

Design SPD

Sustainability Appraisal

July 2009

# **Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document**

## **Sustainability Appraisal**

**July 2009**

**Darlington Local Development Framework**



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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 CONTEXT**

- 1.1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal is mandatory for all Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). So it is critical that a Sustainability Appraisal is undertaken on the Design of New Development Supplementary Planning Document (Design SPD).
- 1.1.2 To comply with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and national planning legislation, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be carried out for the Design SPD. The requirement to carry out a SA and a SEA are distinct, however, it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process, which considers social and economic factors, alongside environmental issues.
- 1.1.3 This document has been prepared to reflect Government guidance in Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks and A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

### **1.2 AIM AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.2.1 This report is structured to communicate the information and mechanisms that have been used to carry out the appraisal of the Design SPD and summarise the results of the appraisal. The report is structured as follows:
- Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal
  - Sustainability Appraisal Framework
  - Predicting the effects of the Design SPD
  - Conclusions and Recommendations

### **1.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PURPOSE OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

- 1.3.1 Sustainable Development is most commonly defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (World Commission on the Environment and Development, 1987).
- 1.3.2 Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) supports this definition by stating 'sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone.'
- 1.3.3 The UK Sustainable Development Strategy states that 'the goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations'. It sets out five sustainable development principles, which form the basis for planning policy. For the Design SPD to be sustainable, it must respect each of the following guiding principles:
- Living within environmental limits;
  - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
  - Achieving a sustainable economy;
  - Using sound science responsibly; and
  - Promoting good governance.
- 1.3.4 A SA 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 lessen any significant social, environmental or economic effects of that plan by improving the integration of sustainability considerations throughout its preparation and adoption.
- 1.3.5 A SA aims to make the plan process more transparent, better documented and more clearly focused on sustainability. The appraisal process itself requires that draft and final planning

guidance are assessed against a range of criteria that represent the objectives of sustainable development in national, regional and local planning policy.

#### 1.4 PURPOSE OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

- 1.4.1 SEA is required by European Union Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Whereas a SA considers the effects of the plan on a range of social, environmental and economic interests, a SEA is required for those plans where there is likely to be a significant environmental effects.
- 1.4.2 Following a screening with the three statutory bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) and a scoping study, the Council identified that a SEA was required.

#### 1.5 A COMBINED PROCESS

- 1.5.1 The requirement to carry out a SA/SEA are distinct but there is a considerable amount of overlap in the processes. Government guidance states that it is possible to satisfy requirements for both through a single appraisal process, which considers social and economic issues alongside the environmental issues.
- 1.5.2 Reflecting this, this SA Report has incorporated the required SEA Environmental Report. Table 1 below summarises the requirements of an Environmental Report and provides references to the relevant sections of this Sustainability Report:

Table 1

SEA Requirements for Final Sustainability Report	Location
Outline the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 1
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely outcomes without implementation of the plan.	Section 2 Appendix C
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 2 Appendix B & C
Existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any area of particular environmental, economic or social importance.	Section 2 Appendix B & C
Environmental protection objectives, established at international, national or community level, which are relevant to the plan and the way these objectives and considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 2 Appendix A & C
Likely significant effects on the environment, including on biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and their interrelationships.	Section 3 & 4 Appendix D
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Section 6
Outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 4 Appendix D
Monitoring measures	Section 7
Non-technical summary of the Revised Report	Completed

## 1.6 DESIGN SPD

- 1.6.1 The Design SPD provides more detailed guidance in relation to the design of new development, including public and private spaces. It will set out how the Council expects the location, form and type of new development in Darlington to be considered through the design process.
- 1.6.2 It elaborates on several 'saved' Local Plan policies. Those that apply to all forms of development are: Policy E1 (Protection of the Environment), Policy E10 (Protection of Key Townscape and Landscape Features), Policy E14 (Landscaping of Development), Policy E25 (Energy Conservation), Policy E29 (The Setting of New Development), Policy E46 (Safety and Security), Policy R1 (Designing for All), Policy T13 (New Development – Standards) and Policy T24 (Parking and Servicing Requirements for New Development).
- 1.6.3 There are several other criteria-based policies where design is just one element of the policy and should be referred to where appropriate. These policies relate to particular buildings or environments, or may be relevant to a specific form of development. These include: E7 (Landscape Conservation), E8 (Area of High Landscape Value), E9 (Protection of Parklands), E12 (Trees and Development), E15 (Open Land in New Development), E23 (Nature and Development), E24 (iii) (Conservation of Resources), E38 (Alterations to Business Premises), E42 (Street Furniture), E45 (Development and Art), E49 (Noise Sensitive Development), H7 (Areas of Housing Development Restraint), H11 (Design and Layout of New Housing Development), H12 (Alterations and Extensions to Existing Dwellings), H13 (Backland Development), EP6 (Prestige Employment), R7 (Design of Open Space Provision) and R13 (Recreation Routes and New Development).
- 1.6.4 It is important that the content also complements the adopted Open Space Strategy, specifically: Policy 5 (Safeguarding open space and securing new or improved provision), Policy 19 (Open space provision associated with new development), Policy 21 (Providing open space with employment development) and Policy 22 (Design of Open Spaces) as well as the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance: Commuted Sums from New Housing Development to Enhance Children's Equipped Play Areas.
- 1.6.5 It also sets out how the Council expects new national, regional and sub regional standards adopted since the Local Plan's adoption in 1997 to be addressed, where these do not conflict with the parent 'saved' planning policies.
- 1.6.6 Once adopted the Design SPD will be part of the Darlington Local Development Framework and will be used as a material planning consideration when assessing planning applications and considering development proposals.
- 1.6.7 The Design SPD sets out a new approach to improve the quality of design in the Borough. General design guidance is set out addressing:
- Improving Movement
  - Promoting Community Safety
  - Achieving Sustainability
  - Integrating Green Infrastructure and Public Space
  - Reflecting Heritage and Local Distinctiveness
- 1.6.8 A Zone Map for the Borough is provided with detailed design guidance for a range of design matters which are applicable to each zone. This complementary approach will ensure that a high standard of distinctive, safe, sustainable, quality design will be provided for every new development in the Borough.

## **2.0 SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

### **2.1 CONTEXT**

- 2.1.1 This section of the SA Report defines the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, to ensure that the assessment focuses on information and issues that the Design SPD is directly able to influence.
- 2.1.2 The scope of the SA is defined by the Borough boundary, the hierarchy of the plan and its spatial vision and objectives. As such, the scope will describe Darlington's baseline environment and will identify where the Design SPD sits within the hierarchy Darlington's Development Plan and its relationship with other relevant plans and strategies to help establish the key sustainability issues for Darlington. Taken together this will help define the key issues for the Design SPD and what it can have an impact on. A key part of the scope is the Design SPD objectives which are particularly important and will inform the assessment of the sustainability of the Design SPD.

### **2.2 RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES – TASK A1**

- 2.2.1 The current statutory Development Plan for Darlington comprises the North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and the Borough of Darlington Local Plan.
- 2.2.2 The Local Plan will be gradually replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the Borough. The LDF is a suite of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents that set out the planning policy framework for the Borough. The Design SPD will be one of its more detailed documents.
- 2.2.3 Informing and complementing the Borough's development plan are a wide range of plans and strategies, produced by different organisations. The key documents that have helped inform the Design SPD outline a range of current design related issues in the Borough which will have an impact on the Sustainability Appraisal either directly, or indirectly. These are identified below (full list in Appendix 1). These documents have helped inform the sustainability issues for Darlington, the development of sustainability indicators and the formation of sustainability objectives.
- 2.2.4 At a national level, Planning Policy Statements provides guidance for key topic areas including housing, climate change and sustainable development, transport and the environment. Specifically relating to sustainability is the UK Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 2.2.6 At a regional level, the Integrated Regional Framework provides the overarching framework for sustainable development in the North East and seeks to inform the production of other key regional strategies such as the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- 2.2.7 At a sub regional level the Tees Valley Residential Design Guide and Specification provides detailed highways and car parking standards and guidance, whilst the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy and Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment provide sub regional guidance for green infrastructure and flood risk respectively. The Durham Biodiversity Action Plan identifies key priority habitats that should be targeted for improvement in future.
- 2.2.8 Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy 'One Darlington: Perfectly Placed' aims to develop sustainable neighbourhoods with easy access to a good range of shops, services, employment and local facilities. Minimising carbon emissions and enhancing feelings of safety for the community are key aims of the strategy. The Darlington Climate Change Strategy has also informed this SPD.

## **2.3 COLLECTING BASELINE INFORMATION – TASK A2**

- 2.3.1 Baseline data was gathered from a review of the plans and strategies together with social, environmental and economic information collected from consultees. The consultees were officers from a range of Council services. This information sets out the state of the Borough today and helps identify any sustainability issues, problems and opportunities that the Design SPD could help address.
- 2.3.2 The information collected is defined by the scope of the SA and only relates to matters that the Design SPD can influence. It is also readily available for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Design SPD, providing a link to the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.
- 2.3.3 The baseline of the Borough will help inform three key tasks:
- Inform the production of the sustainability objectives;
  - Provide an evidence base to predict the effects of the Design SPD; and
  - Produce a SA Framework to monitor the success of the Design SPD.

