub-regional hub for almost a quarter of a million people, including the western part of the Tees Valley and wide areas of south and west Durham and north-west Yorkshire.	Vision Policies CS1(Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), Policy CS7 (Town Centre), CS8 (Additional Retail Provision).
Co-ordinating growth and development at Durham Tees Valley Airport, which straddles the administrative boundary between Stockton and Darlington Boroughs.	Policies CS1(Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS5 (Employment Land), CS6(Culture and Tourism) and CS19

	(Transport).
The cumulative impact of renewable energy generation proposals, particularly wind power, across a wider landscape area encompassing parts of Stockton Borough and Durham County	Policy CS3 (Promoting Renewable Energy)
Maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure of sub-regional significance, such as the River Tees corridor, and increasing community woodland.	Policy CS17 (Green Infrastructure)

Local Policy Context and Key Issues

2.16 One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, which is the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington and was prepared in 2008, is the overarching strategy for the people and place of Darlington. This Core Strategy and the LDF as a whole is the spatial expression of that strategy. The SCS sets out the most significant issues and problems that must be addressed in Darlington and a vision for Darlington for the period 2008-2021. The extent to which the issues can be addressed in this Core Strategy varies, but the main ones that can be are highlighted in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2: Significant Issues from the SCS to be addressed through the Local Development Framework

One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Issue	Where it is dealt with in this Document
Tackling deprivation, reducing inequality, (focussing on health and well being and reducing obesity)	Vision Objectives 2 and 6 Policies CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs), CS13 (Accommodating Travelling Groups), CS17(Green Infrastructure), CS18 (Sport and Recreation Facilities) and CS19 (Transport).
Nurturing a strong, vibrant and cohesive community	Vision Objectives 2, 6 and 7 Policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS6 (Culture and Tourism), CS 7 (Town Centre), CS9 (Local Shops and Services),CS14 (Local Distinctiveness), CS17 (Green infrastructure) and CS18(Sport and Recreation Facilities)
Ensuring equality of opportunity and access to services	Vision Objectives 2, 3, 5 and 8 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS2 (Design of New Development), CS5 (Employment Land), CS7 (The Town Centre) CS9 (Local Shops and Services), CS10 (New Housing Development), CS17(Green Infrastructure), CS18 (Sport and Recreation Facilities) and CS19 (Transport).
Regarding happiness, fulfilment and well-being of individuals as a legitimate concern	Vision Objectives 2, 6 and 7 Policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS6 (Cultural and Tourism Offer), CS 7 (Town Centre), CS9 (Local Shops and Services),CS14 (Local Distinctiveness), CS17 (Green infrastructure) and CS18(Sport and Recreation Facilities)
Further enhancing town centre uses in the town centre, whilst safeguarding its friendly market town character	Vision Objective 5 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS7 (The Town Centre) and CS8 (Additional Retail Provision).
Helping businesses to grow and attract new ones.	Vision Objectives 3 and 8 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS4 (Local Distinctiveness), CS5 (Employment Land), CS14 (local distinctiveness) and CS19 (Transport).
Maintaining and enhancing the cultural life of the Borough	Vision Objective 2 and Objective 6 Policy CS6 (Culture and Tourism)
Providing good accessibility, travel safety and choice of transport modes for everyone, whilst tackling	Vision Objectives 2, 3, 5 and 8 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS5 (Employment Land), CS7 (The Town Centre) CS9 (Local Shops and

congestion	Services), CS10 (New Housing), CS17(Green Infrastructure), CS18 (Sport and Recreation Facilities) and CS19 (Transport).
Increasing the supply and range of affordable housing.	Vision Objective 4 Policy CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs),
Developing sustainable neighbourhoods.	Vision Objectives 2, 6 and 7 Policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS9 (Local Shops and Services), CS12(Existing Housing), CS14 (Local Distinctiveness), CS17 (Green infrastructure) and CS18 (Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities)
Value and reinforce green infrastructure	Vision Objectives 1 and 7 Policy CS1(Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS2 (Design of New Development), CS17(Green Infrastructure)
Minimise carbon emissions and playing a part in reducing climate change.	Vision Objective 1 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS2(Design of New Development), CS3 (Promoting Renewable Energy), CS4 (Local Distinctiveness), CS7 (The Town Centre) CS9 (District and Local Centres and Local Shops and Services), CS10 (New Housing Development), CS12 (Existing Housing Stock), CS14 (local distinctiveness), CS16 (Environmental Resources), CS17(Green Infrastructure), CS18 (Sport and Recreation Facilities) and CS19 (Transport).

15. This is the core of the 'Town Centre Fringe' strategic location identified in draft policies CS1, CS5, CS7, and CS10.

2.17 Engrained in, and forming the foundation of, One Darlington: Perfectly Placed is Darlington's successful economic strategy for the last 10 years. This began with the Darlington Gateway Development Framework 2003, and was updated by the Darlington Gateway Strategy 2006. The strategy focuses on the Borough's unique quality of life and accessibility strengths, and a strong, cohesive and regenerated town in its vision for economic growth. It plans to widen the supply of employment land, particularly focusing on regenerating the area between the town centre and the railway station¹⁵ and at Central Park. The priority locations for development and investment reflect both Darlington's established gateway role and are adjacent to, or contain the most deprived communities. This offers an opportunity to work with business and resident communities and link local employment opportunities with local people to deliver truly sustainable economic development.

Other Issues

2.18 Through consideration of evidence collected and consultation responses received during the preparation of this Core Strategy, and having regard to national Government priorities, a range of other social, economic and environmental issues with local effects have been identified that the Core Strategy needs to tackle. These are summarised in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Other Issues for Darlington to be addressed through the Local Development Framework

Issue	Where it is dealt with in this Document
Population and economy	
An ageing population	Vision Objectives 2, 4 and 8 Policies CS11 (Meeting Housing Needs) and CS19 (Transport).
Wage levels of Darlington residents below the regional and national averages.	Vision Objectives 2 and 3 Policies CS5 (Employment Land), CS7 (Town Centre)

Development	
Ensuring that significant regeneration and development is delivered, particularly in the well located prominent locations of the Town Centre, Central Park and Town Centre Fringe.	Vision Objectives 3 and 4 Policies CS1 (Darlington's Sub Regional Role and Locational Strategy), CS5 (Employment Land), CS7(Town Centre), CS10 (New Housing)
Providing sufficient, suitable and available employment land throughout the plan period to deliver the range and type of jobs that the Borough needs to fulfil its economic aspirations.	Vision Objective 3 Policy CS5 (Employment Land)
Matching the Borough's housing stock to better meet needs and modern day aspirations of local people and those moving into the Borough.	Vision Objective 4 Policy CS10 (New Housing), CS11 (Housing Needs), CS12 (Existing Housing)
Local Environment and Quality of Life	
Maintaining quality of life	Vision Objectives 1,2, 5,6, 7 and 8 Policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS6(Culture and Tourism), CS7(Town Centre), CS11(Meeting Housing Needs), CS13 (Accommodating Travelling Groups), CS14(Local Distinctiveness), CS15 (Protecting Human Health and Safety), CS17(Green Infrastructure), CS18 (Sport and Recreation), CS19(Transport).
Emphasising the Borough's positive qualities	Vision Objective 7 Draft revised policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS14 (Local Character and Distinctiveness), CS7 (The Town Centre).
Supporting infrastructure provision that is accessible and better meets the needs of all local people.	Vision Objectives 2, 6 and 8 Policies CS2 (Design of New Development), CS4 (Developer Contributions), CS19 (Transport)

16. Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (supplement to PPS1), DCLG, 2007.

17. Greener Theme long-term outcomes, See the SCS at www.darlington.gov.uk

2.19 One of the increasing threats to the Borough's environment is climate change. The Climate Change Act 2008 set UK targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and tackling climate change is a Government priority for the planning system¹⁶. Locally, reducing carbon emissions, managing the risks associated with climate change and making the most of new opportunities arising out of a changing climate¹⁷ are identified as key outcomes in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed.

2.20 This Core Strategy embeds climate change considerations in the future planning of the Borough in several ways including:

- (a) locating new development so as to minimise the need to travel by car and to minimise the use of greenfield land;
- (b) making the most of existing transport infrastructure and creating a more sustainable transport network to reduce transport emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;
- (c) promoting sustainable design and construction;
- (d) identifying opportunities for renewable energy generation;
- (e) setting targets for the percentage of energy use in new developments that can be supplied from on site decentralised renewable and low carbon sources;
- (f) improving the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock and making prudent use of the existing built fabric;
- (g) ensuring new development is not located in areas of flood risk; and

(h) strengthening the green infrastructure network.

18. Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan, DBC, June 2010, published alongside and complementary to this Core Strategy or any successor document.

2.21 Underpinning delivery of this Core Strategy will be the provision of appropriate physical, social and green infrastructure in all parts of the Borough, to provide connected living and working environments that are capable of meeting modern needs and aspirations. The main infrastructure requirements are set out in Chapter 10, with more detail given in the accompanying Infrastructure Delivery Plan¹⁸.

Reflecting Current Economic Conditions and Future Prospects for Growth

2.22 Like the rest of the country, Darlington's economy has suffered from the recent economic downturn, and a return to normal, let alone, strong conditions in the UK economy remains some way off. It is hard to predict how soon and to what extent investors will return to Darlington and help grow the local economy. Investment in new facilities may also be slowed, as existing surplus capacity absorbs some of the growth anticipated as the country comes out of recession.

2.23 In this Core Strategy, therefore, ambitions have been tempered by the likely reality of investment by the private sector and anticipated lower levels of public sector investment, particularly over the early parts of the plan period. Overall, this means that the schemes planned to help deliver the vision of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed are more likely to be delivered over the 15 years lifetime of this Core Strategy, rather than the 10 year period of the sustainable community strategy. The Core Strategy will provide the framework to ensure that the Borough can respond immediately to an economic upturn, and continue the momentum of economic development generated prior to the recession.

2.24 Progress in achieving the strategy's objectives will be reported on annually in the Council's Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report, and several policies, such as Policy CS10 (New Housing Development) include alternative strategies if the priorities outlined prove not to be deliverable.

A SPATIAL VISION FOR DARLINGTON

2.25 The vision sets out the kind of place we want Darlington to be in 2026, indicating the main features of the development pattern, the types and forms of development and land use change that will be required to get there.

'By 2026 Darlington will be a more sustainable community, where a real step change has been achieved in enhancing the quality of life and local environment, and expanding local opportunities for work and for sustainable travel. Those who live in, work in or visit the Borough will enjoy the opportunities and vibrant life of an ambitious city, but within the fabric of a friendly, historic market town with a distinctive atmosphere, surrounded by attractive countryside and villages'

What Darlington will be like in the year 2026

2.26 Over the next 20 years or so, Darlington will continue to develop as the physical and economic gateway to the Tees Valley City Region and North East England. It will be a key location for doing business and

enjoying a high quality of life, and will draw in companies that may not otherwise locate in the region. A wide range of high quality and accessible previously-developed and greenfield sites, within and on the edge of the compact urban area, will attract employers and local enterprises that are keen to tap into a highly skilled workforce. A rolling programme to bring forward strategic mixed-use sites, like Central Park, with public sector support will form the cornerstone of the employment land supply. The principal growth sectors are expected to be financial and business services, health, civil engineering and construction related businesses, logistics, retail, leisure and tourism. The result will be sustainable economic growth, more employment and higher paid jobs.

2.27 Darlington will also continue to be an important and distinctive location in the retail, tourism and cultural landscapes of the North East and Tees Valley. Appropriate development within the town centre and its fringes will ensure that Darlington continues to thrive as an established historic and friendly market town. The special character of the town will remain evident through its abundant open spaces and environmental resources, and its cherished cultural and historic assets, complemented by the locally distinctive, safe and sustainable design of new developments. The location and design of new land uses and developments will have enhanced local neighbourhoods and helped to reduce previous disparities in environmental quality and economic, social and recreational opportunities. It will also have underpinned efforts to reduce the Borough's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, to mitigate the effects of climate change, to provide opportunities for the natural environment to adapt to the consequences of climate change and to improve accessibility around the Borough for all.

2.28 A growing population will have been accommodated in new housing constructed making use, as far as possible, of underused land and buildings within the existing urban area. There will be a good supply and mix of market and affordable housing, suitable for all stages of life, meeting the needs and aspirations of local people and those choosing to locate to Darlington. This housing will be at the heart of high quality, healthy, safe, environmentally friendly and green neighbourhoods, providing attractive alternatives to the Borough's southern and western rural hinterlands as places to live. Residents will benefit from easy access to good quality sport, leisure and healthcare facilities, and modern education facilities for children and adults alike. Darlington's university town status will provide opportunities for learning and skills development for everyone, whatever their aspirations.

2.29 It will be possible to make comfortable, safe, convenient and affordable trips throughout the Borough by sustainable transport modes. Fewer people will make unnecessary journeys by private car and higher levels of cycling and walking will be reflected in a better and healthier quality of life for many.

2.30 The rural character of the countryside will be protected and the open aspect to the south of the town will be maintained, providing views to the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. Elsewhere, a more mature and expanded Tees Forest and an improved rights of way network will provide a softer environment and accessible recreation opportunities at the urban fringe. Small-scale developments will have helped to sustain the vibrancy and individual character and appearance of the Borough's villages and hamlets. The Borough's biodiversity and geodiversity resources will

contribute to a multi-functional green infrastructure network, which will have an ongoing regime of protection, management and enhancement.

2.31 People will recommend Darlington as a place to live and work in because of its high quality, comfortable, healthy, safe and sustainable living and working environments, and because of its educational provision and opportunities for stimulating and rewarding work. The Borough's exceptional retail, cultural and leisure facilities and historic assets will also be cited as reasons to visit, and residents will be able to boast about the Borough's record in achieving sustainable development.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.32 Strategic objectives provide the link between the overall vision and the draft policies. All the policies will help to deliver one or more of the spatial objectives, which themselves give expression to particular elements of the vision.

Cross Cutting

Objective 1: Minimise the impact of, and adapt to the effects of climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the use of resources and the risk of flooding and pollution, and by maximising the re-use and recycling of land, buildings, waste and water through more sustainable designs, patterns of development and means of movement, and by providing opportunities for adaptation within the natural environment.

Objective 2: Provide equality of opportunity for everyone now and in the future, by ensuring that the design, location and mix of development and infrastructure across the Borough maintains and creates safe, attractive, accessible, healthy and inclusive sustainable communities, eliminating any disadvantage people experience.

Theme Specific

Objective 3: Facilitate sustainable economic growth by protecting and promoting a range and continuous supply of employment development opportunities in sustainable locations that meet the needs of local businesses and continue to attract high quality, well paid jobs to the Borough.

Objective 4: Provide a continuous supply of land for new housing developments and help improve and reuse the existing stock so that it can better match the aspirations of those that wish to live and work in the Borough, whilst doing more to meet the housing needs of an ageing population and those unable to afford suitable accommodation on the open market.

Objective 5: Safeguard the function of Darlington town centre and capitalise on its shopping, culture, leisure, tourism and employment opportunities so that it continues to develop as a vibrant, attractive, safe, friendly and comfortable historic market town centre.

Objective 6: Contribute to the happiness, fulfilment, health and well-being of people who live and work in the Borough, including children and young

people, by safeguarding and enhancing the natural and historic environment, and by providing and upgrading a wide range of educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities within it.

Objective 7: Preserve the scale of, and strengthen the unique character, function, intrinsic quality and sense of place of Darlington's neighbourhoods, villages, landscapes, green infrastructure, heritage, habitats and countryside to contribute positively to its distinctiveness.

Objective 8: Support initiatives to maintain, expand and enhance facilities and networks for public transport, walking and cycling, so that the connections are in place to enable everyone to get around the Borough easily and affordably, whilst making the most of Darlington's existing transport infrastructure, tackling congestion and improving links to the rest of Tees Valley and further afield.

3. ACHIEVING A MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

3.1 DARLINGTON'S SUB-REGIONAL ROLE AND LOCATIONAL STRATEGY

3.1.1 Darlington has excellent national and international transport links, by rail (East Coast Main Line), road (A1) and air (Durham Tees Valley Airport). Its 'gateway' location, accessibility and attractive environment make it perfectly placed within North East England and the Tees Valley to attract investment and economic activity that might not otherwise come to the region or sub-region¹. It is a key centre² within the Tees Valley City Region, with potential to contribute significantly to regional economic growth across a range of sectors.

1. 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'

2. Identified by One North East, the regional development agency.

3. Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2009.

4. Regional Economic Strategy 2006

5. GVA: gross value added, a measure of the wealth of an area (see Tees Valley Multi Area Agreement, 2008)

6. The Tees Valley Housing Growth Point has associated public funding to help unlock stalled housing sites.

7. Feethams Planning & Development Brief 2008
www.darlington.gov.uk

3.1.2 Darlington is an important location for employment development, a subregional centre for retail and leisure uses, and a strategic public transport hub. These functions are all acknowledged in the RSS, which also identifies Darlington as a main settlement. The town centre provides employment, shops and services for large parts of North Yorkshire and south and west Durham and the western part of the Tees Valley, and is the fifth largest shopping centre in North East England. The Borough provides housing to meet the needs of local people and many of those who work in the town, and also helps to meet some of the housing needs of a wider area, particularly those arising from continued expansion at Catterick Garrison, and for higher income people working across the Tees Valley³.

3.1.3 Given its established roles and acknowledged potential for growth, this Core Strategy plans for continuing economic growth of at least 2.5% per annum⁴. This is also the working assumption on which the RSS is based. The strategy also aims to contribute to increasing the Tees Valley GVA⁵ from 80% to 86% of UK average by 2018. Associated with this growth, and to meet the needs of the existing population, the Core Strategy plans for household growth, and for new housing development to diversify the existing dwelling stock. Whilst acknowledging current economic circumstances, these are not expected to prevail beyond the initial years of the plan, helped by market interventions such as through Housing Growth Point⁶.

3.1.4 New land will be required for the employment, services, infrastructure and new housing associated with population and economic growth. Priority will be given to the use of previously developed land and buildings (PDL) in accessible and sustainable locations, where these can accommodate the specific needs of the developments proposed, and then to other land within urban areas where this does not prejudice heritage or nature conservation, or impinge on land protected for recreational purposes.

3.1.5 The town centre will continue to be the primary retail centre in the Borough. It will be enhanced and safeguarded as such, and will be expected to accommodate additional retailing for much of the plan period, through key schemes such as in the Commercial Street area. The town centre will also continue to be a key location and first priority for office development and other town centre uses, including an office-led scheme on previously developed land in the Beaumont Street/Feethams area⁷.

8. Darlington Gateway Strategy, December 2006 by BDP/KingSturge/Regeneris/CI:P

9. Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan – see Local Development Scheme at www.darlington.gov.uk for more details.

10. Draft Tees Valley Investment Plan, 2010

11. Darlington Renewable and Low Carbon Study, Entec, 2010.

12. Darlington Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, March 2009, and update December 2009.

13. See Local Development Scheme 2011- 2014 for timetable of preparation.

14. This is the area within the limits to development for the main built up area, to be identified on the LDF Proposals Map through the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

15. RSS Policy 4

3.1.6 Outside of the town centre to its north and east, the largely previously developed Town Centre Fringe and Central Park locations have been identified as having the potential to contribute much more to the economy and quality of life of Darlington than they currently do. They were both identified in the Darlington Gateway Strategy 2006-2020⁸ as having the potential to provide attractive office accommodation. Second only to the town centre, Central Park is a high priority location for regeneration, and a major mixed use regeneration project is underway there. Planning permission exists for housing, offices, a new park and a hotel, which will complement the new Darlington College and Teesside University campus at the location's northern end.

3.1.7 New development and regeneration in the Town Centre Fringe will be key to delivering the vision for Darlington over the medium to longer term. The area is critical to improving links between the town centre, Central Park and the main railway station, which are all close by. It provides opportunities for new employment, leisure/cultural, recreation and housing in a highly accessible location, and for local pockets of deprivation, poor housing and environmental quality to be tackled comprehensively. Efforts to realise the area's potential will be co-ordinated through an Area Action Plan⁹ and other appropriate planning frameworks, taking account of constraints (such as flood risk) which will shape the eventual pattern and form of development and redevelopment there.

3.1.8 The town centre, Town Centre Fringe and Central Park are being prioritised for public sector regeneration investment¹⁰. The town centre and Town Centre Fringe are also expected to be the focus of provision for commercial scale renewable energy schemes, particularly biomass/combined heat and power installations and district heating and cooling networks¹¹.

3.1.9 A range of largely previously developed sites within the rest of the urban area (referred to as Rest of Urban Area) are expected to come forward for development and redevelopment throughout the plan period, as the space and locational requirements of different types of activity and development evolve. Where potentially suitable, available and deliverable sites have been identified, e.g. through the SHLAA¹², these will form the basis of identifying land allocations in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD¹³. Taken with existing planning permissions, such as for significant new housing and employment at Lingfield Point, and remaining land within established employment areas, such as Yarm Road Industrial Estate, these will be able to accommodate most but not all new housing, new infrastructure and some additional employment development.

