



# Darlington Borough Council Gateway Strategy

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal**

**Scoping Report**

**Prepared by BDP Planning for Darlington Borough Council**

June 2006

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Background

- 1.1 Darlington has been described as the 'Gateway' to the Tees Valley. It has been identified that if capitalised upon, the town's gateway location can generate economic and development activity to the benefit of the Tees Valley sub-region. To facilitate this strategy a Gateway Development Framework was produced for the Tees Valley Partnership in 2003.
- 1.2 The Darlington Gateway Development Framework comprised proposals to attract development and employment to Darlington and the wider area, building on the gateway location to improve economic conditions and quality of life. The Framework focused on the supply and demand of industrial and commercial locations and the accessibility and urban design of new development.
- 1.3 Darlington Borough Council is now producing a revitalised Darlington Gateway Strategy. The revitalised Gateway Strategy will provide recommendations to be taken forward and considered for adoption by Darlington Borough to become Council policy. This will then form the core of the Boroughs economic regeneration policy for the next five to ten years. The strategy will consider:-
  - The key sectors of employment growth and decline) in the Borough
  - The current supply of employment in the Borough
  - The initiatives required to support growing sectors, including land
  - The initiative required to strengthen the key aspects of Darlington's gateway role, namely quality of life and accessibility.
- 1.4 The Strategy is not part of the Local Development Framework. However, the strategy will be a major influence on the direction of spatial planning documents contained within the Darlington Local Development Framework. In particular land use implications of the strategy will be a key input into policy.
- 1.5 BDP has been commissioned by Darlington Borough Council to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the emerging revitalised Darlington Gateway Strategy.

## Purpose of the Document

- 1.6 This report is a Scoping Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal required to be prepared under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 1.7 The European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, or SEA applies to a wide range of plans and programmes, including among others those for town and country planning and land use. The Directive applies to plans and programmes, and modifications to them, whose formal preparation begins after 21 July 2004.
- 1.8 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). As noted above, whilst the Gateway Strategy is not to be adopted as a DPD, elements of the strategy may be incorporated into DPDs in due course. It is therefore considered helpful to assess the Gateway Strategy through the process of SA.
- 1.9 This document has been prepared using the guidance contained within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) document *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (November 2005). The guidance covers the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment as well as Sustainability Appraisal.
- 1.10 The SEA/SA process in *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* is split into key stages and tasks. The stages and tasks of the SA process under the ODPM guidance is given in table 1.1.
- 1.11 The scoping report is completed during Stage A of the SEA/SA process. The purpose of the scoping report is to define the scope of the SEA/SA with regard to the plans, in this case the Gateway Strategy for Darlington, sphere of influence and to define the important features of the baseline that will inform the plan and to identify any significant environmental, social and economic effects early on, thus enabling changes to be made to the SEA/SA and the plan if necessary.
- 1.12 A scoping report requires the completion of the following tasks:
- A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
  - A2: Collecting baseline information.
  - A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
  - A4: Developing the SA framework.
  - A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.
- 1.13 Table 1.1 sets out all of the stages of the SA/SEA process and throughout this document it is noted where each of the above tasks are completed.

**Table 1.1: Stages of the SA/SEA process under the ODPM guidance**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Where each task is completed</b>
<b>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</b>	
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.	Section 3 and section 6 Scoping Report
A2: Collecting baseline information.	Section 4 and section 6 Scoping Report
A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.	Section 5 Scoping Report
A4: Developing the SA framework.	Section 6 Scoping Report
A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.	Section 1 Scoping Report
<b>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</b>	
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework.	Final SEA report
B2: Developing the DPD options.	Final SEA report
B3: Predicting the effects the DPD.	Final SEA report
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD.	Final SEA report
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	Final SEA report
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs.	Final SEA report
<b>Stage C: Preparing the SEA Report</b>	
C1: Preparing the SA Report.	Final SA report
<b>Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SEA Report</b>	
D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report.	After consultation on the SEA report
D2(i): Appraising significant changes.	After consultation on the SEA report
D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.	After consultation on the SEA report
D3: Making decisions and providing information.	After consultation on the SEA report
<b>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD</b>	
E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.	After consultation on the SEA report
E2: Responding to adverse effects.	After consultation on the SEA report

### Sustainability Appraisals (SAs)

- 1.14 A Sustainability Appraisal is a method of assessing a plan to find out whether it is likely to promote a sustainable pattern of development, and where possible, avoid or mitigate any significant social, environmental or economic effects.
- 1.15 A plan that promotes sustainable development will be one that strikes a balance between the Government's five sustainable principles set out in the publication of Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy:
- Living within environmental limits
  - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
  - Achieving a sustainable economy
  - Using sound science responsibly; and
  - Promoting good governance
- 1.16 The key aim of a SA is to make the plan process more transparent, better documented and more clearly focused on sustainability. The emergent sustainability appraisal process requires that policies are appraised against a range of criteria representing the objectives of sustainable development in national policy.

### Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)

- 1.17 Resulting from the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and the subsequent Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, many land use plans also require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The requirements of the regulations are given in table 1.2.
- 1.18 Darlington Borough Council issued a screening determination under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 that determined that the Gateway Strategy does require SEA.
- 1.19 Whereas a Sustainability Appraisal considers the effects of the plan on a range of social, environmental and economic interests, SEA focuses on significant environmental effects although it does consider some social issues such as material assets and human health.

**Table 1.2 Compliance with the SEA Directive**

Requirements of the SEA Directive	Where covered in SEA Process
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	Final SEA report

a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plan and programmes;	Completed during Scoping Report stage
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Completed during Scoping Report stage
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Completed during Scoping Report stage
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Completed during Scoping Report stage
e) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Completed during Scoping Report stage
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Final SEA report
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Final SEA report
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Final SEA report
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Final SEA report

<p>j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.</p>	<p>Final SEA report</p>
<p>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2).</p>	<p>Final SEA report</p>
<p>Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4).</li> <li>• Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2).</li> <li>• Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).</li> </ul>	<p>This Scoping Report has been sent to the four Statutory Consultees for consultation on the scope of this SEA.</p> <p>Final SEA report</p>
<p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)</p>	<p>After consultation on the final SEA report</p>
<p>Provision of information on the decision: When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan or programme as adopted;</li> <li>• A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as</li> </ul>	<p>After consultation on the final SEA report</p>

<p>adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9 and 10)</li> </ul>	
<p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)</p>	<p>After consultation on the final SEA report</p>
<p>Quality assurance: environmental reports should be of a QA sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA checklist Directive (Art. 12).</p>	<p>After consultation on the final SEA report</p>

### **Darlington Borough Council SEA/SA Toolkit**

- 1.20 Darlington Borough Council has produced a Sustainability Appraisal Toolkit to provide a framework for their scoping reports for SEA and SA. The toolkit includes:
- Review of relevant plans and programmes;
  - SA objectives and sub objectives;
  - Indicators and baseline data for the SEA/SA objectives and sub objectives.
- 1.21 This document builds on the Darlington Borough Council SEA/SA toolkit to produce a bespoke scoping report for the emerging Gateway Strategy.

## 2 DEFINING THE SCOPE

### Introduction

- 2.1 SEA/SA appraises plans and programmes under a set of criteria. Although broadly similar in principle, SA and SEA have two distinct sets of criteria used for the appraisal of plans and programmes.
- 2.2 The scope of an SA should cover the National Sustainability Objectives taken from *Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy*:
- Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment
  - To Promote Inclusive Communities
  - To Develop and Maintain an Effective Transport System
  - To Enhance the Natural Environment
  - To Protect and Enhance Cultural Heritage
  - To Protect Our Natural Resources
- 2.3 The following criteria must be considered under the requirements of the SEA directive:
- biodiversity
  - population
  - human health
  - fauna and flora
  - soil
  - water
  - air
  - climatic factors
  - material assets
  - cultural heritage, and
  - landscape

### Defining the Scope of the SEA/SA

#### Policy Context

- 2.4 The national sustainability objectives and the SEA environmental criteria are important in defining the scope of the SA. They will be used to focus the scope/sphere of influence of the plan, in this case the Darlington Gateway Strategy. Throughout the remainder of this document SEA will refer to both SEA and SA processes.

- 2.5 Additionally the SEA should have a scope or focus that is appropriate to the hierarchical level of the plan. For example, the Gateway Strategy has been shaped by a series of plans and programmes that precede it. It is important to determine the key objectives of these plans and programmes and the decisions that have been made so the scope of the plan can be determined.
- 2.6 As mentioned earlier, Darlington has been described as the gateway to the Tees Valley that should be capitalised upon to generate economic and development activity and quality of life improvements for the region. Thus the Gateway Strategy will be implemented spatially within Darlington Borough but it must respect the wider Tees Valley and North East regional context. Therefore the scope of the Gateway Strategy is shaped or will need to be in conformity the following Borough level and regional level documents:
- Regional Planning Guidance 1: North East
  - Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East
  - Regional Economic Strategy for the North East
  - Tees Valley Structure Plan
  - Darlington Local Plan (incorporating adopted alterations, 2001)
- 2.7 Strategic decisions have been made during the formulation of these policies that the Gateway Strategy can be informed by but cannot change. This gives the plan a clear sphere of influence or scope. As a result, the detail the Gateway Strategy can give with regard to its options is also limited, further refining its scope.

