

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING  
REPORT

Autumn 2022





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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (including the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Middlesbrough Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires all councils to produce a Local Plan and keep it up to date. The review of the Local Plan is being undertaken to replace the Housing Local Plan (adopted 2014), Core Strategy (2008) and Regeneration Development Plan Documents (2009), as well as the residual 'saved' policies from the 'old' (1999) Local Plan in relation to the environment.

### **Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment - Legislative Context**

- 1.2 Sustainable development is central to the planning system. Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires a local planning authority to carry out a sustainability appraisal of each of the proposals in a plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act, requires that the authority preparing a plan must do so "with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development".
- 1.3 In addition to the above, sustainability appraisals should incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations'). Sustainability appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues. Paragraph 32 of the National Planning Policy Framework makes clear SA which meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, should:

*'demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives'*

- 1.4 Prior to undertaking assessment of the Plan it is necessary to undertake the first stage of SA known as Scoping. This Scoping stage aims to build upon previous evidence collated and determines whether the previous assessment framework established is fit for purpose. The production of this report also provides the statutory environmental consultees (Historic England, Natural England, Environment Agency) with an early and effective opportunity to express their opinion on the Scoping Stage and resulting assessment framework prior to the assessment of the new Plan.
- 1.5 The overall aim of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to help protect the environment and to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations into the preparation of plans which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Both SEA and SA are assessment tools required to consider the potential impact of a proposed plan (and its alternatives) on the social, economic and environmental characteristic of an area. Integrating the assessment

with the development of a Plan enables its policies to be changed or modified to better reflect, promote and address sustainability objectives and issues.

1.6 The SA process can be undertaken to satisfy the requirements of the SEA regulations through a single assessment process. For the sake of brevity the combined SEA/SA process will be referred to as Sustainability Appraisal, (SA), in this report. The SA process should:

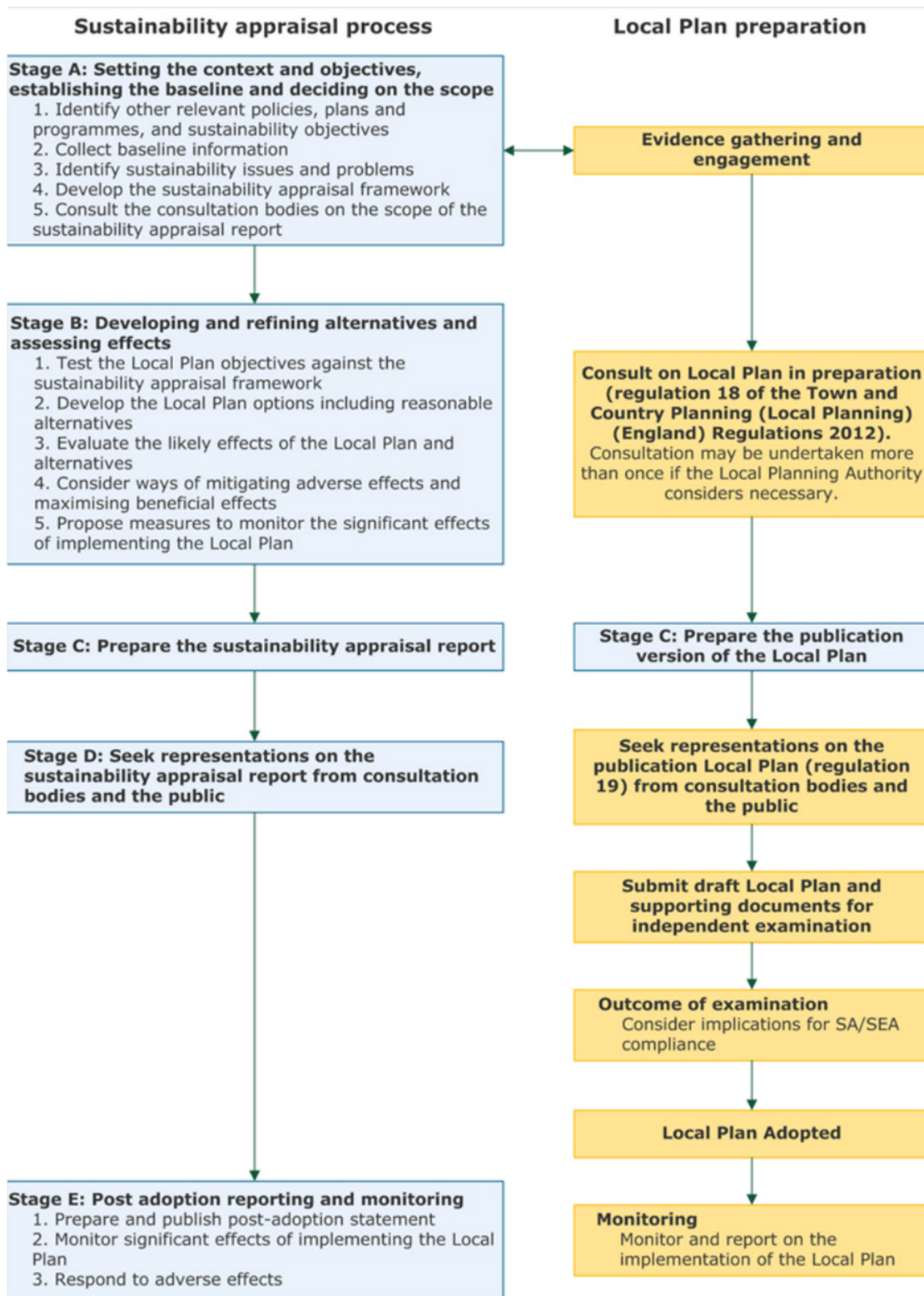
- Take a long-term view of how the area covered by the plan is expected to develop, taking account the social, environmental and economic effects of the proposed plan;
- Provide a mechanism for ensuring that sustainability objectives are translated into sustainable planning policies;
- Reflect national, regional and local concerns;
- Provide an audit trail of how the plan has taken account of the findings of the SA;
- Form an integral part of all stages of plan preparation; and
- Incorporate the requirements of the SEA regulations.

