

Darlington Local Development Framework: Eastern Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Darlington Borough Council

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Planning and Economic Strategy Manager
Darlington Borough Council
Town Hall
Darlington
DL1 5QT

Tel: (01325) 388644
Fax: (01325) 388616

Email: planning.policy@darlington.gov.uk
Website: www.darlington.gov.uk



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Darlington Borough Council is currently preparing its Local Development Framework. The key, over-arching document, the Core Strategy, is now well advanced; formal examination is expected in Spring 2011. The Council is now, therefore, at a stage where it can commence work on other policy documents. The Eastern Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan is one such document.

1.1.2 The Core Strategy identified Darlington's Town Centre Fringe as a strategic location for future development and regeneration. An Area Action Plan (AAP) is a mechanism to ensure that development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality takes place in an area identified for redevelopment. The Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP will explain, in detail, how development in the core part of the Town Centre Fringe will take place, which agencies or organisations will lead the development (on a site-by-site basis), how developments will be funded and the likely phasing of development. The AAP should also identify and protect areas which are particularly sensitive to change and aim to resolve conflicting objectives in areas subject to development pressures.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1.2.1 This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (including the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment) of Darlington Borough Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP.

1.2.2 The appendices for this SA Scoping Report are contained in a separate companion document and should be read in conjunction with the main report.

1.2.3 This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report seeks to identify the contextual and sustainability issues which the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP should address. The main objectives of this SA Scoping Report are to:

- Establish an evidenced and verified sustainability baseline for the Eastern Town Centre Fringe;
- Identify the key sustainability issues and problems within the Eastern Town Centre Fringe;
- Facilitate meaningful engagement and continuing consultation.
- Identify the key messages from the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP and;
- Identify the likely sustainability impacts of the AAP policies on the Eastern Town Centre Fringe and suggest ways to either mitigate adverse impacts or increase positive impacts.

1.2.4 Completion of the above objectives will contribute to ensuring that the LDF Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP is as sustainable as possible. The overall aim of the SA process is discussed further in paragraph 1.5 below.

1.3 What are Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment?

1.3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required by European and by English law. It involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the

adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’)¹. The aim of the SEA Directive is:

“... to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”
(2001/42/EC)

- 1.3.2 The Directive was transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the ‘SEA Regulations’). These apply (with some specific exceptions) to plans and programmes subject to preparation and / or adoption by a national, regional or local authority or those prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure.
- 1.3.3 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) extends the concept of SEA to encompass economic and social concerns. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA) requires Local Planning Authorities to undertake SA for each of their Local Development Documents (LDD’s),. SA is, therefore, a statutory requirement for LDF’s along with SEA.
- 1.3.4 All LDF documents should also be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) under the Habitats Directive, in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. HRA is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project or plan on one of more sites of European nature conservation importance. Darlington Borough Council must ascertain that the LDF will not adversely effect the integrity of a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) before the LDF can be adopted. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plan Documents will be reported on separately.

1.4 The Aims of the Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the SA process is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations into the preparation of the documents that will be collectively known as Darlington Borough Council Local Development Framework.
- 1.4.2 In March 2005, a new Government strategy for sustainable development was set out called Securing the Future². The following definition for sustainable development was forwarded:

“The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.”

To achieve this goal five key principles have been proposed:

- Living Within Environmental Limits
- Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- Promoting Good Governance
- Using Sound Science Responsibly

¹ European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

² ODPM, Securing the Future: UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)

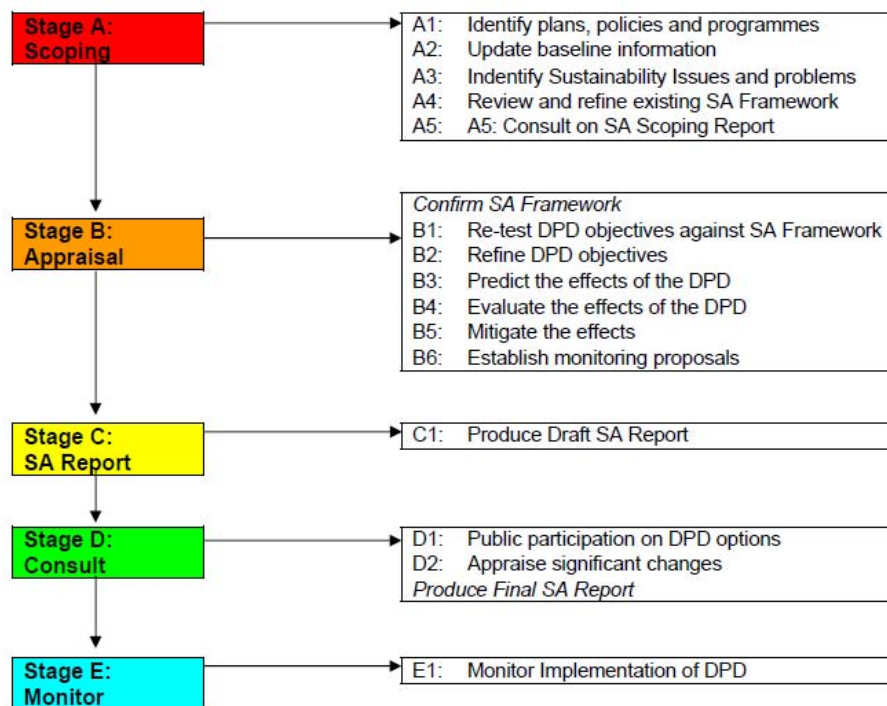
These principles of sustainable development are at the heart of the SA process.

1.4.3 In effect, the SA process ensures that the social, economic and environmental effects of planning policies within the LDF are appraised against locally distinct sustainability objectives for compatibility. Any potential negative impacts can then be identified and action can be taken to either alter the policy or put mitigation measures in place. This process will ensure that future spatial planning in Darlington Borough will be in line with the global and local aims of sustainable development.

1.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

1.5.1 The SA process is outlined by Government guidance and is shown in **Figure 1** below. This report describes the first stage of the SA process, the SA Scoping Stage (A) which consists of five key tasks. This report sets out the findings of each of these tasks.

Figure 1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process



1.6 Structure of this SA Scoping Report

1.6.1 This SA Scoping Report only relates to the Eastern Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan. Previous SA Scoping Reports were prepared in July 2009 (updated July 2010) to assist in the preparation of the Core Strategy and April 2010 for the Accommodating Growth DPD, and subsequent SA Scoping Reports will be prepared for the other proposed LDDs. As the overarching policy document in the LDF, the Core Strategy and its Scoping Report have influenced the content of this report.