3.1.10 Two locations at the edge of the existing urban area, together with the Durham Tees Valley Airport area, are identified for new development that either cannot be accommodated within the main urban area¹⁴ or for operational reasons specifically requires land close to the strategic highway network. Land at the North West Urban Fringe includes the Faverdale area, which has potential as a strategically important logistics, distribution and large, modern, general employment area. Land adjacent to the A66 and the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor within the Eastern Urban Fringe has been identified as a major employment location for modern offices and logistics.

3.1.11 The approach to selecting the broad locations for new housing development reflects the RSS sequential approach¹⁵, the priorities set out

16. Strategic Housing
Locations Options Appraisal,
DBC June 2010.

in national planning policy and locally important factors¹⁶. It gives priority to accessible locations within the main built up area, particularly where the reuse of previously developed land and buildings can be achieved. Where this cannot be achieved, the next priority is urban fringe locations, specifically the North West Urban Fringe and then the Eastern Urban Fringe, which an options appraisal of potential strategic housing locations¹⁶ showed to be generally the most sustainable, suitable, available and developable, provided that appropriate community infrastructure and sustainable transport provision is made and potential adverse impacts of development there are mitigated.

3.1.12 The Borough also contains part of Durham Tees Valley Airport, whose continued key role in the economic growth of the region and as a regional gateway is acknowledged. The Airport's owners have prepared plans for future growth up to the year 2030, and planning permissions are in place for airport related employment development there.

3.1.13 The Borough's villages and countryside are an integral part of what makes Darlington an attractive place to live. Their vitality and viability need to be safeguarded and strengthened, whether it be by retaining services or supporting new development, such as affordable housing, that help to maintain sustainable communities. None of the villages have significant development opportunities on previously developed land and buildings, and so have not been identified as strategic locations for new development. However, the larger villages of Hurworth/Hurworth Place, Middleton St. George and Heighington should be the focus for the provision of services, employment and facilities to sustain the rural community.

3.1.14 Maintaining the gap between the main urban area, the Borough's villages and other settlements, like Newton Aycliffe, that lie just beyond the Borough boundary, is important to help maintain each settlement's distinctive identity. The limits to development drawn around each settlement to identify the area within which any new development will be expected to be accommodated (to be identified in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD¹⁷) will prevent settlement coalescence and urban sprawl.

17. See the Council's Local Development Scheme for the timetable for preparing the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

Policy CS1: Darlington's Sub-Regional Role and Locational Strategy

Growth, development and enhanced infrastructure provision will be encouraged in Darlington Borough where it helps to fulfil:

- (a) its historic role as a market town and host to a thriving and modern town centre, whilst providing an attractive residential environment serving the Borough and its hinterland; and
- (b) its role as a sub-regional centre and key location in the Tees Valley City Region, or
- (c) its role as a gateway to the region and sub region, serving the western part of the Tees Valley, and large parts of North Yorkshire and south and west Durham.

New development and regeneration activity in the Borough will be concentrated on sustainable locations within the main urban area, where there is actual or potential good accessibility for everybody. Priority will be given to delivery in the following strategic locations, in priority order as follows:

- i) the Town Centre, for retailing and other town centre uses and including biomass/combined heat and power installations and a district heating and cooling network;
- (ii) Central Park, for mixed use development, principally housing and employment; and
- (iii) the Town Centre Fringe, for mixed use development, principally housing, employment, but including biomass/combined heat and power installations and a district heating and cooling network and greenspace, taking account of the strategic flood risk in the River Skerne environs.

New housing and employment development in the strategic location of the Rest of Urban Area, the North West Urban Fringe and the Eastern Urban Fringe will be in accordance with the priorities and phasing identified in Policies CS5 and CS10. Development in the strategic location of Durham Tees Valley Airport area, for airport related employment uses, will be throughout the plan period.

Development in the strategic locations above will be expected to meet most of the overall development needs of Darlington Borough.

Within the limits to development of the Borough's villages, development that supports the vitality and viability of the village, its services or the rural economy will be supported, particularly in the larger villages of Hurworth/Hurworth Place, Middleton St. George and Heighington. Outside the limits to development of the main urban area and the villages, development will be limited to that required to meet identified rural needs.

Measuring Progress

3.1.15 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS1, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

New Amount of new development that has planning permission and has been completed in the strategic locations identified.

New Amount of all new employment and housing development that has been completed in the strategic locations identified, as a percentage of all new housing and employment development completed in the Borough.

3.2 ACHIEVING HIGH QUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

3.2.1 The distinctive character of the Borough's buildings, settings and environments is highly valued by local people and is regarded¹⁸ as a cornerstone to attracting high quality jobs and visitors to the Borough, and underpins local quality of life, now and in the future. High quality design in new development that strengthens the valued character of Darlington's built and natural townscapes and landscapes will help to reinforce Darlington's distinctiveness. High quality design will also help to connect old and new, create spaces for wildlife and people, and create and maintain safe, attractive, healthy, inclusive and sustainable places.

18. 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed', the sustainable community strategy for Darlington, 2008.

19. Distinctly Darlington: Darlington Characterisation Study, DBC, 2009

20. Darlington Climate Change Strategy, Darlington Partnership 2006

21. Code for Sustainable Homes, DCLG, 2008
www.breeam.org

22. PPS 22: Renewable Energy and RSS Policy 39

3.2.2 High quality design should appropriately reflect the positive elements identified in Distinctly Darlington¹⁹ for each of the seven different character zones and create a vibrant, distinctive 'sense of place'. Contemporary design should complement the past but be honest to its time.

3.2.3 The important role that the design of new development can have in minimising carbon emissions is also recognised²⁰. Sustainable design should consider the whole life of a development, from construction to operation or occupation, so that all opportunities are taken to dramatically cut energy and water use, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and flood risk, save resources and use sustainable drainage techniques. The appropriate national sustainable building standards²¹ or those of any equivalent approved scheme must be met, and significant developments will be expected to secure at least 10% of their energy supply from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources, in accordance with Government and RSS targets²².

3.2.4 New developments should be created with easy and safe movement for everyone, with priority given to pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport, whilst ensuring that those who need to use a car to move around the Borough are able to do so (see policy CS19). Good connectivity will help integrate new development with existing urban areas, providing direct routes and connections through, to and from new development to bus stops, local shops and services, helping to reduce inequalities in education, health, and income that are amplified by poor access.

3.2.5 The priorities for high quality, sustainable and safe design in this policy are elaborated upon in the Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document or any successor.

Policy CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design

High quality, safe, sustainable and inclusive design will be promoted in all new developments. All development proposals should:

- (a) make efficient use of land, existing buildings and resources;
- (b) reflect and/or enhance Darlington's distinctive natural, built and historic characteristics that positively contribute to the character of the local area and its sense of place;
- (c) create a safe and secure environment that will incorporate the principles of Secured by Design;
- (d) support inclusive communities, by providing links to existing networks to ensure safe, convenient and attractive access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users and for disabled people;
- (e) easily connect to key social and community facilities and incorporate appropriate utilities provision, promoting sustainable neighbourhoods;
- (f) incorporate measures to reduce carbon emissions, promote energy management and adapt to climate change through the use of sustainable design and construction techniques to meet the appropriate level of the national sustainable building standards or any successor:

Residential development 2011-2016

- 1 2013: Code for Sustainable Homes rating 4
- 2 2016: Code for Sustainable Homes rating 6

Non residential development

3 2010-2016: BREEAM 2008 standards 'very good-outstanding'

(g) create safe, attractive, functional and integrated outdoor spaces that complement the built form, relate well to the Borough's green infrastructure network, promote biodiversity and geological interests and incorporate public art; and

(h) provide vehicular access and parking suitable for its use and location, reflecting appropriate maximum parking standards set out in the Tees Valley Highway Design Guide²¹.

Measuring Progress

3.2.6 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS2, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI107 Perceptions of anti social behaviour

NI175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling

NI186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area

NI188 Adapting to climate change

Core H3 Completed new or converted dwellings on PDL

Core H6 Housing Quality: BFL assessments

Local 20 Number of applications that meet CSH/BREEAM standards

New Amount of completed non residential development complying with parking

3.3 PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

3.3.1 Darlington is committed to playing its part in tackling climate change by reducing demand for energy from fossil fuels, for transport, heat and electricity. This will help achieve the national target to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050²³. Increasingly, renewable energy generation in Darlington will be developed to contribute towards achieving 15% of the UK's energy from renewable sources by 2020²⁴, to help contribute to meeting 30% of the UK's electricity needs from renewable resources by 2020, and to contribute towards the RSS minimal target of 138MW installed capacity in the Tees Valley²⁵.

3.3.2 It is envisaged that a range of renewable energy technologies²⁶ will be needed to help meet the anticipated 10% increase in electricity and 13% increase in heat demand arising from the Borough's growth strategy (see CS1), taking account of complementary measures to reduce Darlington's overall fossil fuel consumption. The strategy is to permit appropriate, commercial scale schemes at different scales, together with renewable energy generation at or near new development, including the use of micro-generation²⁷, alongside promoting sustainable transport (see CS19) and building to recognised sustainability standards (see CS2), to

23. UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, 2009

24. UK Renewable Energy Strategy, 2009

25. RSS Policy 39, CLG, 2008

26. Renewable sources: includes wind, biomass, combined heat and power, district heating, solar, ground source and air source heat pumps.

27. Micro generation: includes but is not limited to solar photovoltaics, solar thermal, ground source and air source heat pumps.

secure sustainable supplies of electricity, heat and transport, and to achieve more affordable energy for the community.

3.3.3 Wind energy has the greatest potential to contribute to the Borough's renewable electricity supply. Assessments of wind speeds, technical and environmental constraints as well as the potential land landscape and visual impact studies of wind development in the north eastern part of the Borough should be used to help identify sustainable locations appropriate for wind energy development. Areas for small-scale wind energy have been identified on Darlington's urban fringe²⁸, including at the strategic development locations identified in Policy CS1.

28. Darlington Renewable and Low Carbon Study, Entec, 2010

3.3.4 Other technologies such as biomass have the potential to make a bigger contribution to a reliable heat supply or to generate electricity, or both, if combined heat and power plants are developed. There is also significant potential over the long term, to develop district heating and cooling networks in locations of high energy use, such as in the town centre and at the Borough's strategic locations (see Policy CS1). The planning framework to help realise this potential will be put in place through documents like the Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan²⁹.

29. See the Council's LDS for timetable of AAP preparation.

3.3.5 In accordance with national planning policy and guidance³⁰, significant weight is given to the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of renewable and low carbon energy generation. The impact on neighbouring residents and other sensitive receptors³¹ is also a consideration, but will vary, depending on the size, scale, location and type of technology proposed. Specifically for wind energy, impact will depend on the size, scale and location of turbine(s). Any potential cumulative impact of schemes within the area, including within and outside the Borough, will also be considered. Measures of impact, such as the minimum appropriate distance between turbines and residential properties and other sensitive receptors will be assessed on a site-specific basis. Regard will also be had to relevant documents in the LDF evidence base or any successor documents³².

30. PPS1 Supplement, DCLG, 2007, PPS22, ODPM, 2004, PPS22 Practice Guide, ODPM, 2004

31. Sensitive receptors include built heritage, natural environment, roads, railways, public rights of way, power lines, biodiversity, air traffic and radar systems.

32. Including East Durham Limestone and Tees Plain Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Study, ARUP, 2008 & Addendum 2009.

3.3.6 Proposals located within defined consultation zones of regulatory bodies³³ that regulate air traffic, water and soil quality, should where appropriate, seek the advice of the relevant agency. Policies relating to appropriate detailed assessments and mitigation required to ensure there are no significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring residents and other sensitive receptors will be set out in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD³⁴.

33. Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Defence, the Health and Safety Executive as well as Durham Tees Valley Airport

34. For LDS programme see Council's website

3.3.7 A flexible approach to providing renewable energy generation in new development will be promoted. Developers will be encouraged to design an energy efficient development (see policy CS2) to reduce the amount of energy required by the development so that the amount of energy needed from renewable energy technologies is lower. A range of technologies appropriate to the type, scale and nature of the development should be used in accordance with the principles of the Design of New Development SPD or any successor.

35. Calculated by determining the total energy consumption of a site (baseline)

3.3.8 Major new development (including within the Rest of Urban Area) will be expected to secure at least 10% of its predicted energy supply³⁵ from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources, to contribute to Government and RSS renewable energy targets³⁶. In the strategic locations identified in Policy CS1 (excluding the Rest of the Urban Area

36. Includes all appropriate sites in the rest of the urban area strategic location, windfall sites and major developments within strategic locations that come forward after the adoption of the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD

strategic location³⁶), new development is likely to significantly add to the Borough's overall energy demand. These locations will, therefore, be expected to integrate significant technological improvements to generate at least 20% of their predicted energy supply from on site provision. Each development within a location will be expected to make a percentage contribution to meet the 20% target apportioned in accordance with their contribution to the overall predicted energy supply, after energy efficiency measures have been taken into account. Further details will be set out in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD or any successor. Schemes, which generate more energy than the proposed associated development required, offer the scope for surplus energy to be supplied locally via a private wire network or back into the National Grid.

37. Economic Viability of Housing Land in Darlington Borough, Levvels, June 2010

3.3.9 Site constraints or abnormal development costs may mean that it is not always feasible or viable³⁷ to achieve these targets on site. In these cases, appropriate connection to an existing or new renewable energy facility will be supported. Exceptionally, guided by the Planning Obligations SPD³², the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule or any successor, a contribution will be sought to a carbon management fund, to enable off site renewable energy provision or help improve energy efficiency in Darlington's existing dwellings, thereby, helping to reduce the Borough's overall energy demand.

Policy CS3: Promoting Renewable Energy

The development of renewable energy schemes, including micro-generation, together with any ancillary buildings and infrastructure, will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change.

Significant weight will be given to the wider environmental, economic and social benefits arising from renewable energy schemes whilst considering the anticipated effects, individually and cumulatively, upon:

- (a) the surrounding natural, built, historic and cultural landscape and townscape including buildings, features, habitats and species of national and local importance; and/or
- (b) residential amenity including visual intrusion, air, dust, noise, odour, traffic generation, recreation and access; and/or
- (c) the operation of air traffic and radar systems.

Appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures and monitoring to address any effects identified and considered will be required prior to any development proceeding.

On site provision of decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources of energy, including micro-generation will be required to achieve the following standards, unless it can be shown that it is not feasible or viable:

1. at least 20% of predicted energy supply in the strategic locations identified in Policy CS1 (except the Rest of the Urban Area);
2. at least 10% of predicted energy supply in major developments (including conversions) of 10 or more dwellings or 1000m² non residential floorspace.

Major developments: includes all appropriate sites in the rest of the urban area strategic location, windfall sites and major developments within strategic locations that come forward after the adoption of the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD

Where specific opportunities exist, development will be required to connect to existing biomass or combined heat and power installations or district heating schemes. Shared energy schemes within new or existing major or significant developments or schemes which could supply energy via a local private wire network or into the National Grid will be supported.

Where it can be demonstrated that the required percentage of renewable energy supply cannot be delivered on site, a contribution to a carbon management fund will be required to be invested in off site renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects in the Borough.

Measuring Progress

3.3.10 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS3, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the local authority area

NI188 Adapting to climate change

Core E3 Renewable energy capacity by type

Local 21 Low carbon energy generation

38. References to infrastructure include those listed in Planning Act 2008 and in the Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan

39. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008, the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington

40. Physical infrastructure: includes transport and utilities provision, social infrastructure: includes education, health and affordable housing provision, green infrastructure: includes open space, children's play and habitat provision

41. Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan, DBC, 2010

42. Including planning obligations or s106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy or any successor

43. Community Infrastructure Levy, CLG, 2010

3.4 TIMELY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

3.4.1 The timely provision of infrastructure³⁸ to support new development is, and will continue to be, essential to the delivery of Darlington's future growth, and in realising the vision of a Borough of growing, prosperous, safer, sustainable and inclusive communities, supported by excellent services where people can fulfil their potential, live longer and have healthier lifestyles³⁹. Promoting sustainable communities and a high quality environment depends on necessary physical, social and green infrastructure⁴⁰ being provided on and off site, to meet the needs arising from the development, and to mitigate any adverse impacts on Darlington's existing infrastructure.

3.4.2 Whilst most infrastructure will continue to be provided by local service providers and utilities companies through main funding programmes⁴¹, developer contributions⁴² can help ensure that a complementary, coordinated programme of physical, social and green infrastructure is delivered. Developer contributions required will directly reflect the scale and type of development and the needs in the locality⁴³. They will be used to secure site related infrastructure, contributions to strategic infrastructure or to enhance infrastructure in the locality. They will include, but will not be limited to, those matters identified in this policy.

3.4.3 Facilities and infrastructure provision can become stressed, as developments impact upon or make a requirement for new strategic infrastructure, e.g. sport and recreation facilities or highways works, a contribution to a strategic infrastructure fund may be required from all contributing and/or benefiting developments, to ensure that the costs are borne by all.

44. For details see the LDS timetable on the Council's website.

45. Will set out the way financial contributions will be secured from appropriate developments and the matters for which they could be sought.

46. e.g. Economic Viability of Housing Land, Levvels, June 2010

47. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008, the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington

3.4.4 The ability to mix funding sources at a local level will ensure infrastructure delivery is flexible, efficient, co-ordinated and meets the community's needs, as well as that of specific developments. Developer contributions will be guided by the Planning Obligations SPD⁴⁴, and also from 2014, by the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule⁴⁵ and associated documents through direct provision of infrastructure, payment of a standard charge or tariff, standard formulae and/or through the payment of financial contributions. Where the appropriate level of infrastructure, works or facilities is partly provided on the development site, the level of any payment or standard formulae will be modified to reflect the level of on site provision. The impact of this provision on the viability and feasibility of a scheme, and hence delivery of the Strategy overall, will also be considered.

3.4.5 Guided by the recommendations of the economic viability of land studies⁴⁶, the Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan or any successors, the needs in the locality and the priorities and standards in national, regional and local policy documents, particularly 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'⁴⁷, priorities will be established for developer contributions across the Borough in a consistent, fair and transparent way. Developer contributions will also be used to reduce any gaps in funding identified in the Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan⁴¹ to deliver infrastructure that supports the Borough's growth strategy.

3.4.6 The Council will work with local, regional and national commercial and public sector infrastructure providers, like the Highways Agency, utility companies, healthcare providers and private sector partners, to ensure spending of funds secured through developer contributions is directly linked to the phasing of development across the Borough, particularly in the strategic locations (see Policy CS1), to ensure delivery of the spatial strategy.

Policy CS4 Developer Contributions

Developer contributions will be negotiated to secure the necessary physical, social and environmental infrastructure required as a consequence of development. Developer contributions must be consistent with national planning guidance and appropriate to the type and scale of development and should mitigate any additional impacts the development will have on the locality.

The appropriate range and level of developer contributions sought will be assessed in a comprehensive manner, taking into account the viability of the development and any additional unforeseen costs associated with the development.

Infrastructure provision will be sought, where appropriate, through the use of standard charges, tariffs and formula.

The provision of infrastructure will be linked directly to the phasing of development on land throughout the Borough to ensure that appropriate enabling infrastructure is delivered in line with future growth. Site related infrastructure will be prioritised to reflect the identified needs in that locality to include, but will not be limited to:

1. affordable housing provision;
2. early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education and extended services provision to serve new and existing communities;
3. provision and enhancement of multifunctional green infrastructure;
4. providing for and improving accessibility within the Borough by a variety of modes of sustainable transport;
5. provision, enhancement and management of protected and priority species and habitat networks;
6. employment skills and training opportunities as part of the construction of major new development;
7. road and highways improvements; and
8. utilities infrastructure including off site renewable energy projects

Developer contributions may be sought, where appropriate, from major developments⁴⁸ to contribute to the delivery of strategic infrastructure to enable the cumulative impacts of developments to be managed in a sustainable and effective manner. These will include, but will not be limited to:

9. a carbon management fund to improve energy efficiency of existing development;
10. sport and recreation provision and enhancement;
11. improvements to the public realm and provision of public art; and
12. strategic road and highway improvements.

Infrastructure will, where necessary, be coordinated and delivered in partnership with other authorities and agencies.

48. housing developments which include 10 or more homes or a residential development on a site of at least 0.5 hectares, and any other development with a floor area of 1000 square metres or more, or a site area of 1 hectare or more including change of use above these thresholds.