1.7 The objectives of this SA Scoping Report are:

- Ensure the new Local Plan is as sustainable as possible by integrating sustainable development into the Plan and policy making process;
- Achieve a high level of environmental protection and balance social, environmental and economic issues within the Middlesbrough Local Plan;
- Identify the links to relevant policies, plans and programmes and indicate the implications for the Local Plan and the SA process;
- Update the sustainability baseline for Middlesbrough;
- Review and identify any additional key sustainability issues within Middlesbrough
- Outline the environmental characteristics of Middlesbrough;
- Review and revise where necessary the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to ensure that the key sustainability issues are taken into account throughout the SA process; and
- Facilitate meaningful engagement and continuing consultation with statutory agencies on the scope of the SA process.

### **The SA process and Scoping Stage**

1.8 Current Government guidance contained the Planning Practice Guidance advocates a five stage approach to undertaking SA as outlined in the following diagram:



1.9 The methodology employed for the SA is the five-stage approach set out in Table 1 below, which follows Government guidance. This report covers Stage A of the SA process (the scoping stage) and records the process of deciding the scope and level of

detail for the SA. The five tasks comprising the scoping stage are covered in Stage A 1-5.

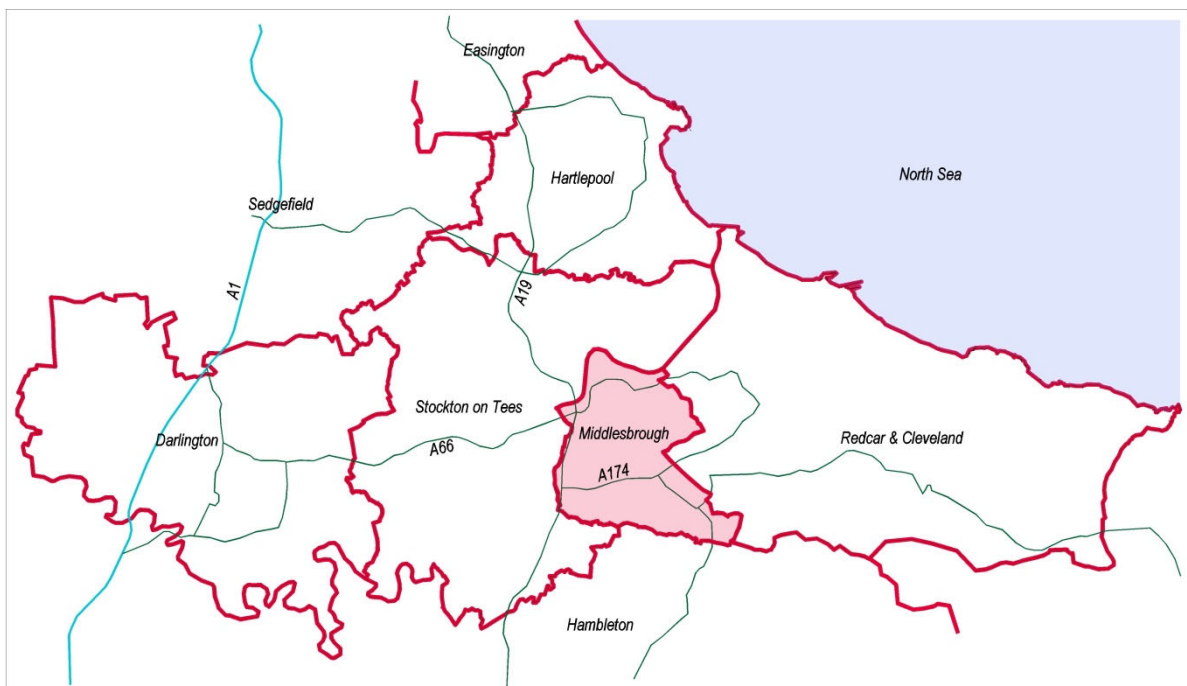
Table 1.1 Stage A (Scoping) of the SA

Stages and tasks	Purpose
A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) and sustainability objectives	To ensure that the relationship of the relevant PPPs with the development Plan and their social, economic and environmental objectives are taken into account throughout the development of the Middlesbrough Local Plan and the sustainability assessment.
A2 Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects predication and monitoring
A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages, including the setting of the SA Framework, prediction of effects and monitoring
A4: Developing the SA Framework	To provide a means by which the sustainability of the Plan can be assessed
A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the Scope of the sustainability appraisal report	To consult with statutory bodies to ensure the Scoping stage identifies the key sustainability issues.

## 2. Overview of Middlesbrough

2.1 Middlesbrough is located within the Tees Valley within the North East of England and has a population of 143,900 (2021 Census). It has boundaries with four local authorities: Stockton to the north and west; Redcar and Cleveland to the east; and Hambleton and North Yorkshire County Council to the south (see plan below). The Tees Valley authorities have a strong record of collaborative working and since April 2016 have united with the Local Enterprise Partnership as the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA). The TVCA is a statutory body to make decisions on key strategies relating to economic development, transport, infrastructure and skills. The Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton) has often been described as an area with a polycentric settlement pattern, with no one particularly dominant centre. At its core, however, is the urban area of Stockton-Middlesbrough. Middlesbrough is the most urbanised of the five authorities with development up to the boundaries with its neighbours to the north, east and west.

Figure 1 – Middlesbrough and its neighbouring authorities



### 3. Scoping Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes

3.1 Task A1 of the Scoping Stage requires a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs). The purpose of the review (often referred to as a 'context review') is to ensure that the relationship of the PPPs with the development Plan and their social, economic and environmental objectives are taken into account throughout the development of the Middlesbrough Local Plan and the sustainability assessment. The review, therefore, helps to set the overall context in which the Plan is written and assessed and needs to be kept up to date.

3.2 There is no definitive list of plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) to be reviewed. This review does not attempt to list all relevant information to the Local Plan, but to establish relationships and common themes between plans and highlight the implications for the Plan and its assessment. The identified policies, plans and programmes can be viewed in Appendix A.

#### Question 1

Are there any other relevant policies, plans or programmes and sustainability objectives that will affect or influence the Local Plan and the SA process? If so what are they?