1.6.2 Part 2 of this report includes a review of the plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives that will influence the SA process and the ETCF AAP. Part 2 constitutes Task A1 of Stage A of the SA process as illustrated in Figure 1 above.

1.6.3 Part 3 of this report summarises the baseline information and identifies the emerging sustainability issues and problems identified as relevant to the ETCF AAP. Part 3 constitutes Tasks A2 and A3 of the SA Process as illustrated by Figure 1 above.

- 1.6.4 Part 4 of this report develops the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the ETCF AAP. Part 4 constitutes Task A4 of the SA Process as illustrated in Figure 1 above.
- 1.6.5 Part 5 of this report identifies the next steps involved in the SA Process, specifically how the Council seeks to consult on the contents of this SA Scoping Report and how this will inform the finalisation of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, against which the ETCF AAP will be assessed. Part 5 assists the Council in undertaking Task A5 of the SA process as illustrated in Figure 1 above.

2. Context Review

- 2.1 One of the first tasks of the SA (Stage A) involved a review of other plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Eastern Town Centre Fringe Area Action Plan. The purpose of such a review was to ensure that relevant environmental, social and economic objectives were taken on board. This section drew heavily on work previously done on the sustainability appraisal for the Core Strategy, the document from which the ETCF AAP is derived. In the case of international, national, and regional documents, the review of objectives carried out by the Core Strategy SA was relied upon- with the exception that outdated documents were filtered out and new ones added. Sub-regional and local documents were reviewed again for any objectives directly related to the Eastern Town Centre Fringe, and documents relating solely to the area of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe or surrounding neighbourhoods were also reviewed. The table contained within **Appendix B** provides a detailed list of the PPPs reviewed including the implications identified for the Core Strategy and the SA process. A list of the PPP's reviewed is detailed in Table 2. The key messages from the context review are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 1 Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Plans Policies and Programmes	Year
International and European Community	
World Summit on Sustainable Development	2002
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992
The Kyoto Protocol	2005
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	1992
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 31)	1989
EU Council Directive 01/42/EC Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	2001
EU Council Directive 08/50/EC Air Quality Directive	2008
EU Council Directive 00/60/EC Water Framework Directive	2000
EU Council Directive 80/68/EC Groundwater Directive	1980
EU Council Directive 06/118/EC Groundwater Daughter Directive	2006
EU Council Directive 07/60/EC on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risk	2007
EU Council Directive 02/49/EC Environmental Noise Directive	2002
EU Council Directive 92/42/EC Habitats Directive	1992
EU Council Directive 97/49/EC Birds Directive	1997
EU Council Directive 99/31/EC Landfill Directive	1999
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	2001
Soil Thematic Strategy	2006
Lisbon Strategy: Towards a Europe of Innovation and Knowledge	2000
European strategy and co-operation in education and training	2007
EU Lifelong Learning Programme	
White Paper: European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to decide	2001
Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe - World Health Organisation	2005
European Union Sports Charter	2001
Mental Health Action Plan for Europe: World Health Organisation	2005
The Climate and Energy Package	2009
The Maastricht Treaty (Treaty of the European Union)	1993
The European Landscape Convention	2000
European Spatial Development Perspective	1999

National	
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	1979
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)	1981
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act	1990
Environmental Protection Act	1990
Countryside and Rights of Way Act	2000
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Working Together for Clean Air)	2000
The Urban White Paper (Our Towns & Cities: The Future)	2000
National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision	2001
National Service Framework for Older People (Department of Health)	2001
The Government statement The Historic Environment: A Force for our future	2001
Working with the Grain of Nature: A biodiversity strategy for England	2002
Making It Happen	2002
Building in Context: New Development in Historic Areas	2002
Green Space, Better Places: Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Task Force	2002
The Water Act	2003
The Future of Transport: A Network for 2030	2004
Safer Places: The Planning System & Crime Prevention	2004
Every Child Matters: Change for Children	2004
Choosing Health, Making Healthier Choices Easier	2004
The Housing Act	2004
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act	2004
Securing the Future: UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy	2005
Making Space for Water: Taking forward a new Government Strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England	2005
White Paper: Skills: Getting on in Business, Getting on at Work	2005
Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation	2005
Sustainable Communities: Homes for All	2005
Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A guide to Good Practice	2006
Climate Change: The UK Programme	2006
Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change	2006
CLG: Code for Sustainable Homes	2006
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	2006
Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change	2006
Good Practice Guidance on Planning for Tourism	2006
Planning Obligations: Practice Guidance	2006
The Future of Air Transport (2003) and the Future of Air Transport Progress Report	2006
Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener	2006
Time for Play: Encouraging Greater Play Opportunities for Children and Young People	2006
A Decent Home: Definition and guidance for implementation	2006
Strong and Prosperous Communities – The Local Government White Paper	2006
The Pitt Review – Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods	2006
Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate: Guidance on Building Capacity to Adapt	2007
Meeting the Energy Challenge: A White Paper on Energy	2007
Building a Greener Future: policy statement	2007
Waste Strategy for England	2007
(DCSF) The Children's Plan: Building Brighter Futures	2007
English Indices of Deprivation	2007
Active Design: Sport England	2007
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century	2007
Homes for the Future: More Affordable, More Sustainable	2007
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Identifying appropriate land for housing development	2007
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper	2007
State of the Natural Environment	2007
UKCIP08 Climate Change Projections	2008
Development and Flood Risk: A practice Guide Companion to PPS25	2008
Planning Act	2008
Climate Change Act	2008
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England	2008
Strategy for Sustainable Construction	2008
Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives. A cross-Government strategy for England	2008
Be Active, Be Healthy, A plan for getting the nation moving	2008
Building a Sense of Local Belonging	2009
Flood and Water Management Act	2009
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development	2010
Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change (Supplement to PPS 1)	2005
Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing	2006
Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth	2010
Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment	2010
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	2005
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	2005
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning	2008
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy	2004
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control	2004
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk	2006

All our Futures, A Strategy for Later Life in Darlington	2008
Darlington Housing Strategy	2008
Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy	2008
Darlington's Local Area Agreement	2008
Darlington Rights of Way Improvement Plan	2008
Sports and Physical Activity Facilities Strategy	2009
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment	2009
Darlington Characterisation Study	2009
Design of New Development: Supplementary Planning Document	2009
Darlington Playing Pitch Strategy	2009
Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1	2009
Darlington Decentralised and Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Study (Update)	2010
Darlington Borough Council Core Strategy: Publication Draft	2010
Darlington Borough Council Carbon Management Plan	2010
Darlington Borough Council Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Study for the Town Centre Fringe)	2010
Economic Viability of Non-Housing Land in Darlington Borough	2010
Economic Viability of Housing Development in Darlington Borough	2010
Darlington Town Centre Conservation Area Character Appraisal	2010
Darlington Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2	2010