Measuring Progress

3.4.8 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS4, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators
NI0005 Percentage of residents satisfied with their area as a place to live
NI155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
NI175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
NI186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the LA area
NI188 Adapting to climate change
NI197 Improved biodiversity – active management of local sites
Core E3 Renewable energy capacity by type
Local 13 Open space provision in the urban area
Local 21 Low carbon energy generation

4. PROSPEROUS DARLINGTON

4.1 SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

4.1.1 A strong local economy is vital to improving living standards and quality of life for local people. In recent decades, the Borough's economy has undergone a transformation with employment in traditional industries (manufacturing) declining. However, specialised engineering remains a key strength, providing high value jobs with good growth prospects. Particular growth has also been seen in the service sector (business and professional services), which now dominates.

1. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed is the sustainable community strategy for Darlington, 2008

4.1.2 The Borough needs to widen its economic base if it is to continue to increase the number and quality of jobs available for its residents across all sectors and increase wage levels. This ambition is contained in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed¹, and translated into strategic objectives 3 and 5 of this Core Strategy (see page 17).

2. Regional Economic Strategy 2006 (One North East)

4.1.3 The Regional Economic Strategy² and Regional Spatial Strategy plan for economic growth of some 2.5% per year over the plan period, and Darlington is a key location where some of that growth is expected to take place. The good prospects for growth reported in 2006³, which suggested that the Borough's recent economic growth could be sustained over the longer term, have been revised in more recent work⁴, which suggests that growth will be slower. Main employment growth sectors were considered to be health, logistics, business and financial services, and engineering and civil engineering, with other growth sectors including creative industries and digital media, renewable energy (and recycling), chemicals, retail, and tourism and leisure.

3. Darlington Gateway Strategy (King Sturge, BDP and Regeneris), 2006

4. See Darlington Employment Land Review, DBC 2009.

4.1.4 Based on employment growth forecasting⁴ there is an additional land requirement of just over 101ha over the plan period. However, to ensure that the Borough can accommodate, and be attractive to, a range of new businesses and expansions, as well as traditional established employment uses, a portfolio of employment land is needed that exceeds this requirement, so that there is a choice of sites, whatever the requirements.

5. Strand C; Employment Land Review

4.1.5 Work carried out as part of the Darlington Gateway Strategy⁵ and subsequently updated in the Employment Land Review identified the amount of employment land available through existing allocations to be 353ha. This is the basis for the amount of employment land provision proposed, and conforms with the 'up to 360ha' identified in the RSS⁶.

6. RSS Policy 18, CLG, 2008

7. Specifically allocated for employment uses and provides for the changing employment needs of the Borough. Generally restricted to use classed B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution) of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (As amended).

4.1.6 Established employment areas make a significant contribution to the overall land supply, accommodating existing businesses and providing opportunities for new growing businesses. However, newer sites in the outer urban area, such as Faverdale East Business Park and Morton Palms, and key employment locations of Faverdale and Heighington Lane, provide a different type of business environment and better access to major roads. Sites capable of supporting identified specific sectoral needs⁷ will be allocated in sustainable locations through the Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document⁸ to

8. See the Councils Local Development Scheme for the timetable of preparation.

provide a balanced portfolio of land types to accommodate a variety of employment uses.

4.1.7 To achieve the most sustainable pattern of development and to support RSS and Core Strategy objectives, the focus will be on developing land for major new employment uses in sustainable locations, making use of previously developed land and buildings wherever possible, and making the most efficient use of employment land. This will include continued public sector support for office development in Darlington town centre, mixed-use development at Central Park and new employment opportunities in the Town Centre Fringe. This will be complemented by further edge-of-town employment to meet specific sectoral business needs, building on recent developments, in locations like Faverdale (larger industrial uses and logistics), Yarm Road and Lingfield Point (business, industrial and warehousing and some business park / prestige development), and Durham Tees Valley Airport (airport related uses). It is evident from existing employment sites, that each one has its own special attributes that will continue to be attractive to different and changing business needs over time, such as the offices at the outskirts of town at Morton Park, the diverse range of sites in the industrial areas at Faverdale and Yarm Road and the units in the inner urban sites such as Albert Hill. The gradual renewal of existing business areas over the plan period will also be an integral part of the overall strategy of maintaining choice for all types of business, and improving the overall quality of the employment land and premises offer.

4.1.8 At certain points through the plan period, there may be sites within the employment land portfolio that a developer wishes to develop for a range of other uses, to include some employment land. This could be for a whole range of reasons, such as viability of developing the site for solely employment uses. The information that a developer would be expected to provide includes an analysis of the site's commercial viability, using the residual land value methodology set out in the Economic Viability of Non-Housing land in Darlington Borough (July 2010) or similar; and evidence that an appropriate period of professional marketing of the site has been undertaken for appropriate employment uses. In all cases, the Council will consider whether or not the site is needed for the purposes of retaining a balanced portfolio of land for employment purposes and whether its loss would likely compromise the ability of the borough to provide jobs and foster a competitive economy. This assessment provides the flexibility to consider individual sites at any point during the plan period, taking into account the circumstances at that point in time.

Policy CS5: The Provision of Land for Employment Purposes

A continuous and diverse supply of employment land to meet the needs of existing and future economic development will be provided in appropriate locations, according to the locational strategy set out in Policy CS1.

Provision will be made for up to 235ha of additional land for general and mixed use employment across the Borough. The focus and priority of provision will be:

First priority, 2011-2021

- a) Darlington town centre (office use) and Town Centre Fringe (mixed use) (about 17ha);
- b) Central Park (Mixed Use) (about 10ha);

Second priority, throughout the plan period

- c) Faverdale (Business, Industrial and Logistics) (about 50ha);
- d) Lingfield Area (Mixed Use) (about 15ha);
- e) Morton Palms Business Park Area (Prestige Office Development) (about 11ha); and
- f) Durham Tees Valley Airport (airport related) (about 20ha) and general employment (about 5ha)

The focus of other general and mixed use sites (up to 107ha) contributing to the employment land supply, throughout the plan period, will be on suitable previously developed sites in sustainable locations within the Rest of Urban Area.

Key Employment Locations

125ha of land will be made available at the key employment locations of Faverdale and Heighington Lane. This land will be made available at any point during the plan period, and is intended to accommodate strategic employment growth in addition to that provided for by the general employment land supply. This land is intended to meet the needs of new and emerging growth sectors, innovative or large user requirements, or other uses not provided for elsewhere in the Borough.

Existing viable employment sites and other sites with special attributes will be protected by safeguarding them for employment uses only or for mixed uses, where appropriate. Exceptions will be made where it can be demonstrated that:

- a. Continued use of the site for employment uses is no longer viable for appropriate employment uses, taking into account the site's characteristics and existing/potential market demand; or
- b. Continued use of the site for B1, B2 or B8 purposes gives rise to unacceptable environmental or accessibility problems; or
- c. An alternative mix of uses offers greater potential benefits to the community in meeting local needs for business and employment, or has other regeneration benefits; and
- d. The site is no longer required for the purposes of providing a balanced portfolio of land for employment purposes.

Monitoring Indicators

BD1 Total amount of additional (net and gross) employment floor space by type

BD2 Total amount of employment floor space on PDL by type

BD3 Employment land available by type

Local 11 Losses of employment land by type

Local 19 Amount of airport related development (ha)

4.2 VIBRANT TOURISM AND CULTURAL OFFER

9. Modelling the North East Economy: The impact of Tourism on Economic Activity in the North East of England, Durham University for One North East, 2007

4.2.1 A study carried out in 2007⁹ found that tourism accounts for 4.6% of the region's GVA and 5.6% of employment. Latest results (2008) show that:

- 8.3m overnight tourists visited the North East;
- Tourism contributed £3.8 billion to the regional economy and;
- Tourism supported approximately 64,000 jobs.

In the Tees Valley:

- 2.2m overnight tourists visited;
- Tourism contributed £541 million to the sub-regional economy and;
- Tourism supported approximately 8,000 jobs

4.2.2 Darlington is ideally placed to enhance its quality tourism offer. It has potential for attracting visitors from a wide area for business and leisure, because of its good connections by road, rail and air, and because of its location on the border of North Yorkshire and County Durham, acting as a gateway to the rest of the Tees Valley and the whole of the North East region.

4.2.3 The Borough's existing successful tourism and cultural attractions, such as the Civic Theatre and the football stadium will continue to underpin the local tourism and cultural offer. The 'Head of Steam' Museum and Brick Train Sculpture are key attractions, based on Darlington's widely appreciated industrial and railway heritage. However, increasingly the Borough's historic, cultural and natural landscapes are attracting visitors, exploring places like Piercebridge Roman Fort and the Ulnaby Medieval village. Rural diversification schemes, such as Archers Jersey Ice Cream Parlour and the farm shops at Piercebridge and Burtree House, are extending the range of countryside attractions, whilst a range of high quality urban and countryside hotels are helping to attract business and special occasion visitors.

4.2.4 Cultural and arts attractions like the Arts Centre and The Forum also attract visitors, whilst newer public art like the Art in the Yards, the Life Pulse, and the Market Cascade fountain act as a focus for visitors to the town centre. Urban-based attractions are important and Darlington's countryside is a natural asset, which attracts visitors and residents alike.

4.2.5 It is important to safeguard the existing tourism offer and complementary provision will need to be encouraged if Darlington is to be recognised as a cultural destination. Enhancing the Borough's tourism

and cultural offer can support regeneration, provide employment opportunities and support rural diversification. An enhanced offer can also help create cohesive communities, engender civic pride, improve local quality of life, and support community learning and personal development. New facilities should be easily accessible by a choice of means of sustainable transport and in sequentially preferable locations.

10. The Government's Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism

4.2.6 Government guidance¹⁰ encourages the creation of concentrations of cultural related development within sustainable locations to contribute to wider regeneration objectives. There are also aspirations within One Darlington: Perfectly Placed to expand the arts and cultural services offer, particularly in Central Park and the Town Centre Fringe. The area around the Civic Theatre and The Forum music centre, at the core of the Town Centre Fringe, provides an opportunity to form a multi-disciplinary cultural quarter. This area would have a pivotal role in creating a creative arts cluster improving the economic prospects of the area, reducing social inequalities whilst enhancing the local environment. With its own sense of identity and with stronger pedestrian connections formed across the inner ring road, it would link well with the town centre, and would help to connect new development at Central Park with the town centre. It could include a wider range of cultural attractions and services, and the enhancement of the emerging creative industries sector, with facilities for a wide range of artistic, educational, creative, technical, publishing and production services. By providing creative outlets for a diversity of local people, such facilities and services would also generate local employment, provide a unique local educational resource, improve well-being and promote social inclusion. More detailed proposals will be developed through the Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan¹¹.

11. See the Council's Local Development Scheme for the timetable for preparation of this document.

4.2.7 Visitor accommodation is vital to the growth of the tourism and cultural economy, and to capitalise on the attractions of the Borough. Darlington has significant existing hotel provision for a town of its size⁴. The newly opened Rockcliffe Hall has added to the top end of that provision and a further 300 rooms have planning permission, at a range of locations across the Borough¹². A mix and sufficient quality of hotels is required to cater for a range of budgets and provide a choice of tourist accommodation so that visitors, including the corporate and contractor market, will stay longer, spend more and travel less by private car. According to the Hotel Study, there is market potential for the following¹²:

12. Tees Valley Hotel Futures, Hotel Solutions, July 2009

- a new budget hotel and extension of the current budget hotel at Morton Park;
- an additional small boutique hotel in the town centre;
- an upgrade and possible expansion of the existing 3 star hotels like Hall Garth and,
- a hotel at Central Park.

4.2.8 Future office and business park development proposed in the Borough (see Policy CS5) could generate demand for 3 star hotels in the Town Centre Fringe, Morton Park and Morton Palms, to cater for the business market. There is also market potential for serviced or self-catering apartments to meet the needs of corporate, construction worker and leisure markets.

4.2.9 Expansion in passenger numbers and freight travel at Durham Tees Valley Airport may generate increased demand from aircrews and

travellers in the long term, giving rise to capacity for another hotel close to the airport, to complement the existing provision.

Policy CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer

A sustainable, vibrant tourism and cultural sector will be promoted and enhanced for the benefit of the local economy, community and visitors by:

- (a) Safeguarding and enhancing existing tourist attractions in Darlington, such as the Head of Steam Museum;
- (b) Promoting new tourist attractions, particularly in the town centre and Town Centre Fringe, which raise awareness of and interest in the Borough's railway, industrial and cultural heritage;
- (c) Promoting appropriate nature and countryside-based tourism attractions which support visits to and enjoyment of the countryside and / or where they promote access to or use of heritage assets;
- (d) Safeguarding and promoting the enhancement of existing cultural attractions including Darlington Civic Theatre; and
- (e) Encouraging provision of a diverse range of cultural attractions and creative arts industries, particularly in the Town Centre Fringe, to create the Darlington Cultural Quarter.

To support the sustainable growth of tourism in Darlington, a range of visitor accommodation, including provision to meet the needs of disabled people, will be encouraged in appropriate locations, easily accessible by a choice of means of sustainable transport. These locations will include the town centre, Town Centre Fringe, Central Park, Morton Palms, Morton Park and at Durham Tees Valley Airport.

Measuring Progress

4.2.10 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS6, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

New Amount of tourism or cultural developments completed

New Number of new visitor bedrooms available

5. A VIBRANT TOWN CENTRE AND ACCESSIBLE SHOPS AND SERVICES

1. Darlington Retail Study 2008, DBC. Its findings, forecasts and recommendations, and those of its 2010 Update, underpin this chapter.

2. Fourth largest on some indicators.

3. The definitions for centres are set out in PPS4, Planning Policy Statement 4, Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth, 2009. Under the Borough of Darlington Local Plan, 1997, Cockerton and North Road are presently defined as district centres and Mowden, Neasham Road, Whinfield and Yarm Road as local centres.

5.0.1 Darlington Borough is generally well provided with shopping facilities, both in terms of quantity (relative to the population) and quality (in terms of accessibility and the range of retailers and retail formats). Surveys report fairly high levels of satisfaction with current provision amongst Borough residents and relatively little of their retail spending 'leaks out' elsewhere, whereas people living outside the Borough spend significant amounts of money within it¹.

5.0.2 The main retail concentration is in Darlington town centre, the fifth² largest shopping destination in North East England. This is a major sub-regional hub for almost a quarter of a million people, not just residents of the Borough and the western part of the Tees Valley, but also of wide areas of south and west Durham and north-west Yorkshire. The town centre also attracts custom for leisure, entertainment, recreation, personal and professional business and diverse other services, in part due to its distinctive and special character, born of being a blend of modern centre and historic market town. The centre's good accessibility to most of its catchment population by a wide range of transport, including more sustainable means, is one of its keenest attributes.

5.0.3 In economic terms, the town centre is one of the Borough's key assets, generating considerable turnover and wealth and employing thousands of people. Notwithstanding the diversity of uses and functions, it is retailing, most particularly the retailing of non-food, 'comparison' goods such as clothing, which underpins its economy and is at the heart of its vitality and viability.

5.0.4 Smaller centres within the Borough play important supporting roles, providing residents with everyday shopping, leisure and other services, both commercial (such as banks, takeaways, pubs and clubs) and public (such as health services, libraries or advice centres), conveniently close to their homes. 'Convenience' shopping (food and other everyday essential items) is at the heart of these district and, smaller, local centres³. Elsewhere, local 'corner' and village shops, sometimes clustered with other local services in small groups or parades, are particularly important to areas relatively remote from the centres and to residents not using a car.

5.0.5 Recent decades have seen the growth of substantial shopping facilities, such as retail warehouses and large supermarkets, in out-of-centre locations, particularly on the eastern side of the town at Darlington Retail Park and Morton Park. Around a quarter of the shop floorspace of the Borough is now found in these. They are popular but because of their locations and layouts lack the wider accessibility of the centres and are overwhelmingly car-oriented, stimulating increased vehicle (and carbon) use and traffic congestion.

5.0.6 Notwithstanding the continuing net inflow of retail spending into the Borough, and the relatively good health of the town centre, both have declined in recent years as competition for shopping expenditure has increased. This competition has come from competing town centres and

retail warehouses, and more recently from supermarkets expanding their ranges of comparison goods and from the Internet. The town centre also appears to have suffered more from the economic downturn than have supermarkets and Internet retailers. Meanwhile, some non-retail functions of the town centre have also been lost in recent years, particularly office employment which has tended to focus instead on modern business parks on the periphery of the town.

4. Particularly RSS policies 10 and 25

5. One Darlington Perfectly Placed, A Vision for Darlington 2008-2021, Darlington Partnership, 2008.

5.0.7 Both national and regional⁴ policies place an emphatic preference on town centres as the location for retailing and other 'main town centre uses', such as offices, leisure and culture. This strategy adopts the same definition of town centre uses as PPS4, and includes 'intensive' sport and recreation uses. These are those sports and recreation facilities referred to elsewhere in the Strategy that make 'intensive use of land, normally comprising built facilities which attract a large number of visits (as defined in PPS4 Practice Guidance, para C15). Health and fitness centres are one example. Improving the town centre economy and its amenities, attractiveness and market town character are also key strands running throughout Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy⁵.

5.1 THE TOWN CENTRE AND FUTURE RETAIL PROVISION

5.1.1 It is important that the Town Centre stems, and so far as possible reverses, recent losses of comparison goods market share. Losses to the Internet are unlikely to be retrieved, and indeed are forecast to increase, but there is potential to stem and reverse losses to competing 'physical' destinations, including retail warehouses and supermarkets within the Borough.

6. Darlington Retail Study 2008, as revised by the 2010 Update.

7. Adding to Quality, A Development Strategy for Darlington Town Centre, DBC and One NorthEast, 2001. Carried forward for this area through Commercial Street Development: Planning and Highway Requirements, DBC, 2001 revised 2004.

5.1.2 An immediate quantitative need for additional comparison floorspace has been identified for the Borough⁶ and the Council has been working with others to meet it at Commercial Street, the area of the town centre identified as having the greatest potential for retail expansion⁷. A planning permission is in place for a retail-led mixed-use scheme known as The Oval, which would provide around 20,000 sqm gross of new class A1 shop floorspace (an increase of 19,000 sqm over existing A1 space on the site) as well as leisure uses, car parking and some residential flats. The shop units, including a department store, would be mainly comparison goods retailers, attractive to national retailers not presently in Darlington, particularly the fashion and lifestyle outlets. Whilst the proposed scheme has been held up by the economic downturn, a major retail-led development in this location, closely integrated with the existing primary shopping area⁸, remains the best opportunity to reinvigorate the town centre and boost its competitive position. As such it is a priority of Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy and an important strategic commitment of this Core Strategy.

8. PPS4, Annex B, defines 'primary shopping area' as generally comprising the primary and those secondary shopping frontages which are contiguous and closely related to the primary shopping frontage. Darlington town centre's precise PSA will be newly identified in the Making Places DPD. In the interim it comprises the primary and secondary shopping frontages of the Borough of Darlington Local Plan, interpreted in the light of PPS4.

5.1.3 Encouraging the return and growth of office employment within the town centre would further help boost pedestrian flows and retail trade, as well as adding diversity and providing employees with more accessible workplaces than might otherwise be the case. Diversifying the role of the centre in other ways, such as by the encouragement of more non-alcohol related leisure attractions, would also stimulate vitality and viability, helping to widen the appeal of the town centre to more sections of the community outside shopping hours.

9. Adding to Quality, 2001. Carried forward for this area in part through Feethams Planning and Development Brief, DBC, 2008.

5.1.4 Although constrained on most sides by the inner ring road, the centre has the physical capacity on undeveloped and under-developed sites, within the first part of plan period at least, to accommodate significant non-retail development of the kind that does not need to be within the shopping frontages. Other than as part of a scheme at Commercial Street, the area of greatest opportunity is the southern part of the centre, around Feethams and Beaumont Street where sites are, or can be made, available⁹.

10. 'Edge-of-centre' is defined in PPS4, Annex B.

5.1.5 Depending on the pace of economic recovery and the success of promoting and enhancing the town centre, it is likely that part-way through the plan period, there will be a need to expand the centre for non-retail purposes, beyond the confines of the inner ring road into the present 'edge-of-centre'¹⁰. The greatest potential lies to the east, in order to benefit from factors including the excellent rail connections at Bank Top station, the proximity of the Central Park regeneration area, the cultural and entertainment facilities already within the area, its underlying historic character, and the opportunities presented by undeveloped and under-developed sites. Other edge-of-centre areas to the north and south-east of the ring road present similar smaller scale opportunities.

5.1.6 An arc around the centre, known as the Town Centre Fringe, is accordingly proposed as the preferred location for major, non-retail, town centre type development, for the time when these cannot be accommodated within the present centre. Regeneration of the Town Centre Fringe, with an emphasis on culture and leisure, is already a strand of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The town centre would be extended in stages, rather than across the whole of the Town Centre Fringe at once, to better focus development activity and make the most of investment in infrastructure. To function truly as a town centre extension, development will need to be preceded by significant improvements in connections across the ring road, particularly for non-car users.

Policy CS7: The Town Centre

The vitality and viability of Darlington town centre will be safeguarded and enhanced by protecting and promoting its role as the sub-regional centre for the western part of the Tees Valley City Region and neighbouring parts of North Yorkshire and south and west Durham, including its role as a market town.