3.3 The review of PPPs enable the identification of key messages and common themes that should be taken into account throughout the development of the Plan and its assessment. The following table provides a condensed summary of the key messages identified in Appendix 1. The review has been categorised by the following topics:

- Sustainable development
- Climate change and adaptation
- Energy
- Air and water
- Soil
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Landscape
- Heritage
- Housing
- Health
- Economic growth
- Education and skills
- Transport and accessibility

Table 3.1 – Key messages from plans, policies and programmes

Key messages	Key sources
Sustainable development	
All plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align	NPPF, 2021 Para 7-15

growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects.	
Plans should: a) be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development; b) be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable; c) be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees; d) contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals; e) be accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and f) serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant)	NPPF, 2021 Para 16
<b>Environment</b>	
The Local Plan will need to consider:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened biodiversity duty</li> <li>• Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network</li> </ul>	Environment Act, 2021
<b>Climate change and adaptation</b>	
The Local Plan should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures	NPPF, 2021 Para 152-158
Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments.	NPPF, 2021
<b>Energy</b>	
The Local Plan should provide a positive strategy for energy from renewable sources.	NPPF, 2021 Para 55
<b>Water</b>	
Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. The Local Plan should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of	NPPF, 2021 Paras 159, 169 & 174

<p>development – taking into account all sources of flood risk and the current and future impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The systems used should: a) take account of advice from the lead local flood authority; b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards; c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development; and d) where possible, provide multifunctional benefits.</p> <p>Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.</p>	
<b>Air</b>	
<p>Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified.</p>	NPPF Para 186
<b>Soil</b>	
<p>The Plan will need to promote and effective use of land while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring health living conditions. Policies should make as much use as possible of previously developed or brownfield land.</p>	NPPF, 2021, Para 119-121
<p>The Plan should make provision for remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate</p>	NPPF, 2021
<b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	
<p>The Local Plan should identify a hierarchy of designated sites and allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value.</p>	NPPF, 2021 Para 179
<b>Landscape</b>	
<p>The Plan should protect and enhance valued landscapes</p>	NPPF, 2021 Para 174
<b>Heritage</b>	
<p>Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:</p> <p>a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;</p> <p>b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;</p> <p>c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and</p> <p>d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.</p>	NPPF, 2021 Para 190



<b>Housing</b>	
<p>To boost the supply of homes, a sufficient amount and variety of land needs to come forward where it is needed.</p> <p>The Plan will need to ensure that the needs of groups with specific housing requirements are addressed. Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in the Local Plan (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes).</p>	NPPF, 2021 Para 60-77
Local Plan should set pitch targets for gypsies and traveller which address accommodation needs.	Planning Policy for Traveller sites, 2015
<b>Health</b>	
The Plan should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction are safe and accessible and enable and support health lifestyles.	NPPF, 2021 Para 92
<b>Economic Growth</b>	
<p>The Plan will need to give significant weight to the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking account of local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The Plan will need to:</p> <p>a) set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration;</p> <p>b) set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period;</p> <p>c) seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment; and</p> <p>d) be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices.</p>	NPPF, 2021 Para 81-83
Increase economic growth across the Tees Valley and increase the number of jobs in the Tees Valley by 25,000 by 2026.	Tees Valley SEP, TVCA, 2016
<b>Education and skills</b>	
<p>The Plan will need take account of the importance sufficient choice of school places being available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should:</p> <p>a) give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools through the preparation of plans and decisions on applications; and</p> <p>b) work with school promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to identify and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.</p>	NPPF 2021, Para 95

**Transport and accessibility**

The Local Plan will need to consider:

- a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed;
- b) opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated;
- c) opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued;
- d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and
- e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.

NPPF, 2021 Para 104

**Question 2**

Have we correctly identified the key messages from the Plans, Policies and Programmes? If not, what are they?

## 4. Scoping Stage A2: Collecting baseline information

4.1 Task A2 of the Scoping Stage requires the collection and analysis of baseline information and trends. Establishing the economic, social and environmental baseline of Middlesbrough provides the basis for:

- An understanding of existing sustainability problems within specific areas in Middlesbrough;
- Understanding 'business as usual' trends which may affect the implementation of the Local Plan;
- Formulating the SA objectives to reduce these problems;
- Suggesting alternative approaches;
- Predicting the effects of the Local Plan; and
- Proposing suitable mitigation and monitoring measures.

4.2 Substantial baseline data was collected to inform the 2014 Housing Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report and the 2018 draft Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal which has since been withdrawn. The data collected established a comprehensive, consistent and spatially specific evidence base for the whole of Middlesbrough. This report builds on this work. Some information may not be as up to date as we would like due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and we will endeavour to update this report if additional information becomes available. The topic areas covered in this baseline section are as follows:

- background;
- population;
- local economy and employment;
- housing;
- health, education and crime;
- cultural heritage and archaeology;
- open space and recreation;
- biodiversity and nature conservation;
- landscape and geological environment;
- traffic and transport;
- water environment; and
- air and climate.

4.3 As well as meeting those criteria required by SEA Directive Annex 1 (f), it was considered the (above) topic areas addressed the full spectrum of sustainability issues.

### Approach

4.4 In order to focus the baseline data collection stage, the following principles were considered:

- Relevance – is the data helpful?

- Current – is it up to date?
- Availability – is the data easily assessable?
- Accessibility – is the data easily accessible?
- Interpretation – is it easy enough to understand?

### Question 3

Can you provide or direct us to any potential data sources to improve the baseline information?

## Background

4.5 Middlesbrough Council is a unitary local authority serving an area covering approximately 5,400 hectares (Ha) and one of the five unitary local authorities in the Tees Valley sub-region (alongside Darlington, Hartlepool, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees), which together have a population of 677,100 - just over a quarter of the total population of the North East.

4.6 Sharing its boundaries with - the council administrations of - Stockton-on-Tees, Redcar & Cleveland and Hambleton (North Yorkshire), Middlesbrough is situated between North York Moors National Park to the south and River Tees to the north. It is the smallest of the five Tees Valley boroughs in terms of area, but the most urban in character, with only a narrow band of countryside to the south, running parallel to the boundary with the Hambleton District.

### Population

4.7 As of 2021, Middlesbrough had an estimated population of 143,900, the second highest of the five boroughs in the Tees Valley, although Middlesbrough is by far the most densely populated. In recent years, the population of Middlesbrough has been slowly rising since a low point in 2009 of 137,273.