Source: DBC Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Darlington Borough Council, August 2009, updated June 2010; review of plans, policies and projects for ETCF AAP SA, July/August 2010)

Table 2 Key Principles Derived from Context Review

Key Principles
<p>Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make efficient use of land, including focussing development at the Town Centre Fringe as a sustainable location. Focus development on the Town Centre Fringe to avoid developing greenfield sites and valuable green spaces elsewhere
<p>Climate Change and Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 is 80% lower than 1990 baseline. All new homes to be zero carbon by 2016 • Reduce Darlington's contribution to climate change and minimise the adverse impacts of climate change on Darlington's community. Help biodiversity adapt to climate change • The TCF, as a strategic development site, should obtain at least 20% of its energy from renewable or low carbon sources. It should support a biomass/CHP installation, either on site or in one of the adjoining areas
<p>Environmental Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remediate contaminated land. Avoid placing sensitive land uses in areas of land contamination without mitigating the contamination beforehand. Prevent further contamination of land • Manage surface water through the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) to reduce the volume and rate of surface water run off and the risk of flooding, reduce run-off pollution and avoid depleting groundwater. Find a strategic solution to complex surface water flooding issues in the area between St Cuthbert's Way and Hargreave Terrace. • Take full account of flood risk and ensure that the location of new development and infrastructure does not cause environmental protection problems during flood events. A strategic flood risk management scheme will be necessary for the Town Centre Fringe.

- Obtain 'good' ecological, chemical and quantitative status for watercourses by 2015
- Reduce water demand through better building design and prevent pollution problems arising in the first place
- Ensure good ambient air quality to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment

Biodiversity

- Protect and enhance the function of the Skerne as a wildlife corridor and as a strategic landscape corridor, with intrinsic qualities of openness. Protect and improve priority habitats and species; create priority habitats
- Importance of open space to biodiversity and to wildlife related learning opportunities
- Ensure the incorporation of biodiversity measures into new development.

Waste and Minerals

- Conserve natural resources. Change consumption and production patterns to live within environmental limits
- Address waste as a resource and look to disposal as the last option. Increase recycling of resources and recovery of energy from residual waste. Ensure the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials
- Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management

Economy and Employment

- Encourage economic development that is compatible with environmental objectives
- Regenerate the core of urban areas and develop underutilised vacant and environmentally poor land. Improve the appearance of approaches to the town centre.
- Promote the vitality and viability of town centres. The TCF should support the economic health of the Town Centre. When there is no more room for major non-retail development in the Town Centre, such development should be directed to the TCF
- Tackle problems of worklessness, lack of skills (labour supply does not match demand) and social deprivation. Increase employment opportunities and attract higher paid jobs

Education and Skills

- Every young person should obtain the skills and qualifications for adult life and further study and participate in positive activities to develop personal and social skills. Provide the widest possible range of lifelong learning opportunities

Transport

- Provide a free flowing and more reliable road network
- Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure and services by public transport, walking and cycling. Focus development on the TCF with its good accessibility

- Need for good quality, accessible public rights of way near to where people live. Develop pedestrian and cycle links: between Bank Top Station and the town centre; between Central Park and the town centre; across St Cuthbert's Way
- Consider crime prevention and increase the number of local people feeling safer within their community. Make the transport network safe and secure for all

Communities

- Reduce social inequalities, renew disadvantaged neighbourhoods, protect the vulnerable and ensure equality of access for all
- Local people and communities should be given more influence and power to improve their lives. Need to encourage people to participate in their community and have a say in how their neighbourhoods are run.

Health and Recreation

- Provide good quality health services. Improve health and well being while reducing inequalities in health
- Ensure that everyone has easy affordable access to well-maintained, good quality recreation and sports facilities and open spaces and to all the essential services that contribute to health and wellbeing
- Improving quality and access to open space, sports, play and community facilities (for example, through section 106 agreements) and provide new to meet identified demand
- Protect and enhance existing play spaces. Ensure the loss of or provision of new or enhanced provision is compliant with local open space, playing pitch and sport and recreation facilities standards

Culture, Heritage and Townscape

- Strengthen and extend the cultural assets of the sub-region and enhance the contribution that the cultural dimension makes to regeneration. A cultural hub should be created in the TCF, that acts as a hub for local and town-wide activities.
- Protect listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments; ensure archaeological remains are preserved and recorded. Encourage the refurbishment and reuse of appropriate disused or underused historic buildings
- Provide the community with a sense of character, distinctiveness and identity and make it somewhere where people want to live. Make sure that new developments are well designed and complement Darlington's character
- Make the historic environment accessible to all. Maximise opportunities to promote Darlington's Railway, Quaker and Engineering Heritage. Increase tourism and visitor economic activity within the Tees Valley.

Housing

- Ensure housing contributes to creating sustainable communities with good access to amenities and services. Ensure significant provision of housing in the sustainable location of the TCF, including in mixed use development, around 650 dwellings.
- Ensure that new homes built are of a high quality. Everyone to have access to a decent home at a price they can afford in a place where they want to live. Identify land available for housing and return

vacant housing to use.

- Ensure housing caters for the most vulnerable members of society and policies provide for those who choose alternative types of accommodation

Planning/General

- Safe, well maintained and attractive public spaces have a critical role in creating pride in the places where communities live which in turn is essential to building community cohesion