It will be the locational focus for the development of retail, office, leisure, entertainment, intensive sport and recreation, arts, culture, tourism and other main town centre uses needed within the Borough, and such uses will be encouraged and directed there as a first preference. A diversity of such uses, including for the evening and night-time economy, will be encouraged within the centre, in locations appropriate to their particular characteristics.

The first priority for retail development in the Borough is the completion of a major, multi-unit, retail-led scheme in the Commercial Street area, physically and functionally integrated with the primary shopping area, for occupation mainly by retailers of comparison goods. Incorporation of this within a mixed-use development would be encouraged.

Other than as part of a mixed-use scheme at Commercial Street, the first priority location for the development of major non-retail town centre uses in the Borough will be other parts of the present town centre, including the Feethams/Beaumont Street area.

When the present town centre can physically accommodate no further major non-retail development, it will be extended into the Town Centre Fringe and such development will be encouraged there. Extension will be in phases, with the initial priority direction being eastwards from the present centre towards the East Coast Main Line railway. Extension will be conditional on improvements in connections across the ring road, particularly for pedestrians and other non-car users, being in place.

5.1.7 A retail development at Commercial Street of the size presently permitted would meet most of the need for additional comparison retail floorspace forecast for the Borough by 2016, leaving a surplus need for approximately 4,000 sqm (gross) more at that date. Should the scale of the proposals for Commercial Street be amended before implementation, then this surplus need will rise or fall accordingly. It is forecast that the comparison floorspace need of the Borough will rise by a further 12,000 sqm between 2016 and 2021 (based on average town centre sales density). These increases should be accommodated through the organic growth of the existing primary shopping area of the town centre, such as extensions to existing shops and/or the primary shopping area itself.

5.1.8 Longer-range forecasts are less reliable, but a further 10,000 sqm of comparison floorspace provision could be needed between 2021 and 2026. It is important to the town centre's ongoing vitality, viability and competitiveness that it remains the focal point for comparison-shopping development throughout the plan period.

5.1.9 In respect of convenience retailing, the present amount of provision in the Borough, around 55,000 sqm gross, is sufficient to meet needs up to and beyond 2021. Between 2021 and 2026, there is forecast to be a need for an additional 2,000 sqm. This increase should be taken up by small-scale proposals (such as shop extensions) spread across the various centres and small local shops.

Policy CS8: Additional Retail Provision

The need for additional comparison retail floorspace in the Borough by 2016 should be met mainly or wholly by a retail-led scheme at Commercial Street. A further 4,000 sqm gross could be needed, provided that its development would not undermine that at Commercial Street, and should be accommodated within the primary shopping area of the town centre or in physically and functionally integrated extensions to it.

An additional 12,000 sqm gross of comparison floorspace is expected to be needed in the five-year period to 2021 and should be located within the town centre primary shopping area or integrated extensions to it. A further 10,000 sqm of comparison space could be required in the five years to 2026 and the town centre should remain the principal focus for its provision.

There is no quantitative need for additional convenience retail floorspace in the Borough before 2021. There is expected to be a quantitative need for an additional 2,000 sqm gross floorspace in the five-year period between 2021 and 2026. Such provision should be located within existing centres and where it will remedy qualitative local deficiencies in the geographical distribution of food shopping, including areas of new residential development.

5.2 LOCALLY ACCESSIBLE SHOPS AND SERVICES

5.2.1 The lower-order centres in the Borough, and the many local shops, services and leisure uses such as pubs and social clubs, remain important in providing for residents' everyday needs close to their homes. Their easy accessibility by non-car means of transport can also have wider benefits, including fostering healthier lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling, supporting local businesses, and helping reduce congestion and the use of fossil fuels. They are, however, vulnerable to undermining by proposals such as for competing development at less accessible locations or for more financially rewarding alternative uses on their site, even when there is no inherent lack of viability and the use fulfils a local need.

5.2.2 The following policy sets out the hierarchy of centres in the Borough and seeks to protect and promote facilities within them and elsewhere, where they serve a continuing local need. The policy goes further than the Government's PPS4¹¹, which confines its protection and promotion to facilities in centres and villages, as facilities away from centres can be important to urban communities too.

11. PPS4: Planning Policy Statement 4, Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth, 2009

Policy CS9: District and Local Centres and Local Shops and Services

The hierarchy of centres in the Borough will be taken into account in considering the appropriateness of proposals for development. The hierarchy is as follows:

- (a) Darlington town centre (sub-regional centre);
- (b) Cockerton and North Road centres (district centres);
- (c) Mowden, Neasham Road, Whinfield, Yarm Road, West Park and Middleton St. George centres (local centres).

The role of the district and local centres in providing food shopping and a range of other shops, leisure uses (including public houses and social clubs) and services to meet people's day-to-day needs in accessible locations will be safeguarded and enhanced.

Development should be consistent with a centre's scale, function and physical capacity to integrate extensions. Any proposed new shops within these centres will be limited to maximum individual sizes of approximately 400 sqm gross floorspace for convenience shops and 100 sqm gross for comparison shops. Extensions which would take existing shops in these centres up to these sizes to improve their viability will be permitted.

Individual local shops, leisure uses and services and small neighbourhood clusters of them which meet the day-to-day needs of nearby residents without the need to use a car will be protected and promoted. Proposed new shops in such circumstances will be limited to a maximum 100 sqm gross floorspace unless a qualitative need to remedy a geographical deficiency in the distribution of food shopping can be demonstrated, in which case convenience shops up to 400 sqm gross floorspace will be permitted. Extensions which would take existing local shops up to these sizes to improve their viability will be permitted, subject to the same demonstration of geographical deficiency for proposals over 100 sqm.

Measuring Progress

5.3.1 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of policies CS7, 8 and 9, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

Core BD4 Total amount of floorspace for town centre uses.

Local 15 Amount of retail floorspace and vacancy rates in the town centre and district and local centres.

Local 25 Amount of floorspace completed for town centre uses by type, by centre and for the Borough as a whole.

6. QUALITY HOUSING FOR ALL

6.1 New Housing

6.1.1 Darlington's gateway location will continue to attract economic development and investment that may otherwise not come to the North East or Tees Valley. The economic advantages of Darlington's location, together with the good quality of life it offers, have helped to maintain a relatively strong housing market in the Borough and high levels of housebuilding compared to many other areas of Tees Valley and the North East. However, additional new housing is needed in Darlington to respond to the following four issues:

- (i) an increase in new households forming within the existing population;
- (ii) retaining and attracting more young and working age people, particularly graduates and knowledge economy workers, to drive local economic growth;
- (iii) better matching the housing stock to local needs and aspirations, including the need for both more affordable housing and top-end executive housing; and
- (iv) replacing obsolete housing stock.

6.1.2 The provision of new housing is also seen as complementary to achieving the goals of economic growth, investment and regeneration in Darlington, and crucial to ensuring a sustainable form of development where people can choose to live and work in Darlington, rather than commuting in or out of the Borough. These goals are at the heart of the Borough's sustainable community strategy and the sub-region's economic development and regeneration ambitions.

6.1.3 These issues have informed the amount of new housing that should be provided in the Borough. Over the period from 2004 to 2026, 8675 net additional dwellings¹ need to be provided in Darlington Borough². Table 6.1 below sets out how these are apportioned from 2004 and across the Core Strategy period, and so shows how new housing provision in the Borough will meet the amount and phasing required by the RSS. For the period 2021 to 2026, the average annual rate of provision in the years 2004-2021 has been applied. This requirement is based as much on the ability to deliver as it is on meeting identified housing needs and demand; whilst being well within the capacity of the housebuilding industry to deliver, it balances the likelihood of actual delivery with the continuing need for new housing (outlined in 6.1.1 above).

6.1.4 An estimated³ 2862 net additional dwellings will be provided in the period 2004 to 2011, taking account of actual and forecast completions on schemes with planning permission and demolitions. This leaves 3838 net additional dwellings to be provided from 2011 to 2021, to make up the shortfall (between completions and requirements during 2004 to 2011) and to meet the average annual requirements. A further 1975 net additional dwellings are needed from 2021-2026, giving a total of 5813 net additional dwellings to be provided from April 2011 to 2026.

1. Net additional dwellings = total dwellings completed minus demolitions

2. RSS Dwelling Provision Technical Annex 2007 and subsequently, RSS policy 29

3. Based on actual housing completions data to 31st March 2010 and forecasts thereafter, as set out in the accompanying Housing Implementation Strategy.

Table 6.1: Amount and phasing of net additional dwellings required

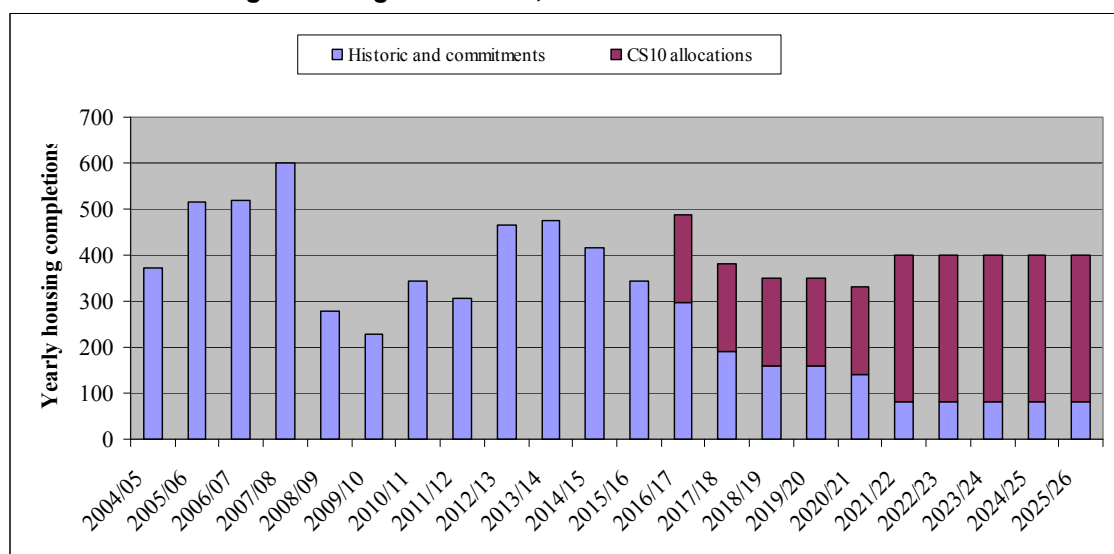
	2004-11	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	Total
Average annual net additional dwellings required	525	340	265	395	-
Total net additional dwellings required in each period	3675	1700	1325	1975	8675
Net additional dwellings completed.	2862	0	0	0	2862
Total net additional dwellings required*	(-813)	1963	1875	1975	5813
Total dwellings already committed**		2006	947	400	3353
Demolitions		25	25	25	75
Outstanding net additional dwellings required.		-18	953	1600	2535

* 813 shortfall apportioned 53 dwellings/year 2011-2016, and 110 dwellings/year 2016-2021.

** in planning permissions granted

6.1.5 Table 6.1 shows that this LDF needs to identify land for 2535 new dwellings, in addition to the 3353 that are expected to come forward in the plan period from schemes that already have planning permission. Figure 6.1 indicates how housing has been delivered since 2004 and how it is expected to be delivered over the plan period, 2011-2026.

Figure 6.1: Actual and forecast housing completions and completions forecast from new housing in strategic locations, 2004-2026.



4 PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development

5. RSS Policy 29

6. PPS3: Housing

7. See Strategic Housing Locations Option Appraisal, 2010.

8. PDL is defined in PPS3 and includes land and buildings.

6.1.6 The broad locations selected to accommodate new housing development, the amount of new housing to be located there and the order in which the locations will come forward reflect the Government’s general approach to delivering sustainable development⁴, and the RSS sequential approach⁵, together with factors such as flood risk and deliverability that are set out in Government planning policy⁶, and locally important sustainability factors, such as infrastructure capacity, ability to deliver wider regeneration objectives, safeguarding local distinctiveness, and the Borough’s commitment to encouraging and supporting sustainable travel choices and minimising the need to travel⁷.

6.1.7 The main built up area but excluding the North West Urban Fringe and Eastern Urban Fringe, is identified as the first priority location for new housing, and within this area, Central Park, the Town Centre fringe and other previously developed land⁸ (PDL) are the priorities. The Darlington

9. Excludes urban extensions

10. The timetable for preparing the Accommodating Growth DPD is set out in the Council's LDS 2009-12.

11. Housing Growth Point status committed and provided funding to the Tees Valley authorities, initially to accelerate housebuilding, but now to unlock stalled housing sites.

12. Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan – see the Local Development Scheme 2009-2012 for more details.

13. Hurworth/Hurworth Place, Middleton St. George and Heighington

14. RSS Policy 29

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update 1 (December 2009) identified sites within Rest of Urban Area that are capable of delivering an additional 627 dwellings from 2011 to 2016⁹. Taken together with existing commitments, this indicates an adequate supply of new housing for the first five years of the plan period, as required by national planning policy⁴. The SHLAA will be the starting point for identifying in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD¹⁰ the land that needs to be allocated for new housing from 2016.

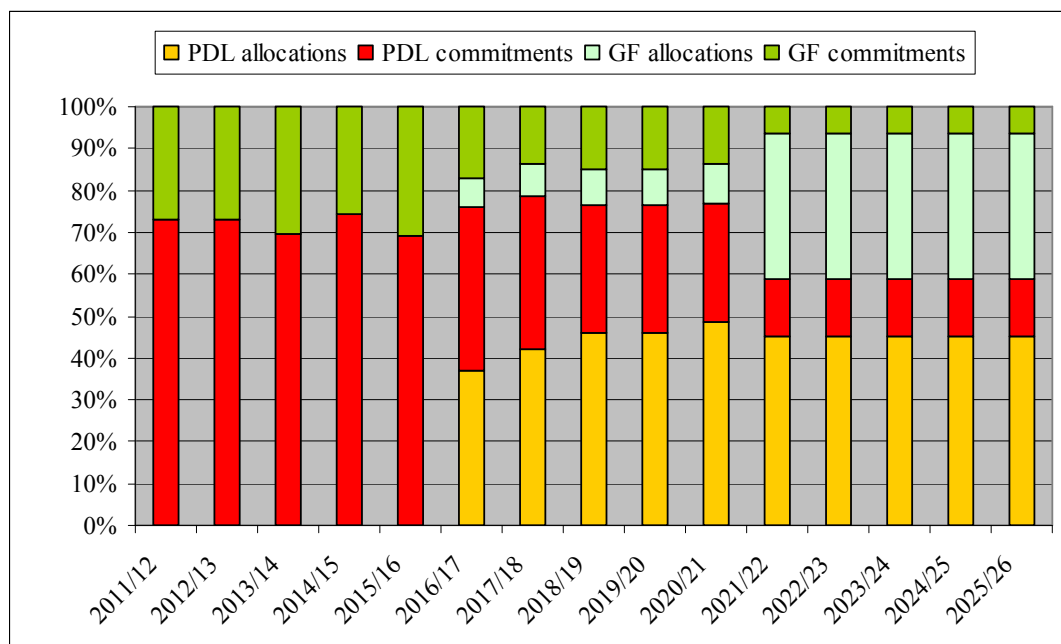
6.1.8 Much of the capacity for additional housing in the main built up area of Darlington is on surplus education sites and obsolete employment land; the former, together with Central Park, have been targeted for investment through the Housing Growth Point¹¹ programme. An estimated 650 new dwellings could be delivered in the Town Centre Fringe area, as part of the overall mixed use regeneration of the area, guided by an Area Action Plan¹² and other appropriate planning frameworks. New housing is proposed towards the middle and latter half of the plan period in this area, to reflect the constraints and further planning work required, and the need to ensure it does not undermine the regeneration of the higher priority neighbouring Central Park area.

6.1.9 Land at the urban fringe (North Western and Eastern) has been phased to come forward after the substantial completion of more sustainably located existing commitments in these general areas (West Park and Lingfield respectively). The 700 additional new homes proposed in this Core Strategy at the North Western Urban Fringe is most, but not all, the new housing that this location could accommodate, whilst the 150 proposed at the Eastern Urban Fringe would represent the first phase of a new neighbourhood in that general location.

6.1.10 Greenfield land at the North Western Urban Fringe and the Eastern Urban Fringe will be needed to maintain housing supply from 2016 onwards, whilst the larger villages¹³ and open countryside are the lowest priority locations for strategic new housing development. The Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document (DPD)¹⁰ will establish if any small scale sites on the edge of these villages should be identified to meet local needs or to sustain local shops and services.

6.1.11 Figure 6.2 shows how delivery of new homes on PDL, particularly during the first and middle parts of the plan period, will surpass the national minimum of 60% per annum⁵ and contribute towards meeting the regional target of 75% by 2016¹⁴. Whilst the Council is fully supportive of the need to achieve high levels of new housing development on previously developed land, it has had regard to a range of other factors in determining the mix of housing locations to deliver the housing requirement. Those factors included development viability, the need to maintain a range and choice of sites throughout the plan period and the need to be realistic about the more limited appeal to developers and buyers (and hence lower rates of housebuilding) of new housing on deeply urban PDL sites compared to urban fringe greenfield locations.

Figure 6.2: Previously Developed Land Trajectory, 2011-2026



15. Monitored through the LDF Annual Monitoring Report, published in December each year.

6.1.12 If planning permissions are not implemented as anticipated¹⁵, then to maintain housing delivery, additional housing land will be brought forward for development earlier, in accordance with a sequential approach; housing in the next most sustainable and deliverable strategic locations will be identified first, and housing in other locations will only be permitted if it would be more sustainable than the next sequential location. Exceptionally, where even this bringing forward of strategic phasing does not sustain housing delivery, planning permission may be granted for modest numbers of new dwellings at the urban fringe or within or adjacent to the larger villages to seek to ensure that housing delivery is brought back up to the appropriate level in the short term.

16. Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2009.

6.1.13 To make the best use of housing land, maximise accessibility and minimize carbon emissions, the highest density development will be expected in the most accessible locations. These are the town centre and the Town Centre Fringe, together with the areas around North Road Railway Station, around the district and local centres identified in Policy CS9 and along the key public transport corridors identified in Policy CS19. Lower densities may be acceptable in parts of the strategic locations around the urban fringe and on some small infill sites in suburban or rural locations, particularly where proposed developments would meet the sub-regional need¹⁶ for executive housing or provide the larger dwellings that are needed to better balance the overall housing stock. Sites and locations where lower densities will be permitted will be identified in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

17. Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document, DBC, July 2009.

6.1.14 Housing densities should be in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Design of New Development SPD, or any successor¹⁷, so that an average density of 30-50 dwellings per hectare is achieved across the Borough, reflecting the type of new housing that is needed in the Borough, and the requirements of RSS Policy 29.

6.1.15 The key infrastructure required to support new housing development at the strategic locations identified is set out in the accompanying Infrastructure Delivery Plan, and more detail will be given

alongside the allocation of housing land in these locations in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD. This is essential to ensure the delivery of sustainable communities and to mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts, such as traffic congestion.

18. Years are 1st April to 31st March

Policy CS10: New Housing Development

Provision will be made for average annual net additions to the dwelling stock, for the years¹⁸ 2011-2026, as follows:

2011 - 2016: about 350
 2016 - 2021: about 350
 2021 - 2026: about 400

Land for new housing will be allocated in the following strategic locations, in accordance with the locational strategy set out in Policy CS1, with priority for delivery being the order and timing of delivery indicated below:

19 Rest of Urban Area is all of the main urban area, excluding land at Central Park, the Town Centre Fringe, Eastern Urban Fringe and North West Urban Fringe.

	Number of new dwellings (about)		
	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26
(a) Rest of Urban Area ¹⁹	0	600	450
(b) Town Centre Fringe	0	200	450
(c) North Western Urban Fringe	0	150	550
(d) Eastern Urban Fringe	0	0	150

This new land is in addition to housing development in the following locations that is expected to be met through existing commitments:

	Number of new dwellings		
	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26
(i) Rest of Urban Area	900	120	0
(ii) Central Park	205	340	0
(iii) Lingfield Point	320	400	400
(iv) West Park	350	50	0
(v) Others	230	35	0

Where housing delivery does not come forward as envisaged, housing delivery will be maintained by bringing forward development in the next priority location, as outlined in (a) to (d) above, where suitable, available and deliverable sites have been identified, where it does not undermine the Council's key regeneration objectives, and so as to contribute, as far as possible, to meeting the national minimum target for 60% of new housing to be on previously developed land.

Where the strategy outlined above is delivering 80% or less of the average annual net additions to existing stock required, windfall housing development in appropriate locations at the urban fringe, and then within or adjacent to the larger villages, may be permitted, provided that early delivery of such development is secured by planning conditions and/or such other arrangements as may be agreed with the applicants.