### **Darlington Gateway Strategy**

- 2.8 The aim of the Darlington Gateway Strategy is to provide an overall strategy to provide:
- Proposals and recommendations to attract, sustain and development economic growth, particularly in key sectors.
  - Establish possible spatial and land requirements as part of the approaches to attract a diverse range of business opportunities and sustainable development. This may include indicative master planning of key locations for specific regeneration projects.
  - Strategies to reinforce and develop key aspects of the Darlington Gateway character, namely access and quality of life.
- 2.9 Gateway Strategy will be implemented spatially within Darlington Borough respecting the wider Tees Valley and North East regional context. The spatial focus of the Darlington Gateway study will be within Darlington Borough with a focus on designated employment areas and strategic transport links.
- 2.10 The SEA/SA should reflect the focus of the outcomes to the study which may include:

- Confirmation of the key growth sectors;
- The scale of growth of employment to be accommodated;
- The physical support measures required to foster growth in key sectors, including:
  - Land (new proposed allocations or de-allocations)
  - Accessibility improvements
- Other support measures (training, quality of life)

2.11 In the light of the above it is considered the Gateway Strategy may have implications for, amongst other things:

- Employment levels
- Employment land
- Accessibility and movement
- Travel to work patterns
- Wage levels
- Training support
- Social infrastructure
- Environmental quality
- Town centre development
- Housing mix

### **3 RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES (Task A1)**

- 3.1 There are plans, programmes and policies that are of significance to the development plan process at international, national, regional and local levels. The content of these plans must be reflected in the SEA.
- 3.2 The main plans, programmes and strategies that are relevant to the Gateway Strategy are set out in table 3.1. In this table the relevant objectives of these plans and programmes are given.
- 3.3 The relevant objectives of the plans and programmes reviewed will inform the development of the SEA objectives and sub-objectives in the SEA framework in section 6 of this document. The objectives will provide the primary mechanism for the appraisal of the Gateway Strategy.
- 3.4 A review of local plans and programmes, in addition to other documents, will also provide information with regard to the sustainability issues and problems with relevant to the strategy in the Borough and wider region.

**Table 3.1 Relevant Plans and Programmes and their Key Objectives**

<b>Relevant Plans and Programmes</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Key Objectives</b>	<b>Implications for Gateway Strategy</b>
<b>International</b>		
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice: The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community	<p>Gives strategic direction to the Commission's environmental policy. The programme identifies four environmental priority areas to be tackled for improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• Nature and Biodiversity</li> <li>• Environment and Health and quality of life</li> <li>• Natural Resources and Waste</li> </ul> <p>Provides the environmental component of the Community's strategy for sustainable development, by considering environmental plans in the context of economic and social conditions. It also makes the link between environment and European objectives for growth and competitiveness.</p>	<p>Ensure the Strategy does not harm biodiversity value and environmental quality of the Borough</p> <p>Ensure the Strategy contributes to improved health and quality of life in the Borough.</p> <p>Ensure the Strategy does not promote production excessive waste and minimises use of finite resources including land.</p>
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	<p>The declaration reaffirms the commitment of the UN to sustainable development, stating a commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society, mindful of the need for human dignity for all.</p> <p>It recognises it is the collective responsibility of the nations of the world to advance and strengthen the pillars of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — at the local, national, regional and global levels. The declaration also sets out a commitment to regularly monitor progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals and objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure the Strategy does not harm biodiversity value and environmental quality of the Borough</p>

<p>European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna</p>	<p>The main aim of the Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. The Directive makes a contribution to the general objective of sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain or restore designated natural habitat types, and habitats of designated species listed in annexes 1 and 2 of the directive.</li> <li>• Avoid degrading or destroying Special Areas of Conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Any plan, programme or project likely to have significant direct or indirect impact on a designated site should undergo assessment of its implications and propose mitigation/compensatory measures where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ensure the Strategy does not harm the biodiversity value of the Borough and protects designated habitats</p>
<b>National</b>		
<p>Sustainable Communities Plan ODPM 2003</p>	<p>A national programme of action aimed at building successful, thriving and inclusive communities. Pledges to bring £22 billion worth of action aimed at tackling housing supply and low demand as well as improving the quality of public spaces, with the aim of creating sustainable communities in which people want to live and work with decent homes that people can afford and where they can enjoy a well-designed, accessible and pleasant living and working environment</p>	<p>Ensure the Strategy has a positive impact in terms of living environment and accessibility.</p>
<p>Making it Happen: the Northern Way</p>	<p>Considers the impact of the Sustainable Communities Plan. The outcome of which is increased emphasis on regeneration and renewal in a specifically northern context, and recognition of the need to address housing issues in the north in order to maintain resident populations and encourage investment to improve quality of life.</p>	<p>Ensure developments promoted in the Strategy are accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Focus new development on Brownfield sites where appropriate.</p>
<p>Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy</p>	<p>This strategy aims 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. The strategy sets out four agreed priorities – sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities, and a</p>	<p>Ensure developments promoted in the Strategy are accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Protect natural resources including land, materials and habitats.</p> <p>Focus new development on</p>

	<p>new indicator set, which is more outcome focused, with commitments to look at new indicators such as on wellbeing.</p> <p>Key commitments include:</p> <p>Effective joined up policies at the local level around the vision of sustainable communities with Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements, linked to planning through Local Development Frameworks.</p> <p>Placing sustainable development at the heart of the land use planning system and at the core of new planning guidance.</p>	<p>Brownfield sites where appropriate.</p>
<p>A Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future</p>	<p>The government vision for the future of the historic environment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public interest in the historic environment is matched by firm leadership, effective partnerships, and the development of a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies;</li> <li>• The full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised;</li> <li>• The historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage;</li> <li>• The historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations;</li> <li>• The historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed.</li> </ul>	<p>Protect and enhance historic buildings and structures from development proposals in the Strategy.</p> <p>Protect historic landscapes such as conservation areas from development proposals in the Strategy.</p>
<p>PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development</p>	<p>Aims to achieve inclusive social progress, protection of the environment and maintenance high and stable levels of economic growth and employment in urban and rural areas through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocation of land for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Promotion of sustainable economic development.</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of natural and historic environment and rural communities.</li> <li>• High quality and inclusive design of new</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure developments promoted in the Strategy are accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Protect natural resources including land, materials and habitats.</p> <p>Focus new development on Brownfield sites where appropriate.</p> <p>Protect historic landscapes and buildings from development proposals in the Strategy.</p>

	<p>development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure economic benefits of the strategy such as jobs are accessible for everyone.</p> <p>Ensure developments promoted in the strategy are well served in terms of access, services and people.</p>
PPS6: Planning for Town Centres	<p>A key government objective of the Government is to promote vitality and viability of new and existing centres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring a wide range of services to meet the needs of entire community</li> <li>Focusing new development in existing centres</li> <li>Ensuring existing and new development is accessible by a range of means of transport (promoting alternatives to the car)</li> <li>Promoting economic growth of regional, sub-regional and local economies</li> <li>Encourage investment into deprived areas, creating employment opportunities and improved physical environment</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure strategy proposals in the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are well served in terms of access (all modes), services and people</li> <li>Support existing centres of development</li> <li>Promote investment in deprived areas</li> <li>Support the sub regional context</li> </ul>
PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	<p>Ensure biodiversity and geodiversity is conserved as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development through maintenance of the quality and extent of natural habitat.</p> <p>Enhancement and development of green spaces within developments that recognise both the needs of people and biodiversity.</p> <p>Appropriate consideration of designated sites, protected species, ancient woodland, habitats of principal importance and habitat networks, including cumulative effects.</p>	<p>The Strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and enhance biodiversity</li> <li>Protect and enhance designated habitats and species in open spaces.</li> </ul>
PPG13: Transport	<p>The key objectives for PPG 13 aim to integrate planning and transport to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight.</li> <li>Promotion accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling.</li> <li>Reduction the need to travel, especially by car.</li> </ul>	<p>Proposals in the strategy should be well served by all transport modes.</p> <p>Proposals should be located as to minimise the need to travel (close to homes and services).</p>
PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment	<p>Government urges local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain commitment to managing the historic surroundings</li> </ul>	<p>Protect and enhance historic buildings and structures from development proposals in the Strategy.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect such commitment in policies and budgeting</li> <li>• Have access to specialist conservation advice in order to make informed decisions</li> </ul>	Protect historic landscapes such as conservation areas from development proposals in the Strategy.
PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning	<p>Development plans should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.</li> <li>• Archaeological remains identified and scheduled as being of national importance should normally be earmarked for preservation.</li> </ul>	Strategy development proposals in the Strategy coinciding with sites of archaeological interest should protect these sites, they should be investigated and remains should be earmarked for preservation.
PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support an urban renaissance - local networks of quality open spaces help create safe and attractive urban environments</li> <li>• Support a rural renewal - the countryside can provide opportunities for recreation and visitors can play an important role in the regeneration of the economies of rural areas.</li> <li>• Promote social inclusion and community cohesion – quality open spaces can improve inclusion and people's sense of well being in a community.</li> <li>• Health and well being - open spaces, sports and recreational facilities promote healthy living and help prevent illness</li> <li>• Promote more sustainable development - by ensuring that open space, sports and recreational facilities are easily accessible by walking and cycling.</li> </ul>	<p>Development proposals in the Strategy should not hinder the use of all types of open spaces.</p> <p>Development proposals in the Strategy should take advantage of the function of open space as nature conservation and biodiversity sites and improve air quality to improve health and well being.</p>
PPG25: Development and flood risk	<p>Reduce the vulnerability of the country to the risk of flooding; Land should be used in accordance with guidance; and The use of SuDs is promoted.</p>	The strategy should not promote development on the floodplain.
Power of Place – The Future of the Historic Environment	This document outlines that major inner-city renewal, rural diversification, edge of village development, traffic calming measures all have the potential to enhance or degrade the existing historic environment and to generate time and resource hungry conflict. It is important there is an early understanding of	<p>Protect and enhance historic buildings and structures from development proposals in the Strategy.</p> <p>Protect historic landscapes such as conservation areas from development</p>