3 Baseline and Sustainability Issues

3.1 Baseline Information

- 3.1.1 Baseline information helps provide a basis for predicting and monitoring effects and identifying sustainability issues for the SA to consider. When collecting baseline data, the aim is to assemble sufficient data on the current and likely future state (forecasts) of the area to enable the AAP's effects to be adequately predicted.
- 3.1.2 A key aim is to ensure that, where possible, each of the SA objectives will be 'underwritten' with comprehensive and up-to-date baseline information. Baseline information also provides a basis for monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them.
- 3.1.3 Generally, baseline information is collected using indicators. Examples may include carbon dioxide emissions per capita or the percentage of people who feel safe whilst outside at night. If these indicators are monitored over time, the resulting data can reveal trends in performance (ie whether something is getting better or worse). Indicator performance can also be gauged in relation to wider geographical areas (eg North east region) if comparable data is available. Indicator performance can also be assessed in relation to targets where these exist. The full compilation of baseline data collected and analysed for the Eastern Town Centre Fringe is contained within **Appendix C**.
- 3.1.4 A large amount of baseline data relating to the Borough as a whole had previously been gathered for the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal in June 2009 and May 2010; this was updated and where possible those elements which relate specifically to the Eastern Town Centre Fringe were picked out. In addition, data was gathered relating to Central Ward, Lower Level Super Output Area Darlington 008A, and the broader Town Centre Fringe area.
- 3.1.5 The majority of data at the sub-borough level relates to Central Ward. This data, while it describes conditions in the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP area a good deal better than borough-level data does, nevertheless is far from perfect. The ward covers a significantly larger area than the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP area. In addition to the AAP area, it includes:
- Darlington Town Centre itself
 - A small area west of the Town Centre
 - Land between Haughton Road, St Cuthbert's Way, North Road and the Bishop Auckland railway line.
 - The residential and employment areas of Albert Hill
 - The employment area around Cleveland Street.

- 3.1.6 Most of these areas, barring the Town Centre itself, share with the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP area characteristics such as older terraced housing, well-established employment areas and proximity to main roads. The Lower Level Super Output Areas, which divide the Albert Hill/ Cleveland Street area from the rest of Central Ward, show that deprivation is more concentrated in the latter section which includes the AAP area.
- 3.1.7 The Town Centre provides a significant skew for Central Ward data. This is especially noticeable in the figures for recorded crimes, where Central Ward sees several times as many crimes committed as any other ward in the Borough- a fact that has been attributed to the size of its retail and nightlife sectors (Darlington Social Issues Map, 2010), which are largely located in the Town Centre. Therefore, community safety issues have been measured by the perceptions of Central Ward’s residents, most of whom live outside the Town Centre, rather than recorded crimes. These matters should be borne in mind when considering options for expansion of Town Centre uses into the Town Centre Fringe.
- 3.1.8 Data for Lower Level Super Output Area Darlington 008A is subject to many of the same caveats. This statistical area does not include Albert Hill or the Cleveland Street industrial estate, but it does include, as well as the AAP area:
- Darlington Town Centre itself
 - A small area west of the Town Centre
 - Land between Haughton Road, St Cuthbert’s Way, North Road and the Bishop Auckland railway line, excluding houses north of the east end of East Mount Road
 - A small piece of land between the Bishop Auckland railway and Cleveland Street.
- 3.1.9 The baseline conditions provide the basis against which significant effects of the AAP are predicted. Detailed baseline information collated during Stage A is provided within **Appendix C** of this Sustainability Appraisal Report. The findings of the baseline assessment are summarised in section 4 of this report.

3.2 Data Gaps

- 3.2.1 Data gaps exist in the fields of biodiversity (records of BAP species and habitats locally); business, where there is a need to compile a comprehensive list of businesses operating in the AAP area; and deprivation, where a breakdown of the deprivation and unemployment indicators for the AAP area would be very useful. There are numerous fields where data is only available at the borough or ward level and it would be desirable to have data for the AAP area. Therefore, a residents’ survey, seeking information on levels of deprivation and unemployment in the AAP area is being undertaken. The results will be available for the Issues and Options stage of the plan-making process.

3.3 Key Sustainability Issues

- 3.3.1 The identification of sustainability issues can provide useful information to inform the SA process. As the process of identifying the key sustainability issues for the AAP area is informed by the baseline data, both will be presented in the following themes:
- Sustainable Development;
 - Climate Change and Energy;
 - Environmental Protection;
 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
 - Waste and Minerals;
 - Economy and Employment;
 - Education and Skills;
 - Transport and Accessibility;
 - People and Place;
 - Safer and Stronger Communities;

- Health and Recreation;
- Culture, Heritage and Landscape;
- Housing.

3.3.2 The following tables provide a summary of the sustainability issues identified through the collection and analysis of the baseline data, grouped by the above themes. They primarily include those indicators which performed significantly above (or below), or slightly above (or below) national, regional or Borough averages and targets. The full picture, including areas where performance exceeds national or regional averages and targets is set out in **Appendix C**.

Table 3 Sustainability Issues Identified from Baseline Data

Sustainable Development	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
High ecological footprint (Borough-wide)	Whilst the Borough performs below the national average, its ecological footprint is 0.04 global hectares per capita above the regional average. Darlington's overall ecological footprint is 3.43 global hectares per capita above the sustainable living limit and is, therefore, unsustainable.
Climate Change and Energy	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
Challenging carbon dioxide emission targets (Borough-wide)	Carbon dioxide emissions per capita have reduced by 0.5 kilo tonnes from the 2005 baseline. However, further effort is required to meet challenging local targets. The domestic sector is the greatest emitter of carbon dioxide emissions.
Lower than average domestic electricity and gas consumption	Darlington's central Lower Level Super Output Area (LLSOA), including the AAP area, has (as of 2008) figures for average domestic gas and electricity consumption lower than the Borough, regional and national averages. It therefore contributes to keeping the Borough's figures lower than they would otherwise be. This advantage should be maintained and improved on by any development that takes place in the AAP area.
High but decreasing industrial and commercial electricity and gas use (Borough-wide)	Average industrial and commercial use has reduced by 4020 kWh and is below the regional average but above the national average by 5,661 kWh. Average industrial and commercial gas use has reduced by 30,309 kWh but is above both the regional and national averages by 248,028 kWh and 407,492kWh respectively.
Environmental Protection	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
High level of contaminated land	High level of contaminated sites given Darlington's industrial past, however due to remediation in recent years number of sites has decreased from 2000 in 2003 to 1280 in 2009. There is a high risk that several sites in the ETCF AAP area are contaminated.
High proportion of vacant previously developed land has been vacant for over 5 years	As of March 2009 there were four NLUD previously developed sites in the ETCF AAP area, totalling 2.752 ha. 43.8% of this land had been registered with NLUD for 5 years or more. This compares with 39.8% at the borough level, shrinking to 19.8% if one large airport site, unlikely to be developed, is discounted.
Poor groundwater quality	Predictions indicate that the quality and quantity of Darlington Borough's groundwater is to remain poor by 2015, particularly in relation to the Magnesium Limestone groundwater body. A rising trend in nitrate concentration in the groundwater body has been identified. Most of the ETCF AAP area is underlain by a minor aquifer with a high degree of permeability.
High number of development sites at risk of flooding	Significant parts of the AAP area, including most of the land between Hargreave Terrace and St Cuthbert's Way, are in Flood Risk Zone 3. Further areas, including nearly all the remaining land between Hargreave Terrace and St Cuthbert's Way, all other buildings fronting St Cuthbert's Way, and the area around Tannery Yard, are in Flood Risk Zone 2. Flood risk also poses a challenge to areas downstream of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe site.
Moderate chemical and poor ecological river	Ecological water quality up- and down-stream of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe is poor, while chemical water quality is of a 'pass' standard. Improvements are