Average housing density on new developments will be expected to achieve 30-50 dwellings per hectare across the Borough overall. Higher densities will be encouraged within and on the fringe of Darlington town centre, around North Road railway station, around district and local centres identified in Policy CS9, and along the key public transport corridors, identified in Policy CS19.

Measuring Progress

6.1.16 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS10, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators	
NI154	Net additional homes provided (monitored quarterly)
LI0001	Percentage of new homes built on previously developed land
Local 4	Current commitments on greenfield and previously developed land
Local 5	Density of new dwellings on completed and committed sites of 5 dwellings or more
New	Location of completed sites with higher or lower than average density

6.2 Meeting Housing Needs

6.2.1 New housing is required to meet the needs and demand arising from the local people at all stages of their life, and to accommodate and retain the people who will underpin the Borough's economic growth. Suitable housing to meet the projected growth in single person households²⁰ and significant growth in the retired population of Darlington²¹ over the next 15 years or so is particularly needed. Taking into account the size and type of housing that makes up the existing housing stock, and modern day aspirations, this means that more detached houses, bungalows and 4+ bed roomed houses are needed (see Table 6.2).

20. Source: Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2009.

21. Population 65 years or older projected to increase to 23% by 2026 (ONS 2008 based sub national projections)

Table 6.2 : Composition of Existing Housing Stock and Household Aspirations

Size/type of dwelling	Proportion of the existing housing stock (%)	Type of housing people living in the Borough aspire to (%)
Detached	16.2	18.6
Semi-detached	34.9	22.2
Terraced	29.7	27.4
Bungalow	8.9	18.4
Flat	10.3	13.4
1 bed	8.4	6.9
2 bed	33.1	35.2
3 bed	41.3	36.0
4 or more bed	17.2	21.9

Source: Tables 6.3 and 7.1 TVSHMA, 2009

6.2.2 More housing suitable for older people and people with disabilities is also needed. It was identified as a significant issue in 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'. In Darlington, the strategy²² is to support people who want to remain in their home, recognising that they may need greater support and/or adaptations to their home to do so. This is largely within existing housing, and includes extra care housing, sheltered accommodation and retirement village/apartment provision. Providing lifetime homes, or modern purpose built or easily adapted dwellings as part of the mix of new housing is an important way to increase the amount

22. Darlington Housing Strategy 2008-12

of suitable housing for older people. It will also ensure that funding available for home adaptations can be used as effectively as possible.

6.2.3 A separate document will set out the detail of an adaptable dwellings requirement. In addition, provision or developer contributions may be sought to meet identified needs for new housing suitable for disabled people or to adapt more of the existing housing stock to older persons' needs (see Policy CS4).

23. See 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed' and the Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment (TVSHMA) 2010.

24. TVSHMA, 2009

25. Definition of intermediate affordable housing is in Annex B of PPS3: Housing (CLG, 2010).

26. The Economic Viability of Housing Land in Darlington Borough, Levvel, June 2010

6.2.4 Providing enough affordable housing to meet local needs is also a significant issue²³. Even taking account of the existing 7500 local authority or Registered Social Landlord properties, and in a scenario of house prices 20% below the 2007 peak, there would still be a shortfall of 513 affordable dwellings per annum, exceeding the Borough's annual housing requirement²⁴. Some of the Borough's 3144 private rented dwellings may contribute towards meeting some needs in the short term, but a significant need still remains, across a range of sizes and types of housing, prevalent in all parts of the Borough. As the housing market recovers, there is expected to be sustained higher demand for intermediate affordable housing²⁵.

6.2.5 Requirements for high levels of affordable housing provision can render many schemes unviable in certain locations and when sluggish or stalled housing market conditions prevail. The Council wants to encourage new housing development wherever possible, and so the viability of schemes is a key consideration. A study into the economic viability of housing land²⁶ found that a target of 30% affordable housing could be achieved across at least half of the Borough under a range of general housing market scenarios. Wide variations in economic viability within the Borough and throughout the plan period require the flexible application of the target in considering individual planning applications, to include taking account of circumstances where it may not be viable to provide any affordable housing. The target is also flexible enough to ensure that the type and size of affordable housing can also be considered, as well as overall numbers, and that the level of provision is appropriate to the objective of widening tenure mix in all localities. In exceptional circumstances, it will be more appropriate to provide affordable housing off site, and this could be in the form of newbuild or a contribution towards the creation of more affordable housing within the existing stock in appropriate areas.

6.2.6 In the strategic locations identified for new housing (see Policy CS10), the scale of development will create a new neighbourhood. The affordable housing target for each will be set out in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD, so that the need for affordable housing can be balanced against all other considerations in creating new sustainable communities.

6.2.7 Based on the above, and taking into account affordable housing that will come forward through local authority newbuild, through Section 106 agreements and through registered social landlords' own schemes, a target of at least 35 additional affordable houses per annum has been set for the period 2011-2016 and a target of at least 50 dwellings per annum thereafter. These targets are considered realistic and deliverable, rather than aspirational.

27. Top-end executive housing is set in its own grounds at a density of no more than 6 dwellings per hectare. It has 4 or more bedrooms, above average levels of garaging, security and privacy and individual, high quality designs and finishings. It comprises both new and older period homes.

28. A rural exceptions policy allows housing development outside village limits, where it is for local needs and will be affordable in perpetuity.

6.2.8 Because of its attractive urban and rural residential environments and town centre cultural and leisure facilities, the Borough will continue to help meet a sub-regional need for small numbers of top-end executive housing²⁷. This will support economic growth in the Borough and wider Tees Valley area, and could reduce in-commuting.

6.2.9 To ensure that sufficient land is identified in appropriate locations, preparation of the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD will consider identifying sites for specific types of housing, e.g. rural affordable housing, housing for people with disabilities and executive housing. If significant rural affordable housing needs are identified for particular settlements in the future, the Council will consider including a 'rural exceptions'²⁸ policy for affordable housing in perpetuity in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

6.2.10 By giving a clear indication of the requirement for a mix of new housing and the priorities in determining that mix, this policy will help to widen the diversity of the Borough's housing stock so it better aligns to identified needs and aspirations, and reduces the inequalities experienced by people with currently little or no housing choice.

Policy CS11: Meeting Housing Needs

New housing and the conversion and adaptation of existing dwellings will be required to contribute to achieving an overall balanced housing stock that better meets local needs and aspirations, particularly the needs of an ageing population and increasing affordable housing provision.

A target of at least 35 additional affordable houses per annum has been set for the period 2011-2016 and a target of at least 50 per annum thereafter.

All developments of 15 dwellings (or 0.5ha) or more within the main urban area and 5 dwellings (or 0.2ha) or more outside of it will be required to provide, or contribute towards the provision of, an appropriate mix of housing to meet identified needs. The mix should include:

- Up to 30% affordable housing;
- Housing for people with disabilities;
- Housing for older people, including housing capable of being readily adapted to meet a range of needs;
- Detached family housing containing four or more bedrooms in all appropriate locations.

The amount and exact mix of provision will be negotiated with developers on the basis of up-to-date evidence of housing needs and aspirations, the size, type and tenure of the existing and committed stock and development viability.

Exceptionally, where it is not appropriate to make provision on-site, developers will be expected to enter into a Section 106 agreement to enable the equivalent value of off-site provision to be secured.

At the strategic locations (b), (c) and (d) listed in CS10, the percentage of affordable housing required will be set out in the housing allocation policy of the Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document.

Measuring Progress

6.2.11 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS11, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators	
NI155/Core H5	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)
Local H2b	Dwellings completed and committed by size, type and tenure
New	Number of homes benefitting from adaptations funded by Disabilities Facilities Grant

6.3 Existing Housing

6.3.1 Existing housing and neighbourhoods are, and will continue to be, the cornerstone of Darlington's housing offer, satisfying the majority of housing needs and choices. To ensure that the best use continues to be made of existing housing, there is a need to identify locations that should be prioritised for regeneration and improvement, within both older privately owned housing and public housing areas, where the type and quality of housing and/or the residential environment does not meet modern day needs and aspirations. There is also a need more generally to ensure that housing vacancies are reduced from 3.4%²⁹ overall to meet and sustain vacancies at or below 3%. This is the level assumed in calculating the number of new homes needed (see para 6.1.3), and the target that is set out in the RSS²

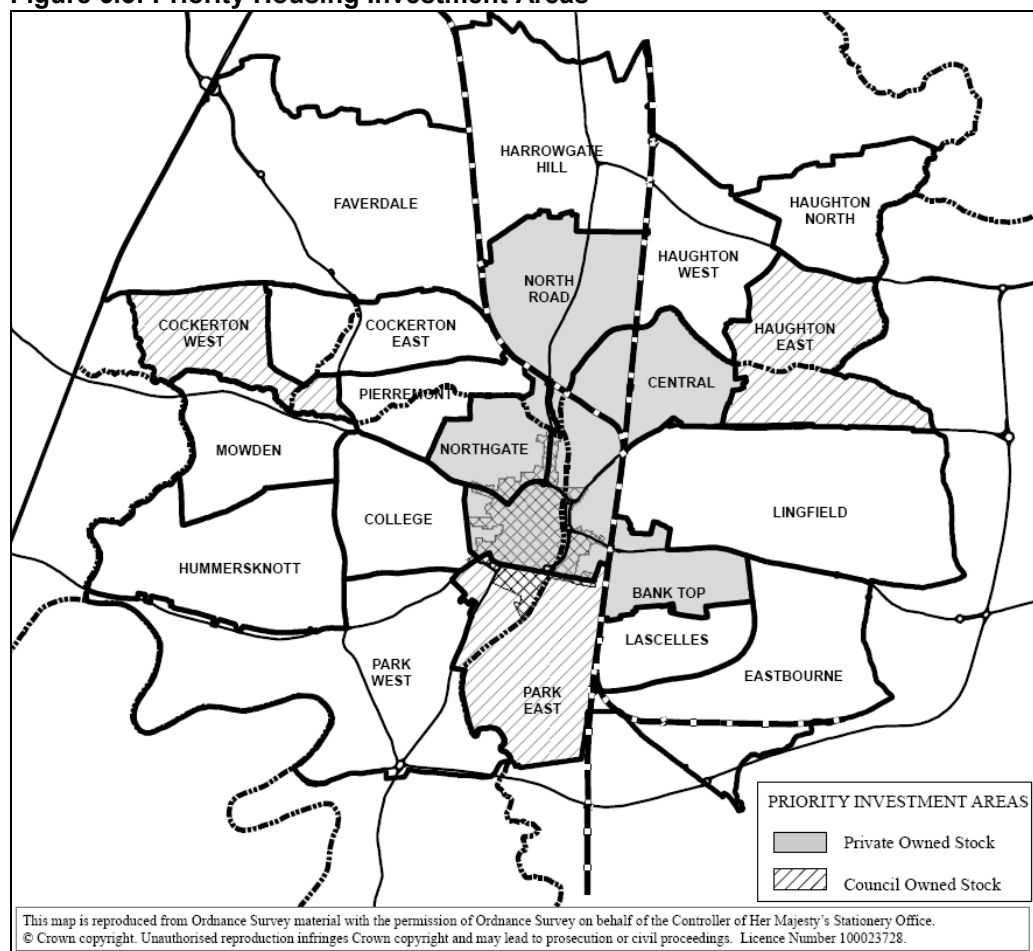
29. Darlington Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix 2009.

2. RSS policy 29

6.3.2 Improving the existing housing stock, particularly its energy efficiency and its suitability for modern day needs, through repair, adaptation or remodelling, will help to reduce the amount of new housing that needs to be built, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, save energy and resources, and minimise the loss of Greenfield land to housing. It will also help to narrow the quality gap between the pockets of poor quality small, older terraced housing in inner Darlington (see Figure 6.3) and neighbourhoods of very high quality housing, predominantly in the West End of Darlington and the rural parts of the borough. Housing regeneration in the identified local authority housing areas (See Figure 6.3) will concentrate on improving housing choice and maintaining sustainable neighbourhoods, and upgrading properties to achieve the enhanced 'Darlington Standard'³⁰ for decent homes. The Council may also seek opportunities to diversify existing housing tenure through selective demolition and redevelopment, to remove obsolete or low demand housing and replace it with housing to meet modern day needs. Demolition will only be considered as a last resort, and where an independent assessment of financial viability has demonstrated that repair, adaptation or remodelling is unviable or unsustainable.

30. Darlington Standard is renewal and more frequent updating of bathrooms, kitchens, rewiring and central heating.

Figure 6.3: Priority Housing Investment Areas



6.3.3 As vacancies in local authority housing are currently only 1.6%²⁹, efforts to reduce vacancy overall will be targeted at the private rented sector, where 4.4% of stock is vacant²⁹. Persistent vacancy is likely to emerge in the poorest quality older terraced housing areas that fall short of 21st Century aspirations. Homes that are vacant long term are often neglected and of poor quality, and can adversely affect the appearance and image of an area.

6.3.4 The provision of additional affordable housing (see Policy CS11) and vacancies in the form of newly completed dwellings will help to sustain vacancies at a level that enable people to move into and within the Borough. By giving a clear indication about the Borough's priorities for the existing housing stock, this policy will help to support efforts to attract public funding and other investment to the Borough over the whole plan period, and to guide the Council's own investment decisions.

Policy CS12: Existing Housing

The Council will continue to work towards achieving and maintaining a maximum of 3% of vacancies in the existing housing stock. It will do this by:

- (i) supporting the regeneration and improvement of existing housing areas, particularly within North Road, Northgate, Central, Bank Top, Park East, Cockerton West and Haughton East wards;
- (ii) giving priority to repairing, adapting or remodelling existing housing, particularly to improve energy efficiency and to ensure public housing meets the 'Darlington Standard', where this is financially viable. Estate layouts and the local environment will also be enhanced where appropriate.

Exceptionally, selective demolition and redevelopment may form part of a housing regeneration strategy, where:

- (a) there is evidence of sustained low demand and obsolescence; and
- (b) it would prevent further decline; and
- (c) repair, adaptation and remodelling have been considered and demonstrated to be economically unviable or unsustainable; and
- (d) it diversifies existing housing tenure in the neighbourhood; and
- (e) it accords with the overall planning framework for the area.

Measuring Progress

6.3.5 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS12, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

Local 8: Number of vacant dwellings by length of vacancy and ownership type

New: Number of Council owned houses where planned repairs have been completed

New: Overall housing vacancy rate

6.4 Accommodating Travelling Groups

31. The definitions of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are set out in Government Circulars 01/06 and 04/07.

32. For example, there were two unauthorised encampments in 2009 and six in 2010.

33. Circulars 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites; and 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople.

34. Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, Final Report, January 2009.

35. See the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) for the timetable for preparation.

36. The sustainable community strategy for Darlington, 2008.

6.4.1 Darlington has a long association with Gypsies and other travelling groups³¹ with people from these groups accommodated on dedicated sites and within general housing. Existing provision is at two successful Council owned, but privately managed sites. Honeypot Lane (with 32 residential pitches and 24 transit pitches), Neasham Road (with 20 residential pitches), and at other smaller privately owned sites with planning permission. There are also some unauthorised encampments each year throughout the Borough³².

6.4.2 Government policy³³ emphasises the importance of assessing the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and taking a strategic approach to meeting needs that are identified. Sub regional work³⁴, which provides additional information about the accommodation needs of Gypsies and other travelling groups across the Tees Valley, and in each specific borough, identifies a need for pitch provision; however it recommends that further work should be undertaken to quantify the requirement in each Borough.

6.4.3 This policy identifies the locational criteria for the provision of pitches for the Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople communities that will be used to guide the allocation of sites to meet identified needs in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document (DPD)³⁵, and will be applied in considering planning applications for the development of windfall sites. The aim of the policy is to enhance the health and education standards of these families and ensure access to good quality accommodation, in line with strategic objectives 2 and 4 (see page 17), and helping to deliver the 'valuing diversity' strand of 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed'³⁶.

Policy CS13: Accommodating Travelling Groups

Provision will be made for travelling groups at the existing sites of Honeypot Lane, Neasham Road, and other small sites within the Borough. Where required, additional sites for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople will be allocated in accordance with the following criteria, which will also be the basis for determination of windfall sites, ensuring that sites:

- a) have appropriate access and are in a sustainable location for schools, shops, employment opportunities and other local facilities and services; and
- b) are located and designed so as not to have an unacceptable negative impact on existing residential amenity or existing landscape character; and
- c) are appropriate to provide a safe and healthy environment for residents; and
- d) are located in areas not at risk from flooding; and
- e) are located and designed so as not to have a significant negative impact on the natural, archaeological or historic environment.

Preference will be given firstly to locations within and then adjacent to existing settlements, and then to the re-use of brownfield land in other locations.

Measuring Progress

6.4.4 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS13, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators	
H4	Net additional Gypsy and Traveller Pitches
Local 7	Number of additional pitches included in development plans

7. A DISTINCTIVE, GREENER, CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness

1. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008

2. PPS1, CLG, 2005

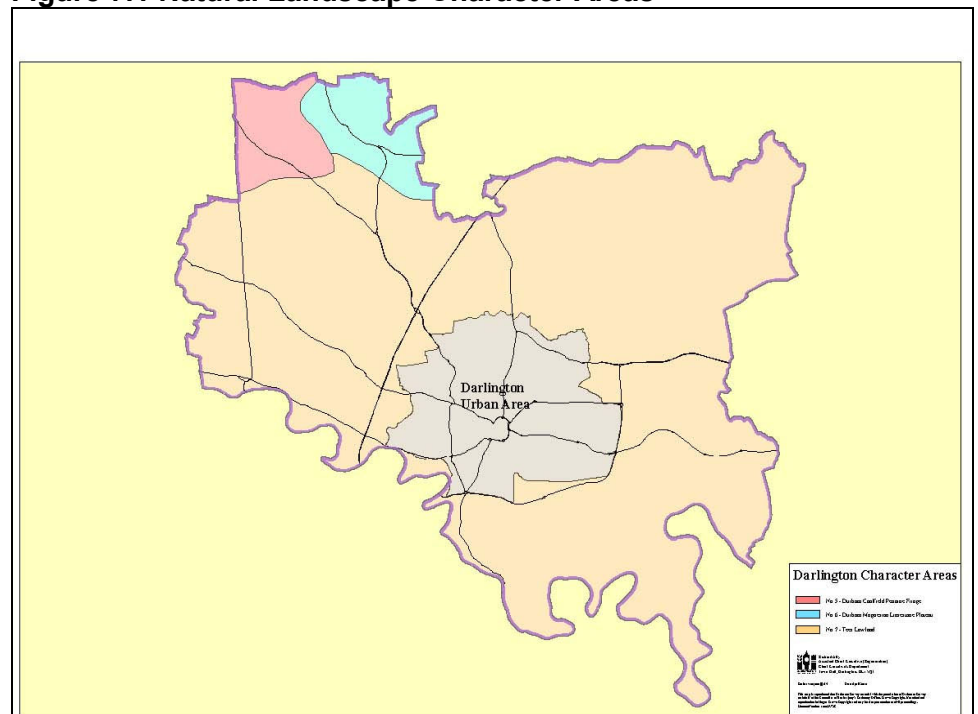
3. National Character Areas defined by Natural England

4. See Policy CS17

7.1.1 The Borough of Darlington has a wealth of distinctive and valued historic assets, built and natural environments, townscapes, landscapes and features. The Borough's distinctive identity: a traditional, friendly market town with a world famous railway, industrial and Quaker heritage at its core, surrounded by countryside and attractive villages, creates a sense of place. All are a focus of civic pride¹, highly valued by local people and a positive consideration for those seeking to invest in the area. As such, they need to be preserved and strengthened (see objective 7)².

7.1.2 There are three distinct natural landscape character areas within the Borough. The largely agricultural, undulating Tees Lowland³ dominates, providing wide views to the North York Moors and the upland Dales, across the urban fringe, surrounding villages and countryside. The land falls in steep sided, wooded banks to the River Tees, a significant green corridor⁴ at the Borough's southern boundary. The gently undulating Durham Magnesian Limestone plateau and the Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe areas³ extend into the far north-west of the Borough. The former is characterised by mostly open, arable farmland sheltering some rare and distinctive species, whilst the latter includes some semi natural habitats and woodlands alongside rivers and becks.

Figure 7.1 Natural Landscape Character Areas



5. Existing or successor

6. Identified in the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tees Valley JSU, 2008

7. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, PPS5, CLG, 2010

8. Listed buildings may be at risk due to a number of factors, such as lack of regular maintenance, vacancy and vandalism, theft of architectural features or arson.

9. Published by DBC, these identify features that contribute most to the character of each of the Borough's 16 Conservation Areas. Character includes listed buildings, locally distinctive buildings and intrinsic characteristics, like historic road and path layouts, building and paving materials, public and private spaces, greens and trees.

10. Local List: recognises historic buildings and features that reinforce local distinctiveness and a sense of place.

7.1.3 In all these areas, development should reflect variations in the local landscape character by enhancing local distinctiveness, guided by the principles set out in the Design of New Development SPD⁵.