	<p>the character band value of the historic environment.</p> <p>For local authorities and regional bodies the document recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional development agencies should use investment programmes to promote conservation led renewal as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth and regeneration.</li> <li>• Take full account of the historic environment in preparing community strategies.</li> <li>• Work with local businesses to use Town Improvement Schemes to improve the management and maintenance of streets, parks and other public spaces.</li> <li>• Adopt spatial masterplans based on character appraisals as Supplementary Planning Guidance.</li> <li>• Ensure local authorities that are dealing with the historic environment have access to relevant information and advice.</li> <li>• Facilitate public access to properly funded and curated Historic Environment Record Centres.</li> </ul>	<p>proposals in the Strategy.</p>
<b>Regional</b>		
<p>Regional Planning Guidance 1: North East</p>	<p>Sets out the vision and strategy for the sustainable development of the north east region based on four key themes:</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>Four priorities are identified to ensure the regeneration of the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To accelerate the renaissance of the Tyne, Wear and Tees conurbations;</li> <li>• To provide job opportunities and support communities in the former coalfield areas;</li> <li>• To adapt and revitalise the region's town and city centres; and</li> <li>• To secure rural regeneration.</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy proposals should focus on revitalising town centres.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should focus on providing job opportunities and support communities in former coalfield areas.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should contribute to rural regeneration, where possible.</p>

<p>DRAFT RSS</p>	<p>Part of the statutory Development Plan the RSS sets out a long-term strategy for the spatial development of the North East. Some policies have an end date of 2021, but the overall vision, strategy and general policies are intended to guide development over a longer timescale. It provides the spatial context for the delivery of other regional strategies, in particular the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) and the Integrated Regional Framework (IRF).</p> <p>The RSS aims to strengthen the regional economy by encouraging economic activity with and around the two city regions.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to support the growth of existing industries in the region such as renewable energy and manufacturing whilst promoting new enterprises to ensure that a range of employment opportunities are available.</p>	<p>Strategy proposals should support growth of existing industries such as renewable energy and manufacturing</p> <p>Strategy proposals should support new enterprises to ensure that a range of employment opportunities are available.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should consider the regional as well as the local context.</p>
<p>Draft Regional Economic Strategy</p>	<p>So as to achieve the vision of the North East as a vibrant and ambitious region with a healthy economy and environment the Strategy highlights the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic inclusion where by all residents benefit from economic growth</li> <li>• A vibrant and healthy cultural climate that will facilitate economic performance</li> <li>• Develop drivers of economic growth such as innovation, skills, investment, enterprise and competition</li> <li>• Provide the physical environment to enable growth whilst reducing adverse environmental impacts</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy proposals with economic benefits should be available to all groups in the local community.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should promote a vibrant and health cultural climate.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should promote drivers of economic growth including innovation, skills, investment, enterprise and competition.</p>
<p>State of the Environment Report for North East</p>	<p>This report provides the baseline conditions for the NE split into a series of subject areas.</p> <p>There is baseline information and objectives/targets for other subject areas that will also be important, most notably Climate Change and Renewables, Air Quality, Land Use, Protected Landscapes, Biodiversity and Heritage Assets.</p> <p>Baseline information in the report for biodiversity and heritage assets shows that the North East has a considerable amount of natural environment/ biodiversity assets.</p>	<p>Strategy proposals should:</p> <p>Protect biodiversity value of the Borough.</p> <p>Protect the heritage value of the Borough.</p> <p>Promote wellbeing and good health in terms of local environment and setting.</p> <p>Not hinder air quality objectives.</p>

	<p>However data from the report also shows that many of these natural and biodiversity sites are in a relatively poor condition.</p>	<p>Protect natural resources including land and materials.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Audit of the North East</p>	<p>The report contains baseline data for habitats and species in the region, this baseline is compared to trends nationally, and from this specific targets can be drawn for the future of species and habitats in the North East.</p>	<p>Strategy proposals should not harm habitats highlighted in the NE Biodiversity Audit.</p>
<p>Heritage Counts: North East chapter</p>	<p>Heritage Counts reports demonstrate the enormous value that can be drawn from investment in historic environments, including quality of life improvements, benefits for regeneration and for the economy.</p> <p>The report contains baseline data for heritage for the region, this baseline is compared to trends nationally and from this specific targets can be drawn for the future of heritage in the North East.</p>	<p>Protect and enhance historic buildings and structures from development proposals in the Strategy.</p> <p>Protect historic landscapes such as conservation areas from development proposals in the Strategy.</p>
<p>SUSTAINED</p>	<p>Aims to set out an agreed overall direction for the future development of the region based on the principles of sustainable development. The Framework therefore has two key purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide the high level framework and reference point for the future development, implementation, appraisal and review of regional strategies.</li> <li>• To provide the basis for monitoring and measuring the region's performance in improving people's quality of life now and in the future.</li> </ul> <p>SUSTAIN objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1 of SUSTAINED aims to ensure high and stable levels of employment</li> <li>• Objective 2 aims to achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure Strategy proposals promote high and stable levels of employment.</p> <p>Ensure Strategy proposals promote high and stable levels of economic growth.</p> <p>Ensure strategy proposals protect and biodiversity and cultural heritage.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 8 of SUSTAINED is to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the North East</li> <li>Objective 12 of SUSTAINED highlights the importance of protecting and enhancing the regions cultural heritage and diversity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sub-Regional</b>		
Tees Valley Structure Plan 2004	<p>Aims to shape the future land use development of the Tees Valley by protecting its environment whilst promoting economic growth and social cohesion. Prepared by the five unitary authorities - Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar &amp; Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees - the Structure Plan provides a strategic framework for Local Plans whilst taking account of the government's Regional Planning Guidance For The North East to the Tees Valley area.</p> <p>The plan aims to improve areas where environmental quality is currently poor, and ensure that new development enhances environmental quality.</p> <p>land use framework to guide</p> <p>The plan provides the strategic development required to ensure a healthy economy for the Tees Valley. To contribute to this the plan aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a range of land for industry and commerce</li> <li>Encourage the creation of employment opportunities within existing urban areas</li> <li>Support present industrial base whilst providing land for prestige employment development to encourage high-tech and knowledge based industry</li> <li>Diversification of the rural economy will also be promoted</li> </ul>	<p>Strategy proposals should:</p> <p>Provide a range of land areas for industry and commerce.</p> <p>Encourage employment in existing employment areas.</p> <p>Support current industry and provide land for new prestige industry, including hi tech industry.</p> <p>Support diversification of the rural economy.</p>
Durham Biodiversity Action Plan 1999	Aims to promote Biodiversity and Geological Conservation as important aspects of conserving biodiversity.	Strategy proposals should not harm habitats highlighted in the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan.
<b>Local</b>		
Darlington Community Strategy	Darlington's Community Strategy has been produced as the result of extensive consultation and involvement, in order to	Ensure strategy proposals are linked to education and skills provision.

	<p>ensure the priorities reflect the concerns of local people and organisations. It identifies the opportunities and key issues for Darlington in the next decade. It aims to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An area creating and sharing prosperity - enhance the economy and share the benefits with all the community.</li> <li>• A location for learning, achievement and leisure - raise aspirations and attainment, promote creativity and leisure.</li> <li>• A place for living safely and well reduce crime, make people feel safer and improve health.</li> <li>• A high quality environment with excellent communication links - make the most of the Borough's heritage, market town appeal and location.</li> </ul> <p>The early priorities of the Community Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the local economy</li> <li>• Raising educational achievement</li> <li>• Promoting inclusive communities</li> </ul>	<p>Maximise the environmental value of strategy proposals including their aesthetics, biodiversity and heritage value.</p> <p>Ensure Strategy proposals are accessible to all groups and by non car transport modes.</p> <p>Ensure strategy proposals enhance the economy for all groups in the community.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to 'reduce deprivation in the eleven most disadvantaged wards within the Borough and improve the life chances of residents living within these areas'. Neighbourhood Renewal involves reversing the spiral of decline in disadvantaged neighbourhoods by delivering economic prosperity and jobs, safer communities, good education, decent housing and better health, as well as fostering a new sense of community among residents. Its aim is to ensure that within 20 years time, no-one is disadvantaged by where they live.</p> <p>One of the key Strategic Priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is to improve the local economy by reducing unemployment and improving training opportunities and business development across the priority areas.</p>	<p>Strategy proposals should contribute to improving employment and economy in deprived areas highlighted in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.</p>

<p>Darlington Borough Local Plan (incorporating adopted alterations, 2001)</p>	<p>The statutory local plan covering the whole of the Borough of Darlington. The Plan guides most day-to-day planning decisions in the Borough. It sets the Council's policies for the control of development. It also puts forward proposals for the development and use of land, including allocating sites for specific purposes.</p> <p>The plan will be replaced by the Local Development Framework which is being devised at this moment in time.</p> <p>The Local Plan aims to enhance employment in the area by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing conditions needed to promote expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of inward investment</li> <li>• Encouraging the development of small businesses</li> <li>• Encouraging development of high-tech industries</li> <li>• Providing a wide range of employment opportunities for local people</li> <li>• Encouraging employment in locations easily accessible by sustainable modes of transport</li> <li>• Allocating land and buildings for ideal for the development of employment uses</li> <li>• Ensuring distribution of goods and services with minimum impact on environment</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure Strategy proposals are accessible to all groups and by non car transport modes.</p> <p>Ensure strategy proposals enhance the economy for all groups in the community.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should be focused in the Local Plan designated employment land areas.</p> <p>Strategy proposals should not have an adverse impact on the environmental quality of the Borough.</p>
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<p>All Together Now: Draft Social Inclusion Strategy</p>	<p>Aims to improve the life chances of those who are experiencing, and those who are at risk of experiencing, discrimination and disadvantage.</p> <p>One of the key aims of the Strategy is to link social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal and spatial priorities work to the economic development strategy so as to provide local job opportunities.</p>	<p>Ensure strategy proposals enhance the economy for all groups in the community.</p> <p>Ensure strategy proposals focus on improving employment and economy in deprived areas.</p>
<p>Darlington: A Town on the Move 2<sup>nd</sup> Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011</p>	<p>The Plan highlights how transport investment will help Darlington achieve its aim to improve the quality of life of local people and to boost the local economy. The following are identified as key actions needed to achieve the aforementioned aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to employment and education</li> <li>• Tackle traffic congestion on key corridors</li> <li>• Provide and promote alternative travel choices to the car</li> </ul>	<p>Proposals in the strategy should be well served by all transport modes.</p> <p>Proposals should be located as to minimise the need to travel (close to homes and services).</p>