## **2.4 THE BOROUGH**

- 2.4.1 Darlington is situated in North East England and is one of five unitary authorities which make up the Tees Valley sub-region, with Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool. The Borough covers 19,745 hectares (48,795 acres) with the market town of Darlington being the main settlement. The urban area is surrounded by countryside interspersed with large and small villages and hamlets. The River Skerne runs through the urban area, whilst the River Tees runs along the Borough's southern boundary. North Yorkshire lies to the south of the Borough, the Tees Valley is to the east, the former coalfield areas of County Durham to the north, and rural Teesdale to the west.
- 2.4.2 The population of Darlington mid-2007 was approximately 99,983, with a total of 46,000 households. The catchment area population is significant with almost 837,700 people within 30 minutes drive time from its centre and 2.7 million within one hour. In terms of demographics, 20% of the population are of retirement age and over pensioner, a rise from 16% in 2007 of the Borough's population were over the age of retirement, whereas the population under 5 years remains 6%.
- 2.4.3 Good transport links exist with the A1(M) crossing the west of the Borough and other strategic roads such as the A66 and the East Coast Main Line providing excellent transport links with the North East, Yorkshire and further afield. Durham Tees Valley Airport is in the south eastern part of the Borough. 62% of Darlington's households have cars (compared to an average of 67.6% for England and Wales). The Local Motion and Cycle Demonstration Town programmes have achieved significant shifts from car to sustainable travel modes between 2004 and 2006, with a 9% reduction in car driver trips, a 15% increase in walking and 65% increase in cycling (starting from a low base). Darlington is now a lead area in the UK on implementing voluntary travel behaviour changes. These changes are already saving 6000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually. Bus usage stabilised in 2005/06, but there was a positive trend for rail usage. Public transport within the urban area is good but links to the villages and rural areas could be improved. The Borough also boasts an excellent Public Rights of Way network.
- 2.4.4 Darlington town centre is of sub-regional centre serving residents of the Borough, the western part of the Tees Valley and extensive areas of south and west Durham and north west Yorkshire. It provides a comprehensive range of shopping, business, leisure, entertainment, recreation and other facilities and services for almost a quarter of a million people. It is the fifth largest shopping centre in the North East. Darlington's economy is dominated by the service industry (business and professional services) and specialised engineering remains a key strength. The main villages and to a lesser extent the service villages offer local shops and services that serve the outlying areas on a daily basis.

- 2.4.5 21% of new housing built within the Borough is high density, at a ratio of greater than 50 dwellings per ha. The majority of the housing stock in Darlington is privately owned, although Council Housing accounts for 20% of the stock. Whilst house price growth has stagnated under the current economic climate, it still remains difficult for some to buy and rent homes. At mid 2008 average house prices in Darlington were £127,904. This is an issue for the provision of affordable housing and lifetime homes.
- 2.4.6 Darlington is the 95th most deprived area in England with 45% of the population living in 10 wards that are amongst the 25% most deprived in the country. Seven of these wards are amongst the 10% most deprived and contain 31% of the Borough's population.
- 2.4.7 The Borough has a rich historic environment. There are a variety of national and local historic designations in the Borough. Darlington has 537 listed buildings of which 20% are classified 'at risk'. Many are situated within the 16 Conservation Areas in the Borough. The Borough also has 20 scheduled ancient monuments as well as a range of locally important archaeological sites.
- 2.4.8 Darlington has a varied natural landscape with a wide range of green spaces contributing to an extensive green infrastructure network. These range from the local informal spaces to the more formal managed parks such as South Park. The urban area is linked by a network of green corridors to the urban fringe and the wider countryside. The Borough has an increasing range of Local Wildlife Sites which help support a multitude of habitats and species many identified as priority habitats in the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, such as the Great Crested Newt. Around the urban fringe is designated part of the community woodland which will in the long term help provide more extensive tree cover and a variety of native species.
- 2.4.9 Darlington has a high level of open space for a Borough of its size. Provision is generally good although there may be a deficiency in quality and quantity in some areas. The urban area has good provision of recreational facilities, with a sub-regional leisure centre, the Dolphin Centre in the town centre and the Eastbourne Sports Complex to the east of the Borough, which provide a range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities to a wide catchment. Whilst indoor provision may be appropriate to the Borough's population, there is a shortage of playing pitches to meet resident's needs.
- 2.4.10 Whilst levels of crime and anti-social behaviour remain relatively low, the perception of crime and disorder is an increasing issue for residents. The proportion of people feeling in 'poor health' is significantly higher than the England average, as well as the proportion of people suffering from poor mental health. Educational attainments are generally above average in comparison to the Tees Valley and the North East averages.
- 2.4.11 Future development will need to adapt to a changing climate as well as incorporating measures to ensure that the amount of greenhouse gases produced are reduced. Measures to reduce the production of greenhouse gases will require improved energy efficiency, reducing the need to travel and generating energy from renewable sources.

## **2.5 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS – TASK A2 AND A3**

- 2.5.1 The identification of sustainability issues and problems provides an opportunity to define key issues for the Design SPD and enable sustainable plan objectives and options to be developed.
- 2.5.2 The key sustainability issues for the Design SPD were identified in consultation with key stakeholders. Further sustainability issues were also incorporated from residents responses to the Core Strategy consultation.



- 2.5.3 These have been aligned with indicators contained within the Annual Monitoring Report. This ensures consistency with other documents that the Council produces and makes certain that the information is able to be collected and monitored. As further data is collected regarding the indicators in the SA toolkit, sustainability issues that are not supported with baseline evidence may be identified.
- 2.5.5 Information identified relating to the key sustainability issues and problems are in Appendix B. An overview is set out below.

#### *Housing*

- 2.5.6 There is a lack of good quality affordable housing, in locations where the community want to live. Good quality, affordable housing and lifetime homes in the Borough are perceived as not bridging the gap for the disadvantaged.
- 2.5.7 There is a perceived shortage of high value, low density homes, which could attract entrepreneurs to the town. Equally it is recognised that suitable housing is required to meet the needs and aspirations of the local workforce.

#### *Socio-Economic Inequalities*

- 2.5.8 Across the Borough there are clear socio-economic inequalities. The design of the built and natural environment is clearly linked to promoting healthy lifestyles and access to health, recreation and leisure facilities.

#### *Town Centre*

- 2.5.9 The retail offer in the town centre could be strengthened to encourage a wide range of retailers both brands and local to base themselves in the town. Units of different sizes should be incorporated in new development to meet market demand.
- 2.5.10 Older buildings in industrial areas and in the town centre are not equipped to meet the needs of modern businesses. This could discourage investment in the Borough. New development should be designed to meet the needs of modern business.

#### *Community Facilities*

- 2.5.10 It is perceived that quality, accessible playing fields and sports facilities within the Borough are in short supply. Although the number of designated children's play areas is known to be below target, the proportion of areas meeting minimum European standards has risen and the community's satisfaction with such areas has increased.

#### *Access*

- 2.5.11 There is a lack of cycle infrastructure at the railway station and at supermarket sites. The cycle network is not comprehensive for users and this can cause safety issues and can discourage use. Improving accessibility is a critical issue to maximise usage of recreational and community facilities.
- 2.5.12 The method of travel into and within the town presents key issues. Increased traffic could have serious implications for the environment. The land take for infrastructure may impact upon the landscape setting, biodiversity and the green infrastructure network.
- 2.5.13 It is perceived that the method of travel adopted could have implications for the economy, on account of congestion and travel times, which would be likely to impact upon the desirability of the town as a location for investment.

#### *Renewable Energy*

- 2.5.14 The promotion of renewable energy is important, it is considered that wind energy could have a detrimental effect on the landscape. The design of new development should include

the scope for a variety of renewable energy technologies to maximise the benefits for the community and the environment.

*Townscape and Landscape*

- 2.5.15 The town is surrounded by attractive countryside and the landscape character should be protected. The need to protect and enhance the townscape and landscape including features of natural, historic, archaeological and architectural interest is important. The need to conserve biodiversity as an integral part of development is critical, through the protection of species and maintenance of the quality and extent of natural habitat.
- 2.5.16 The scoping identified six themes as being the key sustainability issues affecting the Borough. These include maintaining economic growth and employment, promoting inclusive communities, providing effective access, enhancing the natural environment, enhancing the cultural heritage and protecting the natural resources. These have been used to form the basis of the SA Objectives, sub objectives and indicators.

### 3.0 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK - TASKS A4-A5 and B1

#### 3.1 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, SUB OBJECTIVES AND INDICATORS

3.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework used to assess the SPD has been amended to reflect the 10 objectives set out in the revised North East Integrated Regional Framework (IRF). The Sustainability Appraisal Framework will be used to describe, analyse and compare the sustainability effects of the Design SPD. The Framework comprises:-

- a) a set of sustainability objectives with which to test the SPD throughout its evolution
- b) sustainability indicators with which to measure the effects of the SPD in the future.

3.1.2 The SA objectives are:

- 1) Strengthening the Economy
- 2) Adapting to and mitigating against climate change
- 3) Living within environmental limits
- 4) Developing a more sustainable employment market
- 5) Establishing a strong learning and skills base
- 6) Improving health and well-being while reducing health inequalities
- 7) Safeguarding and enhancing environmental infrastructure
- 8) Building sustainable communities
- 9) Developing sustainable transport and communication
- 10) Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage

3.1.3 A number of sub objectives for each high level objective within the IRF have been developed to explain the purpose of the SA objectives. The objectives and sub objectives relevant to the Design SPD are set out in Table 3.1 below and will be used in the SA Toolkit in Appendix C. The SA objectives and indicators will be used for undertaking the SA of the Design SPD and will inform the appraisal of each LDF document to ensure a consistent approach.