7.1.4 Areas of openness form clear boundaries between neighbourhoods within the urban area, and between the urban area and surrounding villages. Limits to development (see CS1), green wedges and green corridors⁶ (see policy CS17) are integral to the protection of the Borough's green infrastructure network and settlement pattern.

7.1.5 The integrity and quality of over 500 nationally protected listed buildings and 20 scheduled monuments in the Borough, including the remains of a Roman fort at Piercebridge, will be protected and enhanced through national legislation and national planning guidance⁷. A local 'at risk' register⁸ identifies those buildings that are in poor condition which should be enhanced, if an appropriate development proposal comes forward.

7.1.6 Areas rich in distinctive historic, archaeological, architectural, spatial and natural features are locally designated as Conservation Areas, underpinned by Conservation Area Character Appraisals⁹. New areas may be designated, particularly where it will support regeneration and development or improve some of the Borough's more neglected historic townscapes and landscapes. In the long term, Management Plans will help identify key actions to improve the distinctive qualities of each Conservation Area.

7.1.7 Also, in the long term, a Local List¹⁰ will be established to protect locally distinctive buildings and features with high historic and architectural value, particularly those that reflect Darlington's influential industrial, railway, agricultural and Quaker heritage. New development that will have an impact on the Borough's heritage assets will be guided by policies in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

7.1.8 The following policy identifies the key elements of the existing built, historic and natural environment that will be prioritised for protection and enhancement, to help safeguard the distinctive character of Darlington. Together with more specific detailed documents such as the Conservation Area Appraisals and the local 'at risk' register, it will also help attract public sector funding and other investment to the Borough over the plan period, particularly to the historic town centre, the Conservation Areas and regeneration areas.

Policy CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness

The distinctive character of the Borough's built, historic, natural and environmental townscapes, landscapes and strong sense of place will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced by:

A. Protecting and improving the distinctive character of Darlington town centre, the main urban area and the countryside including:

1. the character and appearance of the central area skyline such as the landmarks of the Market and Station clock towers, St Cuthbert's spire and St John's Tower;
2. the tree canopy skyline, such as in the south west of the main urban area;
3. views along the approaches to the urban area, such as along Grange Road, Coniscliffe Road and Staindrop Road/Woodland Road;

B. Protecting and enhancing the separation and the intrinsic qualities of the openness between settlements and between the main urban area's different neighbourhoods including:

4. The strategic corridors:
 - i) River Tees;
 - ii) River Skerne;
 - (iii) River Skerne Corridor to West Park;
 - (iv) Darlington, Middleton St George, A66/A67 Corridor to Stockton;
5. The green wedges at Cocker Beck, Blackwell/Skerne Park and Haughton/Red Hall;
6. The green corridors of Staindrop Road and the Denes, Firthmoor and McMullen Road, the Stockton and Darlington railway trackbed, the Faverdale Black path and Barnard Castle railway trackbed and Baydale Beck;
7. The appearance and environmental value of Grade 1, 2, 3 agricultural land;

C. Protecting and enhancing the distinct landscape character of:

8. Tees Lowlands;
9. Durham Magnesian limestone plateau;
10. Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe;

D. Protecting and enhancing the quality of the wide views of the North York Moors, upland Dales and the villages across the Tees Valley;

E. Protecting, enhancing and promoting the quality and integrity of Darlington's distinctive designated national or nationally significant built heritage and archaeology as well as:

11. buildings, their settings and features of historic and archaeological local importance in Conservation Areas;
12. buildings, features and landmarks on the local list;
13. buildings and features that reflect Darlington's railway, industrial and Quaker heritage; and
14. buildings on the local 'at risk' register.

Measuring Progress

7.1.9 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS14, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI005 Overall satisfaction with local area

New Number of new and updated Conservation Area Character appraisals completed annually

New Number of new and updated Conservation Area management plans completed annually

New Number of 'risk to' assets on Heritage Risk Register

11. SSSIs are nationally important biodiversity and geological sites designated by Natural England under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

12. Designated by the Council under national legislation.

13. Identified and designated locally.

14. Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, Durham Biodiversity Partnership, 2009, UK Biodiversity Action Plan, DEFRA, 2007

15. PPS9, ODPM Circular 06/2005 (also known as DEFRA Circular 01/2005) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and the Habitats Regulations.

16. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008, the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington

17. For programme see LDS on Council's website

7.2 Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity

7.2.1 The Borough's extensive network of sites with high biodiversity and geodiversity value include four nationally protected Sites of Special Scientific Interest¹¹ (SSSIs) and areas of ancient woodland, as well as seven Local Nature Reserves¹² and 25 Local Wildlife Sites¹³. These are home to a diverse range of wildlife habitats as well as many rare and declining species, including European and nationally protected species like bats and Great Crested Newts.

7.2.2 However, the network has become fragmented and if this could be reversed, it would assist in returning key biodiversity resources to viable levels at these sites, particularly for priority habitats and species¹⁴ like the Dingy Skipper butterfly.

7.2.3 To do so will require existing habitats and species to be protected and buffered; European and national legislation and national planning guidance¹⁵ will protect and enhance the integrity of nationally designated sites, protected species as well as locally designated sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value. Complementary continued promotion of habitat conservation, restoration, creation and enhancement, will also help to achieve the national and local targets for species and habitats identified in the UK and Durham Biodiversity Action Plans¹⁴, for example the black poplar tree and otters, the environmental ambitions of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed¹⁶, and the delivery of strategic objectives 1 and 7 of this Strategy.

7.2.4 In addition, existing wildlife corridors such as the River Tees and River Skerne will continue to be protected as the basis for the network. To help species to move through the main urban area, urban fringe and countryside, opportunities to improve links between wildlife corridors, other wildlife sites and green spaces with wildlife value, such as at Lingfield Point, will be identified in the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy (see Policy CS17).

7.2.5 There are also big opportunities to increase the stock of priority habitats across the Borough, through well-designed new developments (see Policy CS2 and the Design of New Development SPD¹⁷), especially in the strategic locations identified in Policy CS1. Features like green

roofs, living walls and bat boxes can create new priority habitats, as can habitat friendly sustainable drainage systems associated with larger developments, such as established next to the Eastern Transport Corridor. New native woodland and street trees in new development will complement existing trees, and coupled with protection of many existing trees¹⁸, will help to meet the targets including those for broadleaf and wet woodland identified in the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁴.

7.2.6 Opportunities to enrich the biodiversity of pockets of degraded land with limited biodiversity value will also be promoted, particularly through the Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan¹⁷ and the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD¹⁷, where areas that have the potential to be restored for wildlife will be identified.

7.2.7 In the long-term a richly biodiverse urban fringe where habitats and species can develop more naturally will be created, supported by the Green Infrastructure Strategy. This will involve recreating the network of habitats, such as hedgerows and field margins that have been reduced by intensive agricultural practices. The continued planting of community forestry near South Burdon, Skertingham and Merrybent will also be promoted, to complement the restoration and provision of natural and semi-natural habitats in new development and the use of agri-environmental schemes.

7.2.8 Many sites of biodiversity value also perform other valuable functions, having educational, health, recreation and quality of life benefits for the community. Many sites have an important role in water storage and flood management, helping the Borough adapt to climate change. Improving biodiversity will complement actions proposed in the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Change Strategy.

Policy CS15: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The protection, restoration, extension and management of the Borough's biodiversity and geological network will be delivered to help achieve the target level of priority habitats and species set out in the UK and Durham Biodiversity Action Plans by:

1. conserving, restoring and enhancing the condition of sites and areas identified as having high biodiversity and geodiversity value including:
 - (a) Strategic wildlife corridors, for example along the River Tees and River Skerne;
 - (b) Local Nature Reserves;
 - (c) Local Wildlife Sites.
2. ensuring that new development would not result in any net loss of existing biodiversity value by protecting and enhancing the priority habitats, biodiversity features and the geological network through the design of new development, including public and private spaces and landscaping;
3. restricting or managing access and use where appropriate, to conserve an area's existing biodiversity value whilst enhancing biodiversity along access corridors and linking habitat networks with high biodiversity and geodiversity value;
4. protecting and enhancing healthy ancient woodland, mature trees, street trees, hedgerows and community forestry; and

5. protecting and improving watercourses, buffer strips and wetland, incorporating integrated surface water management and flood water storage, where appropriate.

Measuring Progress

7.2.9 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS15, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI197 Proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

E2 Total area of land managed as DBAP priority habitats (ha)

New Total number of Local Wildlife Sites

New Total number of breeding ponds for Great Crested Newts

7.3 Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Promoting Safety

7.3.1 The Borough's natural environment is a fragile resource, comprising a complex network of complementary, natural systems. This can be unbalanced by human activity, threatening our health and safety, and damaging the natural environment irretrievably.

7.3.2 Improving and safeguarding the quality of the natural environment and reducing the hazard to people and property from flood risk, pollution, contamination and unstable land will continue to be important priorities¹⁹ to provide a safe and healthy, cleaner living and working environment for Darlington's residents²⁰ (see strategic objective 1), and help mitigate the impacts of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Flood risk

7.3.3 A proactive approach to reducing flood risk from the Borough's watercourses, surface water and sewers will help to reduce potential risks to people and property. In Darlington land for new development will be identified according to a sequential approach²¹, having regard to potential flood risk; development will be located in ascending order from areas of lowest fluvial flood risk to areas of highest fluvial flood risk (from Flood Zones 1 and 2) and within each development site to reduce the potential risk to people and property²², and to ensure that there is no increase to flood risk up and downstream. Specifically within the Town Centre Fringe, an Area Action Plan²³ and a masterplan will strategically and sequentially guide development to appropriate locations, where flood risk can be avoided or adequately mitigated.

19. PPS23, ODPM, 2004

20. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008, the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington

21. Sequential test: definition and approach in Annex D, PPS25, CLG, 2006

22. Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, JBA Consulting, 2010

23. See the Council's LDS for timetable of AAP preparation

24. Flood Zones 3b and 3a

25. Exception test: definition and approach in Annex D, PPS25, DCLG, 2006

26. Flood Risk Assessment: submitted with a planning application in locations set out in Annex E, PPS25, DCLG, 2006

27. Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS): imitate natural drainage by reducing and slowing the quantity and rate of surface water run off, dealing with it as close to the source as possible

28. Air quality in the Tees Valley, Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group 2009

29. Darlington Local Transport Plan, DBC 2008-2011

30. Darlington Contaminated Land Strategy, DBC 2003

31. Groundwater source protection zone: wells, boreholes and springs that are used to supply the public's drinking water

32. Regulatory bodies: Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Civil Aviation Authority

7.3.4 More vulnerable developments, such as housing, will be located outside higher flood risk areas²⁴, unless exceptionally it is on previously developed land, is essential to meet the Borough's regeneration aspirations, and is compliant with the PPS25 Sequential²¹ and Exception Tests²⁵. Where a Flood Risk Assessment²⁶ is required, it should assess the current level of flood risk as well as the level of flood risk following development. Further advice is given in the SFRA²².

7.3.5 The effect of surface water from run off and sewers from new development also needs to be considered; any increased risk must be avoided by effective management, so as to reduce the level and speed of run off into the nearest watercourse. Sustainable drainage systems²⁷ must be a key part of any management strategy, and be included in a Flood Risk Assessment²⁶ and the design of new development, particularly where there is high susceptibility to surface water flooding in an extreme rainfall event²². The Town Centre Fringe is one such area, and through the Area Action Plan²³, the potential for surface water flooding will be mitigated by incorporating integrated drainage solutions into the regeneration of the area.

Air quality

7.3.6 Pollution control and prevention will also continue to be a high priority, though even in the most congested parts of Darlington, air quality levels are consistent with government objectives²⁸. The locational strategy (see CS1) and complementary sustainable transport initiatives in the Council's Local Transport Plan²⁹ will help ensure that it is sustained at acceptable levels, by minimizing the need to travel by car.

Contaminated land

7.3.7 1280 potentially contaminated, unstable and derelict sites have been identified across the Borough³⁰, some of which are previously developed land identified for regeneration. Redevelopment with effective remediation controlled through the planning system and Part 2A Contaminated Land regime³⁰ will ensure these sites are clean and safe for reuse.

Water quality

7.3.8 Groundwater and river quality are especially vulnerable to pollution, and once polluted, remain contaminated for a long time. New development along river corridors or within the Borough's groundwater source protection zones³¹ will be required to include appropriate mitigation to minimise the risk of this occurring.

Hazards

7.3.9 Pollution and risk from installations and pipelines which handle notifiable substances must remain at acceptable levels for humans and the environment, particularly those close by. Proposals located within the defined consultation zones of regulatory bodies³², should, where appropriate, seek the advice of the relevant agency. Guidance relating to appropriate detailed assessments and mitigation required will be set out in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

Policy CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety

New development should protect and, where possible, improve environmental resources, whilst ensuring there is no detrimental impact on the environment, general amenity and the health and safety of the community. Development which may have an adverse impact on environmental resources should be avoided.

Exceptionally, development may be permitted to promote regeneration or provide for essential infrastructure. In these cases, it should comply with national planning guidance and statutory environmental quality standards for:

- (a) areas at risk from river flooding along the main rivers of the River Tees, River Skerne and Cocker Beck, and the ordinary watercourses of Neasham Stell, Baydale Beck and West Beck;
- (b) areas at risk from surface water run off, groundwater, mine water and sewer flooding;

New development will be focussed on areas of low flood risk, that is Flood Zone 1, as identified by the Borough's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. In considering development on sites in higher flood risk areas, the Sequential and Exception Tests must be passed and the sequential approach applied on site.

To reduce the impact of fluvial and surface water flood risk in the Town Centre Fringe a strategic flood risk management scheme will be required setting out appropriate sustainable mitigation measures. Flood storage compensation, restoration of the natural floodplain, the creation of a green corridor next to the River Skerne, flood resilience and resistance measures will all be required.

- (c) air, land, light or noise pollution;
- (d) contaminated land and unstable land; and
- (e) water quality of the River Tees, River Skerne and Cocker Beck and other water courses and the Magnesian Limestone Aquifer.

Development proposals must include an assessment appropriate to the type and extent of impact and any associated risks to the satisfaction of the relevant environmental body. Proposals will only be permitted where the impact and risks are, or can be mitigated appropriately for the proposed use.

Measuring Progress

7.3.10 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS16, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators	
NI186	Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the local authority area
NI188	Adapting to climate change
NI189	Flood and coastal erosion risk management
NI194	Air quality: reduction in emissions through local authority's estate and operations
Core E1	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice

8. A HEALTHY AND SAFE DARLINGTON

8.1 Delivering a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Network

1. Green infrastructure: includes parks, open spaces, wildlife sites, allotments, green corridors, urban fringe, woodland, rights of way, countryside

2. Identified in the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tees Valley JSU, 2008

3. For timetable see LDS programme on Council's website

4. One Darlington: Perfectly Placed, Darlington Partnership, 2008, the sustainable community strategy (SCS) for Darlington

8.1.1 Darlington's extensive green infrastructure network¹ is an important asset, covering 900ha² within and on the edge of the urban area and within the larger villages. It comprises a series of multifunctional green spaces of different sizes, linked by green corridors within and between the main urban area, urban fringe, villages and the countryside. Its key elements are strategic green corridors² for example, along the River Tees and the River Skerne, the green wedges (such as Cocker Beck) and the well-developed network of safe, green sustainable transport routes and Public Rights of Way that provide opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to move across the Borough.

8.1.2 The green infrastructure network provides opportunities for exercise, sport and active recreation, whilst the tranquillity and low levels of noise, air and light pollution green spaces offer can improve well-being. The network is an integral part of the high quality environment that helps attract inward investment and new people to the Borough; it also helps moderate the rising temperatures caused by climate change, and is a big part of what makes Darlington's townscapes and landscapes distinctive. It can also enrich the quality and value of the Borough's built heritage; formal parks and village greens provide a distinctive setting for many listed buildings and are an integral part of many Conservation Areas. At sites such as Walworth Castle and Piercebridge Roman Fort, green infrastructure can be the focus for visitor-based activity and provide connections to the wider green infrastructure network.

8.1.3 Greenspaces, particularly alongside watercourses provide flood storage and sustainable drainage benefits as well as providing biodiversity value and access to the watercourse. In the long term, the Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan³ will guide the identification of a new green corridor adjacent to the River Skerne enhancing the quality of the river environment and improving access for the community and wildlife; a key priority in One Darlington: Perfectly Placed⁴.

8.1.4 To make the most of the network, there is a need to continue to invest in and manage it. Extensive, valuable green spaces need to be protected. Access to green space needs to be enhanced in areas like the inner urban area and urban fringe where it is currently poor. Across the Borough, the quality and the type of green space needs to be improved to meet the community's needs.

8.1.5 The following policy identifies the key elements of the green infrastructure network, and seeks to protect, enhance and extend it for its own sake, and for the function it performs in helping to reduce health inequalities across the Borough⁴.

8.1.6 Significant opportunities exist at the strategic locations to extend green corridors. These will connect areas of planned growth and the urban fringe, assist regeneration and enhance biodiversity (see policy

5. Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Bowles Green Ltd, 2008

6. Darlington Open Space Strategy DBC, 2007

7. Locally Important Open Spaces: parks, cemeteries, natural and semi natural greenspace, green corridors, informal open space, landscape amenity, children's play areas, civic spaces.

CS15). In the long term, opportunities for a strategic countryside site at Skerningham will be promoted to provide greater access to the urban fringe for informal recreation consistent with the priorities of the Darlington Rights of Way Improvement Plan⁵.

8.1.7 New or improved spaces should add multifunctional, quality spaces to the network, particularly at the strategic locations to provide informal and formal recreation opportunities, wildlife habitats and amenity space to help meet the identified standards set out in the Council's Open Space Strategy⁶ or any successor. Planning obligations will also be used appropriately to provide or improve green infrastructure (see policy CS4) reflecting the requirements of the Planning Obligations SPD³.

8.1.8 The following policy will be supported by the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will identify opportunities to improve connections for people and wildlife within and between the corridors and Darlington's locally important network of green spaces⁷ to provide greater connectivity across the main urban area, to the urban fringe and the countryside; realising an aspiration of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed⁴.

8.1.9 This policy clearly identifies the Borough's long term approach to the green infrastructure network, which will help to support efforts to attract public funding for improvements, help prioritise initiatives for planning obligations and to guide the Council's own investment decisions.

Policy CS17: Delivering a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Network

The green infrastructure network will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced and extended to provide a quality, accessible and safe network of well connected, multifunctional green spaces to meet the formal and informal recreation needs of the community, help reduce health inequalities and enhance the visual amenity, biodiversity, landscape and historic character of the Borough. This network will include:

- a) Strategic corridors that have been identified in the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy:
 - (i) River Tees;
 - (ii) River Skerne;
 - (iii) River Skerne Corridor to West Park;
 - (iv) Darlington, Middleton St George, A66/A67 Corridor to Stockton;
- b) Green wedges at Cocker Beck, Blackwell/Skerne Park and Haughton/Red Hall;
- c) Locally Important Open Spaces⁷ that have been identified in the Open Space Strategy;
- d) Ornamental parklands⁸ such as Newbus Grange and Neasham Hall;
- e) Community forestry at South Burdon, Skerningham and Merrybent;
- f) Strategic Countryside site at Skerningham;
- g) Allotments;
- h) Urban fringe;
- i) Grade 1, 2, 3 agricultural land;
- j) The Rights of Way network; and
- k) Open countryside.

8. Ornamental parklands are 'a planned space, with designed gardens and water features which have evolved over long period of time, for informal leisure'. In the countryside they provide the setting for a country house, in the urban area they are historic parks laid out with a network of footpaths connecting a features like a bandstand, pavilion, lake.

The loss of any part of the green infrastructure network will only be considered in exceptional circumstances for the provision of essential infrastructure or where it has been demonstrated that the site no longer has any value to the community in terms of access and usage, is not required to perform an alternative green infrastructure function, is not required to meet a shortfall in the provision of that open space type or another open space type, and an alternative equivalent or better space in terms of quality, quantity, accessibility, biodiversity, flood storage, attractiveness and functionality is available.

Measuring Progress

8.1.10 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS17, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI197 Proportion of Local Wildlife Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented

E2 Total area of land managed as DBAP priority habitats (ha)

Local 13 Open space provision in the urban area – surveyed every three years

Local 14 Amount of open space managed to Green Flag Award Standard	
Local 23 Allotment provision in the Borough	
New	Amount of open space (ha) per 1000 population in each ward
New	Amount of open space achieving a quality rating of 3* and above
New	Total number of wildlife sites
New	Access to Natural Green Space standards
New	Total area of land managed for nature conservation

8.2 Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities

9. Darlington Sports and Recreation Facilities Strategy, PMP, 2009

8.2.1 Participation in active sport and recreation is an important element of a healthy lifestyle. Only 23% of Darlington’s adults participate in sport and recreation activities for at least 30 minutes, three or more times a week⁹. Levels of participation are particularly low among residents of south and east Darlington. Improving the quality of and access to playing pitches and other sport and recreation facilities across the Borough will help encourage more people to participate, and help to reduce health inequalities across the Borough, a key objective of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed⁴.