## 4 BASELINE REVIEW

### Relevant Baseline Data

- 4.1 The baseline situation for the Darlington Borough in relation to the Gateway strategy must be determined in order to:
- Determine the characteristics of the plan area;
  - Inform production of the Sustainability Objectives;
  - Provide an evidence base to predict the effects the Gateway Strategy options; and
  - Provide an evidence base to monitor success of the Gateway Strategy.
- 4.2 The Gateway Strategy is premised on a series of objectives. These objectives as follows:
- To develop Darlington's role as a gateway for the Tees Valley.
  - To enable the Tees Valley to make the most of Darlington's locational (and other) characteristics.
  - To enable Darlington to contribute to the economic development of the Tees Valley as a whole.
  - To establish a long term raison d'être for Darlington.
  - To build a confident and vibrant society.
  - To build a competitive and sustainable economy.
  - To build a liveable and inspiring environment.
  - To protect and enhance the Borough's Cultural heritage and biodiversity.
- 4.3 The following baseline reports are being produced to inform the revitalised Darlington Gateway Strategy and will thus provide the scope for the strategy:
- Taking forward the Darlington Gateway Study, An Assessment of the work carried out under the Darlington Gateway banner (in progress BDP, Regeneris, King Sturge, CIP);
  - Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough Council (in progress) ;
  - Creative Industries Sector Analysis for the Gateway Study (in progress);
  - Darlington Gateway Sectoral Opportunities Study (in progress).
- 4.4 Additionally the baseline will be informed by providing an overview of the original Gateway Strategy Framework.
- 4.5 The table in Appendix 1 reviews each of the above documents and pulls out the main strategic baseline features. The information in this table is used to form the baseline for this SEA along with other data sources. As these documents are still in progress formulation of the baseline is also still in progress.

- 4.6 The baseline review in its final form will consider the baseline situation in Darlington for the following:
- Employment and growth in employment sectors
  - Employment land allocations
  - Income and deprivation
  - Culture and creative industries
  - Activity rates?
  - Transport links and travel for business and employment
  - Public transport use for business and employment
  - Environment and heritage
- 4.7 These topics have been designed as to incorporate all the relevant issues and the objectives / sub objectives in the SA framework. Each will be reviewed strategically and supported by baseline plans, where appropriate.
- 4.8 Detailed baseline information can be found in the SEA framework in section 6.

### **Baseline Review (so far)**

#### **Employment and Growth for Employment Sectors**

- 4.9 In terms of employment levels Darlington generally performs well in the regional context but underperforms in terms of the national context, especially in terms of employment sector types, employment levels, GVA, education and skills.
- 4.10 Main employment sectors for Darlington include:
- Public administration, education and health services, distribution sector 28.2%
  - Hotels and restaurant sector 20.2%
  - Manufacturing sector 14.5%
  - Banking, finance and insurance 12.5%
  - Transport and communications 8.5%
- 4.11 Over the past 5 years the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector, Public Administration sector, Education and Health sector and Construction and Manufacturing sector have been the main employment growth sectors in Darlington.
- 4.12 The main declining employment sectors in Darlington include Transport and Communications, Energy and Water sector and Agriculture and Fishing.
- 4.13 The main employment sectors predicted for future growth (period 2005 – 2020) include Health Business Services and Logistics sectors. Main employment sectors predicted for

future decline during the period 2005 – 2020 include Education, Construction, Metal Manufacturing, and Hotels and Catering sectors.

- 4.14 Table 4.1 gives the main sectoral employment priorities in the context of Darlington, the Tees Valley and the North East.

**Table 4.1 Sectoral Priorities in Darlington, Tees Valley and the North East**

<b>Darlington</b>	<b>Tees Valley (Vision and CRDP)</b>	<b>North East</b>
Financial and Business Services	Higher value financial and professional services (inc. call centres/shared service centres)	Knowledge intensive business services
Chemicals	Chemicals and process industries	Chemicals and pharmaceuticals (Process Industries Cluster)
Renewable energy	Renewable energy and environmental technologies	Energy
Civil engineering and construction	Civil and mechanical engineering, including engineering services	
Healthcare and health sciences	Health and social care including expansion of health research and development)	Health and Social Care
Digital media	Digital media technologies	
	Tourism	Tourism and hospitality
Logistics		Defence and Marine
Emerging technologies		Food and Drink
Creative industries		Commercial creative

### **Employment land allocations**

- 4.15 Employment land in Darlington is being appraised according to:

- Quality and Location
- Market Attractiveness
- Access
- Availability (development sites only)
- Fit for purpose (existing premises only)

- 4.16 This appraisal is not yet available but it is expected to be available soon. Once it is it will form an important component of the baseline that will be used to assess the Strategy under SEA.

### **Income and deprivation**

- 4.17 In terms of income and deprivation Darlington performs poorly being the 90<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority with pockets of more extreme deprivation and having with lower than regional and national average gross weekly wages.

### **Culture and creative industries**

- 4.18 In terms of creative industries, a number of opportunities have been highlighted to promote the revitalisation of the creative industries of Darlington. They include:

- Darlington Arts Centre
- The Civic Theatre
- The Forum Music Centre
- Creation of a 'Cultural Quarter'

### **Transport links and travel patterns**

- 4.19 Darlington is well placed in terms of strategic transport links:

- A1(M) passes to the west of Darlington
- A66 trunk road connects the A1(M) to Darlington and the Tees Valley
- Darlington is on the east coast mainline
- Durham Tees Valley Airport is 40min from Darlington
- Proposed Eastern Transport Corridor linking Darlington town centre to the A66 Trunk Road.

- 4.20 This section will also analyse travel patterns to work for commuters and for business including modal split and highlight congested routes linked to travel to work and for business.

### **Sustainable travel and public transport**

- 4.21 This section will look into modal split for travel to work by sustainable transport modes and the capacity for use of sustainable travel for commuters.

### **Environment and Heritage**

- 4.22 Include strategic review of environmental and heritage assets of the Borough including:

- Natural features such as Skerne Valley
- Habitats including nature reserves and designated sites.
- Landscape protection areas.

- Conservation areas.

4.23 The review will locate their main features and indicate their current condition.

### **Data Collection Limitations**

4.24 The majority of the baseline data regarding open spaces has come from the reports of the four main studies commissioned to inform the Gateway Strategy. While this provides detailed current data regarding to support the strategy, they do not help to determine baseline trends.

4.25 Many indicators in the generic Darlington SEA framework are not specific enough to be meaningful monitoring tools for the Gateway Strategy. Some indicators consequently had to be altered and some had to be deleted. Additional indicators were created to ensure there were adequate indicators for each objective.

4.26 Some indicators in the SEA framework have the capacity to be measured but are not yet measured specifically for the purposes of monitoring open spaces. Therefore this data is not yet available but will be built into the SEA framework in the future.

4.27 As the plan has a specific and well defined scope some data required was not available limiting the indicators that could be included in the SEA framework.

4.28 The SEA framework has the capacity to include regional and national level data. This data can serve (but not always) as a useful comparator to the Borough level data and is useful when there are no trends in the data available. However, data collected at different scales is not always available, thus there are gaps in the SEA framework.

## 5 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS (Task A3)

### Introduction

- 5.1 This section of the report addresses task A3 – Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems.
- 5.2 It reflects and builds upon on the issues and problems identified from collecting the baseline information that set out in Section 4 and the SEA Framework in Section 6.
- 5.3 Table 5.1 outlines the social, environmental and economic issues and problems concerning open spaces in Darlington Borough. These issues and problems have been taken from baseline documents and meeting minutes with a relevance to the Gateway Strategy.
- 5.4 This list will be supplemented with further information once a workshop session with the Darlington Gateway Strategy SEA forum group has taken place to discuss sustainability issues and problems. The SEA forum group consists of representatives from across the following groups within the Council whose input will ensure all the relevant problems and issue have been considered.

**Table 5.1 Sustainability Problems and Issues**

Issue / Problem	Source
<b>Environmental</b>	
Key entrances to the Town Centre, especially from North Road and Yarm Road are eyesores especially the railway bridges. Additionally the approaches to the Railway Station are in desperate need of improvement and represent a poor gateway to the town.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
There are public realm issues – not making the most of the river running through the town; many buildings (bus station and car parks) and signage on buildings of poor design quality.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
<b>Economic</b>	
Despite a fairly skilled population there incomes in Darlington are below the regional and national average.	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
There are low levels of business start ups in Darlington and there is a poor survival rate indicated by the VAT de-registrations.	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Although strength in employment in service sectors should be a healthy foundation for future growth, economic forecasts for the region present these two sectors, and manufacturing, with a bleak future. Furthermore, the transport and other distribution	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)

sectors are due to perform badly within the region according to forecasts.	
Lower levels of employment in "other services" than rest of North East and UK	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Higher levels of unemployment than UK	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Average wages are lower than regionally and nationally:	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Weekly wage is 15% lower than UK and 4% lower than North East averages	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Economic forecasts suggest that key current employment sectors in Darlington in addition to manufacturing are likely to perform badly up to 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public admin., education &amp; defence (-12%)</li> <li>• Hotels and catering (-24%)</li> <li>• Transport (-43%)</li> <li>• Other distribution (-14%)</li> </ul>	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Poor evening economy in Darlington – need to improve eating and drinking prospects and evening entertainment.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
Need to retain office workers in the centre to shop at lunchtimes but increasingly out of town business / office parks seen as a forward looking step. Need to encourage better quality office space in the town centre.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
<b>Social</b>	
The Gateway Strategy aims to take advantage of the good quality of life in Darlington. However Darlington is the 90 <sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority district in England (worst 26%) and there are significant pockets of deprivation with some areas within the worst 3% nationally.	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Darlington's population is falling faster than UK average.	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
NVQ3+ and NVQ4+ attainment levels are lower than UK.	Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (King Sturge 2006)
Skills shortages – lack of O and A Levels.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
Businesses find that when interviewing school leavers/young people they have a desperate lack of confidence and ambition.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
There is a lack of understanding between school taught subjects and how these skills gained can improve employment prospects.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes
Apprenticeships – businesses are going down this route because they cannot recruit qualified staff. Vocational training and learning a trade is very important. More dynamic and fluid engagement needed between schools and businesses.	Darlington Local Strategy Workshop meeting minutes