3.1.4

Table 3.1

SA objectives	SA sub-objectives
1. Strengthening the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accelerate regeneration and optimise the use of brownfield sites in line with national planning guidance</li> </ul>
2. Adapting to and mitigating against climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>▪ Increase the level of investment in clean technologies</li> <li>▪ Increase the resilience to climate change (infrastructure, spatial planning, agriculture, biodiversity, landscapes, housing and communities)</li> <li>▪ Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>
3. Living within environmental limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimise the use of global and local natural resources</li> <li>▪ Improve energy generation, efficiency and conservation (renewables, new technology low carbon)</li> <li>▪ Reduce waste production and increase recycling</li> </ul>
4. Developing a more sustainable employment market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address barriers to work and ensure equality of opportunities</li> </ul>
5. Establishing a strong learning and skills base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Address barriers to work that prevent people from getting jobs, including low educational attainment, low skills, low aspirations, ill health, poor access to transport, poor access to childcare and social exclusion</li> </ul>

6. Improving health and well-being whilst reducing inequalities in health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote inclusiveness and reduce health inequality</li> <li>▪ Decrease the causes of ill health (especially long term) by tackling the wider determinants of health</li> <li>▪ Increase access to essential localised healthcare provision</li> <li>▪ Tackle the main causes of ill health (obesity) by encouraging healthier lifestyles</li> <li>▪ Promote sport, exercise and active recreation</li> <li>▪ Provide access to safe, green and open spaces for activity, use of active design, and access to the natural environment</li> <li>▪ Improve the well-being and mental health of the population</li> </ul>
7. Safeguarding and enhancing environmental infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain and enhance the value and capacity of our environmental infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Contribute towards the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity (especially key habitats and species)</li> <li>▪ Encourage the reclamation and reuse of derelict/previously developed land</li> <li>▪ Contribute to the protection and enhancement of landscape character</li> <li>▪ Ensure that robust 'ecosystem services' are at our disposal, for example wetlands and woodlands as carbon stores; the role of flood plains</li> <li>▪ Promote green infrastructure</li> </ul>
8. Building sustainable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute towards the development of sustainable communities</li> <li>▪ Decrease levels of and fear of crime</li> <li>▪ Provide high quality, affordable housing with accessible services such as public transport, schools, hospitals and shops in places where people want to live and work (current and future residents)</li> <li>▪ Encourage a safe and inclusive, well planned, well designed, well built and run community</li> <li>▪ Provide a safe environment with open public spaces where people can relax and interact</li> </ul>
9. Developing sustainable transport and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport</li> <li>▪ Increase access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and greenspace</li> <li>▪ Develop sustainable transport networks in rural areas, taking into account changes to public services</li> <li>▪ Embed sustainable transport within local development frameworks, including encouragement of production of sustainable travel plans</li> </ul>
10. Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Help to improve the image of the Borough and promote local pride and distinctiveness</li> <li>▪ Develop tourism and leisure</li> <li>▪ Protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets</li> </ul>

### 3.2 SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

3.2.1 SA indicators are individual statistics that allow the objectives and sub-objectives to be measured and monitored. The role of SA indicators is to provide a baseline 'snap-shot' of the Borough, to enable the Design SPD to be monitored once it is adopted.

3.2.2 The key indicators have been taken from the IRF but have been supplemented by a series of local performance indicators, which have been selected from the National Indicator set which allow progress to be measured in relation to a series of topics. The selection of these additional indicators has been informed by the evidence base.

3.2.3 The indicators and the evidence base therefore provides an analysis of the social, environmental and economic baseline conditions of the Borough and acts as the

benchmark with which to inform and appraise the Design SPD and provides a mechanism with which to monitor the overall success of the adopted Design SPD.

- 3.2.4 By including the indicators and supplementing the SA framework with information from the evidence base set out within chapter 2, the SA framework (Appendix C) acts as a database and an appraisal mechanism that can be related to the current and future social, environmental and economic baseline condition of the Borough.
- 3.2.5 Whilst some of the indicators do relate to the Design SPD, some of the links are indirect and may be influenced by factors outside of the Design SPD. The lack of directly relevant quantifiable data can be explained by the very qualitative nature of urban design.

## **4.0 PREDICTING THE EFFECTS OF THE DESIGN SPD**

### **4.1 DESIGN SPD OBJECTIVES**

4.1.1 To ensure that the sustainability of the Design SPD is maximised, its objectives must accord with the principles of the SA objectives set out in Chapter 3. To achieve this, the Design SPD Objectives must be tested to determine their compatibility with the SA objectives. The Design SPD objectives are:

1. Ensure that all new development meets high standards of sustainable design and construction to minimise the impact of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Ensure that the design of development provides for a form and type of development appropriate to its location to maintain and create attractive, accessible, healthy and inclusive sustainable communities so that everyone has the opportunity to live and work in a decent, safe, high quality environment.
3. Preserve and strengthen the scale, unique character, function and sense of place of Darlington's neighbourhoods, villages, landscapes, greenspaces, habitats and countryside and ensure that its distinctiveness is reflected in the design of new development.
4. Ensure that the design of new development maintains and creates an environment that everyone can be safe and feels safe from the effects of crime and anti social behaviour whilst minimising opportunities for offending behaviour.
5. Maintain and enhance Darlington town centre's character and scale through high quality design so that it continues to develop as a vibrant, attractive, safe and comfortable historic market town.
6. Raise the design quality of the Borough's educational, social, sporting, health, recreational and cultural facilities, as well as protecting and enhancing its natural and historic environments.
7. Promote design that maintains, expands and enhances convenient facilities and networks for public transport, walking and cycling, so that everyone is able to get around the Borough easily and affordably, whilst making the most of Darlington's existing transport infrastructure, providing appropriate vehicular access and parking suitable for its use and location.
8. Reinforce Darlington's multifunctional green infrastructure network of parks, open spaces, green corridors and countryside features through high quality design to protect and enhance biodiversity alongside creating greater public access for recreation.

### **4.2 THE APPRAISAL PROCESS**

4.2.1 In order to test the objectives' compatibility, an appraisal matrix was produced (see Appendix D). The SA objectives are set out across the vertical axis of the matrix and the Design SPD Objectives are numbered along the horizontal axis.

4.2.2 The appraisal individually assessed the 8 Design SPD objectives against the 10 SA Objectives set out in the SA Toolkit. This helped predict and evaluate the significant social, environmental and economic impacts and effects of the design objectives on the Sustainability Objectives. In appraising the SPD, both positive and negative effects were considered and any uncertainties regarding potential effects were also noted.

4.2.3 The scoring system used in the appraisal identifies whether certain options are likely to have a positive, negative or neutral impact in terms of sustainability. The scoring system is detailed below in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Prediction Scoring System**

☺	++ / +	Positive impact
=	=	Neutral / no impact
☹	-- / -	Negative impact
*	+ / -	Both positive and negative impacts
?	?	Uncertainty regarding impact

### 4.3 RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE APPRAISAL

4.3.1 Table 4.2 sets out the overall predicted impact [score] for each of the Design SPD objectives against the SA Framework as a quick reference guide to identify those objectives that were appraised to be either most positive or least positive in the context of the sustainability of the Borough. The higher scores represent the objectives that have been appraised to have the most positive impact, and conversely those with the lower scores the least positive impact. All of the objectives scored positively. The appraisal matrix containing the detailed results is shown in Appendix D.

**Table 4.2**

Design SPD objective	Score
Design Objective 1	11
Design Objective 2	8
Design Objective 3	7
Design Objective 4	4
Design Objective 5	7
Design Objective 6	9
Design Objective 7	10
Design Objective 8	9

4.3.2 Although this table provides a useful overview of the appraisal scores for each of the Design SPD Objectives, it can be misleading. This is because certain SPD objectives emerged with a particularly low score against certain SA objectives, as many of the objectives emerged as neutral, thus affecting the overall appraisal score. It is therefore important in this section of the report to look in more detail at the outcomes of the individual objectives appraisal.

4.3.3 Where any potentially negative impacts are identified, consideration is given to whether the SPD can be modified through the use of mitigation measures in order to minimise any potentially negative impacts and maximise beneficial effects.

#### **Design Objective 1 - This objective emerged as the highest scoring.**

High quality sustainable design and construction standards will create a more attractive environment for inward investment. In turn this may create more employment opportunities as higher standards for buildings may require different skills. Renewable energy development may result in employment creation.

High quality, sustainable design will ensure that properties are more energy efficient, which will contribute to reducing fuel poverty and therefore improving health and well-being. Incorporating sustainable design principles will ensure that development contributes to the promotion of sustainable communities.

One possible negative impact might be the disincentive of perceived financial implications to developers of higher design development.

**Design Objective 2**

Creating accessible, attractive, healthy and inclusive sustainable communities may attract inward investment, which in turn would create employment opportunities. This objective will ensure that local needs are met locally and will encourage people to use local spaces and sustainable transport to access goods and services rather than using the private car. This in turn will have a positive impact upon mitigating against climate change, whilst also improving the health and well-being of the community. Development will be appropriate to its location, which provides the opportunity to promote sustainable transport, accessibility and ensure that the environment is protected and enhanced.