### Local economy and employment

4.8 Middlesbrough initially developed around the iron and steel industry, followed by the shipbuilding and chemical manufacturing industries. The decline of this heavy industrial economic base over the past 60 years has led to restructuring of the local economy through diversification and regeneration however, and whilst light and general industry have replaced iron and steel, Middlesbrough is now predominantly a service sector economy. In 2019 there were an estimated 62,000 jobs in Middlesbrough. Around 88% were employed in this sector in 2009; this included 33% in the public sector (see Table 6.1), with Middlesbrough Council and Teesside University the two biggest employers in the borough.

Table 4.1: Tees Valley employees by borough and major industry group (2009)

	Darlington	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Redcar and Cleveland	Stockton-on-Tees
Primary	100	800	700	1,100	1,600
Manufacturing	3,600	4,600	2,600	6,900	9,400
Construction	4,700	2,500	4,300	2,200	6,400
Distribution, hotels, bars etc.	15,200	7,300	15,500	10,600	22,600
Finance	2,700	900	2,200	1,000	3,800
Public sector	12,800	9,900	27,600	11,300	21,500
Other services	7,100	4,200	9,900	4,500	13,200
All employees	46,100	90,100	62,800	37,600	78,500

Last updated December 2010

Source: ONS

N.B. Totals of five districts may not always add to Tees Valley due to rounding

- 4.9 As shown by Tables 4.2 and 4.3 respectively, there are noticeable differences between Middlesbrough and the national average in respect of the percentage of workers that are employed in financial, real estate and business industries, and those holding managerial, director or senior official positions.

Table 4.2: Industry of workers (2019)

	Middlesbrough	Tees Valley	National
Agriculture, fishing, mining, utilities	0.8%	18%	1.4%
Manufacturing	5.1%	9.7%	8.1%
Construction	4.2%	5.4%	4.7%
Retail and wholesale	13.6%	15.2%	15.2%
Hotels and catering	5.9%	5.8%	7.6%
Transport and communication	5.1%	7.7%	9.0%
Financial, real estate, business	10.2%	17.5%	23.3%
Public administration	8.5%	5.8%	4.3%
Education	11.9%	9.3%	8.9%
Health and social work	25.4%	17.5%	13.2%
Other	3.6%	4.2%	4.5%

Source: ONS (Labour Market Profile)

Table 4.3: Employment by occupation (2021)

	Middlesbrough	North East	National
Managers, directors, senior officials	5.2%	8.1%	10.5%
Professionals	20.3%	18.9%	23.7%
Associate professional and technical	13.3%	13.4%	15.3%
Administration and secretarial	7.5%	10.7%	10.2%
Skilled trades	9.8%	10%	8.8%
Caring, leisure and other services	12.8%	10.4%	9.2%
Sales and consumer service	9.7%	8.8%	6.9%
Process plant and machine operatives	7.6%	7.3%	5.5%
Elementary occupations	13.7%	12.1%	9.6%

Source: ONS Labour Market Profile

- 4.10 As of December 2021, the percentage of people economically active is 72% the second lowest of the Tees Valley boroughs and significantly below the national average (see Table 3.4)

Table 4.4: Economically active (2021)

	Economic activity
Darlington	81 %
Hartlepool	74.2 %
Middlesbrough	72 %
Redcar & Cleveland	70.2 %
Stockton-on-Tees	75.8%

North East	74.7%
Great Britain	78.4%

Source: ONS (Annual Population Survey - figures at Dec 2021)

- 4.11 Enterprise births, deaths and the survival rate of businesses is a guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures, and an indication as to the level of entrepreneurship and health of the business population. As shown in Table 3.5, Middlesbrough's enterprise births were the second highest of the Tees Valley authorities in 2020, reflecting Middlesbrough's role as a sub-regional centre. However, its enterprise deaths were the second highest, the Covid-19 pandemic may have had an impact on the figures.

Table 4.5: Enterprise births and deaths (2019/20)

	Enterprise births	Birth rate (%)	Enterprise deaths	Death rate (%)
Darlington	375	17.4%	455	10.7%
Hartlepool	280	11.5%	290	13.4%
Middlesbrough	605	15.1%	480	11.0%
Redcar & Cleveland	340	12.8%	400	11.2%
Stockton-on-Tees	735	11.7%	715	12.5%

Source: ONS (Business Demography)

- 4.12 In terms of the earnings of Middlesbrough residents, the average gross weekly wage in 2019 was below the national average and slightly below the North East average (Table 6.7). There was also a disparity between those who work and those who live in the borough.

Table 4.6: Average earnings of employees in the area (2019)

	Earnings by place of work (£ per week - full time)	Earnings by residence (£ per week - full time)
Darlington	£515.20	£537.80
Hartlepool	£529.21	£546.50
Middlesbrough	£527.00	£502.90
Redcar & Cleveland	£496.30	£499.10
Stockton-on-Tees	£570.00	£576.90
North East	£533.00	£531.10
National	£586.50	£587.00

Source: ONS (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings)

- 4.13 Middlesbrough Town Centre has suffered in recent years from changes in shopping habitats to more recently the Covid-19 Pandemic. To address this the Council has developed a 'Transforming Middlesbrough Town Centre – a post covid strategy'. The Strategy identifies that there has been a 'death of the traditional high street and retail could potential shrink by 50 over the next five years. There are already a significant number of vacant shop units in the town centre (132 units – AMR 2020-21).
- 4.14 In addition to the Town Centre, Middlesbrough also has an extensive network of district, local and neighbourhood centres, serving all areas of the borough.

## Housing

- 4.15 Table 4.7 shows that 57.8% of houses in Middlesbrough were owner occupied in 2011, which is lower than the national and Tees Valley averages.

Table 4.7: Owner occupation levels (2011)

	% of owner occupied houses
Middlesbrough	57.8
Tees Valley	64.4
North East	No data
National	64.3

Source: ONS (2011 Census)

- 4.15 There were also marked differences between the borough's housing stock and the national average, with a significantly lower percentage of detached houses and higher percentage of terraced properties respectively (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8: Housing stock by type (2011)

	Detached*	Semi-detached*	Terraced**	Flat, Maisonette or Apartment	Mobile or Temporary Structure	Shared Dwelling~
Middlesbrough	8,001 (14.0%)	23,394 (39.1%)	18,329 (32.0%)	7,325 (12.8%)	21 (0.04%)	133 (0.2%)
North East	179,192 (15.9%)	445,166 (39.4%)	340,199 (30.1%)	163,566 (14.5%)	909 (0.08%)	903 (0.08%)
England	4,949,216 (22.4%)	6,889,935 (31.2%)	5,396,459 (24.5%)	4,668,839 (21.2%)	80,964 (0.4%)	77,955 (0.4%)

Source: ONS (Census 2011)

\*House or bungalow.