quality	required if target of 'good' is to be met by 2015.
Biodiversity	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
Identified need to protect priority habitats and species and expand range where possible.	Three UKBAP species identified near the ETCF AAP area, others possibly present, especially using the Skerne corridor.
Low number of Local Nature Reserves in Borough (Borough-wide)	The Borough falls short of Natural England's targets pertaining to quantity of Local Nature Reserves per population. The opportunity to create new Local Nature Reserves should be sought.
Minerals and Waste	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
Improving but lower than average waste reduction and recycling rates (Borough-wide)	Various indicators identify that across the borough, reusing and recycling waste is increasing, but performing behind national averages.
Economy and Employment	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
High but declining working age population	Central Ward has a proportionally higher working-age population than the borough as a whole. However, the ward's population is declining, against borough and regional trends.
Very high and increasing rates of employment based benefits claimants.	The % of working-age people claiming key out-of-work benefits in Central Ward has increased since 2006 by 4.8 percentage points, a sharper rise than for the borough as a whole. The rate of out-of-work benefit receipt remains over twice the borough average; now over a third of the working-age population.
Households with no members in work	All the figures for percentage of households without work, and for number of dependants in workless households, are significantly higher for Central Ward than for the borough as a whole.
VAT registrations (Borough wide)	Net increase of 210 businesses in borough over the period 2004/07 with VAT registrations are above regional averages but significantly below national averages.
Over supply of employment land (Borough- wide)	Identified supply of employment land exceeds anticipated demand for the period 2009- 2026 by over 240Ha. The AAP area includes the Borough Road employment site
High retail vacancy rates in the town centre fringe	Town centre has the greatest amount of retail floorspace followed by out of town centres. However the town centre and town centre fringe has the highest retail floorspace vacancy rate.
Low average household earnings	The average Central Ward household's weekly income is only 86% that of the average borough household.
Education and Skills	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
Oversubscribed schools	Places application levels for 2009 show that the Borough's non-private infant, junior, primary and secondary schools are oversubscribed. Demand outstrips supply. Three out of the four nearest schools to the ETCF AAP area are over-subscribed.
High reported skills gap (Borough-wide)	The skills gap in Darlington has decreased by 3.3% between 2006 and 2008 and is currently at 22.1%. However the reported gap is greater than the regional and national pictures at 21% and 16% respectively
Increasing level of 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment.	The youth 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) figure in Central Ward remains high, having increased from 2007/08 to 2008/09. It remains higher than the borough and national averages, although below the regional average.
Transport and Accessibility	
Sustainability Issue	Summary
Decline in bus patronage (Borough-wide)	Bus patronage has declined by 1.455 million trips per annum between 2003 and 2008. This is reported to be in response to the increase in car ownership and is above local targets.
High level of travel on foot	In 2001, all sustainable forms of transport exhibited greater popularity in Central Ward than they did in the borough as a whole. Notably, the borough figure for

	travel to work on foot was nearly doubled in Central Ward. However, car driver was the ward's single most-popular travel to work mode.
Lower than average car ownership	Central Ward has the lowest proportion of car-owning households in the Borough. It therefore contributes to keeping down the Borough's car ownership figures, which are growing: over the past 4 years there has been a 4% increase in car ownership. Development proposed through the AAP should aim to retain this advantage of Central Ward.
High dissatisfaction with transport services (Borough-wide)	Overall satisfaction levels with the local transport services is low. Out of the respondents, over half are dissatisfied with road maintenance and repairs, local transport information and the local bus service.

People and Place

Sustainability Issue	Summary
Aging Population	Borough-wide forecasts for the period 2004 to 2025 identify a decrease of 5.4% in those aged 0-64 with an increase in those aged 65+ of 4.2%. The proportion of Central Ward's population 65 or older is slightly lower than that for the borough as a whole.
Large deprivation inequalities	Central Ward is the Borough's most deprived, judged by the indices of multiple deprivation (score of 246). It is one of the 3% most deprived wards in the country. It has become more deprived over the last couple of years, (as the Borough and the country have).
In migration exceeds out migration	Central Ward saw a net gain from migration over the 1990s. Compared to the average for Darlington wards, a lower proportion of people moved between two properties within the ward, and a higher proportion moved to and from other parts of Darlington and areas outside the Tees Valley.

Safer and Stronger Communities

Sustainability Issue	Summary
High crime rate	The Borough's crime rate has decreased by 16.1% over the period 05/06 to 07/08. However Darlington's crime rate is consistently higher than the regional and national averages over this period. The crime rate in Central Ward is many times that in the average Darlington ward, probably due to the presence of the town centre.
Lower than average perception of safety at night time	The proportion of Central Ward residents who feel safe outside at night has generally remained slightly below the borough average.
Social integration lower than borough average	The majority of respondents from Central Ward feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together locally, and the figure is improving slowly. However, this majority is considerably smaller than that for the borough as a whole.
Lack of community identity	A minority of respondents from Central Ward believe they belong to their neighbourhood, significantly fewer than the borough average.
Perception of lack of influence over local decision making (Borough wide)	There has been a 1% increase in the perceptions of influence over local decision making. However the majority of respondents (70%) feel that they cannot influence local decision making.