## 6 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (Task A4)

### Introduction

- 6.1 The SEA Framework is essentially a 'toolkit' with which to assess the emerging Darlington Borough Open Spaces Strategy. The SEA framework can be found in table 6.2.
- 6.2 The 'framework' includes the following elements:
- SEA objectives
  - SEA sub-objectives
  - Indicators
  - Evidence Base
  - Targets

### SEA Objectives

- 6.3 The Darlington Borough Council has produced a comprehensive set of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and Indicators for Darlington. Many of the objectives are not relevant to the Gateway Strategy because of the nature and focus of Gateway Strategy. Therefore the comprehensive list of objectives has been refined using the following information:
- The scope of the SEA defined in section 2;
  - The objectives of the relevant plans and programmes defined in section 3;
  - The baseline character of Darlington as defined in section 4; and,
  - The environmental and sustainability issues and problems in section 5.
- 6.4 The SEA objectives are vitally important for the appraisal process of the Gateway Strategy as the Gateway Strategy proposals will be appraised against them to define the sustainability of the Strategy.

### SEA sub-objectives

- 6.5 Each SEA objective has been given a set of sub-objectives. Sub-objectives have been identified to determine how the plan objectives are achieved.
- 6.6 Similarly to the objectives, the sub-objectives have been developed and refined using with the information listed in point 6.3.
- 6.7 The sub-objectives will help inform the indicators that are used to reflect the baseline situation in relation to each of the SEA objectives.

6.8 The sustainability objectives and sub-objectives can be found in table 6.1.

**Table 6.1: Sustainability Objectives and Sub-Objectives**

<b>SEA objectives</b>	<b>SEA Sub objectives</b>
<b>1. To achieve high and stable levels of employment to ensure all can share and contribute to greater prosperity</b>	<p>Increase levels of employment</p> <p>Improve wage levels</p> <p>Attract a mixed economy of employees</p> <p>Improve education and increase skills</p>
<b>2. To achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth</b>	<p>Increase the growth of business start ups</p> <p>Retain more investment within the local economy and diversify the rural economy</p> <p>Improve the availability of suitable land for business development</p> <p>Influence migration into the Borough and influence employment flows in and out of the Travel to Work area</p>
<b>3. To implement the Darlington Gateway project to contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth</b>	<p>Promote Darlington as the primary service centre for the Borough and the 4th ranked retail centre in the North East</p> <p>Bring forward land for business, industrial and logistics purposes</p> <p>Implement environmental improvements</p> <p>Implement Darlington Great Park</p>
<b>4. To ensure good accessibility for all to jobs, facilities, goods and services</b>	<p>Improve access by public transport, cycling or walking</p> <p>Reduce growth in traffic volumes</p>
<b>5. To promote an increase in trips by walking, cycling and public transport</b>	<p>Increase opportunities for walking, cycling and using public transport</p> <p>Reduce the adverse effects of traffic</p> <p>Reduce the effects of heavy goods traffic on residential amenity</p> <p>Reduce levels of vehicular pollution</p>
<b>6. To ensure good air quality for all</b>	<p>Reduce carbon dioxide emissions</p> <p>Promote the use of renewable energy</p>

<b>7. To maintain and enhance biodiversity</b>	<p>Improve the environmental quality of open land</p> <p>Protect and enhance natural habitat species</p>
<b>8. To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of our rural, urban and cultural landscapes and townscapes and their settings</b>	<p>Safeguard and enhance buildings and areas of archaeological, architectural heritage or historical importance</p> <p>Safeguard and enhance areas of important townscapes, including the public realm</p> <p>Improve the quality of design in new developments</p> <p>Promote the unique and special character of the Darlington countryside</p>
<b>9. To reduce the impact of flood risk and climate change on development</b>	<p>Reduce the impact of flood risk on development</p> <p>Reduce the impact of run off</p>
<b>10. To make better use of our resources and minimise waste</b>	<p>Focus development on previously developed land</p> <p>Efficient logistical use of existing infrastructure</p> <p>Promote the use of renewable energy resources</p>

### SEA Indicators and Targets

- 6.9 Plan indicators and targets are individual statistics that allow the SEA objectives and the Gateway Strategy to be measured and monitored.
- 6.10 The indicators and targets have been informed by targets set in the relevant plans and programmes outlined in section 3. In addition a series of additional reports and databases have been used to determine further appropriate indicators and targets. The plans, programmes, reports and databases used to inform the indicators and targets are identified in table 6.2.
- 6.11 Indicators should only be included in the SEA framework if there is information readily available so that it can be collected and monitored easily.
- 6.12 Relevant baseline data is given against each of the SEA indicators. The baseline data will indicate the current situation and, where data is available, trends that have occurred over recent years within the area.
- 6.13 This will give an indication of the direction of change within the baseline as well as providing a base for monitoring the success of the Gateway Strategy over time by comparing the baseline situation for each indicator to its associated target.

## Appraisal and Monitoring

- 6.14 The baseline situation provides an analysis of the social, environmental and economic conditions of the study area and acts as the benchmark with which to inform and appraise individual Gateway Strategy options and provide a mechanism with which to measure the success of the Gateway Strategy overall.
- 6.15 The baseline data provides a database and acts as an appraisal mechanism related to the current and future social, environmental and economic baseline condition of the study area.
- 6.16 The information contained within the baseline has been collected and collated from a number of sources that include:
- National, regional and local planning and regeneration guidance and strategies;
  - Authorities with Environmental Responsibility; and
  - National, regional, local and super output level statistics from the Office of National Statistics.
- 6.17 The source for each piece of baseline data is given in the far right column of the SEA Framework. Further work will be undertaken on the baseline as part of the SEA process.

## Options appraisal against SEA objectives

- 6.18 The development of Gateway Strategy options is already underway and will be articulated in the SEA report. However, it is considered useful to include the plan options as they currently stand. These will be appraised against the other reasonable alternative of do nothing.
- 6.19 Each option will be appraised against the SEA objectives. Impacts on the sustainability objectives will be scored. Positive, negative, neutral and uncertain contributions to the sustainability objectives will be noted.

Table 6.2 SEA Framework

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source	
<b>Core Theme: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH AND STABLE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT</b>										
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 1. To achieve high and stable levels of employment to ensure all can share and contribute to greater prosperity</b>										
EC, SO	<b>Sub Objective: Does it increase levels of employment?</b>									
	<b>Proportion of people of working age in employment</b>									Community Strategy Action Plan
	• Darlington		74.6%	75%	74.1%	75.2%	N/A	+		
	• Great Britain		74.1%	74.3%	74.2%	78.7%	N/A	+		
	<b>Unemployment rate</b>									Community Strategy Action Plan
	• Darlington (March)		4.4%	3.5%	3.2%	3%	2.7%*	+		
	• Great Britain (March)		3.3%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	N/A	+		
	*Sept 2005									
	<b>% of population claiming unemployment benefits for more than a year</b>			18.7%	15.6%	13.5%	13%	12.8%	+	
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve wage levels?</b>									
	<b>Gross Value Added (GVA) per head of population</b>		2							Tees Valley JSU, ONS
	• Darlington			£12,831	-	-	-	N/A		
	• % national average			86.7%	-	-	-	N/A		
	<b>Average weekly earnings</b>									Community Strategy Action Plan
• Darlington (full time)			£374.80	£382.20	£390.79	£368.50	N/A	-		
• Tees Valley (full time)			£399.90	£391.80	£403.83	£406.20	N/A	+		
• Great Britain			£464.70	£464.57	£475.78	£475.78	N/A	↔		
<b>Average annual income</b>									Tees Valley JSU	
• Male			£18,679	£20,965	£22,038	-	N/A	+		
• Female			£14,739	£15,637	£17,694	-	N/A	++		
<b>Sub Objective: Does it attract a mixed economy of employees?</b>										
<b>Job densities</b>		2							NOMIS, Tees Valley JSU	
• Ratio of jobs to working population			-	-	0.9 jobs: 53000 workforce	-	N/A			
<b>No of jobs in Borough by sector</b>		2							Tees Valley JSU	
• Services			New	78.2%	81%	-	N/A	+		
• Manufacturing			New	14.3%	13%	-	N/A	-		
• Construction			New	6.5%	5.5%	-	N/A	-		
• Industry			New	1.0%	0.8%	-	N/A	-		

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve education and increase skills?</b>								
	% of adults with basic numeracy and literacy skills	7	80%	91%	91%	-	N/A	+	Community Strategy Action Plan
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 2. To achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth</b>									
EC, SO	<b>Sub Objective: Does it increase the growth of business start ups?</b>								
	Number of new VAT registered businesses			190	230	190	N/A	-	Tees Valley JSU and Business Link
	% change in the total number of VAT registered business	3, 4	0.00%	-1.00%	-1.40%	-1.00%	0.00%	↔	
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it retain more investment within the local economy and diversify the rural economy?</b>								
	% increase or decrease in the number of local jobs	1 <sup>205</sup>	2.2%	4.3%	-4.8%	5.8%	N/A	+	Community Strategy Action Plan
	Rate of Economic Activity	1							
	• Darlington		65.7%	-	-	79.5%	N/A	+	NOMIS, Tees Valley JSU
	• England & Wales		66.7%	-	-	78.3%	N/A	+	
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve the availability of suitable land for business development?</b>								
	Amount of completed commercial development in Borough (gross floorspace)	3							
• Retail		-	-	-	0	N/A			
• Office		-	-	-	0.3ha	N/A			
• Leisure		-	-	-	0	N/A			
Amount of employment floorspace	4								
• Floorspace developed		-	-	-	5488sqm	N/A			
• Available employment land		-	-	300ha	211.42ha	N/A	-		
• Loss of employment land		-	-	-	136.76ha reserve	N/A			
					0.2ha	N/A			
Amount of completed commercial development in town centre (gross floorspace)	3, 4								
• Retail		-	-	-	0	N/A			
• Office		-	-	-	0	N/A			
• Leisure		-	-	-	0	N/A			
<b>Sub Objective: Does it influence migration into the Borough and influence employment flows in and out of the Travel to Work area?</b>									