**Design Objective 3**

Preserving and strengthening green infrastructure, habitats and countryside will ensure that Darlington's adaptive capacity to a changing climate is maintained.

Ensuring that the function and sense of place in Darlington is preserved will create more sustainable communities, which in turn will improve health and well being to certain extent. Creating a more comprehensive network will improve access to a variety of spaces for the wider community.

The impact upon the economy is likely to be minimal, though some additional investment may be encouraged as a result of the distinctiveness of Darlington being maintained and promoted. This may result in increased visitors, whilst increased investment and employment opportunities may result in increased traffic on the roads. Therefore this objective should be considered alongside ensuring that sustainable forms of transport are developed and promoted.

**Design Objective 4**

Creating safe environments will promote the feeling of Darlington being a 'safe' place. This will result in the development of more sustainable communities and quality of life, which will in turn improve health and mental well being. This could, again, result in a minimal impact upon the economy as a result of increased inward investment.

There will be the need to minimise any potential conflict between maintaining local distinctiveness and green infrastructure and open space whilst also promoting safe design.

**Design Objective 5**

Potential growth in the Town Centre and increased numbers of people visiting the Town Centre may conflict with climate change objectives. However by ensuring that sustainable travel networks are put in place and sustainable design principles are incorporated into any new developments would minimise the potential impact.

**Design Objective 6**

Raising the design quality of community facilities will contribute to reducing emissions causing climate change, through improved energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources. Protecting and enhancing natural and historic environments will maintain environmental infrastructure, whilst also protecting and promoting culture and heritage.

**Design Objective 7**

Promoting and encouraging sustainable transport will contribute to reducing emissions from transport.



Excellent transport links will benefit the economy, through increased inward investment. Improvements to the transport network, which focus on providing improved accessibility by modes of public transport, could help to attract new visitors and investment to the Borough.

This objective will also improve accessibility for the disadvantaged within the community. Improving accessibility will create more sustainable communities, which in turn will improve quality of life and ensure facilities such as education establishments, sporting and health facilities are more convenient.

#### **Design Objective 8**

Maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure will improve Darlington's adaptive capacity to a changing climate. Improving access to recreation will result in improved health and mental well being, whilst contributing to building more sustainable communities.

Delivering enhancements to the green infrastructure network will help to enhance the visual amenity and historic character of the Borough. In turn, this will help to create a high quality and attractive local environment, which will be an important factor in creating places where people want to live and work.

#### **4.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

4.4.1 Whilst the impacts of the individual SPD objectives have been identified, it is important to assess their cumulative impact to determine whether there are any that alone have insignificant effects but in combination with others generate significant positive or negative impacts in relation to each of the SA Objectives.

4.4.2 Prior to being able to assess the cumulative effects of the options, it was important to identify the key receptors which may be subject to cumulative effects. The key receptors are outlined below in Table 4.3. These have been identified from the baseline information and the key sustainability issues and options discussed within Chapter 2 of this report. The appraisal matrix in Appendix D was used to determine the cumulative impacts of the Design SPD objectives on the SA objectives.

**Table 4.3**

<b>Cumulative Effect</b>	<b>Affected Receptor</b>	<b>Causes</b>
<b>Habitat Fragmentation</b>	Wildlife Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of land for housing, industrial development and transport infrastructure.</li> <li>▪ Development of greenfield land</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change</b>	Worldwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greenhouse gas emissions from industrial development and increased traffic volumes.</li> <li>▪ Promotion of renewable energy</li> <li>▪ Sustainable transport modes</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of tranquillity</b>	Countryside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of greenfield land within the rural area</li> <li>▪ Increased traffic volumes</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate development within the countryside</li> </ul>
<b>Unemployment</b>	Local community, priority wards, employees, employers, investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport connections</li> <li>▪ Linkages with the wider City Region</li> </ul>
<b>Housing that meets local needs</b>	New and existing residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of land for housing type and tenure allocations</li> <li>▪ The location of housing</li> </ul>
<b>Socio Economic</b>	Local Communities, priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of land for the allocation of housing</li> </ul>

<b>Inequalities</b>	wards	types and tenure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of health and employment, and access to recreation and leisure activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Vitality/viability of Town Centre</b>	Local communities, businesses, employees, employers, residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of land within the service and main villages surrounding the urban area</li> <li>▪ Range of retail opportunities</li> </ul>
<b>Community Facilities</b>	Local community, service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allocation and focus of community facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b>	Local community, local businesses, Transport providers, DBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focus of development</li> <li>▪ Transport links</li> <li>▪ Use of land surrounding transport corridors.</li> <li>▪ Linked to social issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Local distinctiveness</b>	Local community, investors, tourists, visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Location and design of new developments</li> <li>▪ Conserving Heritage assets</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate development or loss of the countryside</li> </ul>
<b>Transport Modes</b>	Local community, local businesses, transport providers, DBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Choice of transport modes</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure development</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Protection</b>	Countryside, wildlife habitats, Borough's recourses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use of greenfield land</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure development</li> <li>▪ Renewable energy</li> <li>▪ Sustainable Construction</li> <li>▪ Recycling</li> </ul>

4.4.3 Table 4.4 sets out the cumulative impact scores. The higher scores represent the SA Objectives that objectives collectively scored most positively against, and conversely those with the lower scores objectives collectively scored the least positive impact against.

4.4.4 The table reveals that the combined impacts of each of the Design SPD objectives scored positively against the SA objectives, with the highest scoring being SA objective 8 and lowest score being SA objective 5.

**Table 4.4**

<b>SA Objectives</b>	<b>Appraisal Score</b>	<b>Rank</b>
1. Strengthening the Economy	5	5
2. Adapting to and mitigating against climate change	8	2
3. Living within environmental limits	8	2
4. Developing a more sustainable employment market	3	6
5. Establishing a strong learning and skills base	2	7
6. Improving health and well-being while reducing health inequalities	8	2
7. Safeguarding and enhancing environmental infrastructure	6	4
8. Building sustainable communities	12	1
9. Developing sustainable transport and communication	6	4
10. Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage	7	3

- 4.4.5 The Design SPD objectives had minimal impact upon SA objectives 1 and 4 relating to strengthening the economy and developing a sustainable employment market. Whilst improved design may attract inward investment, the impact is indirect.
- 4.4.6 The Design SPD objectives did not score very highly against SA objective 5, as there are no real direct links between design and improving learning and skills. The objectives did not score negatively, so there is no need for mitigation.
- 4.4.7 The Design SPD objectives scored best against SA objective 8 building sustainable communities, as each of the Design objectives will contribute to achieving more attractive, accessible, healthy and inclusive communities. This in turn has an indirect effect on health and well being (SA objective 6), for which the Design Objectives score highly.
- 4.4.8 To satisfy SA objectives 2, 3 and 7, it is essential that the density of new development is appropriate to its location. In achieving adaptation to climate change there is the need to consider flood risk and the outcomes of the SFRA.
- 4.4.9 Whilst SA objective 10 scored positively, it is important to consider Design Objective 3 alongside Design Objective 1 and 4 to ensure that the design of new development and the need to design out crime does not compromise SA objective 10.
- 4.4.10 The cumulative effects of Design objectives on SA objective 9 are relatively indirect, except for Design objective 7. The need to make new development more accessible by sustainable forms of transport should be considered alongside all of the other design objectives.

## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1.1 The SA of the Design SPD has determined that the strategic objectives will contribute to the delivery of sustainable development as outlined in the Integrated Regional Framework.
- 5.1.2 The Design SPD represents a significant improvement on existing guidance for developers, bringing together a number of issues to promote a safe, distinctive, inclusive, sustainable, attractive environment through the use of general and detailed design principles relevant to location in the Borough. This new approach should significantly help raise the quality of design in the Borough.

## **6.0 ASSESSING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES – TASK D2**

- 6.1.1 Following consultation on the Design of New Development SPD and related Sustainability Appraisal, comments were received from the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Durham County Council Archaeology section relating specifically to adding new indicators into the SA Framework (see Appendix D). The Design SA has been amended to reflect the comments made. Following consideration of the comments made in response to the consultation draft, the Design SPD has been revised. Reflecting these changes the Design SPD has been reappraised in light of the comments made, and the conclusion remains that the final Design SPD should help the delivery of sustainable, high quality development in the Borough.

## **7.0 MONITORING – TASK E**

- 7.1.1 The SA monitoring framework (Table 4.4) reflects the indicators and data that is available at present. Once the Design SPD is adopted, the information supplied through the sustainability statement, within the document, will along with information contained in the LDF Annual Monitoring Report be used to monitor progress against the SA objectives. These include
- % of locally sourced materials used
  - Installed renewable energy capacity as a % of Development
  - Open space within 300m walking distance of site
  - Creation / improvement of priority habitat per development (ha)

- % of developments designed to meet Secure by Design and Inclusive design principles  
This may provide a new baseline from which to monitor different indicators or alternative indicators to those currently proposed. It is expected that this information will be available 12 months after adoption of the Design SPD.