8.2.2 Darlington’s wide variety of indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities will continue to provide opportunities for pitch sports, court sports, swimming, health and fitness, bowling, athletics, golf, gymnastics and boxing. To ensure provision best meets local needs and future aspirations, and encourages greater participation from all sections of the community in a cost effective way, a hierarchy and standards of provision have been developed, supported by appropriate management and investment. To make the most of the hierarchies of provision, this policy seeks to protect, enhance and extend provision.

Playing Pitches

10. Darlington Playing Pitch Strategy, PMP, 2009

8.2.3 Darlington’s 104 playing pitches provide one playing pitch for every 1150 adults. This is 16% below the national average. Of the 48 pitches found at school sites, only nine have secure community access out of school hours. Pitch quality also varies. Pitches within parks tend to be lower quality, and higher quality pitches are often overused, reducing their overall quality in the long term. There are not enough good quality pitches for junior football at peak times. A shortfall of 18.5 pitches is likely to increase to 24.6 by 2021¹⁰, unless access to existing pitches can be increased or new provision is made.

8.2.4 Provision will focus on improving quality, community access, and management arrangements, particularly to pitches. Eastbourne Sports Complex will be a strategic ‘hub’, with high quality adult and junior pitches, suitable for high-level competition. An additional strategic hub is to be created at Blackwell Meadows, to help address the current shortfall of pitches in the Borough. Complementary, smaller ‘satellite’ sites and single pitch sites will cater for lower level competition and for

11. See table 6.1 in Playing Pitch Strategy for more detail.

general recreational use respectively¹¹. Standards of provision will be set out in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

8.2.5 Synthetic turf pitches and multi-use games areas will continue to provide a valuable resource for pitch sports. Sufficient demand exists¹¹ for an additional synthetic turf pitch and a five-a-side facility. Opportunities in appropriate accessible locations will be considered, to help reduce the pressure on existing grass pitches, including junior pitches.

Other sport and recreation facilities

8.2.6 Access to the Borough's sports facilities varies, as does its quality and spare capacity. Newer venues, such as Haughton Education Village, are operating at full capacity and have secure community access. Older facilities, such as Branksome School, have lower usage and limited access. Only three schools have secure community access to sport and recreation facilities out of hours.

8.2.7 Current sport and recreation provision will be maintained, focussing on improving quality and securing community access, particularly at education sites. Two strategic 'hub' sites exist at Eastbourne College and the Dolphin Centre, providing a range of indoor and outdoor sports. Over the long term, an additional strategic 'hub' site will be created at Longfield School, to improve access to quality sports facilities in the northern part of the urban area. Accessible facilities at publicly and privately owned venues, ranging from private gyms to village halls, will complement these 'hubs'¹². Opportunities for new facilities that complement existing provision will be guided by policies in the Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD.

12. See Appendix 4

8.2.8 By setting out a clear strategy for sport and recreation provision, the following policy will help support efforts to attract public sector funding and other investment to the Borough, help prioritise the spending of contributions secured through planning obligations and guide the Council's own investment decisions.

Policy CS18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities

Darlington's sport and recreation facilities will be protected and where appropriate, enhanced to provide a range of quality, accessible and safe facilities to meet the needs of the community.

Playing pitches, synthetic turf pitches and multi use games areas of appropriate quantity and quality to help achieve the target level of playing pitches set out in the Darlington Playing Pitch Strategy, will be provided and maintained according to the following hierarchy:

A: Strategic 'hub' sites:

- a) Eastbourne Sports Complex;
- b) Blackwell Meadows.

B: Satellite sites:

- a) Schools and colleges;
- b) Parks;
- c) Sports Clubs;
- d) Parish Council and privately owned sites.

C: Single pitch sites in parks.

Five a side facilities will be encouraged to complement but not replace any part of this provision. Indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities will be provided to help achieve the targets set out in the Darlington Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy, according to the following hierarchy of provision:

D: Strategic hub sites:

- a) Eastbourne Sports Complex;
- b) Dolphin Centre;
- c) Longfield School;

E: Publicly accessible sites:

- a) Schools and colleges;
- b) Parish Council sites and village halls;

F: Privately owned sites.

The loss of sports and recreation facilities will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where either:

1. a needs assessment shows that there is an excess of provision in the Borough; or
2. the proposal is ancillary to the use of the site as a sports and recreation facility and does not affect its quantity or quality; or
3. the development only affects part of the site and/or facility, and does not adversely impact on its value to sport and recreation; or
4. it would be replaced by a facility of an equivalent or better quality and quantity in a sustainable location, with equivalent or better management arrangements, before development starts; or
5. In the case of playing pitches, an indoor or outdoor sports facility is proposed that would benefit sporting needs in Darlington which would outweigh the loss of the playing pitch.

Secured community use will be required, where appropriate, to new facilities.

Measuring Progress

8.2.9 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS18, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring indicators	
NI008	Adult participation in sport
NI057	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE/sport
Local 23	Number of accessible playing pitches
New	Provision of sports facilities (sqm per 1000 population)

9. EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE TRANSPORT

9.1 Everyone who travels within the Borough requires a safe, efficient, sustainable and effective transport system, and residents' quality of life depends on good access to jobs, shops, schools and services. For businesses and the Borough's economy, Darlington's excellent road, rail and air links, in particular via the A1 and A66(T) strategic routes, the East Coast Main Line and branch lines between Bishop Auckland and Saltburn, and Durham Tees Valley Airport, are amongst its keenest economic attributes, important for future growth.

9.2 Improving connectivity and accessibility within and beyond the region are important in helping to deliver a renaissance for the North East. Darlington's connections have helped make the Borough an attractive place to live and do business, and given it a role as a gateway to the region and the Tees Valley sub-region. The challenge facing Darlington is to continue to accommodate growth and regeneration in the Borough without adding to congestion and adversely impacting on economic interests, the effectiveness of the transport system, the environment and residents' quality of life.

9.3 Both the RSS and national planning policy guidance on transport¹ set out an approach that rebalances the transport system to give more emphasis to more sustainable, less carbon-dependent and more socially-inclusive forms of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.

1. PPS13: Transport, CLG, 2011 and RSS Policy 50

Improving Connections Between Darlington and Elsewhere

9.4 Strategically, road travel will remain the main form of transport throughout the plan period. Although congestion in and around Darlington is less than in many other parts of Britain, new development planned across the region will add significantly to trips on the strategic networks. Without action, the strategic road network will become more congested and unsafe as traffic levels increase, deterring or restraining development unless action is taken to improve capacity. This particularly affects the A66(T) bypass, around the south and east of the town, which links the A1 (and, via the trans-Pennine A66, the M6) to the Tees Valley, including Teesport. The preferred option identified in 2004² was improvements to junctions and the upgrading of the section north of the A67 Yarm Road (Morton Park) junction to dual carriageway, partly by providing a bypass to the east of the Great Burdon roundabout. All options including managing the growth in demand on this strategic highway from local traffic making short journeys, many of which could be made by other means were reviewed as part of the Tees Valley Area Action Plan undertaken by Tees Valley Unlimited and published in November 2009. This will be periodically updated.

2. A66(T) Tees Valley Gateway Study, North East Assembly/ Highways Agency/DBC, 2004.

3. Darlington Connections Study 2009

9.5 Darlington town centre and Bank Top railway station, together serve as a strategic public transport hub, where interchange facilities and integration between modes of transport need to be improved³. This is recognised in the Policies 10 and 51 of the RSS. Rail improvements,

to facilitate more frequent and reliable services on the Darlington to Saltburn line have been highlighted as necessary to underpin economic growth in the Tees Valley⁴, and help shift travel between its main centres to non-car travel modes. The key first stage is to provide a new platform to the east side of Bank Top station. A later phase could involve a light rail link northwards from the new platform into Central Park and the town centre.

9.6 A travel plan is being developed for Bank Top station, setting out short-term measures and longer term aspirations for access and environmental improvements.

9.7 The town's second railway station at North Road, on the Bishop Auckland branch line, also needs improving to enhance its accessibility and boost its role for sub-regional travel. Planned highway improvements just to the north, at the junction of North Road itself and Whessoe Road, could provide an opportunity for a car park and enhanced interchange with bus services. The line may also be assisted by an enhancement scheme promoted by Durham County Council and potential investment by the rail operator, including the possibility of a new platform on the north side of the line. The adoption of a station travel plan here will also be encouraged.

9.8 The highway works at North Road will be carried out as part of a major programme of bus priority improvements to improve connectivity across the sub-region, the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement (TVBNI).

9.9 Durham Tees Valley Airport is essential to the economic performance of the Tees Valley. The Council will continue to work with the airport and regional partners to promote more services, including the reinstatement of flights to London Heathrow. Planning permission has been granted for facilities which would enable the airport to handle many more passengers and create a cargo and maintenance 'village'. The first phase of the Tees Valley rail improvements also include a new rail stop serving the airport.

9.10 Cycling is much less of a strategic form of transport but National Cycle Route 14 is being developed between Darlington and Stockton and beyond to North Yorkshire, and Regional Route 52 runs inside the southern edge of the Borough. The Highways Agency has identified potential links and improved crossings of the A66(T) to help cyclists. The Council is considering how to improve the cycle network between Darlington and Newton Aycliffe, which could encourage more sustainable journeys to work between the two. All these routes will be safeguarded, promoted and developed as necessary.

Reducing Congestion and Maintaining Accessibility in the Borough

9.11 Within the Borough there is relatively low but increasing car ownership, high but declining bus usage, and significantly increased levels of walking and (from a low base) cycling. Rail patronage is also rising but almost solely to destinations outside the Borough. The increases in walking and cycling, slowing in decline of bus use and a reduction in local car trips have been influenced by Darlington's recent status as both a Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town and a Cycling

5. Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town programme funded by DfT, 2004-09; known in Darlington as 'Local Motion'. Cycling Demonstration Town, grant-aid from Cycling England, 2005-11. See www.dothelocalmotion.co.uk

6. A statutory duty under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to help ensure road traffic keeps moving.

7. Will allow the Council to take over parking duties from the Police, including enforcing against parking which causes congestion.

8. Darlington Transport Strategy 2006-30, DBC, 2006. The strategy is being reviewed as part of the development of the Third Local Transport Plan, intended to be adopted in March 2011.

9. Based on a study carried out for that purpose: Darlington Connections Study, Urban Initiatives for DBC, 2009

Demonstration Town. Research for the former has found considerable potential to achieve even more reductions in car use⁵.

9.12 Enhancing accessibility for all and tackling congestion on the Borough's roads underpin Darlington's future economic growth, good land-use planning and quality of life for all. Currently, traffic congestion occurs at peak hours at some junctions on main routes in the town, particularly radial roads like North Road and West Auckland Road and parts of the inner ring road. Funding for improvements to 'pinch point' junctions is being pursued as a priority, including through the TVBNI programme, as reduced delays and better journey time reliability will benefit all road users. Ongoing implementation of the Council's network management duty⁶ and the planned introduction of civil parking enforcement⁷ should help further.

9.13 Necessary improvements to accessibility for non-car users will include reducing the severance effect of busy transport corridors, including the inner ring road which currently tightly constrains the town centre.

9.14 The Council and its partners are therefore working to a strategy⁸ that:

- makes better use of the existing transport network through better traffic management, particularly at 'pinch points';
- encourages people to use more sustainable modes of travel in place of the private car; and,
- reduces the need to travel by providing local services close to homes and places of work.

Accommodating the Travel Needs of New Development

9.15 Additional transport infrastructure and measures will be required for areas of new development so that people living and working there can make sustainable and efficient travel choices. The kind of transport links and demand management measures that would be needed to ensure that growth takes place in a sustainable manner⁹ have been taken into account in putting forward the proposed strategic locations in this Core Strategy (Policy CS1). Vehicle parking will be provided at levels appropriate to the use and location and which promote sustainable transport choices (Policy CS2).

9.16 Physical infrastructure interventions, such as access roads, will be combined with travel information and marketing measures to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport wherever possible. Travel plans and planning obligations on developers (Policy CS4) will be key implementation tools in embedding sustainable travel choices and behaviours from the outset.

9.17 One element of infrastructure that is not required is the previously safeguarded Darlington Cross Town Route, as there is no longer a clear strategic, deliverable need for this and its unbuilt central sections. The scheme is therefore not part of this Core Strategy.

Policy CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network

The Council and its partners will work together, where appropriate with the aid of developer contributions, to make the best use of and improve existing transport infrastructure within and connecting to the Borough, having considered first solutions to transport problems that are based on better management and the provision and promotion of sustainable forms of travel.

For the road network this will be by:

- (a) mitigating against congestion at pinch points and continuing to actively manage roads that are under its control as local highway authority;
- (b) working with the Highways Agency to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the strategic road network; and,
- (c) providing new local access roads to open up the broad locations for development identified in this Core Strategy.

Specific priorities for the road network will be:

- (i) carrying out improvements at problem points, such as the North Road / Whessoe Road junction;
- (ii) protecting and promoting the urban radial routes of North Road, Haughton Road, Woodland Road and Yarm Road as key public transport corridors, and Coniscliffe Road, the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor and Grange Road as secondary public transport corridors;
- (iii) as required to meet the needs of new development, upgrade the capacity of the A66(T) to the east and south of the town by junction improvements.

For the rail-based transport network this will be by:

- (d) in the short term (up to 2016), providing new stopping facilities for rail services to the east of Bank Top railway station and serving Durham Tees Valley Airport;
- (e) in the longer term (up to 2026), investigating the extension of light rail services through Central Park to Darlington town centre, and an additional halt at Morton Palms employment area; and,
- (f) in the short term (up to 2016), to integrate rail with all other transport modes, particularly in the corridor between Bank Top railway station, the town centre and Central Park, and at North Road railway station.

For cycling, walking and other public transport this will be by:

- (g) improving accessibility for all to employment, education, health, recreation, leisure and shopping facilities, particularly fresh food shops, including links between villages and between villages and the town;
- (h) improving local connections across busy transport corridors which act as barriers to local access, including reducing the barrier effect of the A66 for non-motorised users in conjunction with the Highways Agency;
- (j) facilitating the development and implementation of school, workplace, residential and railway station travel plans;
- (k) improving public rights of way and links to long distance footpaths; and,
- (l) improving cycle routes and ancillary infrastructure as part of the national, regional or local cycle network.

Specific priorities for cycling, walking and public transport will be:

- (iv) in the short term (up to 2016), improving pedestrian and cycle links between the town and the villages, including crossing the A66 and A1;
- (v) in the short term (up to 2016), improving routes for all road users from the town to south-west Durham, other parts of the Tees Valley and North Yorkshire;
- (vi) in the short-to-medium term (up to 2021), improving local accessibility to schools, workplaces, centres and neighbourhood facilities and other destination points;
- (vii) in the short-to-medium term (up to 2021), improving connectivity across the inner ring road between the town centre and the Town Centre Fringe.

Throughout the plan period, the needs of disabled people will be considered in the design and implementation of the transport system and works will be undertaken to ensure that the Borough's transport infrastructure remains effective as the climate changes.

Measuring Progress

9.18 The following indicators will be used to measure the success of Policy CS19, and reported on in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

Monitoring Indicators

NI 167 Congestion – average journey time during morning peak.

NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.

NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport, demand responsive transport, walking and cycling.

NI 177 Local bus and light rail passenger journeys originating in the Borough.

NI 178 Bus services running on time.

NI 198 Children travelling to school - mode of transport usually used.

LI 0303 Change in peak period traffic flows.

LI 0305 Cycle flows.

LI 0306 Area wide traffic flows.

LI 0307 Percentage of rights of way that are easy to use by the public

10. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

10.1 Identifying the resources and infrastructure required to implement plan policies gives the public commitment necessary to attract new private and public sector funding to the Borough. It also helps potential developers to see what contributions they will be expected to make towards the costs of new infrastructure needed to mitigate the impact of their development on existing communities and environments (see Policy CS4). The remainder of this section sets out the main ways each of the plan policies will be delivered. More detail about exactly what will be provided, where, when, and by whom, is set out in the Darlington Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

10.2 This Core Strategy will help ensure that there is sufficient, appropriate physical, social and green infrastructure in all parts of the Borough, so that people are not disadvantaged by where they live, so that quality of life is maintained and so that the Borough can benefit economically from being 'Perfectly Placed'. Making the best use of and improving existing infrastructure is a strong underlying theme, particularly where provision is well located in relation to the people or things it serves. This Core Strategy also emphasizes bringing forward solutions to planning issues that minimise the need for additional physical infrastructure.

10.3 Throughout the life of this Core Strategy, the way some forms of key infrastructure are provided is likely to change, to meet changing local demand and aspirations, and to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of services. Durham Tees Valley Airport is expected to expand passenger and freight business, Teesside University will occupy a new facility at Central Park, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College has indicated that it would like to expand. In the area of healthcare, Darlington Memorial Hospital is expected to continue to make a key contribution to existing accessible healthcare provision at its existing site. Provision there, and in complementary facilities like West Park (mental health), Woodlands private hospital at Morton Park, the Walk-in Centre at Dr. Piper House, and a community based network of primary care facilities, such as GP surgeries and dentists, will need to respond to any national changes to policy on how healthcare services should be delivered.

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS1: Darlington's Sub-Regional Role and Locational Strategy	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan</p> <p>Core Strategy Policies CS5, CS7 and CS10</p> <p>Development Management Decisions</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>Private Sector</p> <p>DBC / Fabrick / Keepmoat / Yuill</p>	<p>Allocation of land for new development.</p> <p>Investment decisions, e.g. of Peel Holdings at Durham Tees Valley Airport, or Marchday at Lingfield Point.</p> <p>Using HCA / ONE / Housing Growth Point funding to bring forward Central Park, surplus school sites, housing sites, sites for development in the town centre and the Town Centre Fringe.</p>
CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe DPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Characterisation Study</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Building Control Decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Design Codes</p> <p>Development Briefs and Masterplans</p> <p>Conservation Area Character Appraisals</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Tree Strategy</p> <p>Tees Valley Highways Design Guide</p> <p>Local Transport Plan</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p>	<p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or improve physical, social and / or green infrastructure.</p> <p>Capital Programme.</p> <p>Allocation of land for new development.</p> <p>LTP2 and LTP3 funding to secure transport infrastructure measures.</p> <p>Bidding for Single Programme / HCA funding to support the strategic masterplanning of the Town Centre Fringe.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS3: Promoting Renewable Energy	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Building Control Decisions</p> <p>Development briefs and masterplans</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p> <p>Renewable Energy Providers</p>	<p>Section 106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or provide connections to renewable and low carbon technologies.</p> <p>Capital Programmes.</p> <p>Allocation of land through new development and through on site provision.</p> <p>Provision of commercial scale renewable energy.</p>
CS4: Developer Contributions	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Development Management Decisions</p>	<p>DBC</p>	<p>Section 106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or improved physical, social and / or green infrastructures.</p>
CS5: The Provision of Land for Employment Uses	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Employment Land Review</p> <p>Darlington Economic Assessment (pending)</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p>	<p>DBC / One North East / HCA</p> <p>DBC / Developer</p>	<p>Bidding for Single Programme Funding for the acquisition of sites in the Town Centre Fringe.</p> <p>Bidding for funding from HCA to assist with the preparation of an Area Action Plan, master planning and site-specific development Briefs.</p> <p>Central Park: Facilitate the development of the southern (employment uses) end of the site with possible European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) money to assist in the provision of a business incubator unit.</p> <p>Allocation of land for new development.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Development briefs and masterplans</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Taking forward the Darlington Gateway</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>Commercial Estates Group / Keepmoat / Yuill Homes / Hotel Provider</p> <p>Private sector hotel providers</p>	<p>Bidding for Single Programme Funding / HCA funding to support the strategic master planning.</p> <p>Private sector funding to enable provision of a hotel and Central Park.</p> <p>Provision of hotels in the Borough.</p>
CS7: The Town Centre	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Adding to Quality: A Development Strategy for Darlington Town Centre</p> <p>Commercial Street Development: Planning and Highways Requirements</p> <p>Feethams Planning & Development Brief</p> <p>Development briefs and masterplans</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Commenting on neighbouring authorities planning applications</p> <p>Town centre management</p>	<p>Private sector / DBC</p> <p>Private sector / DBC</p> <p>DBC / Government / ONE / HCA / private sector</p> <p>DBC</p>	<p>Private sector funding and construction of a non-retail-led development in Feethams / Beaumont Street area, possibly with DBC contribution of land.</p> <p>Private Sector / Department for Education (DFE) funding, construction of offices and other development in Feethams / Beaumont Street area, with DBC contribution of land.</p> <p>Funding of phased extension of the town centre into the Town Centre Fringe, including improvements in connections across the ring road.</p> <p>Town centre management and promotion.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS8: Additional Retail Provision	Design of New Development SPD Adding to Quality: A Development Strategy for Darlington Town Centre Commercial Street Development: Planning and Highway Requirements Development Management decisions Development briefs and masterplans	Private sector / DBC Private sector	Private sector funding and construction of a retail-led scheme in Commercial Street area, with DBC contribution of land. Private sector funding and construction of any further retail floor space.
CS9: District and Local Centres and Local Shops and Services	Design of New Development SPD Development Management decisions	Private sector	Private sector funding and construction of retail floor place
CS10: New Housing Development	Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD Town Centre Fringe AAP Development Management decisions Darlington Housing Strategy 2008-2012 Tees Valley Housing Growth Point Programme of Development 2008	DBC DBC / Fabrick / Keepmoat / Yuill DBC Private sector house builders Registered Social Landlords	Allocation of land for new development and through on site provision, including the Town Centre Fringe. Using HCA / ONE / Housing Growth Point funding to bring forward Central Park, surplus school sites, housing sites, sites or development in the town centre and the Town Centre Fringe. Using HCA Local Authority Housing Programme Funding to deliver new social rented homes on Council owned land; £3 million secured from Round 1 for 62 units to be completed by 2011. Private sector house builder resources Using RSL resources and grants or loans from HCA to provide affordable housing. In some cases using land provided by private house builders in lieu of making affordable housing provision.