Health and Recreation

Key Sustainability Issue	Summary
Lower than average life expectancies	The life expectancy in Central Ward is several years less than that in the Borough as a whole, which is itself below national averages.
Increasing early deaths from circulatory diseases (Borough-wide)	There has been an increase of 5.7% in early deaths from circulatory diseases in the Borough over 2005/08, well above regional and national averages.
Decreasing but high childhood obesity rates (Borough-wide)	Childhood obesity has decreased by 0.71% in reception age children and 1.1% in year 6 children. Proportions of obese children are highest at school year 6 age. Borough's obesity rates are higher than the national average.
Low proportion of young people participating in	There has been a 12% reduction in children and young people participating in PE and sport. Darlington is 6% behind the national average and 19% behind local targets.

sports and PE (Borough-wide)	
Shortfall in playing pitches	Ratio of playing pitches to adult population is 1 to 1,150 which does not compare favourably with national figure. Only 50% of playing pitches deemed to have secure public access. Borough, however, is performing above national averages in terms of provision of swimming pools, indoor bowls, athletic tracks, golf courses and sports and community halls.
Low adult participation in sporting activities	Over 25% of adults in the Borough participate in sport and active recreation with an increase of 5.56% in 07/08. Performing above regional average and local target but level still low.
Shortage of accessible open space for recreation.	The Pensbury Street open space serves the southern part of the AAP area. However, the northern part of the area is separated by main roads or railways from all accessible open spaces.

Culture, Heritage and Landscape

Key Sustainability Issue	Summary
Potential risk to locally important buildings and areas	Locally important buildings may be at risk from development and other pressures as they have not yet been classified. Therefore, key features and assets may not be appropriately considered and taken in to account in planning decisions. There may be areas which merit being designated as conservation areas but are not yet designated. Despite being one of the older developed areas in Darlington town, the AAP area contains only three listed buildings and no conservation areas.
Decrease in visits to museums and galleries (Borough-wide)	The Borough has experienced a decrease in the proportion of population visiting museums and galleries and is performing slightly below the regional average. The proportion of decrease in the Borough is less than the regional decrease for 2008/09. If a museum or gallery can be provided through development of the AAP area as a cultural hub, this figure may improve.
AAP area plays a role in the setting of adjacent conservation areas	Views into and out of the Town Centre Conservation Area from the AAP area are highlighted in the Appraisal of the former. Development in the AAP area should therefore contribute positively to the setting of the Town Centre Conservation Area, retaining these views, as well as to the setting of the Victoria Embankment Conservation Area which is also adjacent.

Housing

Key Sustainability Issue	Summary
Low rate of new housing provision	Only 18 new dwellings have been completed in the Area Action Plan area in the past five years. An increase in residential development in the AAP area would not only improve this statistic but also contribute to meeting a shortfall against identified need in the borough as a whole. Identified housing land supply currently indicates a shortfall of 804 units in relation to the regional requirement for Darlington. Moreover there has been an under delivery of 370 houses (14%) between 2004 and 2009 with the most drastic shortfall being within the last financial year.
No new affordable housing provision.	No new affordable housing has been completed in Central Ward in the past five years.
Lack of social rented tenure	Social rented tenure in the Borough is 16.1% which is lower than the regional and national averages of 27% and 19% respectively. Owner occupation however exceeds national and regional averages by over 5%.
Small household size	Household size in the central LLSOA in 2001 was 1.88 people per household. This was 0.43 lower than the borough average and 0.52 lower than the national average.
Housing stock and demand mismatched.	Housing supply does not match housing demand. There is an identified need for more family homes within the Borough.
High housing provision targets will require greenfield development.	Despite the Borough currently performing well in relation to the delivery of new dwellings on brownfield land, the shortfall of identified housing sites will increasingly put pressure on the release of greenfield sites for residential development. Increased housing delivery in the Eastern Town Centre Fringe area may help relieve this pressure.

4 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

4.1 Methodology

- 4.1.1 The SA Framework will appraise (test) the compatibility of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP objectives and policies against the sustainability issues identified. It provides a way in which the sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It is central to the entire SA process.
- 4.1.2 The SA process has two components: Sustainability Objectives: these are derived from the sustainability issues identified, the SA guidance and the SEA requirements; and Sustainability Indicators: these are used to monitor progress of the ETCF AAP in achieving the sustainability objectives. They are not intended to measure the overall sustainability of the Borough.
- 4.1.3 As so much of the context, baseline and sustainability issues in the AAP area are the same or similar to those in the Core Strategy and Accommodating Growth DPDs, an initial set of sustainability objectives are based on those in the sustainability appraisals for the Core Strategy and Accommodating Growth DPDs. However, these objectives were altered to make them specific to the Eastern Town Centre Fringe area: e.g. by removing references to rural problems.
- 4.1.4 While the ultimate sustainability objectives remained similar to those used in other documents, the criteria to be used in assessing options against those objectives were changed much more to reflect the findings of the context, baseline and sustainability issues reviews.
- 4.1.5 The set of objectives and criteria thus produced was sent out for review by stakeholders equivalent to those involved in the scoping stage of the Core Strategy SA i.e. representatives of various departments of Darlington Borough Council, plus several outside bodies. A full list of stakeholders consulted is provided in **Appendix A**. The majority of these stakeholders made some proposals for changes to the objectives and criteria.
- 4.1.6 The changes proposed by stakeholders (edited for conciseness and consistency with one another) have been incorporated into the draft set of objectives and criteria now offered for consultation.
- 4.1.7 The whole process of developing the sustainability framework is illustrated in Figure 2, below, and in **Appendix D**. The SA Framework that will appraise the ETCF AAP is shown in Table 4 below. The Sustainability Indicators will be developed later in the SA process when consideration is given to monitoring of the AAP. It is not possible to devise monitoring indicators before the document to be monitored is written.