**Table 4.4 Monitoring Framework**

SA Objectives and sub objectives	Indicator(s)
<b>1. Strengthening the economy</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerate regeneration and optimise the use of brownfield sites in line with national planning guidance</li> <li>• Increase the economic wealth and performance</li> <li>• Increase research on the environmental and social impacts associated with economic growth</li> </ul>	NI 170: Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict NI 151: Overall employment rate
<b>2. Adapting to and mitigating against climate change</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Increase the level of investment in clean technologies</li> <li>• Increase the resilience to climate change (infrastructure, economic activity, spatial planning, agriculture, biodiversity, landscapes and land use, housing and communities)</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>	NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions NI 188: Planning to adapt to Climate Change % of new developments complying with Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards as set out in SPD Domestic, Commercial and Industrial energy Consumption Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice
<b>3. Living within environmental limits</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise the use of global and local natural resources</li> <li>• Reduce the ecological footprint and contribute to One Planet Living</li> <li>• Improve energy generation, efficiency and conservation (renewables, new technology low carbon)</li> <li>• Reduce waste production and increase recycling</li> <li>• Reduce pollution</li> <li>• Reduce our impact on the environment through the production of more sustainable products and services</li> </ul>	NI 192: % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting NI193: % of municipal waste land filled
<b>4. Developing a more sustainable employment market</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address barriers to work and create avenues to entering the labour market that are transparent and open to all</li> <li>• Increase workforce diversity and ensure equality of opportunities</li> </ul>	NI 151: Overall employment rate
<b>5. Establishing a strong learning and skills base</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address barriers to work that prevent people from getting jobs, including low educational attainment, low skills, low aspirations, ill health, poor access to transport, poor access to childcare and social exclusion</li> </ul>	NI 175: Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
<b>6. Improving health and well being whilst reducing inequalities in health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote inclusiveness and reduce health inequality</li> <li>• Decrease the causes of ill health and death by tackling the wider determinants of health</li> <li>• Increase access to essential localised healthcare provision</li> <li>• Tackle the main causes of ill health by encouraging healthier lifestyles and diets</li> </ul>	Amount of open space provision in the urban area <i>(Access to healthcare facilities monitored under other objectives)</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sport, exercise and active recreation</li> <li>• Provide access to safe, green and open spaces for active design and access to the natural environment</li> <li>• Improve the well being and mental health of the population</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Safeguarding and enhancing environmental infrastructure</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance the value and capacity of our environmental infrastructure</li> <li>• Contribute towards the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity</li> <li>• Encourage the reclamation and reuse of derelict/previously developed land</li> <li>• Contribute to the protection and enhancement of landscape character</li> <li>• Contribute to protecting air and water (quality and resources)</li> <li>• Ensure the robust ecosystem services are at our disposal eg wetlands and woodlands</li> <li>• Promote green infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>NI 197: Improved local biodiversity – proportion of Local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented Number/populations of priority species recorded in the Borough. <i>(PDL, open space and water resource indicators monitored in other SA objectives)</i></p>
<p><b>8. Building sustainable communities</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the development of sustainable communities</li> <li>• Decrease levels of and fear of crime</li> <li>• Provide high quality, affordable housing with accessible services such as public transport, schools, hospitals and shops in places where people want to live and work</li> <li>• Encourage a safe and inclusive, well planned, well designed, well built and run community</li> <li>• Provide a safe environment with open public spaces where people can relax and interact</li> </ul>	<p>Indices of Multiple Deprivation NI 002: % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood NI 005: Overall general satisfaction with local area NI 017: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour NI 155: Number of affordable homes delivered Housing Quality: Building for life assessments</p>
<p><b>9. Developing sustainable transport and communication</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport</li> <li>• Increase access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and greenspace</li> <li>• Balance the economic requirements for national and international travel with the need to reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>• Develop sustainable transport networks in rural areas, taking into account changes to public services</li> <li>• Embed sustainable transport within local development frameworks, including encouragement of production of sustainable travel plans</li> </ul>	<p>Distance Travelled by Mode of Transport per Person per Annum Submission of a travel plan <i>(access to services, carbon emissions and open space monitored in other SA objectives)</i></p>
<p><b>10. Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to improve the image of the Borough and promote local pride and distinctiveness</li> <li>• Protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets</li> </ul>	<p>Listed buildings on the buildings at risk register Scheduled ancient monuments on the buildings at risk register Conservation areas with assessments Number of public art schemes <i>(leisure facilities monitored in other SA objectives)</i></p>

**Appendix A Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Key Objectives</b>
International Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice: The Sixth Environment Action Programme of the European Community, European Commission (www.europa.eu.int)	Provides the strategic environmental component of the EC's strategy for sustainable development, by considering environmental plans in the context of economic and social conditions. Makes the link between environment and European objectives for growth and competitiveness. Identifies four environmental priority areas to be tackled for improvements: <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>
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, United Nations (www.un.org)	Reaffirms the commitment to sustainable development, building a humane, equitable and caring global society, mindful of the need for human dignity for all. Recognises it is the collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the pillars of sustainable development — economic development, social development and environmental protection — at the local, national, regional and global levels. Sets out a commitment to regularly monitor the achievement of sustainable development goals and objectives.
European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna, EC, 1992 (www.europa.eu.int)	The main aim is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements: <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> 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/compensation where appropriate.
A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development, European Union, May 2001 (www.europa.eu.int)	The key aims of this strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy.</li> <li>• Improve public health while combating poverty and social exclusion.</li> <li>• Deal with economic and social implications of an ageing society.</li> <li>• Manage our natural resources responsibly.</li> <li>• Improve the transport system and land use management.</li> </ul>
National Sustainable Communities Plan Building for the Future, ODPM, 2003 (www.communities.gov.uk)	Aims to create 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. Some of the key objectives of this plan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that communities have a clean, safe and attractive environment to live in;</li> <li>• Encourage environmental enhancement to be central to regeneration; and</li> <li>• Encourage restoration and enhancement of brownfield land and green space networks</li> </ul>
Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, DEFRA, 2005 (www.defra.gov.uk)	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. This strategy has five guiding principles which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living within environmental limits;</li> <li>• Ensuring a strong healthy just society;</li> <li>• Achieving a sustainable economy;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting good governance; and</li> <li>• Using sound science responsibly</li> </ul> <p>Sets out four priorities: sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource protection and sustainable communities, and a new indicator set, with commitments to look at new indicators such as on well-being.</p> <p>Key commitments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective joined up policies at the local level around the vision of sustainable communities with</li> <li>• Placing sustainable development at the heart of the land use planning system and at the core of new planning guidance.</li> </ul>
<p>Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England, DEFRA, 2002 (www.ukbap.org.uk)</p>	<p>Ensure that biodiversity is embedded in policy by setting out a 5 year programme to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems. Looks at engaging society in understanding the needs of biodiversity and what can be done to help conserve and enhance it.</p> <p>The two key aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halting, and if possible reversing, a decline in priority habitats and species, with wild species and habitats as part of healthy, functioning ecosystems</li> <li>• Accepting biodiversity's role in enhancing the quality of life, with conservation being part of all policies</li> </ul>
<p>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development, DCLG, 2005 (www.communities.gov.uk)</p>	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources;</li> <li>• Ensuring that 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 members of the community;</li> <li>• Contributing to sustainable economic development; and</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of existing communities.</li> </ul>
<p>PPS1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change, DCLG, 2007 (www.communities.gov.uk)</p>	<p>All local planning authorities will now expect new development to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support opportunities for decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy supply, unless it can be demonstrated that it is not feasible or viable</li> <li>• take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption and plan to minimise CO2 emissions considering form, density and mix of development,</li> <li>• deliver a high quality local environment</li> <li>• provide private and public open space so that it offers shade and shelter, flood storage, wildlife</li> <li>• prioritise sustainable urban drainage systems</li> <li>• provide for sustainable waste management</li> <li>• prepare of travel plans</li> <li>• provide safe and attractive walking and cycling opportunities including secure cycle parking</li> <li>• provide an appropriate approach to the management of car parking</li> </ul>
<p>PPS3: Housing, DCLG, 2006) (www.communities.gov.uk)</p>	<p>Ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise the use of previously developed land</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas.</li> <li>• Promote developments which are attractive, safe and designed and built to a high quality.</li> <li>• Provide choice through a mix of type and tenure.</li> <li>• Encourage a good density of housing</li> <li>• Encourage developments to be located in areas with good access to jobs and key services</li> <li>• Encourage development near transport links</li> </ul>
PPS6: Town Centres, DCLG, 2005 (www.communities.gov.uk)	<p>Develop and support successful, thriving, safer and inclusive communities, both urban and rural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and enhance existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in existing services, accessible to all.</li> </ul> <p>This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing choice by providing for a range of shopping, leisure and local services, allowing choice for the community, particularly socially-excluded groups;</li> <li>• Improving accessibility, ensuring that existing or new development is, or will be, accessible and well-served by a choice of means of transport</li> </ul>
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas ODPM, 2004 (www.communities.gov.uk)	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas</li> <li>• To promote more sustainable patterns of development</li> </ul> <p>People who live or work in rural areas should have reasonable access to a range of services and facilities. New development in rural areas should be focused in or near to local service centres where employment, housing, services and other facilities can be provided close together. This should help ensure these facilities are served by public transport and provide improved opportunities for access by walking and cycling. Must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need to protect natural resources;</li> <li>• sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources</li> <li>• conservation of specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value.</li> </ul> <p>Development should where possible respect and enhance the historic and architectural qualities of the towns and villages.</p>
PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation ODPM, 2005 (www.communities.gov.uk)	<p>Main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Enhance and develop green spaces within developments that recognise both the needs of people and biodiversity.</li> <li>• Consider designated sites, protected species, ancient woodland, habitats of principal importance and habitat networks, including cumulative effects.</li> <li>• Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity both social and economic.</li> </ul>
PPG13: Transport, ODPM, 2001 (www.communities.gov.uk)	<p>Aim to integrate planning and transport to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and goods.</li> <li>• Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Reduce the need to travel, especially by car.</li> </ul>

PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment, ODPM, 1994 (www.communities.gov.uk)	Identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment.
PPG16: Archaeology and Planning, ODPM, 1990 (www.communities.gov.uk)	Preservation of archaeological remains on land and how they should be recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside.
PPG17: Planning For Open Space, sport and Recreation ODPM, 2002 (www.communities.gov.uk)	<p>The recreational quality of open spaces can be eroded by insensitive development should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open spaces;</li> <li>• Ensure that open spaces do not suffer from increased overlooking, traffic flows or other encroachment;</li> <li>• Protect and enhance those parts of the rights of way network that might benefit open space; and</li> <li>• Consider the impact of any development on biodiversity and nature conservation.</li> </ul> <p>Should seek opportunities to improve the value of existing facilities. Use might be improved by better management or by capital investment to secure improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the compatibility of uses made of open spaces and sport/ recreational facilities with adjoining land uses;</li> <li>• Encourage accessibility of existing open spaces and sports and recreational facilities; and</li> <li>• Promote better use of open spaces and sports and recreational facilities, by the use of good design to reduce crime.</li> </ul>
PPS25: Development and Flood Risk, DCLG, 2006 (www.communities.gov.uk)	Ensure that flood risk is seen as an integral consideration in all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.
A Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future DCMS, 2001 (www.culture.gov.uk)	<p>The vision for the future of the historic environment is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised;</li> <li>• Accessible to everybody which society can identify and engage;</li> <li>• Protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations;</li> <li>• Recognised as an economic asset.</li> </ul>
Making It Happen: The Northern Way ODPM, 2002	Considers the impact of the Sustainable Communities Plan with an increased emphasis on regeneration and renewal in the north, particularly to address housing issues, maintain resident populations and encourage investment to improve quality of life to establish sustainable economic growth.
North East of England Regional Spatial Strategy North East Assembly, 2008	<p>Sets out a long-term strategy for the spatial development of the region and provides the spatial context for the delivery of other regional strategies e.g. the Integrated Regional Framework. It:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promotes an urban and rural renaissance;</li> <li>• contributes to the sustainable development of the Region;</li> <li>• reflects a sequential approach to land allocations</li> </ul>
Integrated Regional Framework, SUSTAINE, 2008	<p>Aims to embed sustainable development with other NE plans to help move towards a more sustainable future and enabling us to have a better quality of life. Identifies four immediate priority areas for action. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Consumption and Production</li> <li>• Climate change and energy</li> <li>• Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement</li> <li>• Sustainable Communities</li> </ul> <p>Sets a vision for the North East where it will be a vibrant, self reliant, ambitious and outward looking region featuring a dynamic economy, a healthy environment, and a distinctive culture. Everyone will have the</p>

	<p>opportunity to realise their full potential.</p> <p>There are 10 regional objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening the North East economy</li> <li>2. Adapting to and mitigating against climate change</li> <li>3. Living within environmental limits</li> <li>4. Developing a more sustainable employment market in the North East</li> <li>5. Establishing a strong learning and skills base for the North East</li> <li>6. Improving health and well-being while reducing inequalities in health</li> <li>7. Safeguarding and enhancing the region's environmental infrastructure</li> <li>8. Building sustainable communities in the North East</li> <li>9. Developing sustainable transport and communication</li> <li>10. Promoting, enhancing and respecting the region's culture and heritage</li> </ol> <p>There are a series of priority actions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boosting opportunities for the development of new energy technologies</li> <li>• address the issues and implications relating to the location, design and flood-protection of new and existing development, as well as the design, capacity and maintenance of our drainage infrastructure.</li> <li>• develop opportunities for further energy generation and decentralised energy generation in the NE</li> <li>• Address barriers that prevent people from getting jobs, including ill health, poor access to transport, poor access to childcare and social exclusion.</li> <li>• Encourage the production of sustainable travel plans</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the region's historic environments and heritage assets and ensure that their worth is recognised and invested in, enhancing their wider benefit to society.</li> </ul>
Building-In Sustainability: A guide to sustainable construction and development in the North East Durham County Council, 2003	Principle is that design should cover reusing buildings and land, use minimum waste, aim for lean construction, minimise energy in construction use, not pollute, conserve & enhance biodiversity, respect people and their local environment, think about the whole place and the provision of transport choices.
Regional Housing Strategy for the North East North East Housing Board, 2005	<p>Sets the context for housing investment in the region. The design related housing objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To rejuvenate the housing stock to meet the C21st aspirations, replacing market failure with high quality housing in the right location, to help create, successful, cohesive, sustainable communities.</li> <li>• To ensure the type and mix of new housing provides choice, supports economic growth and meets housing needs and demand.</li> </ul> <p>It emphasises the importance of affordable housing using high quality design and layout principles and housing be adaptable to meet the needs of the aging population.</p>
The State of the North East's Historic Environment, English Heritage, 2006	Provides the baseline conditions for the NE split into a series of subject areas including designated heritage and portable heritage assets, historic areas and open spaces, historic environment at risk, the economic and education benefits of the historic environment.
Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, Durham County Council, 1999	Promotes Biodiversity and Geological Conservation as important aspects of conserving biodiversity. 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 Darlington
Countryside Character Volume 1: North East Natural England <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk">www.naturalengland.org.uk</a>	Most of Darlington is within the 'Tees Lowlands' Countryside Character area although the northern part of the Borough is in the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau. A very small part of the Durham Coalfield

	Pennine Fringe extends into the extreme north west part of Darlington district.
Heritage Counts North East, English Heritage, 2006 (www.english-heritage.org.uk)	Sets out the enormous value that can be drawn from investment in historic environment, including quality of life improvements, benefits for regeneration and for the economy. It contains baseline data for heritage and specific targets can be drawn for the future of heritage. It encourages and promotes high standards of architecture, planning and design, including sustainable practices. Aims to ensure that new development is consistent with the historic features of the locality.
Streets for All – North East, English Heritage, 2005	Guides the management of streets and public open spaces with the aim of improving appearance through a reduction in street clutter, a co-ordination of design and the reinforcement of local character. Highlights the importance of managing change without detracting from the uniqueness of character, provided through historic paving, buildings and street furniture.
Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy 2008 Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit	The vision for green infrastructure in the Tees Valley is to develop by 2021 a network of green corridors and green spaces that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the quality of place for existing and future communities and potential investors;</li> <li>• Provide an enhanced environmental setting and context for new development, regeneration projects and housing market renewal, and produces schemes of high quality design;</li> <li>• Create and extends opportunities for access, regeneration, and enhancement of biodiversity,</li> <li>• Provide a buffer against the effects of climate change.</li> </ul> Relevant aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provide a strategic context for the sustainable planning and management of existing and proposed green space within the Tees Valley</li> <li>2) Support and reinforce initiatives to raise the economic performance of the Tees Valley, promote economic and social inclusion, create sustainable communities, and improve the environment</li> <li>3) Assist with climate change adaptations, actions and initiatives</li> <li>4) Provide a framework of high quality green corridors and spaces that will help to improve access to open space for local communities and contribute to tackling such issues as poor health and quality of life</li> <li>5) Provide an enhanced environmental context for new development and regeneration schemes</li> </ol>
Tees Forest Plan, 2000	The Plan contains many elements that will support, and be supported by, a green infrastructure network: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland extension and restoration</li> <li>• Increase biodiversity and enhance environmental capital</li> <li>• Develop a network of greenways to promote access to the countryside and healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• Develop the concept of 'connected countryside', securing good interconnection between the town and the countryside</li> </ul>
Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, JBA, 2007	Will help guide development sequentially to avoid areas at most risk from flooding. Takes account flood risk from rivers, surface water run off as well as any potential increase from climate change.
Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy 2006-2012 Tees Valley Climate Change Partnership, 2007	Identifies a number of actions and initiatives designed to promote efficient energy use and reduce emissions in order to contribute to reducing climate change. Relevant actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable construction methods</li> <li>• A safe and convenient walking and cycling network</li> <li>• An increase in tree and vegetation cover</li> </ul>
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed Darlington	Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a vision for the Borough, which makes sure that