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS11: Meeting Housing Needs	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Affordable Housing SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Darlington Housing Strategy 2008-2012</p> <p>Older Person Housing Strategy 2007</p> <p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Building Control Decisions</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Tees Valley Living / Fabrick Housing Group</p> <p>DBC / RSLs</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / agencies / voluntary sector</p>	<p>£3 million government funding to deliver 65 affordable units by 2011.</p> <p>£207,000 Community Infrastructure Funding and funds being sought by Fabrick Housing from the HCA to deliver housing at the former Beaumont Hill School Sites.</p> <p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new affordable and / or lifetime housing.</p> <p>£10 million annually from the Housing Investment Programme to meet other identified housing needs.</p> <p>Disbursement of Disabled Facilities Grant to adapt existing dwellings.</p> <p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to adapt existing housing and / or to improve the energy efficiency of existing housing.</p> <p>Bidding for share of Tees Valley Single Housing Investment Programme from 2011.</p> <p>Provision of temporary accommodation for the homeless.</p>
CS12: Existing Housing	<p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy, 2008</p> <p>Housing Strategy 2008-2012</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Regional Housing Board / Single Housing Investment Programme / Central Government</p>	<p>Appropriate interventions according to a planning or regeneration framework drawn up with the involvement of the local communities affected.</p> <p>Making loans to the people to carry out repairs to privately owned houses.</p> <p>Planned repairs to Council owned housing funded from Major Repairs Allowance, prudential borrowing supported by the Housing Revenue Account and other grant funding; totalling approximately £8 million per year until 2014 when will reduce to £5-6 million per annum.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS13: Accommodating Travelling Groups	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Town Centre Fringe AAP</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2009</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p>	<p>Bidding for HCA grants, where appropriate, for sites with planning permission, for the development of new sites and for refurbishment, including remodelling and extension of existing sites.</p> <p>Allocation of land for new development.</p>
CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Characterisation Study</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Development briefs and masterplans</p> <p>Conservation Area Character Appraisals</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>DBC</p>	<p>Bidding for English Heritage Funding to secure improvements to the management of Conservation Areas.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS15: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Developments SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Development briefs / masterplans</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Tree Strategy</p> <p>Ecological masterplans and management plans</p> <p>UK and Durham Biodiversity Action Plans</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / TV Biodiversity Partnership / Durham Biodiversity Partnership / Durham Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or improve priority habitats.</p> <p>Capital Programme.</p> <p>Allocation of land for new development.</p> <p>£131,000 Big Lottery Fund 'Reaching Communities Programme' and Environment Agency funding to improve access and management and Maidendale Nature Reserve.</p> <p>£818,992 Heritage Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' Programme to provide improvements to Brinkburn Denes.</p> <p>Bidding for Environment Agency funding for improvement of watercourses, Landfill Tax contributions and other grants to secure improvements to biodiversity sites.</p>
CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Developments SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2009</p> <p>Development Control decisions</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Development briefs and masterplans</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Contaminated Land Strategy</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p> <p>DBC</p>	<p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure flood risk mitigation or remediation of contaminated land.</p> <p>Capital Programme.</p> <p>Allocation of land through and for new development.</p> <p>Remediation of land through planning applications.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS17: Delivering a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Network	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Development Management Decisions</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Allotments Strategy</p> <p>Durham Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</p> <p>Play Strategy</p> <p>Local Transport Plan 2 & 3</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>LTP2</p> <p>LTP3</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p>	<p>£1.1 million government Playbuilder grant to deliver 22 natural play sites by 2011.</p> <p>£230,000 for green leisure routes.</p> <p>Bidding for funding green sustainable transport projects linking the town and the countryside like creating a new link between Baydale Beck and Merrybent.</p> <p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or improve existing open space, children's play and priority habitats.</p> <p>Capital Programme.</p> <p>Allocation of land through and for new development.</p>
Cs18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Open Space Strategy</p> <p>Development Management Decisions</p> <p>Regional Facilities Strategy</p> <p>Tees Valley Facilities Strategy</p> <p>Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Playing Pitch Strategy</p> <p>Darlington Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy</p> <p>Sport and Physical Activity Strategy</p> <p>Play Strategy</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>LEA</p> <p>DBC / Developers / Housebuilders</p> <p>Darlington College</p> <p>DBC / LEA / School governing body</p> <p>Parish Council / club / community groups</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>DBC / LEA</p>	<p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure new or improve existing playing pitches and sports and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Capital Programme.</p> <p>Primary Capital Programme.</p> <p>Allocation of land through and for new development.</p> <p>Provision of two playing pitches and associated facilities at Blackwell Meadows.</p> <p>14-19 diploma funding to provide STP and Longfield School</p> <p>Bidding for Football / Foundation / Heritage Lottery / voluntary / public sector funding.</p> <p>Provision of a five-a-side facilities.</p> <p>Secure community access agreements with education facilities.</p>

Policy Number/Title	Implementation Framework: Plans, strategies, and decisions (of the Council unless indicated)	Delivery Organisation	Funding/Mean of Delivery
CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network	<p>Making Places and Accommodating Growth DPD</p> <p>Planning Obligations SPD</p> <p>Design of New Development SPD</p> <p>Local Transport Plan 2006-2011</p> <p>Darlington Transport Strategy 2006-2030</p> <p>Design, Access and Sustainability Statements</p> <p>Development Management decisions</p> <p>Decisions Management decisions</p> <p>Decisions about context of next (third) Local Transport Plan 2011-26</p>	<p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Highways Agency</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC</p> <p>DBC / Private Developers</p>	<p>Department of Transport funding through the Regional Funding Allocation for general transport improvements: up to about £13.271 million (integrated transport block) and £12.292 million (maintenance) between 2011/12 and 2018/19.</p> <p>Bidding for Department of Transport Funding through the Regional Funding Allocation for specific major schemes including: Tees Valley rail improvement – if bid successful, phase 1 will be implemented by 2013; Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Programme; A66 / A19 / A174 Area Action Plan.</p> <p>£3 million of funding from Cycling England for 2005-2011.</p> <p>EU Boosting Advanced Public Transport Systems Programme Funding of £755k for 2008-2011.</p> <p>S106 agreements attached to the grant of planning permission to secure travel plans, contributions towards public transport, cycling and walking schemes, and new highway infrastructure.</p>

APPENDIX 1

Previously 'Saved' Local Plan Policies Superseded by the Core Strategy

Adopted Borough of Darlington Local Plan Policy Number and Name	Superseded by Core Strategy Policy Number and Name
E1 - Keynote Policy for the Protection of the Environment	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety
E7 - Landscape Conservation	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
E8: The Area of High Landscape Value	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness
E10 - Protection of Key Townscape and Landscape Features	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness
E11 - Conservation of Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness CS15: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity CS17: Delivering a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Network
E15 - Open Land in New Development	CS17: Delivering a Green Infrastructure Network
E16 - Appearance from Main Travel Routes	CS14: Local Character and Distinctiveness
E23 - Nature and Development	CS15 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity
E24 - Conservation of Land and Other Resources	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
E25 - Energy Conservation	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
E26 - Energy from Renewable Sources	CS3: Promoting Renewable Energy
E29 - The Setting of New Development	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
E32 - Buildings of Local Character and Townscape Value	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness
E34 - Archaeological Sites of Local Importance	CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness
E45 - Development and Art	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design CS4: Developer Contributions
E46 - Safety and Security	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
E47 - Contaminated and Unstable Land and Development	CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health & Safety
E48 - Noise-Generating / Polluting Development	CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety
E49 – Noise-Sensitive Development	CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health & Safety
E50 – Hazardous Installations	CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health & Safety
H1: Supply of Housing Land	CS4: Developer Contributions CS10: New Housing Development
H2: Level of Housing Provision	CS10: New Housing Development
H3: Location of New Housing Development	CS1: Darlington's Sub-regional Role and Locational Strategy
H4: New Housing development in and Around the Town Centre and Other Centres	CS10: New Housing Development
H9: Meeting Affordable Housing Needs	CS4: Developer Contributions CS11: Meeting Housing Needs
H11: Design and Layout of New Housing Development	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
H14: Accessible Housing	CS4: Developer Contributions CS11: Meeting Housing Needs
H16: The Improvement of Older Residential Areas	CS12: Existing Housing
H21: Additional Gypsy Sites	CS13: Accommodating Travelling Groups

R1- Designing for All	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
R2 - Access For People With Disabilities	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
R6 – Open Space Provision in New Residential Development	CS4: Developer Contributions
R7 – The Design of Open Space Provision	CS4: Developer Contributions
R8 – Maintenance of Recreation Facilities	CS4: Developer Contributions
R9 – Protection of Playing Pitches	CS18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreation Facilities
R13 – Recreation Routes and New Development	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
R17 – Golf Course Development	CS18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreational Facilities
R18 – Par-Three Golf Course	CS18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreational Facilities
R19 – Protection of Allotments	CS17: Delivering a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Network
R20 – New Sports and Recreation Development	CS18: Promoting Quality, Accessible Sport and Recreational Facilities
R24 – Leisure Facilities	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS7: The Town Centre
R25 – Provision of Community Facilities and Services	CS9: District & Local Centres and Local Shops and Services
R26 – Protection of Community Facilities	CS9: District & Local Centres and Local Shops and Services
EP1 – Land Supply for Employment	CS5: Employment Land
EP5 – Other Uses in Employment Areas	CS5: Employment Land
EP13 – Office Development Elsewhere	CS5: Employment Land
EP14 – Existing Employment Development	CS5: Employment Land
EP15 – Development Outside Employment Areas	CS5: Employment Land
EP16 – Hazardous Industry	CS16: Protecting Environmental Resources, Human Health and Safety
S1 – New Shopping Development	CS7: The Town Centre
S2 – Safeguarding the Town Centre	CS7: The Town Centre
S12 – New Food Stores	CS8: Additional Retail Provision
S13 – Retail Warehouses	CS8 Additional Retail Provision
S16 – Small Local Shops	CS9: District & Local Centres and Local Shops and Services
S18 – Food and Drink Uses Outside the Town Centre	CS9: District & Local Centres and Local Shops and Services
TO1: Tourist Attractions	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design
TO2 – Borough Heritage	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS14: Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness
TO3 – Access to Sites of Interest	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer
TO4 – Hotels and Guest Houses	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design
TO5 – Accommodation in the Countryside	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design
TO6 – Camping and Caravans	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer
TO7 – Laybys, Picnic and Rest Areas	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network

TO8 – Darlington Railway Centre and Museum	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer
TO9 Darlington Railway Centre Trackbed	CS6: Vibrant Cultural and Tourism Offer
T1 – Highway and Transport Management – Existing Resources	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T3 – Justification for Major Road Schemes	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T4 – Route and Design of Major Road Schemes	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T12 – New Development – Road Capacity	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
T13 – New Development Standards	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
T16 – Access for Deliveries, Buses, Cyclists, Taxis and with Disabilities	CS19 Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a People Sustainable Transport Network
T24 – Parking and Servicing Requirements for New Development	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
T25 – Parking and Servicing Requirements for New Development In the Town Centre	CS2: Achieving High Quality, Sustainable Design
TS30 – Use of Public Transport	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
TS31 – New Development and Public Transport	CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T33 – Provision for Waiting Passengers	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T34: Taxi Ranks	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T37 – Cycle Routes in New Developments	CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design CS4: Developer Contributions CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T38 – Public Cycle Parking	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T39 – Conditions for Pedestrians	CS2: Achieving High Quality Sustainable Design CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T45 – Darlington Railway Station	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network
T48 - Rail-Served Industrial Land	CS19: Improving Transport Infrastructure and Creating a Sustainable Transport Network

APPENDIX 2

Key Studies Underpinning Preparation of the Core Strategy

<i>Name of Document/Study</i>	<i>Completed by</i>	<i>Date of Publication/Completion</i>
National and Sub-Regional:		
Tees Valley Hotel Futures	Hotel Solutions	September 2009
Tees Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Arc4 consultancy on behalf of the five Tees Valley local authorities.	February 2009
Tees Valley Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment	Salford University	March 2009
North East Assembly Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment	White Young Green Published	March 2007
Tees Plain and East Durham Limestone Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Study	Ove ARUP and Partners Ltd on behalf of NE Regional Assembly	August 2008
Tees Plain and East Durham Limestone Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Study: Addendum	Ove ARUP and Partners Ltd on behalf of Association of North East Councils	October 2009
A66(T) Tees Valley Gateway Study	For various partners including North East Assembly, Highways Agency and Darlington Borough Council	2004
Tees Valley City Region: Connectivity & Accessibility Study, Phase 1 Report	JMP for Tees Valley Unlimited & One NorthEast	May 2010
Statistics and boundaries for Retail Cores in England and Wales 1999-2004	DCLG	May 2008
UK Prime In-Town Retail Rents	Colliers CRE	Annual to June 2008
Study into Retail and Leisure Flows in The North East	Experian for NERIP (North East Regional Information Partnership)	May 2006
Shopping Centre Yields	Valuation Office Agency	Twice-yearly to July 2008
Local:		
Darlington Community Survey	Darlington Borough Council (Policy Section)	Annual
Darlington Decentralised and Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Study: Update	Entec	June 2010
Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Level 1	JBA Consulting	December 2009
Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Level 2	JBA Consulting	June 2010
Darlington Local Housing Assessment 2005 and Refresh	DCHR and Arc4	2005 and 2008
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and Update	Darlington Borough Council	March 2009 and November 2009
Economic Viability of Housing Land in Darlington Borough	Levell	June 2010
Darlington Gateway Strategy	BDP / King Sturge / Regeneris / CIP for DBC	December 2006
Borough of Darlington Employment Land Review	Darlington Borough Council	December 2009
Darlington Retail Study 2008 and 2010 Update	Martin Tonks for Darlington Borough Council	December 2008 & July 2010
DBC retail surveys & monitoring	Darlington Borough Council (Planning & Economic Strategy Section)	Continuous
Darlington Characterisation Study	Darlington Borough Council	July 2009
Local Motion, Darlington Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town Project (various documents)	Monitoring by and research for Darlington Borough Council	Ongoing
Darlington Connections Study	Urban Initiatives	December 2009
Darlington Transport Area Action Plans Final Report	ARUP	August 2010
Economic Viability of non-Housing Land in Darlington Borough	Levell	July 2010
Darlington Playing Pitch Strategy	PMP Consultants	June 2009
Darlington Sports and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy	PMP Consultants	July 2009
A Housing Implementation Strategy for Darlington 2011-2026	Darlington Borough Council	July 2010

APPENDIX 3

Strategies, Plans and Programmes Taken into Account in the Preparation of the Core Strategy.

<i>Name of Document</i>	<i>Published by</i>	<i>Date of Publication</i>
Regional:		
North East of England Plan Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021	CLG	July 2008
Leading the Way: Regional Economic Strategy for North East England 2006-2016	One NorthEast	May 2007
Quality Places for a Dynamic Region: The North East Regional Housing Strategy.	North East Assembly/North East Housing Board	July 2007
Landscape Appraisal for Onshore Wind Farm Development	North East Assembly	July 2003
Sub-regional		
Tees Valley City Region Multi Area Agreement	Tees Valley Unlimited	July 2008
An Investment Plan for the Tees Valley City Region	Shared Intelligence Ltd.	September 2006
Tees Valley City Region Business Case and City Region Development Programme	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	September 2006
Economic and Regeneration Statement of Ambition	Tees Valley Unlimited	July 2010
Tees Valley Investment Plan (Draft)	Tees Valley Unlimited	July 2010
Creating Thriving Communities in Tees Valley: A strategy for housing regeneration in the Tees Valley 2010/2020 (Draft)	Tees Valley Living	May 2010
Tees Valley Housing Growth Point Programme of Development	Tees Valley Local Authorities	October 2008
Tees Valley Empty Property Strategy	Tees Valley Local Authorities	March 2008
Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy	Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	March 2008
Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy	Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership	June 2010
Local:		
Darlington Gateway Strategy	BDP / King Sturge / Regeneris / CIP	December 2006
One Darlington Perfectly Placed: A Vision for Darlington 2008-21	Darlington Partnership	June 2008
Darlington's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011, delivering One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Darlington Borough Council, Darlington Partnership	2008
Darlington Housing Strategy 2008-2012	Darlington Borough Council	May 2008
Older Persons' Housing Strategy	Darlington Borough Council	2007
Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy (revised)	Darlington Borough Council	January 2008
Darlington Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Darlington Borough Council	December 2007
Darlington Contaminated Land Strategy	Darlington Borough Council	February 2002
Darlington Open Space Strategy	Darlington Borough Council	April 2007
Durham Biodiversity Action Plan	Durham Biodiversity Partnership	September 2007
Darlington Climate Change Strategy	Darlington Partnership	September 2006
Adding to Quality: A Development Strategy for Darlington Town Centre	Darlington Borough Council and One North East	February 2001
Darlington's Transport Strategy 2006-30	Darlington Borough Council	March 2006
Darlington, A Town on the Move: Second Local Transport Plan 2006-11	Darlington Borough Council	March 2006

APPENDIX 4

Darlington's Hub and Spoke Model for the Provision of Sport and Recreation Facilities

Level	Provision
Hubs E.g. Outdoor sports: Eastbourne Sports Complex, including athletics track, climbing boulder, bowling Indoor sports: Dolphin Centre including 8 court sports hall, squash courts, swimming and diving pools, climbing wall	Quality changing facilities Secure community access Adult and junior facilities Well managed provision Accessible by public transport with sufficient car parking
Spokes for indoor and outdoor facilities Schools, colleges, Teesside University, Parish Council and Village halls. E.g. Haughton Education Village; 4 court hall, swimming pool	Secure community access Quality changing facilities Adult and junior facilities Managed sites Accessible by public transport with car parking Within walking and cycling distance of residential areas
Spokes for indoor and outdoor facilities Private clubs and facilities E.g. Bannatynes Health Club; 113 stations, swimming pool, dance studio	Membership only Quality changing facilities Adult and junior facilities Managed sites Accessible by public transport with car parking

KEY DIAGRAM (Policy number in brackets)

- Boundary of Darlington Borough
- Main Urban Area (CS1, CS10)
- Large Village (CS1)
- Village (CS1)
- Roads
- Railways
- PROPOSED**
- North West Urban Fringe (CS1)
- Eastern Urban Fringe (CS1)
- Town Centre Fringe (CS1, CS3, CS5, CS7, CS10, CS16, CS19)
- Strategic Flood Risk Corridor (CS1, CS16)
- Central Park (CS1, CS5, CS10, CS19)
- Durham Tees Valley Airport (CS1, CS19)
- Darlington Town Centre (CS1, CS5, CS7, CS8, CS9, CS18)
- District Heating Network (CS3)
- Strategic General & Mixed Use Employment Locations (CS5)
- Key Employment Locations (CS5)
- Hotel Locations (CS6)
- Darlington Cultural Quarter (CS6)
- District Centre (CS8)
- Local Centre (CS9)
- Strategic Housing Locations (CS10)
- Committed Housing in Planning Permissions (CS10)
- New Housing Planned
- Areas for Regeneration & Improvement of Existing Housing (CS12)
- Travelling Community Sites (CS13)
- Strategic Corridors (CS14, CS17)
- Strategic Wildlife Corridors (CS15)
- Strategic Countryside Site at Skertingham (CS17)
- Community Forestry (CS17)
- Strategic Sports & Recreation Locations (CS18)
- Public Transport Corridor (Key/Secondary) (CS19)
- Key
- Secondary
- Bank Top Railway Station (CS10, CS18, CS19)
- North Road Railway Station (CS10, CS19)