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
	<b>Population growth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total population</li> <li>Net migration Darlington</li> </ul>		97,838 mid 2003 +1800 2001-06	N/A -	98,200 mid 2004 -	98,700 -	99,800 -2100 2011-2021	+ +	ONS Tees Valley JSU ONS
<b>Sub Objective: Does it safeguard and enhance the established reputation of the Borough as a tourist destination?</b>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of visits to museums per 1000 pop</li> <li>Participation at Theatre and Arts Venues</li> <li>Percentage of population satisfied with leisure and arts</li> </ul>	9 9	288.7 N/A 77.2%	326.98 N/A 67.5%	341.4 186,101 69.4%	290 216,574 64%	N/A N/A N/A	- + -	Community Strategy Action Plan
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 4. To implement the Darlington Gateway project to contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth</b>									
EC	<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote Darlington as the primary service centre for the Borough and the 4th ranked retail centre in the North East?</b>								
	% vacant shopping floor space in town centre		-	-	-	6.5%	N/A		DBC
<b>Sub Objective: Does it bring forward land for business, industrial and logistics purposes?</b>									
	<b>Land available for employment development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previously developed land</li> <li>Greenfield land</li> </ul>	2	New New	105ha 291ha	99ha 296ha	- -	N/A N/A	- -	Tees Valley JSU
	<b>Amount of completed office development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town centre</li> <li>Borough</li> </ul>	2	- -	- -	- -	- 0.3ha	N/A N/A		
<b>Sub Objective: Does it implement environmental improvements?</b>									
<b>Sub Objective: Does it implement Darlington Great Park?</b>									
	No of major development schemes under construction	2	-	-	-	5	10	++	DBC
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 10. To promote strong and inclusive communities</b>									
SO, EC	<b>Sub Objective: Does it narrow the inequality gap?</b>								
	<b>% of people who live in wards that rank in the 10% and 25% most deprived wards in the country</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% of deprived wards</li> <li>25% of deprived wards</li> </ul> *IMD 2000 and IMD 2004 not comparable	6	17.7% 55.6%*	17.7% 55.6%	31.3% 45.3%	31.3% 45.3%*	N/A N/A	- +	Community Strategy Action Plan
	<b>% of people claiming key benefits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November</li> <li>February</li> <li>May</li> <li>August</li> </ul>		16% 17% 17% 17.1%	17.3% 17.1% 17.3% 17.3%	17.4% 18% 18% 16.8%	17% 17.6% 17.6% 16.4%	N/A N/A N/A N/A	- - - +	
<b>Core Theme: TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE TRANSPORT SYSTEM</b>									

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 11. To ensure good accessibility for all to jobs, facilities, goods and services</b>									
SO, EC, EN	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve access by public transport, cycling or walking?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve the use of technology as an alternative to travel?</b>								
	<b>Modal split in journeys</b>	12						↔	Community Strategy Action Plan
	• Work		New	Car 74.3%	Car 74.2%	Car 73.4%	N/A	-	
			New	Bus 10.2%	Bus 12.3%	Bus 10.1%	N/A	-	
			New	Cycle 5.5%	Cycle 5.1%	Cycle 2.7%	N/A	+	
			New	Walk 15.8%	Walk 17.6%	Walk 16%	N/A	+	
	▪ Shopping		New	Other 3.9%	Other 4.3%	Other 2.5%	N/A	+	
			New	Car 71.9%	Car 70.8%	Car 70.5%	N/A	-	
			New	Bus 23.3%	Bus 21%	Bus 16%	N/A	-	
			New	Cycle 0.8%	Cycle 1.9%	Cycle 0.6%	N/A	-	
			New	Walk 25.9%	Walk 22.8%	Walk 23.3%	N/A	-	
	▪ Leisure		New	Other 1.4%	Other 2.2%	Other 2%	N/A	+	
			New	Car 73%	Car 66.1%	Car 62.6%	N/A	+	
			New	Bus 17.6%	Bus 16.9%	Bus 13.2%	N/A	-	
		New	Cycle 3.4%	Cycle 4.1%	Cycle 3.4%	N/A	↔		
▪ Education		New	Walk 30%	Walk 25.6%	Walk 27.8%	N/A	-		
		New	Other 1.9%	Other 3.2%	Other 3.3%	N/A	+		
		-	-	Car 56%	Car 59.4%	N/A	-		
		-	-	Bus 13.7%	Bus 9.1%	N/A	-		
		-	-	Cycle 1.2%	Cycle 1.1%	N/A	-		
		-	-	Walk 33.3%	Walk 34.8%	N/A	+		
		-	-	Other 4.2%	Other 2.1%	N/A	-		
<b>Average daily cycle flows</b>	12	-	-	-	381	870 2007-2008	++		
<b>Amount of new residential development within 30 mins public transport journey</b>	10, 12								
• GP		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Hospital		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Primary school		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Secondary School		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Employment areas		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Major retail centre		-	-	-	-	N/A			
<b>Number of passenger journeys per year on local bus services</b>	12	14,605,760	10,117,827*	10,069,618	9,591,418	N/A	--		
*Method of compilation changed from 2002/03 onwards									

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
	<b>Increase in number of services at Durham Tees Valley Airport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passengers</li> <li>Freight</li> </ul>		0.7 million pa	-	-	-	N/A		DTV Airport
<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce growth in traffic volumes?</b>									
	<b>Change in peak period car traffic flow</b> * average peak hour flow	12	-	-	3589*	-	N/A		
	<b>Average daily traffic levels</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darlington to Teeside</li> <li>West Darlington</li> <li>South Darlington</li> </ul>	12	41,375	40,743	42,328	-	N/A	-	Tees Valley JSU
			8,698	8,648	9,165	-	N/A	-	
			58,434	63,060	64,810	-	N/A	--	
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 12. To promote an increase in trips by walking, cycling and public transport</b>									
EN, SO	<b>Sub Objective: Does it increase opportunities for walking, cycling and using public transport?</b>								
	Length of designated cycle routes	11	New	258.15km	276.55km	300km	N/A	+	
	Length of public rights of way	11	-	-	-	320km	N/A		
<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce the adverse effects of traffic?</b>									
<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce the effects of heavy goods traffic on residential amenity?</b>									
	<b>Condition of principal and non-principal roads and footpaths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal roads</li> <li>Non-principal classified roads</li> <li>Footways: categories 1, 1a and 2</li> </ul> *New method of recording data		21.3%	8.95%	1.93%	1.59%*	N/A	+	Community Strategy Action Plan
			37.9%	17.55%	9.62%	8.41%*	N/A	+	
			New	35.70%	30.41%	17.6%*	N/A	+	
	Area wide traffic flows	11	-	-	851million vehicle km	-	N/A		
<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce levels of vehicular pollution?</b>									
<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote green travel plans?</b>									
	No. of green travel plans implemented			-	-	-	N/A		
<b>Core Theme: TO ENHANCE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>									
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 14. To ensure good air quality for all</b>									
EN, NR, SO, SS	<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce carbon dioxide emissions?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote the use of renewable energy?</b>								
	Carbon Dioxide emissions per capita			-	-	-	N/A		

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
	No of days per year when air pollution is moderate or higher for PM10 *monitoring site moved			24	49*	N/A	N/A	++	Community Strategy Action Plan
	% of household waste used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	19, 20	0%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	↔	
<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote and educate the use of sustainable design and construction principles?</b>									
	Amount of non residential development completed complying with car parking standards	14	-	-	-	-	N/A		
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 15. To maintain and enhance biodiversity</b>									
EN, NR, SS	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve the environmental quality of open land?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it protect and enhance natural habitat species?</b>								
	SSSI's	17	4	4	4	4	4	↔	Community Strategy Action Plan <a href="http://www.searchnbn.net">www.searchnbn.net</a>
	• Number of SSSI's		9ha	9ha	9ha	9ha	9ha	↔	
	• Area of SSSI's		100%	100%	75%	75%	N/A	-	
	• % of SSSI in favourable condition		-	-	25%	25%	N/A	-	
	• % of SSSI in unfavourable, recovering condition								
	Number of planning applications with conditions								
• To manage/enhance SSSI		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• To consider protected species		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• With protected species licence		-	-	-	-	N/A			
Local Nature Reserves	16, 17	2	2	3	7	9	+	Community Strategy Action Plan <a href="http://www.english-nature.org.uk">www.english-nature.org.uk</a>	
• Number of Local Nature Reserves									
No of priority habitats identified in BAP		-	-	-	17	N/A			
Management programme for areas of biodiversity importance identified in DBAP	16, 17								
• Wet-Woodland		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Wetland		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Hedgerows		-	-	-	-	N/A			
• Unimproved Grassland		-	-	-	-	N/A			
Amount of woodland	16, 17	-	-	3	5	N/A	+	DBC	
• Community woodland		-	-	10	10	N/A	↔		
<b>Core Theme: TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BOROUGH'S CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIVERSITY</b>									
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 17. To protect and enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of our rural, urban and cultural landscapes and townscapes and their settings</b>									