Partnership, 2008	<p>people are not disadvantaged by their lack of income or by where they live and using Darlington's advantageous position to help shape investment decisions, spatial planning the environment. Its relevant aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract and generate business investment to bring increased employment and higher wage levels</li> <li>• Retain the market town scale and feel of Darlington</li> <li>• Champion accessibility and healthier sustainable travel options</li> <li>• Ensure that the local environment is clean and well maintained, and that its attractiveness is protected</li> <li>• Reduce Darlington's contribution to global warming, and making good environmental practice an integral part of the Borough's attraction</li> <li>• Continue to provide new and revitalised school buildings</li> <li>• Develop sustainable neighbourhoods with a good range of local facilities and transport links to the town centre and employment areas</li> <li>• Value and reinforce Darlington's excellent green infrastructure combined with good public access</li> </ul>
Borough of Darlington Local Plan, DBC, 1997 (www.darlington.gov.uk)	The statutory local plan covering the whole of the Borough. It identifies which land and buildings will be protected from development and which will be developed and for what use. It includes a wide range of policies covering all aspects of the design of new development, including public and private open space.
All Together Now: Social Inclusion Strategy Darlington Partnership, 2005	Aims to improve the life chances of those who are experiencing or who are at risk of experiencing, discrimination and disadvantage.
Darlington Second Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 Darlington Borough Council, 2006	<p>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. Relevant key actions are:</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>
Open Spaces Strategy Darlington Borough Council, 2007	<p>The vision is to provide, protect and enhance a variety of high quality, accessible open and green spaces throughout the Borough, linking with the cultural and natural heritage of an area that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well designed and maintained</li> <li>• Sustainable</li> <li>• Safe</li> <li>• Promote health, well being and enjoyment</li> <li>• Improving the quality of life for residents and visitors to the Borough.</li> </ul> <p>It discusses quantity of open space, overall and by type, quality and value of open space, distribution of open space and accessibility to open spaces.</p>
Affordable Housing SPD Darlington Borough Council, 2007	The purpose is to provide clarity and detail about how much, where and when the council expects the affordable housing element of new housing developments to be delivered. It also sets out the standard of design expected to ensure affordable homes look no different to market housing and provide a quality, safe and sustainable environment for residents.
Darlington's Climate Change Strategy Darlington Partnership, 2007	Aims to protect the community from climate change and proposes a series of measures to help reduce climate change.

**Appendix B: Key Sustainability Issues and Problems**

<b>Sustainability Issues / Problems</b>	<b>Baseline/Target evidence for problems</b>	<b>Information Available</b>
<b>SOCIAL ISSUES</b>		
<b>Sustainability</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you create buildings that don't cost anything to run and maintain you are putting money in peoples pocket immediately.</li> <li>• Darlington must set its stall out on design quality and not accept the first investment opportunities that come along.</li> <li>• The intensification of existing facilities/resources can be of benefit to sustainable development.</li> <li>• Sustainable energy is very important.</li> <li>• In promoting sustainable forms of transport, the Borough fails to provide a bus station.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live</li> <li>• % of residents who consider their local area is getting worse</li> <li>• Energy efficiency of local authority housing stock in Darlington (average SAP rating)</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decent homes must equate to quality of life</li> <li>• In order to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in the town, housing will be needed to meet the needs and aspirations of the local workforce</li> <li>• There is a shortage of high value/low density homes</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings</li> </ul>
<b>Leisure and Retail</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More specialist retailers and traders should be encouraged and diverse retail opportunities maintained to promote the town's status as a market town</li> <li>• More accessible, quality spaces to play sports indoor and outdoor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive trend for proportion of designated play areas meeting minimum European standards and satisfaction of children's play area but below targets</li> </ul>	
<b>Environment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The attractive countryside attracts people to the Borough.</li> <li>• There are increasing pressures and objections to any proposed new infill development when it influences the natural environment.</li> <li>• Environmental signals are important to the quality, uniqueness and character of the Borough.</li> </ul>		
<b>Health</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment, recreation and leisure objectives and outcomes are 'key determinants' for a healthy lifestyle</li> <li>• There are clear health disadvantages in certain locations in the Borough.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreasing life expectancy for females</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicators for quality of life are important and they need to be considered carefully.</li> <li>• The built environment can impact negatively or positively on health</li> </ul>		
<b>Education and Skills</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a desire and need to grow the economy and skills focusing on the local population.</li> <li>• The relocation/merger of schools impacts on the community that is losing the school.</li> </ul>		
<b>Income and Deprivation</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequalities throughout the Borough are distinct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative trend for number of wards in bottom 10% for IMD, positive trend for bottom 25% IMD but still high.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of people who live in wards that rank in the 10% and 25% most deprived wards in the country (IMD 2000 &amp; IMD 2004) – note that IMD 2000 &amp; IMD 2004 not directly comparable</li> </ul>
<b>Crime and Community Safety</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents feel that there is a high level of crime and anti social behaviour, particularly in open spaces and public spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal damage has a negative trend but is within target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of residents who said that they feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' after dark whilst outside</li> <li>• % of residents who said that they feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' during the day whilst outside</li> <li>• No. of projects that meet the 'Safety by Design' and 'Secured by Design' criteria</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel options to town are very important to the sustainable growth of the town in terms of accessibility.</li> <li>• Recreation facilities should be easily accessible in order to encourage use.</li> <li>• Cycle tracks stop half way to destination.</li> <li>• The distance between bus stops and shops is too great.</li> <li>• There is a lack of provision for cycle parking at supermarkets, railway stations and bus stations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative trends, below target for accessibility to Post Office, GP, sports leisure, child care and library</li> <li>• Below target (but positive trend) for accessibility to bank/cash machine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of the population finding it easy to access local services:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GP/Doctor's surgery</li> <li>• Sports/ leisure facility</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Number of passenger journeys per year on local bus services (method of compilation changed from 2002/03 onwards)</li> <li>• Condition of principal and non principal classified roads and footpaths (new method of recording data from 2004/5)</li> </ul>
<b>Planning</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are many new developments that have been approved but when they get built they are different from the approved plans.</li> <li>• Profit and money is driving development rather than social equity.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live</li> <li>• % of residents who consider their local area is getting worse</li> </ul>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES</b>		
<b>Sustainability</b>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term resource impacts on the Borough are central to sustainable development.</li> <li>• The intensification of existing facilities/resources can be of benefit to sustainable development.</li> <li>• If you create buildings that don't cost anything to run and maintain you are putting money in peoples pocket immediately.</li> <li>• Darlington must set its stall out on design quality and not accept the first investment opportunities that come along.</li> <li>• How travel people come to town is very important to the sustainable growth of the town</li> <li>• The impact of development on natural resources and environmental resources impact from design stage to them being built and completed and then in their functioning.</li> <li>• Design is poor because it is affordable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cycling patronage</li> <li>• Increasing car patronage</li> <li>• Decreasing bus patronage but still above national baseline</li> <li>• Positive trend for energy efficiency of local authority housing, but not meeting targets</li> <li>• Positive trend for % of household waste recycled, composted and land filled but not meeting targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new buildings meeting BREEAM Excellent-outstanding, CSH 1-5, Building for Life and Lifetime Home standards</li> <li>• % of household waste recycled</li> <li>• % of household waste composted</li> <li>• % of household waste used to recover</li> <li>• % of household waste landfilled</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More sites are becoming more manicured and less natural.</li> <li>• The attractive countryside attracts people to the Borough.</li> <li>• Environmental signals are important to the quality, uniqueness and character of the Borough. It is therefore important to maintain and enhance local distinctiveness, character and appearance of rural and urban areas and landscapes, including the public realm.</li> <li>• Wind energy can have a detrimental effect on the landscape</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of land that is derelict</li> <li>• % of new housing development on previously developed land</li> </ul>
<p><b>Open Space</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be provision to protect other open space and playing fields as well as cemeteries and recreational areas</li> <li>• Access to a variety of safe, quality open spaces must be improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of green space/playing fields is also an impact of school closures and mergers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of land managed for nature conservation and public access (ha)</li> <li>• Proportion of designated play areas meeting minimum European standards</li> <li>• % of residents and visitors satisfaction with access to publicly accessible green space</li> <li>• Population living within 300m of 2ha of natural green space</li> </ul>
<p><b>Historic Environment</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be a consideration of the protection and enhancement of buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity.</li> <li>• Victorian and earlier heritage of the area needs to be</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of Listed Buildings at all grades and % at risk</li> <li>• No of Conservation Areas and % with up to date Character Assessment</li> <li>• No and area of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens</li> </ul>



<p>maintained.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)</li> <li>• Number of archaeological sites listed in County Durham and Darlington Environmental record.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biodiversity</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Appropriate consideration must be made of designated sites, protected species, ancient woodland, habitats of principal importance and habitat networks, including cumulative effects.</li> <li>• Enhancement and development of green spaces within developments that recognise both the needs of people and biodiversity must be made.</li> <li>• Maintenance of the quality and extent of natural habitat is paramount in maintaining biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive trend for area of conservation sites, number of local nature reserves but below target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of local nature reserves</li> <li>• Area of local nature reserve per 1,000 population (ha)</li> <li>• Number of priority habitats identified in BAP</li> <li>• Number and area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)</li> </ul>
<p><b>ECONOMIC ISSUES</b></p>		
<p><b>Sustainability</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The perceived cost of sustainable design and build must be balanced against education in design and build efficiency.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Infrastructure</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be infrastructure implications from new development on existing and the need for new.</li> <li>• Buildings in the older industrial areas do not meet the needs of modern business.</li> </ul>		