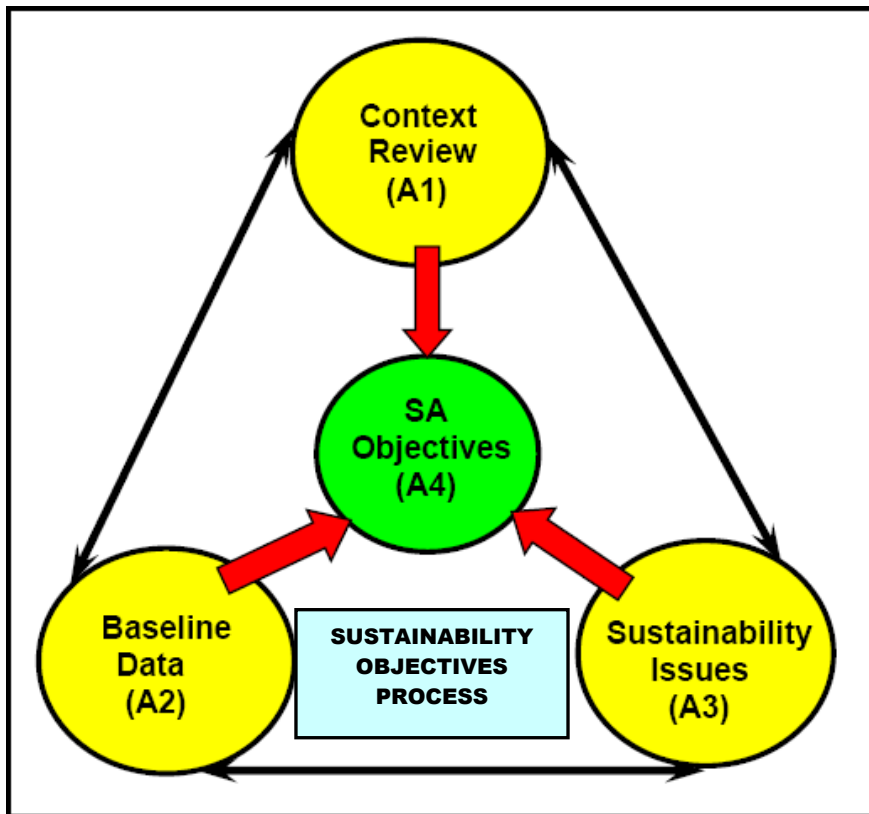


Figure 2 Sustainability Objectives Process

4.1.8 The conclusion of Task A4 requires that the draft sustainability objectives are appraised or tested for compatibility against one another. The compatibility testing of the objectives is detailed within section 4.3 of this report.

4.2 Developing the Appraisal Framework

4.2.1 Following from the formulation of objectives, a Sustainability Appraisal Framework was created. The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It is central to the SA process and consists of the SA objectives and more detailed decision making criteria. The SA Framework is detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective		Decision making criteria
1.	Attract, encourage and make provision for young people and families within the AAP area, whilst catering for an ageing population.	<p>Will it encourage young people, especially skilled young people, and families to move to and stay within the area?</p> <p>Will the needs of an ageing population be met, including accessibility of services and a range of housing options?</p> <p>Will there be opportunities for young people to access training and employment?</p>

2.	Reduce inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged	<p>Will it improve the public realm within the AAP area?</p> <p>Will it help reduce inequalities of opportunities in employment?</p> <p>Will “hard to reach” groups be better engaged in community activities?</p>
3.	Enhance community identity and create an empowered and engaged community that values diversity and cares for and supports others	<p>Will it encourage engagement in community activities and reduce social isolation?</p> <p>Will it promote mutual understanding of different social and cultural groups?</p> <p>Will it increase cohesion and reduce intergenerational tensions?</p> <p>Will it increase the ability of people to influence local decision making?</p>
4.	Raise aspirations and improve educational attainment and access to qualifications and skills in all of the community through lifelong learning	<p>Will it address any shortfall in school places?</p> <p>Will it provide training opportunities to local people, at a range of levels including low level pre-NVQ 3 / 4 and vocational industry specific training?</p>
5.	Provide a choice and mix of affordably accessible, good quality and well designed sustainable housing.	<p>Will it deliver well-designed housing to a high CSH standard in sustainable locations?</p> <p>Will it provide affordable housing and a mix of housing tenure and range of sizes to meet current household needs?</p>
6.	Improve the standard of existing housing	<p>Will it lead to more repair and refurbishment of existing housing?</p>
7.	Improve community safety, reduce crime and anti social behaviour and improve public confidence.	<p>Will it improve the overall safety of the area and help reduce accidents?</p> <p>Will it help discourage crime and anti-social behaviour, including through good design?</p> <p>Will it improve public confidence?</p>
8.	Improve the health and well being of all by reducing health inequalities and promoting healthier lifestyles	<p>Will it help reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?</p> <p>Will it improve access to health facilities?</p> <p>Will it encourage local food growth?</p>
9.	Contribute to One Planet Living	<p>Will it make the most efficient use of land, water, energy and other finite resources?</p> <p>Will it encourage the use of local resources over those brought a long distance?</p>

10.	Ensure the AAP proposals help prepare the Borough for climate change, increase resilience through adaptation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<p>Will it produce development that is resilient to future climatic changes?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?</p> <p>Will it encourage renewable and low carbon energy generation?</p>
11.	Protect and improve the quality of land and soil and ensure that land and soil is used in a sustainable and innovative manner	<p>Does it reduce contaminated sites and increase remediation?</p> <p>Will it maximise the efficiency of land use in this accessible location?</p> <p>Will surplus land be used for community planting projects?</p>
12.	Avoid and reduce flood risk	<p>Does it follow the sequential approach to avoiding higher flood risk areas?</p> <p>Will it reduce the risk and impact of flooding (including surface water flooding) on development sites and elsewhere?</p> <p>Can the development be made safe once developed and are residual risks acceptable?</p> <p>Can urban design and layout of the site be used to provide flood resistance and/or resilience?</p>
13.	Protect and enhance ground and surface water quality and make efficient use of water	<p>Will it reduce the risk of contamination to ground waters?</p> <p>Will it include measures to reduce surface water?</p> <p>Will it contribute to improving water quality?</p>
14.	Maintain protect and improve air quality	<p>Will it contribute to an improvement in air quality, measured by the Air Quality Objectives' key pollutants?</p>
15.	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and encourage opportunities for habitat creation	<p>Will it maintain and enhance habitats and species?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance habitat corridors and linking routes?</p> <p>Will it improve understanding of the importance of biodiversity?</p> <p>Does it conserve and enhance/create BAP priority habitats?</p>
15.	Protect, and enhance access to, open spaces, the rights of way network and the green infrastructure network	<p>Will it avoid net negative impact on existing green infrastructure or open spaces?</p> <p>Will it enhance/create good quality and accessible green infrastructure or open spaces?</p> <p>Will it promote increased access to and use of rights of way and green infrastructure, where appropriate?</p> <p>Will it provide opportunities for community involvement in creation of green space?</p>
16.	Promote sustainable waste and mineral management, including the reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and mineral resources	<p>Will it promote the use of secondary aggregates and recycled materials?</p> <p>Will it involve reusing existing structures where possible?</p> <p>Will it contribute towards sustainable waste or mineral management?</p>
17.	Promote traffic reduction and encourage more sustainable alternative forms of transport	<p>Will it improve pedestrian and cycle routes within and through the AAP area, including to Central Park and the Town Centre?</p>