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
SO, EN, NR	<b>Sub Objective: Does it safeguard and enhance buildings and areas of archaeological, architectural heritage or historical importance?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it safeguard and enhance areas of important townscapes, including the public realm?</b>								
	No of Listed Buildings under each grade		7	N/A	-	7	7	↔	DBC
	• Grade I		32	N/A	-	32	32	↔	
	• Grade II*		501	N/A	-	506	506	+	
	• Grade II		N/A	N/A	4	20	20	+	
	Registered Historic Parks and Gardens		2	2	2	2	N/A	↔	English Heritage
	• Number		41ha	41ha	41ha	41ha	N/A	↔	
	• Area								
	No. of Scheduled Ancient Monuments		-	-	-	20	N/A		DBC
No of developments permitted affecting archaeological sites		-	-	-	0	N/A			
Total No of Conservation Areas		-	-	-	16	16	↔		
% of Conservation Areas with up to date Character Assessment		-	-	-	0	75%	+		
% of land that is derelict	19	0.20%	0.20%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	++		
<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve the quality of design in new developments?</b>									
<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote the unique and special character of the Darlington countryside?</b>									
Local Nature Reserves	15, 16								
Area of Local Nature Reserves per 1000 pop		0.2ha	0.2ha	0.2ha	0.6ha	N/A	+		
<b>Core Theme: TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES</b>									
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 18. To reduce the impact of flood risk and climate change on development</b>									
EN, SS, NR	<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce the impact of flood risk on development?</b>								
	No of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood defence grounds		-	-	-	0	N/A		Environment Agency
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote the use of sustainable drainage systems?</b>								
<b>Sub Objective: Does reduce the impact of run off?</b>									
No of schemes designed utilising sustainable drainage	13	-	-	-	-	N/A			
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 19. To make better use of our resources and promote renewable energy</b>									
NR, EN, EC, SS	<b>Sub Objective: Does it provide for higher density of new housing development?</b>								
	% of new dwellings completed per hectare		-	-	42.9%	20.7%	N/A	-	DBC
	• Above 50 per ha		-	-	23%	31.4%	N/A	+	
	• 30-50 per ha		-	-	25.2%	23.5%	N/A	+	
• Less than 30 per ha		-	-						

National Strategic Objective	Indicators	Other Relevant SA Objectives	2001/02 Actual Baseline	2002/03 Actual	2003/04 Actual	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Target	Trend	Source
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it focus development on previously developed land?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it provide for the efficient logistical use of existing infrastructure?</b>								
	Amount of previously development land available		134ha	110ha	141ha	-	N/A	+	DBC
	% new housing development on previously developed land		40%	81%	96%	84%	60%	+	
	Amount of new employment uses on previously developed land		0	0	-	100%	N/A	++	
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote the use of sustainable construction techniques?</b>								
	Energy efficiency of local authority housing stock in Darlington Average SAP rating	8, 14	52	60	68	69	N/A	++	Community Strategy Action Plan
	No. of new homes meeting BREEAM good or excellent and Lifetime Home Standards	14	-	-	-	-	N/A		
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it promote the use of renewable energy resources?</b>								
	Renewable energy capacity installed by type • Tees Valley	14	-	-	-	-	138MW 2007-2008		
	<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective 20. To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled</b>								
NR, EN	<b>Sub Objective: Does it reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites?</b>								
	% of household waste landfilled			87.2%	83.3%	81.8%	N/A	DBC+	Community Strategy Action Plan
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it increase the amount reused and recycled?</b>								
	<b>Sub Objective: Does it improve access to household waste recycling?</b>								
	% of household waste • Recycled • Composted	88.2%	11.8% 0%	12.1% 0.7%	13.4% 3.3%	15% 3.6%	N/A N/A	+ +	Community Strategy Action Plan

## **7 CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF SEA REPORT**

### **Scoping Report Consultation (Task A5)**

- 7.1 This scoping report will be sent to the four statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Countryside Agency, English Nature and English Heritage) for their comment. They have a 5 week consultation period to respond.
- 7.2 In addition the scoping report will be circulated around the Gateway Strategy SEA Forum for their comment.

### **Proposed Structure of SEA Environmental Report**

- 7.3 The proposed structure of the Sustainability Appraisal report is the final element of this scoping report and is set out below:
1. Summary and Outcomes
  2. Background to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal
  3. The Information Base and Policy Context
  4. Sustainability Objectives of the Plan
  5. Developing Options for the Plan
  6. Predicted Impact of the Plan, Mitigation and Evaluation
  7. Monitoring Framework
  8. Consultation and Implementation

## **Appendix 1**

### **Review of Baseline Reports**

Document	Strategic Baseline
<p><b>Darlington Gateway Development Framework Final Report January 2003</b></p>	<p>The Framework focuses on the supply and demand of industrial and commercial locations and the accessibility and urban design of new development.</p> <p>Supply and demand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonable demand for industrial units within Darlington;</li> <li>• Darlington is ideally situated for the distribution of goods via transit;</li> <li>• Highlights the importance of creating available, well connected sites for companies to locate on in Darlington.</li> </ul> <p>Urban Design Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of design is important when developing sites;</li> <li>• Must have a positive impact not only on the town but on the Tees Valley as a whole;</li> <li>• Developments along the main transport corridors must be of the highest quality design.</li> </ul> <p>Identifies nine potential development sites for the strategy to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haughton Road</li> <li>• Faverdale (including land to the east of the Strategic Reserve Site)</li> <li>• Yarm Road North (Darlington Great Park)</li> <li>• Town Hall Plus Feethams East</li> <li>• Feethams West</li> <li>• Yarm Road South (Morton Palms Extension Land)</li> <li>• Site South of Ring Road</li> <li>• Railway Station West and East.</li> </ul> <p>Three priority sites identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faverdale Strategic Reserve site – large site with good strategic access to the A1 (M). Proposed uses include primary uses and small element of supporting retail and leisure, in terms of hotel and licensed use.</li> <li>• Haughton Road – 30ha site located to the north east of Darlington Town Centre close to the east coast mainline railway station. Proposes provision of a mixed-use scheme providing office, residential and neighbourhood facilities in a central sustainable location.</li> <li>• Darlington Great Park – 52ha site to the east of Darlington and west of the A66 Trunk Road and accessible to the proposed Eastern Transport Corridor. This site is best suited for B1/office development. It is anticipated this site should be brought forward by the private sector for office/employment use in a quality business park environment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Taking forward the Darlington Gateway Study Brief</b></p>	<p>The strategy has provided a clear strategic direction that has meant Darlington been successful in terms of securing external funding that has contributed to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Park</li> <li>• Morton Palms</li> <li>• The Pedestrian Heart (Town Centre)</li> <li>• Commercial Street</li> <li>• Faverdale East Business Park</li> <li>• Darlington Tees Valley Airport</li> <li>• Lingfield Point</li> </ul>

	<p>The success of the Darlington Gateway concept in enabling the Council to secure funding has meant that all major regeneration projects are either underway or have the relevant funding in place to begin their delivery stage.</p> <p>A study is required to provide the appropriate information on opportunities (and threats) within certain sectors and examine how the Darlington can optimise its economic growth accordingly. These sectors should be looked at both in terms of the potential for physical development as well as any non-physical support that could be put in place.</p> <p>The sectors identified through previous work that require particular attention are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and Business Services</li> <li>• Logistics</li> <li>• Civil engineering</li> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Creative industries</li> </ul> <p>The study also needs to examine strategically important sectors including chemicals, renewable energy.</p> <p>The study should also look at other potential growth sectors that are not listed above or identified in key strategies.</p>
<p><b>Employment Land Review for Darlington Borough (in progress)</b></p>	<p>In Darlington there is 205 Ha of general employment land allocation, and 30 Ha of Brownfield mixed use allocation, giving a total of 230 Ha (568 acres).</p> <p>Employment land in Darlington appraised according to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality and Location</li> <li>• Market Attractiveness</li> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Availability (development sites only)</li> <li>• Fit for purpose (existing premises only)</li> </ul> <p>This appraisal is not yet available.</p> <p>Employment Baseline – Employment by Industrial sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The broad industrial sector to account for the greatest proportion of employment in Darlington is Public administration, education and health services, which employs some 29.9%. This is above the national average of 28.2%, lower than that of the North East region and Tees Valley with 31.9% and 30.4% respectively.</li> <li>• The distribution, hotels and restaurant sector employs some 20.2% of employees in Darlington, above the national average (19.6%), regional average (19.0%) and local Tees Valley (19.7%).</li> <li>• Transport and communications account for 8.6% of all employee jobs in Darlington, proportionally higher than the sectors share of employment in the UK (6.8%), the North East (7.2%) and the Tees Valley (6.6%).</li> <li>• The share of jobs in manufacturing industries (at a total 14.5%) is above the national average of 13.5%, but lower than that of the North East region (15.1%) and the Tees Valley (15.9%).</li> <li>• There are proportionally fewer jobs in Darlington are in Banking, finance and insurance (12.5%) compared to the UK as a whole (15.5%), but higher than both</li> </ul>