## Appendix C SA Toolkit

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
1. Strengthening the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate regeneration and optimise the use of brownfield sites in line with national planning guidance</li> <li>Increase employment levels and tackle the causes of deprivation</li> <li>Increase the economic wealth and performance</li> </ul>	VAT registered businesses per 10,000 population	190	N/A			Tees Valley JSU and Business Link
		% change in the total number of VAT registered businesses	-1.00%	0.00%			Tees Valley JSU and Business Link
2. Adapting to and mitigating against climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>Increase the level of investment in clean technologies</li> <li>Increase the resilience to climate change</li> <li>Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>	CO2 emission reduction in the area		8.53	8.50		NI 186 CO2 emission reduction in the area
3. Living within environmental limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise the use of global and local natural resources</li> <li>Reduce the ecological footprint and contribute to One Planet Living™</li> <li>Improve energy generation, efficiency and conservation (renewables, new technology low carbon)</li> <li>Reduce waste production and increase recycling</li> <li>Reduce pollution</li> <li>Reduce our impact on the environment through the production of more sustainable products and services</li> </ul>	Average domestic energy consumption per annum (kwh) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electricity</li> <li>Gas</li> </ul>	N/A 20,006	4156 20,752		3856 18022	Community Strategy Action Plan
		Daily domestic water consumption (per capita consumption in litres)	-	136		136	Community Strategy Action Plan
		No. of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice on flood defence grounds	0				NI 189 Flood and coastal erosion risk management NI 188 Adapting to climate change
		Renewable energy capacity					

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
		Ecological footprint (Carbon footprint tonnes per capita) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Darlington</li> <li>▪ North East</li> <li>▪ UK</li> </ul>				11.12 11.04 11.87	Tees Valley Footprint Report
		No of SSSIs	4	4	4	4	NI 197 Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved
		No of Nature Reserves	5	5	7	8	
		Household waste production					NI 191 Residual household waste per household
		Disposal routes for municipal waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landfill</li> <li>▪ Recycled</li> <li>▪ Composted</li> </ul>	81.8% 15.0% 3.6%	81.9% 14.7% 3.4%	77% 15.96% 6.53%	74.2% 17.5% 8.3%	NI 192 Household waste reused, recycled or composted NI 193 Municipal waste land filled
4. Developing a more sustainable employment market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase workforce diversity and ensure equality of opportunities</li> <li>• Develop appropriate employment opportunities that are accessible, diverse and plentiful</li> </ul>	Previously developed land that is vacant/derelict	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%		NI 170 Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years
		Employment rate	77.8	79.5%	74.6	75.9%	DBC, NOMIS web, Tees Valley JSU NI 151 Overall employment rate
5. Establishing a strong learning and skills base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address barriers to work that</li> </ul>	% increase or decrease in the number of local jobs	5.8%				Community Strategy Action Plan

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
	prevent people from getting jobs, including low educational attainment, low skills, low aspirations, ill health, poor access to transport, poor access to childcare and social exclusion	% of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs A*-C (LA schools only)	48.8%	56.8%	59.5%	47%	Community Strategy Action Plan
		No of 16-18 year olds in structured learning	80%	76.5%			Community Strategy Action Plan
6. Improving health and well-being while reducing health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle the main causes of ill health (smoking, obesity and alcohol) by encouraging healthier lifestyles and diets</li> <li>Promote sport, exercise and active recreation</li> <li>Provide access to safe, green and open spaces for activity, use of active design, and access to the natural environment</li> <li>Improve the well-being and mental health of the population</li> <li>Promote inclusiveness and reduce health inequality</li> <li>Increase access to essential localised healthcare provision</li> </ul>	Life expectancy at birth Darlington					Darlington PCT Health Profiles, Tees Valley JSU, ONS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male (years)</li> <li>Female (years)</li> </ul>	75 80	75 80	75.2 80.0	75.2 80	
		England and Wales					
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male (years)</li> <li>Female (years)</li> </ul>	76 81	76 87	76.9 81.1	77.3 81.5	
		% of people who live in wards that rank in the 10% and 25% most deprived wards in the country					Community Strategy Action Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% of deprived wards</li> <li>25% of deprived wards</li> </ul>	31.3% 45.3%*	31.3% 45.3%*		31 45	
		Biological quality of river water	100%	100%			Environment Agency
		Overall/general satisfaction with local area as a place to live	77.9%	77%			Community Strategy Action Plan, DBC
% of residents who said that they feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' after dark whilst outside	48.3%	47%			Community Strategy Action Plan		
% of residents surveyed who consider their local area is getting worse	29%	25%			Community Strategy Action Plan		

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
7. Developing sustainable transport and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance the economic requirements for national and international travel with the need to reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>• Develop sustainable transport networks in rural areas, taking into account changes to public services</li> <li>• Embed sustainable transport within local development frameworks, including encouragement of production of sustainable travel plans</li> <li>• Develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport</li> <li>• Increase access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and greenspace</li> </ul>	Quality of housing stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings</li> <li>▪ % CO2 reduction from LA operators</li> </ul>	25.1	N/A			Community Strategy Action Plan NI 185 Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operators
		Households in fuel poverty				25%	NI 187 % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with low and high energy efficiency rating
		Affordable houses as a % of houses built	5%	N/A			NI 155 No. of affordable homes delivered
		Access to services by households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GP</li> <li>▪ Post office</li> <li>▪ Public transport</li> <li>▪ Bank/Cash machine</li> <li>▪ Childcare facilities</li> <li>▪ Chemist</li> <li>▪ Library</li> <li>▪ Sports/leisure facility</li> </ul>	83%	N/A			Community Strategy Action Plan NI 175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
			96%	95.8%			
			93%	88.8%			
	90%	N/A					
	N/A	46.1%					
	92%	92%					
	82%	82.4%					
	76%	N/A					
	% of public buildings accessible to disabled people	74.5%	86%			Community Strategy Action Plan	

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
		% of residents surveyed who think that facilities have got better or stayed the same <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teenage facilities</li> <li>▪ Cultural facilities</li> <li>▪ Young children's facilities</li> <li>▪ Sports / leisure facilities</li> <li>▪ Parks and open spaces</li> </ul>		59.1% 89.4% 75.9% 92.6% 71.7%			Community Strategy Action Plan
		Distance travelled by mode of transport per person per annum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work</li> <li>▪ Shopping</li> <li>▪ Leisure</li> <li>▪ Education (* secondary school children only)</li> </ul>	Car 73.4% Bus 10.1% Cycle 2.7% Walk 16% Car 70.5% Bus 16% Cycle 0.6% Walk 23.3% Car 62.6% Bus 13.2% Cycle 3.4% Walk 27.8% Car 59.4% Bus 9.1% Cycle 1.1% Walk 34.8%	Car 73.5% Bus 11.5% Cycle 3.3% Walk 17.7% Car 72.8% Bus 15.2% Cycle 1.7% Walk 25.8% Car 66.6% Bus 13.2% Cycle 3.1% Walk 28.9% Car 15.6%* Bus 26.5% Cycle 0.9% Walk 51.7%			Community Strategy Action Plan
		Number of passenger journeys per year on local bus services	9,591,418	8,780,000			Community Strategy Action Plan
		% rural households within 13 min walk of hourly bus service	88%	90%			DBC Local Transport Plan

SA Objectives	SA Sub Objectives	Indicators	Baseline				Source
			2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	
		Number of rail passengers annually <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bank Top Station</li> <li>▪ Local Stations</li> </ul>	1.80m 30,589	1.83m 28,400			DBC Local Transport Plan
		Levels of car ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Darlington</li> <li>▪ England and Wales</li> </ul>				61.6% 67.6%	'One Darlington' 2008-2021
		Length of designated cycle routes	300km				DBC
		No. of travel plans implemented	9	12			Community Strategy Action Plan
8. Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage engagement with and access to culture and heritage</li> <li>• Help to improve the image of the Borough and promote local pride and distinctiveness</li> <li>• Protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets</li> <li>• Promote improved knowledge and understanding of the archaeological heritage</li> </ul>	Scheduled ancient Monuments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total no.</li> <li>▪ At risk</li> </ul>	20	20		20 2	DBC
		Conservation areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total no.</li> <li>▪ With conservation area character assessment</li> </ul>	16 0%	16 75%		17 53	DBC
		No of listed buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade I</li> <li>▪ Grade II*</li> <li>▪ Grade II</li> <li>▪ % at risk</li> </ul>	7 32 506 20	7 32 498 20		8 31 478 42	DBC
		Archaeological sites of regional and local importance				598	Durham County Council
		No Registered historic parks and gardens	2	2	2	2	English Heritage

**Appendix D Appraisal Matrix**

Objective	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Strengthening the economy	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹	= ☹	++ ☺	= ☹	+ ☺	= ☹
Adapting to and mitigating against climate change	++ ☺	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹	* +/-	+ ☺	* ☹	++ ☺
Living within environmental limits	++ ☺	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹	= ☹	+ ☺	* ☹	++ ☺
Developing a more sustainable employment market	+ ☺	= ☹	= ☹	= ☹	+ ☺	= ☹	+ ☺	= ☹
Establishing a strong learning and skills base	= ☹	= ☹	= ☹	= ☹	= ☹	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹



Improving health and well being while reducing health inequalities	+ ☺	+ ☺	+ ☺	++ ☺	= ☹	++ ☺	+ ☺	+ ☺
Safeguarding and enhancing environmental infrastructure	++ ☺	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹	= ☹	+ ☺	?	+ ☺
Building sustainable communities	+ ☺	++ ☺	+ ☺	++ ☺	+ ☺	++ ☺	☺	+ ☺
Developing sustainable transport and communication	+ ☺	+ ☺	= ☹	= ☹	+ ☺	= ☹	++ ☺	+ ☺
Promoting, enhancing and respecting culture and heritage	= ☹	= ☹	++ ☺	= ☹	++ ☺	++ ☺	?	+ ☺