\*\*Including end terrace.

~A dwelling is a unit of accommodation with all rooms, including kitchen, bathroom and toilet behind a door that only that household can use. A dwelling is shared if the household spaces it contains have accommodation type 'part of a converted or shared house', if not all rooms are behind a door that only that household can use and there is at least one other household space at that address with which it can be combined (definition of shared dwellings taken from <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>).

- 4.16 Correspondingly, average house prices (for all types) in Middlesbrough are below the averages for the North East and, particularly, England and Wales as of March 2020 (Table 4.9). That notwithstanding, house prices have steadily improved, with certain types of housing more expensive than elsewhere in the Tees Valley.

Table 4.9: Average house prices (March 2020)

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat
Darlington	£223,220	£133,660	£99,061	£79,956
Hartlepool	£181,065	£108,247	£75,083	£59,251
Middlesbrough	£208,964	£120,855	£84,846	£70,019
Redcar & Cleveland	£203,203	£126,252	£94,007	£65,201
Stockton-on-Tees	£216,974	£125,853	£96,382	£76,673
North East	£215,037	£130,481	£100,767	£88,752
England & Wales	£369,500	£228,189	£194,939	£223,554

Source: Land Registry House Prices Index

- 4.17 Middlesbrough has suffered from significant housing market failure particular within the Town centre area. New housing developments within the south of the Borough that have taken place in recent years have helped to widen the choice of housing

available in Middlesbrough, particularly of higher value family housing. The provision of high quality new housing in locations that meet residents' aspirations has helped the Borough to retain population, particularly of the economically active sections of the community, who may have otherwise moved out of Middlesbrough in order to find the house types and lifestyle locations they aspire to. Net housing completions have averaged over 400 since the Housing Local Plan was adopted in 2014.

#### Health and wellbeing, education and crime

4.18 The health of people in Middlesbrough is generally worse than the England average. Middlesbrough is one of the 20% most deprived districts/unitary authorities in England and about 31.8% (9,450) children live in low income families compared to the England rate of 17% Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. For men life expectancy is four years lower than the England average and for women three years lower (Public Health England). Middlesbrough has a significantly higher mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases and cancer than the regional and national rate.

4.19 As shown by Table 4.10, educational attainment in Middlesbrough is below the national and Tees Valley averages; the percentage of people of working age with no qualifications (15.1%) is significantly higher than the national average (7.7) also.

Table 4.10: Qualifications of Working Age Population (16 - 64) (%) (2019)

	NVQ4+	NVQ3	NVQ2	NVQ1	Other*	No Qualifications
Middlesbrough	26.5%	44.3%	65.4%	77.7%	7.2%	15.1%
Tees Valley	29.6%	50.1%	70.5%	82.5%	6.5%	11.0%
National	40.3%	58.5%	75.6%	85.6%	6.7%	7.7%

Source: ONS (Annual Population Survey)

# All qualifications held.

\*Including where level is unknown.

#### Key

NVQ4+ = Degree, Higher Degree, Professional Qualifications etc.

NVQ3 = 2+ A Levels etc.

NVQ2 = 5 O Levels/GCSEs, 1 A Level etc.

NVQ1 = 1 O Level, 1CSE/GCSE etc.

Other = other or level unknown

#### Cultural heritage and archaeology

4.20 There are currently eight Conservation Areas and 126 Listed Buildings in the borough. Of these 126, 115 are Grade II and 10 Grade II\*, with Acklam Hall the only Grade I Listed Building. In addition, there are three Scheduled Monuments in the town (protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979), and Albert Park is on the register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Acklam Hall and the Middlesbrough Historic Quarter are on the 'at risk' register presently.



- 4.21 Middlesbrough also contains a wide range of non-designated heritage assets. These include medieval villages and churches, 18<sup>th</sup> Century farmhouses and remains of the industrial past. The preservation and enhancement of these assets plays a major part in improving the character and sense of place of the town. The development of the Middlesbrough Local List and their inclusion on the Historic Environment Record ensures these assets are recognised and given appropriate protection through the planning process.

#### Open space and recreation

- 4.22 Whilst Middlesbrough is highly urbanised, it has expanses of open green space permeating the urban area, most notably in the form of beck valleys and green wedges. There is also a large area of open space at the heart of the borough known as the 'green lung,' and a number of formal parks, including seven of 'Green Flag' standard (Albert Park, Fairy Dell, Hemlington Lake and Recreation Centre, Linthorpe Cemetery, Pallister Park, Stewart Park and Thorntree Park). These provide informal recreational and visual resources, valuable habitats for wildlife and will be important in contributing towards Middlesbrough's overall attractiveness, in order to realise future regeneration plans.
- 4.23 Middlesbrough's extensive 39.9 kilometre (km) Public Rights of Way network including the long distance Teesdale Way footpath, and dedicated cycle routes particularly around Coulby Newham to the south of the borough, allow access to open space and provide informal recreation opportunities.
- 4.24 In addition to informal recreational resources, the borough has a large resource of more formal leisure facilities, including playing pitches, sports centres and swimming pools.

#### Biodiversity and nature conservation

- 4.25 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Middlesbrough: Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI and Langbaugh Ridge SSSI in the south of the Town. The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SSSI is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site. There are 17 (non-statutory) Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) one of which (Stainsby Wood) is an area of Ancient Woodland. These LWS's represent some of the most important land for wildlife outside the statutory system. There are also two Local Geological Sites. There are also three Local Nature Reserves (LNR), with wildlife or geological features that are of special local interest.
- 4.26 Developments are required to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under Environment Act 2021, although LPAs can set higher targets in Local Plans. Within BNG targets, it is a requirement for any watercourse within 10m of a development to be included in the metric, and the gain target of a minimum of 10% should apply. These minimum targets of 10% are for habitat areas, linear habitats, and watercourses independently.