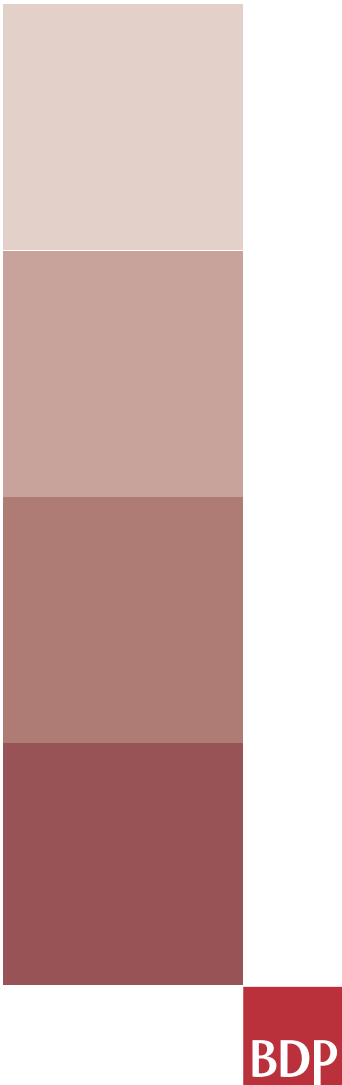
	<p>the North East (10.6%) and the Tees Valley (11.1%).</p> <p>Employment Baseline – Employment by Industrial sector – change in the last 5 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over this period the largest employment losses in Darlington were in the Transport and Communications sector (988 jobs or -32.1%) and Energy and Water sector (247 jobs or -70.2%).</li> <li>• The decline in Transport and Communications is not reflected at either a regional or country level, which effectively experienced no change.</li> <li>• The decline in employment in the Energy and Water sector, reflects decreases in employment across Great Britain as a whole, albeit at a much faster rate.</li> <li>• Other sectors with losses were Agriculture and fishing (-11.54%), broadly in line with Great Britain as a whole; and Other services (-8.3%), which were reflected at the regional level (North East, -3.7%), but the opposite of the national trend (GB, 8.8%).</li> <li>• The largest increase in employment was seen in the Banking, Finance and Insurance sector (27.6%), reflecting growth across the North East of 35.5%, and proportionally higher than Great Britain with 10.1%. Other sectors to experience above average growth include Public administration, education and health (18.6%), Construction (13.8%) and Manufacturing (6.8%).</li> </ul> <p>Employment Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 1991 and 2004, employment grew by some 11%. This employment growth has exceeded the sub-regional and regional rates. However, it falls considerably short of the growth rates seen in the UK as a whole.</li> <li>• More recently, the Darlington economy has grown at a fast rate with 4,200 <i>net</i> new jobs created between 1999 and 2004. At 10%, this represents a growth rate more than double the sub-regional and regional averages, and compares with a national growth rate of 5%.</li> </ul> <p>Unemployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In March 2005 around 79.5% of the population of Darlington were economically active.</li> <li>• At March 2006 Darlington had an unemployment rate of 3.2%. This is above the rate for the UK as a whole (2.7%), but 0.1 percentage point below the North East regional rate.</li> <li>• March 2006 in Darlington long-term unemployed comprised 11.7% of all claimants. Across the North East region the number of long-term unemployed represented 13.6% of all claimants, whilst the corresponding figure across Great Britain was 13.9%.</li> </ul> <p>Gross Added Value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darlington had a Gross Value Added (2003) of £1.4 billion represents a per capita figure of 97% of the UK average, the highest figure for any local authority area in the North East.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Education and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2005 5 or more GCSEs (or equivalent) attainment at Grades A-C stood at 56.7%, the best performance of all the Local Education Authorities in the Tees Valley and above the national average of 56.3%.</li> <li>• Advanced level (GCE and VCE) results show the average point score per student to be 80.1, slightly exceeding the national average, the only of the Tees Valley authorities to do so.</li> <li>• 22.4% of population of Darlington are educated to NVQ level 4 (degree or equivalent), while 15.7% have no qualifications. This represents a better profile than the regional populations, although it lags behind the UK figures.</li> </ul> <p>Income and Deprivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At £365.40 per week the median gross weekly wage of people working in Darlington Borough (ASHE, 2005) lags behind the average for the Tees Valley (£388.70) and North East (£385.5), and significantly below the UK median (£432.10).</li> <li>• Darlington is the 90<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority district in England (worst 26%) and there are significant pockets of deprivation with some areas within the worst 3% nationally.</li> </ul> <p>Travel to work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 69.7% of Darlington residents work in the local authority area. The most popular commuting destination is Stockton-on-Tees, which provides jobs for some 5.8% of Darlington residents with Sedgefield being the second most popular destination for Darlington commuters, employing 5.3% of Darlington residents.</li> </ul> <p>Enterprise Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of businesses registering in Darlington was below that of both the Regional (9.4%) and National (10.1%) rates.</li> </ul> <p>Connectivity</p> <p>Darlington is well placed in terms of strategic transport links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A1(M) passes to the west of Darlington</li> <li>• A66 trunk road connects the A1(M) to Darlington and the Tees Valley</li> <li>• Darlington is on the east coast mainline</li> <li>• Durham Tees Valley Airport is 40min from Darlington</li> </ul> <p>Employment Forecast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forecasts indicate that Darlington's employment base will continue to grow over the coming years by approximately 330 jobs per annum.</li> <li>• After 2010, however, the forecasts show a slowing of the growth rate, with employment growth starting to flatten out by 2014, and remaining relatively static up to 2020.</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>2005-10</b>  Employment is forecast to increase by 1,700 jobs in this period. The following sectors are set to drive this growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health – 1,200 jobs</li> <li>• Business Services – 750 jobs</li> <li>• Logistics – 500 jobs.</li> <li>• The manufacture of wood and wood products – 175 jobs</li> <li>• Construction – 160 jobs</li> <li>• Banking and insurance – 150 jobs</li> </ul> <p>In this same period a number of sectors are predicted to see falls in employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels and catering employment falls by around 350 jobs</li> <li>• Wholesaling falls by 275 jobs and retailing by 165 jobs.</li> <li>• Metal manufacturing falls by 225 jobs going in the sector.</li> <li>• Public administration loses 150 jobs.</li> <li>• Education – set to fall by around 150 jobs.</li> </ul> <p><b>2010-2015</b>  In this period, employment continues to increase, but the rate of growth starts to fall – 1,520 net new jobs are created in this period. The continuing growth is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health - 1,325 jobs.</li> <li>• Logistics - 1,150 jobs.</li> <li>• Retailing - 100 jobs overall.</li> <li>• Business Services 50 new jobs</li> </ul> <p>Key sectors seeing their employment numbers fall in the forecasts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education - 350 jobs lost</li> <li>• Construction - loses 280 jobs.</li> <li>• Metal manufacturing loses 175 jobs.</li> <li>• Food, drink and tobacco falls by 86 jobs</li> <li>• Hotels and catering loses 80 jobs.</li> </ul> <p><b>2015-2020</b>  In this period, the rate of growth flattens out, and employment remains fairly steady – employment in 2020 shows negligible growth on 2015. The majority of sectors are forecast to see employment falls; only a handful are predicted to grow, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health - 1,400 further jobs</li> <li>• Logistics also gains 240 jobs</li> </ul> <p>The main sectors that are forecast to experience the biggest falls are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education – 350 jobs</li> <li>• Construction – 250 jobs</li> <li>• Metals – 225 jobs</li> <li>• Banking and insurance – 190 jobs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Creative Industries Sector Analysis for the Gateway Study (in progress)</b></p>	<p>The creative industries (CI) have been highlighted by the European Commission and the UK Government as being highly important in terms of new business starts, jobs and high growth rates.</p> <p>Darlington has under performed economically in recent years and does not contain a very active commercial creative industries sector.</p> <p>The Darlington Gateway Study: Creative Industries Sector Analysis highlights the following areas of opportunity for creative industries in Darlington:</p> <p>The Darlington Arts Centre:</p>

	<p>The Analysis describes the Arts Centre as being 'pivotal' to the town's cultural scene and development. It is though however that the Centre may have to vacate its current location by 2011. This is seen as a good opportunity to relocate the Centre in a new, quality facility as part of a wider development strategy.</p> <p><b>The Civic Theatre:</b>          Whilst a popular attraction in Darlington the theatre does have some physical problems as it is limited in size, fronts onto a busy main road and is isolated from the town centre. Public circulation and access issues should be addressed in the future.</p> <p><b>The Forum Music Centre:</b>          Although seen as an impressive and successful venture for the town, the Forum is not connected to wider regional music development and is operating at a loss. It is therefore advised by the Analysis that the centre undergoes a change in structure and direction enabling it to reach its full potential.</p> <p><b>Further Education Base:</b>          The lack of a University Campus in Darlington is seen as a great limitation to the development of the creative industries. the Queen Elizabeth 6<sup>th</sup> Form College and Darlington College are nationally well respected institutions with an impressive creative/media curriculum and strengths in performing Arts and Digital Media. Both colleges should be fully involved in the development of the creative industries in Darlington.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <p>Cultural Quarter - as a result of the expected re-housing of the Arts Centre in 2011 it is suggested that a new Arts Centre is built in the same location as the Civic Theatre and the Forum thus forming a focus for creative and cultural activities in Darlington.</p> <p>Future Development of the Forum Music Centre: the following issues should be considered to help the Forum attain its full potential:              The forum does not currently receive any public financial assistance              There are opportunities for the Forum to engage more with the local community and deliver quality training and educational programmes              The Forum's commercial ability lies in the potential to increase venue capacity from 170 to approximately 300 plus</p> <p>The Commercial Sector: the formation of a Sector Network programme is advised to inform and support businesses and enterprises on issues specific to the creative industry.</p> <p>Performing Arts Development Strategy: the development of a strategic specialism for Darlington is advised. It is thought that such a specialism could be focus on the successful Arts Centre, Civic Theatre and the Forum.</p>
<p><b>Darlington Gateway Sectoral Opportunities Study</b></p>	<p>The same information that appears in the Employment Land Review plus:</p> <p>The development of existing and emerging sectoral strengths in Darlington will be integrally linked to economic activity in the Tees Valley and the North East. When the sectoral priorities for each area are considered, direct matches and a strong degree of congruence between the priorities of the 3 areas can be seen (see table 4.1)</p> <p>The diverse profile of economic activity in Darlington is consistent with the sectoral priorities that are set out in Darlington's economic regeneration strategy – <i>Gateway to</i></p>

	<p><i>Economic Quality</i> – and the Gateway Development Framework. They identify broadly four sectors that are regarded as especially significant to the Borough. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Financial and business services</li><li>• Civil engineering</li><li>• Logistics</li><li>• Construction</li></ul> <p>Additionally, studies the potential or aspirations to develop strengths in emerging or growing sectors. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative industries and Digital Media</li><li>• Healthcare and health sciences</li><li>• Renewable Energy</li><li>• Chemicals</li><li>• Emerging technologies</li></ul>
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