

Sustainability Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal		
CSIO Reference	Respondent	Comments
CSIO 010	Hummersknott Councillor	Choices at times "leading"
CSIO 018	Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust	There appears to be very little reference to the improved well-being of the population as part of the overall aims of the strategy apart from the reference to playing fields and pollution.
CSIO 028	Renew Tees Valley Ltd	Although the sustainability appraisal looks at recycling and waste there are few direct policy proposals relating to the issues that surround those. Also there is no carbon 'footprint' assessment or carbon reduction targets. Acceptance and promotion of recycling industries, eco parks and transfer facilities should be a priority. The LDF should be contributing directly to the low carbon agenda.
CSIO 029	John Straughan	Must have the sustainability stated but with great protection of the issues that I have stated or we will lose the very things we all want.
CSIO 038	One NorthEast	The contents of the reports are noted and confirm that the Agency has no specific comments to make regarding these reports.
CSIO 033	Natural England	The document should be printed double sided to reduce the amount of paper used. It is also exceedingly long, and effort should be made to make the SEA more concise and focused.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 3, para 1.4.3 Please remove reference to the Countryside Agency (now part of Natural England)
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 8, para 2.2.7/Appendix 1 Other plans and programmes - National plans should also include: working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England DEFRA 2002. PPS1 Supplement on Planning and Climate Change and PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas also need to be considered in relation to the SEA.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 8, para 2.2.7/Appendix 1. Regional plans should also include: Regional biodiversity action plan, Tees valley green infrastructure strategy, Biodiversity indicators and targets for the North East of England, Tees Forest Plan 2000, Countryside Character Areas for the North East Region
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 10, para 2.3.6 This section should refer to the strategic cycle and rights of way network in the Borough in line with our comments on Theme 7 Transport Infrastructure in the Core Strategy. It is not clear why this is not included alongside the public transport topic in Table 2.1.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 10 para 2.3.12 This section should also recognise the need for the natural environment to adapt to the consequences of climate change in line with our comments on the Core Strategy strategic objectives and Theme 1 and Theme 6.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 11 Table 2.1 This table gives no description of local landscape character or the baseline conditions in relation to green infrastructure.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Table 2.1 Biodiversity - there are four SSSI's in Darlington - Neasham Fen, Hell Kettles, Redcar Field, Newton Ketton Meadow

CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 14 Para 2.5/Appendix 2 It is not clear where Appendix 2 fits into this section.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 16 Para 2.5.23 Transport infrastructure may also impact on biodiversity and geodiversity, and green infrastructure.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 17 para 2.5.28 Also need to protect species as well as habitats in line with our comments on Theme 4 of the Core Strategy.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 19 Table 2.2 This section should read protect and enhance the natural environment. The table should refer to the need to protect and enhance natural habitat and species, and the need to protect and enhance landscape character.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Appendix 2/Appendix 4 Generic Natural England Advice: Baseline data and indicators. There are a number of practical indicators we would recommend for nature conservation issues. These are based on those set out in the Integrated Regional Framework, adjusted to reflect the issues which Natural England is most frequently consulted on by Local Planning Authorities: # SSSI and international site condition: - numbers of planning applications conditioned to ensure works to manage/enhance condition of SSSI/N2K/Ramsar features of interest (LPA maintain log) - Area of SSSI in adverse condition as a result of development (available from Natural England on website). In relation to the PSA target the conditions are simplified into 2 categories: Favourable ('Favourable' and 'Unfavourable recovering') and 'Adverse (the remaining unfavourable and destroyed categories). # Protected species - subject of a large amount of NE casework from new development, conversions and small-scale property extensions. - PPS9 addresses protected species in paragraphs 1(ii) 15 & 16 with the Part IV of the Government Circular setting out consideration due to species in considering development proposals. Quantified data might include numbers of applications where protected species are considered, numbers with conditions imposed to ensure working practices and works to protect/enhance protected. - Species, and numbers of PAs which result in need for protected species licence in order to be carried out (could also consider where licensed workers are used to carry out initial survey work). This will indicate that protected species are being given appropriate consideration within the planning system and begin to build up information on their occurrence within the Plan Area. # BAP habitat created/managed as result of grant PA (LPA Monitor area through conditions, obligations agreements etc) # Access to Natural greenspace indicators and targets are recommended in line with the following standards: - that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size, - provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population, - that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home, - that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km, - that there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.
CSIO 033	Natural England	Page 110 Landscape, Issues and problems and information available refers to biodiversity data rather than landscape - these should be transferred to section on Biodiversity - information in the Landscape section should include reference to the relevant landscape character areas.
CSIO 050	Banks Development	The sustainability appraisal directly contradicts the RSS and the RRES when they state in para 4.8.43 "option 6iB, supporting wind energy, has many environmental benefits but has emerged as the least

		preferable option mainly due to the visual intrusiveness of the turbines upon the landscape, which would be particularly evident in schemes of a larger scale". There is also no evidence base contained in the SA for the statement made above that wind energy would have a negative landscape effect in comparison to biomass on a commercial scale. If the negative stance towards wind energy is pursued there is a grave risk that the Core Strategy will not conform to RSS in respect of the deployment of renewable energy in the region.
CSIO 052	English Heritage	The options should also be geared towards protecting the Borough's historic environment. Failure to do so would be at odds with the findings and requirements of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
CSIO 052	English Heritage	Have no substantive comments to make on this report. Made the point previously that there is a fundamental need for a robust evidence base and welcome recognition of this in the document. Also believe that more rigorous targets and indicators are needed to begin to address the condition of the heritage assets of the Borough and the effectiveness of DPD policy.
CSIO 055	Environment Agency	Agree with the assessment of issue 24 in the Sustainability Appraisal but disagree with the wording of option 23a, so disagree with the assessment of this option.
CSIO 057	Indigo Planning Ltd for Focus Fund	The Sustainability Appraisal recognises that there are several highly positive economic, social and environmental impacts in concentrating development in the urban area as set out in Option 7A.
CSIO 068	Harry Brian Leonard	Seems a good idea, good thought behind the questions but very anti-motorist! Improve the roads in the Darlington area.

SUMMARY	Out of 101 respondents, 11 made comments in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal.
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OFFICER COMMENTS – Revise the SA evidence base and indicators accordingly, ensuring consistency with those for One Darlington: Perfectly Placed. Consider amending the toolkit to align with the North East Assembly's recently adopted Integrated Regional Framework. Revisit the SA as new supporting documents and evidence are completed, including for renewable energy provision.

Appropriate Assessment

CSIO Reference	Respondent	Comments
CSIO 010	Hummersknott Councillor (Councillor Johnson)	Choices at times "leading"
CSIO 038	One NorthEast	The contents of the reports are noted and confirm that the Agency has no specific comments to make.
CSIO 055	Environment Agency	The Appropriate Assessment correctly demonstrates that there are no sites of international nature conservation within the Borough. It does highlight that there are such sites in neighbouring areas and these could be affected through development within the Borough.
CSIO 096	Heighington Parish Council	Please utilise Parish Plan and include!

SUMMARY

Out of 101 respondents, 4 made comments in relation to the Appropriate Assessment.

OFFICER COMMENTS – No additional comments.