- 4.27 Middlesbrough is home to a water vole population on many of the becks (including – but not limited to - Ormesby Beck, Marton West Beck, Middle Beck). Impacts of future developments on water vole populations will need to be considered when preparing the new Local Plan, and opportunities to enhance and create additional suitable habitat to ensure healthy populations and extension of their range included.

#### Nutrient neutrality

- 4.28 On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Natural England (NE) issued advice to the Council (along with numerous other local authorities) regarding development proposals that have the potential to affect water quality in such a way that adverse impacts on designated sites cannot be ruled out.
- 4.29 For Middlesbrough Council, the site in question is The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Rea (SPA) and Ramsar site. The evidence indicates that there are excessive levels of nitrogen (also known as eutrophication) in the River Tees, which can cause, in particular, growth in algae. It is this that negatively impacts on the habitats on protected species that use the site. The consequence of this is that the river is now classified as being in an ‘unfavourable condition’.
- 4.30 The NE advice focuses on the benefits of seeking ‘nutrient neutrality’ in overcoming this issue. This would be achieved where the amount of nitrogen emitted after the development is no more than that from the site prior to development.
- 4.31 The development to which NE advice primarily relates is that which would result in additional overnight accommodation. This includes new homes, student accommodation, care homes, tourism attractions and tourist accommodation. This is because such development is assumed to result in an increased population, with the associated increase in levels of waste water that can ultimately result in more nitrogen entering the River. However, consideration would also need to be given to other types of development that result in increased levels of nitrogen discharge from the site.
- 4.32 The impacts of future development on the river environment will need to be taken into consideration when preparing the new Local Plan.

#### Landscape and geological environment

- 4.33 Whilst Middlesbrough is predominantly urban in nature, one distinctive feature of the town is the green wedges, which are continuous corridors of open space that penetrate towards the urban core from the outer suburbs. As stated in the Middlesbrough Local Plan (1999), the green wedges maintain local identity and variety; provide a visual and recreational amenity; form an attractive basis for recreational paths and cycle routes; and form an integral component of the town’s network of wildlife corridors. The Local Plan also identifies the need to improve links between urban green space, the rural fringe and countryside, and it is considered these open spaces will be increasingly important in contributing to the overall attractiveness of the town, in order to realise future regeneration plans.

- 4.34 To the south of the borough is the low-lying rural margin, which predominantly consists of arable farmland with some pasture. This margin adjoins Hambleton District, eventually rising to meet the North York Moors visible as distant hills. The study area lies within the Tees Lowlands Character Area, which incorporates the ‘...contrast of quiet rural areas with extensive urban and industrial development concentrated along the lower reaches of the Tees, the estuary and coastline.’ The current Proposals Map also identifies a Special Landscape Area - originally identified in the Tees Valley Structure Plan (2004) - beyond the limit to development, which extends into the south east of the boundary of Middlesbrough, and reaches eastwards from Nunthorpe into Redcar and Cleveland. This area provides an important setting for the Eston Hills, North York Moors and Roseberry Topping - all landscapes of national importance. The area has been defined having regard to its consistently high quality landscape and homogeneous character.
- 4.35 The underlying geology of the Tees Lowlands, incorporating Middlesbrough, consists of deep-seated red mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age. Overlying these are flat or gently undulating thick deposits of glacial drift, till or boulder clay, sand and gravel. These deposits are typically tinged red by their content of Permo-Triassic rock debris and have had a direct bearing on land use. Geology has long influenced the socio-economic growth of the area. In prehistoric times and up to the nineteenth century jet and alum were mined from the Lias (Jurassic) shales. The Middlesbrough conurbation grew out of the discovery of ironstone in the Eston Hills. Salt deposits in the River Tees estuary and Billingham stimulated the growth of the chemical industry in the area.
- 4.36 Middlesbrough Council’s Contaminated Land Strategy (2017 revision) states that an inevitable legacy of the town’s industrial heritage has been ‘the pollution which accompanied rapid industrial expansion in the years before modern legislative controls’ and ‘pollution of land continues to be a sensitive issue.’ However, it is important to note that the Council’s Environmental Protection Department have not determined any areas or sites as ‘contaminated land,’ as defined under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

#### Traffic and transport

- 4.37 In terms of accessibility, the A19 and A66 trunk roads provide good access from Middlesbrough to the A1(M) and the wider motorway network, although the two major north-south distributor roads within Middlesbrough, Acklam Road and Marton Road, are heavily congested with commuter traffic at peak periods. Highway improvements at Dixons Bank/ Stainton Way Junction, completed October 2019, have been introduced to ease traffic congestion on the A172 Marton Corridor. With regard to public transport, there are a large number of bus services that connect the town centre with other areas of the borough, the Tees Valley and North East, and (direct) rail links to Darlington, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and York. In addition, Teesside International Airport, known previously as Durham Tees Valley Airport, is nearby and

within easy reach via the A66. Middlesbrough also has an extensive network of footpaths and dedicated cycle routes.

- 4.38 At the time of the 2011 Census, the number of households in Middlesbrough with no car (37.6%) was significantly higher than the national average (25.6%). However, car ownership across the Tees Valley is forecast to rapidly increase (higher rate than the national average) - closing the gap - significantly by 2021, when only 27% of Tees Valley households are likely to have no access to a car compared to a figure of 23% nationally. The Census data from 2011 and 2001 highlights this closing gap; the figure for Tees Valley having decreased from 34.2% to 30.5% in the 10 year period compared to a decrease from 26.8% to 25.6% nationally.

#### Water environment

- 4.39 In terms of quality, the River Tees is currently classified as having 'moderate' potential overall under Water Framework Directive (WFD) classifications, which are based on the ecological status or potential of a waterbody. Classification of smaller watercourses in Middlesbrough, for example the beck's permeating the town, is more varied however.
- 4.40 The Environment Agency (EA) identifies Source Protection Zones (SPZs) for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The closer the activity, the greater the risk. There are three main zones (inner, outer and total catchment). The zones are used in conjunction with EA's Groundwater Protection Policy to set up pollution prevention measures in areas which are at a higher risk, and to monitor the activities of potential polluters nearby. SPZ1 is defined as the 50-day travel time from any point below the water table to the source. SPZ2 is defined by a 400-day travel time from a point below the water table. SPZ3 is defined as the area around a source within which all groundwater recharge is presumed to be discharged at the source. At present there are non identified in Middlesbrough.