		<p>Will it enhance transport connections to reduce distances travelled?</p> <p>Will it encourage the use of alternatives to car travel, e.g. walking, cycling and public transport, including taking advantage of existing public transport links?</p>
18.	<p>Preserve and enhance Darlington’s distinctive and valuable historic assets and landscape character and increase engagement in cultural activities.</p>	<p>Will it protect and enhance features and areas of archaeological (where appropriate), historic, and cultural value?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance the quality and character of the townscape and encourage good design?</p> <p>Will it promote the maintenance, sensitive adaptation and re-use of buildings and historic assets?</p> <p>Will it increase understanding of Darlington’s heritage and increase participation in cultural activities?</p> <p>Will it help the development of a cultural hub in the Town Centre Fringe?</p>
19.	<p>To achieve ambitious, sustainable levels of economic growth</p>	<p>Does it provide for opportunities to attract new business to the area?</p> <p>Does it contribute to the economic health of inner Darlington as a whole?</p> <p>Will it facilitate the development and expansion of existing businesses?</p> <p>Will it improve the resilience of businesses?</p> <p>Will it improve access to public, private or voluntary sector services, including through co-location of services?</p>
20.	<p>Increase employment levels and access to sustainable and high quality employment opportunities</p>	<p>Will it help provide employment opportunities accessible to local people, including the disabled?</p> <p>Will it provide opportunities for training and skills improvement?</p>

4.3 Internal Compatibility Testing of SA Objectives

4.3.1 Before finalising the sustainability objectives, an internal compatibility test to clarify tensions between objectives that could not be resolved was undertaken. This was to ensure that subsequent appraisal outcomes of Core Strategy objectives, options and policies are well based, and mitigation or alternatives can be considered. The majority of the sustainability objectives proved to be either compatible or have a neutral impact on one another. This is depicted in Figure 3. However, the compatibility test did identify the following potential tensions, set out in Table 5. Inclusion of a potential tension in this table does not indicate that conflict between objectives is inevitable, but that the subject needs extra attention in the sustainability appraisal and mitigation measures may need to be identified.

Table 5 Potential Tensions between Sustainability Objectives

Objective	Objective in conflict with	Conflict
1. attracting new residents to the Borough	9. one planet living 10. climate change 12. flood risk 13. water quality 14. air quality 15. biodiversity 17. waste and minerals	An increased population will consume more resources, energy and produce more waste, and increase pressure to build in flood risk zones. The impacts of this will affect the Eastern Town Centre Fringe's ecological footprint, flood risk, air and water quality and biodiversity.
5. housing	6. existing housing 10. climate change 11. water quality 12. flood risk 13. water quality 14. air quality 15. biodiversity 16. green infrastructure 17. waste and minerals 20. economic growth 21. employment	<p>Provision of additional housing will compete for land with employment uses and open space in the restricted area of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe.</p> <p>Provision of additional housing will also increase the demand for building materials, and associated waste. The attainment of the building materials and building process itself could impact on land, water and air quality. A situation where it is easy to build new housing would make the renovation of existing housing less attractive for developers.</p> <p>Provision of additional housing will increase energy use (CO₂ emissions) in the Borough and may increase flood risk.</p>
10. land quality	2. inequality 7. safety and crime 17. waste and minerals	Redevelopment of sites in the Eastern Town Centre Fringe is the technique most likely to achieve the decontamination of land and allow for a high concentration of development here to take pressure off greenfield sites. The process of such redevelopment may, unless care is taken, cause blight and be less efficient in terms of minerals and waste than other forms of development such as renovation of existing buildings.
17. economic growth 18. employment	5. housing 12. flood risk 13. water quality 14. air quality 15. biodiversity 16. green infrastructure 17. waste and minerals	Whilst concentration of businesses in the town centre will have a lower impact on climate change and natural resources than their location elsewhere, there will still be a risk of pollution, habitat/green space damage and increased flood risk, and a growing economy in Darlington will still lead to increased mineral use and waste production.

1. Attract, encourage and make provision for young people and families within the AAP area, whilst catering for an ageing population.	✓																				
2. Reduce inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged	✓	✓																			
3 Enhance community identity and create an empowered and engaged community that values diversity and cares for and supports others	✓	✓	✓																		
4. Raise aspirations and improve educational attainment and access to qualifications and skills in all of the community through lifelong learning	✓	✓	✓	✓																	
5. Provide a choice and mix of affordably accessible, good quality and well designed sustainable housing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓																
6. Improve the standard of existing housing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
7. Improve community safety, reduce crime and anti social behaviour and improve public confidence.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
8. Improve the health and well being of all by reducing health inequalities and promoting healthier lifestyles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
9. Contribute to One Planet Living	✗	0	0	✓	✓	0															
10. Ensure the AAP proposals minimise impact on climate change, increase resilience through adaptation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	✗	0	0	✓	✓	✓															
11. Protect and improve the quality of land and soil and ensure that land and soil is used in a sustainable and innovative manner	✓	✗	0	✓	✓	✗															
12. Avoid and reduce flood risk	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
13. Protect and enhance ground and surface water quality and make efficient use of water	✗	0	0	0	✓	0															
14. Maintain, protect and improve air quality	✗	0	0	0	✓	0															
15. Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and encourage opportunities for habitat creation	✗	0	0	✓	0	0															
16. Protect, and enhance access to, open spaces, the rights of way network and the green infrastructure network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0															
17. Promote sustainable waste and mineral management, including the reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and mineral resources	✗	0	0	✓	✓	0															
18. Promote traffic reduction and encourage more sustainable alternative forms of transport	✓	0	0	✓	✓	✓															
19. Preserve and enhance Darlington's distinctive and valuable historic environment and landscape character and increase engagement in cultural activities.	✓	✓	0	✓	✓	✓															
20. To achieve ambitious, sustainable levels of economic growth	✓	0	✓	✓	✓	0															
21. Increase employment levels and access to sustainable and high quality employment opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
Sustainability Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Figure 3 Internal Compatibility Testing of the SA objectives

5 Consultation and Next Steps

5.1 The SA scoping stage has provided the following:

- An updated and established list of plans policies and programmes that will influence the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP objectives and policies;
- A detailed and up to date baseline of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe area;
- A description of the current and likely key sustainability issues that the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP should address;
- The preparation of a SA Framework (objectives and indicators) to appraise the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP objectives and policies; and
- The SA Scoping Report for consultation.

This completes Stage A of the SA process (Figure 1, Part 1)

5.2 The results and comments received from the consultation will be considered and will influence, where appropriate the development of the final SA Framework for the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP.

5.3 Following consultation, the revised SA framework will be used to appraise the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP objectives and alternative options (Task B1 and B2). The findings of task B1 and B2 will then be fed into the selection and appraisal of preferred options stage of the Eastern Town Centre Fringe AAP.