#### Air and climate

- 4.41 Climate change is one of the greatest global environmental threats and it is possible that it will have major impacts upon Middlesbrough. For example, increased rainfall intensity could result in more frequent and severe flooding events, given areas of the town lie within the floodplain of the River Tees and its tributaries, and are at risk from tidal flooding. These include areas in Flood Zones 2 (medium probability) and 3 (high probability). In addition, surface water flooding has been highlighted as a significant issue in Middlesbrough. Furthermore, hotter summers may also give rise to an increase in heat-related deaths.
- 4.42 Evidence shows the benefits of strong, early action far outweigh the economic costs of not acting, and Middlesbrough Council's Climate Change Community Action Plan

(2010) sets an aspirational target of a 31% reduction in Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by 2020, based on a 2005 baseline (1,058,059t). This would constitute a reduction of 32,799t over the period and 32,799t annually. The minimum target of a 21% reduction is the same target Middlesbrough is required to meet under the Covenant of Mayors initiative. This would constitute a reduction of 222,192t over the period and 22,219t annually. Middlesbrough will also work towards a longer-term reduction of 80% by 2050, based on the target in the Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009).

- 4.43 In terms of air quality, Middlesbrough Council monitors air quality at two static sites. Air quality analysers operate continuously to measure a number of pollutants, including those produced by vehicle exhausts such as nitrogen dioxide and PM10 particulates. The measured results confirm that Middlesbrough's air quality is often better than other towns and cities in Britain.
- 4.44 In the event that measured levels of pollutants exceed the air quality objectives set by the government, an Air Quality Management Area must be declared. Middlesbrough's air quality has always met the objectives set and the town has never needed to declare an Air Quality Management Area.

#### Plans

- 4.45 Table 4.11 lists the plans contained in the appendix of this Scoping Report for information purposes. These provide further detail in relation to some of the topic areas listed in paragraph 6.2 and may prove useful when undertaking the SA at later stages of the plan preparation process. Further information on other topic areas such as greenspace, conservation areas can be found on the interactive Local Plan <http://www.cartogold.co.uk/MiddlesbroughLDF2016/Map.htm>

Table 4.11 Appendix Plans

Topic area(s)	Appendix	Information shown on plan
Local economy and employment	Appendix B	Shopping centres (i.e. town, district, local and neighbourhood centres), community centres, formal leisure facilities (Council and private), educational buildings (i.e. schools etc) and libraries and community hubs.
Health	Appendix C	Health facilities (i.e. doctor's surgeries etc)
Traffic and transport	Appendix D	Train stations, bus stops, Public Rights of Way and the Teesdale Way.
Water environment	Appendix E	Flood zones 2 and 3

## 5. Scoping Stage A3: Identifying key sustainability issues

5.1 Following the identification of objectives from relevant plans and programmes (stage A1) and collection and analysis of social, economic and environmental data (stage A2) it is possible to identify the key sustainability issues pertaining to Middlesbrough. This feeds into the development of the SA objectives and Framework which helps to focus the assessment. The key sustainability issues and problems for Middlesbrough were first identified as part of the 2008/2009 LDF Core Strategy and Regeneration DPD, the 2012 Scoping stage for the Housing Local Plan and were verified as part of the 2016 Local Plan review.

### Approach

5.2 The following paragraphs sets out those key issues, initially identified previous Local Plan Scoping stages that are still considered to be key issues for Middlesbrough. The paragraphs also set out new or additional issues identified by this most recent Scoping Stage. The issues listed below in paragraphs 5.4-5.13 are by no means exhaustive and overlap in places, but they are considered the issues particularly relevant:

- creating sustainable communities;
- promoting healthy communities and reducing inequalities;
- promoting sustainable transport;
- improving economic performance;
- sustaining and enhancing heritage assets;
- protecting and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity;
- combating the causes and impacts of climate change;
- Increasing renewable and low carbon energy provision;
- reducing waste and increasing recycling; and
- protecting air, land and water quality.

5.3 The above sustainability issues have not changed fundamentally as a result of both the update to the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes, and analysis of baseline conditions in this Scoping Report. As such, they remain appropriate for the reasons set out in paragraphs.

### Creating sustainable communities

5.4 The Local Plan can contribute towards the creation of attractive and sustainable communities by ensuring people have sufficient opportunities to access to the local facilities, green and blue infrastructure and services they need in their daily lives, which relate well to present and future housing, and are accessible by means other than the private car.

### Promoting healthy communities and reducing inequalities

- 5.5 By ensuring people have sufficient opportunities to access the local facilities, open spaces and services that they need in their daily lives, it is considered the Local Plan can contribute towards reducing crime and inequalities (in particular inequalities related to social deprivation and health).

### Promoting sustainable transport

- 5.6 The Local Plan provides a significant opportunity to both promote sustainable means of transport directly and locate certain forms of development where they are highly accessible by mean other than the private car.

### Improving economic performance

- 5.7 In seeking to improve the Town Centre and meet the aspirations of both current and future businesses, the Local Plan has the potential to play a significant role in improving the borough's economic performance by:
- contributing towards job and business creation and retention; and
  - supporting new housing.

### Protecting and enhancing heritage assets

- 5.8 In relation to Middlesbrough's heritage assets that are not afforded protection by the statutory system, the Local Plan provides a means of both recognising and offering them appropriate protection, and seeking to enhance them where possible.

### Protecting and enhancing green/blue spaces and biodiversity

- 5.9 The Local Plan provides a significant opportunity to recognise the importance of Middlesbrough's green spaces network, particularly in terms of providing areas for recreation and wildlife habitats, as well as contributing to visual amenity it is also essential to ensure habitat connectivity by creating and linking habitat within Middlesbrough and beyond. Appropriate protection should be afforded to these areas, and development that would have a negative impact avoided. Where it would enhance - and in turn be enhanced by - such assets, development should be encouraged however.

### Combating the causes and impacts of climate change

- 5.10 To combat the causes and effects of climate change the Local Plan should plan for more sustainable patterns of development that reduce the need for people to travel in the first instance, limiting additional greenhouse gas emissions as a result. The likely impacts of climate change need to be taken into consideration when considering the

suitability of sites (for development) also. Of particular pertinence to Middlesbrough is the increased risk of (tidal and surface water) flooding, given a significant area - and a strategic employment location - of the borough is within the floodplain of the River Tees and its tributaries.

#### Increasing renewable and low carbon energy provision

- 5.11 Related to the above objective of combatting the causes and impacts of climate change, the Local Plan could contribute (towards this) by increasing renewable and low carbon energy provision through appropriate policy requirements.

#### Reducing waste and increasing recycling

- 5.12 New development as a result of the Local Plan could give rise to an increased generation of waste, potentially increasing the amount going to landfill, consideration may need to be given to considering if existing waste treatment/transfer infrastructure arrangements are sufficient to cope with the additional expected waste volumes generated. It could, however, contribute towards reducing waste and increasing recycling in other ways, creating opportunities to use recycled construction materials for example.

#### Protecting air, land and water quality

- 5.13 Given development adjacent/near to the River Tees and the Beck Valleys could potentially affect both water quality and the biodiversity dependent on these watercourses, opportunities to protect and enhance assets through the Local Plan should be created and taken wherever possible. The Environment Agency have advised that the Sherwood Sandstone Principal Aquifer is within the Middlesbrough area.
- 5.14 In addition, the urban nature of the borough and presence of heavy industry in the past, specifically in the Riverside Park and East Middlesbrough Business Action Zone areas means there is the potential for development to improve land quality in these areas in particular.
- 5.15 In terms of air quality, as new development could lead to an increase in private car use the Local Plan should seek to bring forward development within, or on the fringes of the urban area wherever possible, preferably where there is good access by means other than the private car to limit additional greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Question 4**

Have we correctly identified the key sustainability issues? Are there any other issues that should be covered?





## 6. Scoping Stage A4: Developing the SA framework

6.1 The SA framework is a critical part of the assessment process and provides a means of assessing and analysing a plan in terms of its sustainability effects. This (framework) sets out objectives against which the Local Plan will be measured.

### Objectives

6.2 The sustainability objectives used to assess the Housing Local Plan have been updated to reflect changing circumstances and the review of relevant information discussed previously. These objectives are as follows:

- SA1 Strengthening the Middlesbrough economy
- SA2 To alleviate deprivation and poverty
- SA3 Developing a more sustainable employment market in Middlesbrough
- SA4 To improve the skills and employment prospects of the resident population
- SA5 To respond and enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- SA6 To reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles
- SA7 Protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure
- SA8 To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
- SA9 To provide people with the opportunity to live in a decent and well-designed home
- SA10 To create quality, safe and sustainable places
- SA11 To reduce the need to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport options
- SA12 To protect and enhance cultural heritage and the historic environment

6.3 The SA objectives are considered appropriate for the following reasons:

- there are clear linkages between objectives and key sustainability issues for the Local Plan (see Table 6.1 below);
- they cover economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability (see Table 6.2 overleaf), as required;
- they meet the requirements of the SEA Directive by covering the issues contained within it (see Table 6.3 overleaf); and
- given their wide-ranging nature they address external environmental objectives and targets identified through the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (see Appendix A).

Table 6.1: Relationship between the SA objectives and the key sustainability issues for the Local Plan

SA objective	• Key Issues for Local Plan
1	• Improving economic performance
2	• Improving economic performance
3	• Reducing crime and inequalities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving economic performance</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating sustainable communities</li> <li>• Reducing crime and inequalities</li> <li>• Improving economic performance</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combating the causes and impacts of climate change</li> <li>• Living within environmental limits</li> <li>• Increasing renewable and low carbon energy provision</li> <li>• Creating sustainable communities</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating sustainable communities</li> <li>• Reducing crime and inequalities</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity</li> <li>• Protecting air, land and water quality</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity</li> <li>• Protecting air, land and water quality</li> <li>• Opportunities for creating additional habitat areas and increased habitat connectivity</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating sustainable communities</li> <li>• Reducing crime and inequalities</li> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating sustainable communities</li> <li>• Reducing crime and inequalities</li> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing green spaces and biodiversity</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport</li> <li>• Combating the causes and impacts of climate change</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting and enhancing heritage assets</li> </ul>

### Question 5

Are these the most appropriate sustainability objectives? If not, how should they be amended?

Table 6.2: Aspects of sustainability covered by SA objectives

SA objective	Economic	Social	Environmental
1	✓	✓	
2	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓	
4	✓	✓	✓
5	✓	✓	
6		✓	✓
7		✓	✓
8			✓

9	✓	✓	
10	✓	✓	✓
11		✓	✓
12	✓	✓	✓

Table 6.3: Relationship between the SEA Directive Issues and SA objectives

SEA Directive Issues	SA objective(s)
Biodiversity	7, 7, 8
Population	2,6,9,10
Human health	2,6,9,10
Fauna	7,8
Flora	7,8
Soil	7,8
Water	5,7
Air	5,7,8
Climatic factors	5
Material assets	1,9,10,11,12
Cultural heritage	12
Landscape	7,8,10

6.4 In order to identify any tensions and conflicts between SA objectives, they have been tested against each other in Figure 6.1 below. It is important to note however, that whilst conflicts may exist, there is no reason to remove or alter the objectives as a result. Testing the objectives against each other is intended to ensure subsequent decisions are well informed and aware of such conflicts. Whilst the aim is to achieve a ‘win-win’ situation, where all of the objectives are achieved, this may not always be possible and choices will have to be made in certain instances. In making choices where conflict occurs, the Government advises that decisions are made based on priorities, and as a result, it may be appropriate to rank objectives in terms of importance.

Figure 6.1: SA objectives compatibility matrix

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12
SA1		✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	☒	✓✓
SA2			✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓	-	✓✓	✓✓	✓	-
SA3				✓✓	-	✓✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
SA4					-	✓✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓✓	-
SA5						✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓	-
SA6							✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	-
SA7								✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	-
SA8									-	✓	✓✓	-
SA9										✓✓	✓	-
SA10											✓✓	✓✓
SA11												-
SA12												

✓✓ Compatible  
 ✓ Limited/indirect compatibility

- No relationship
- x Limited/indirect incompatibility
- xx Incompatible

6.5 As displayed in Figure 6.1, the vast majority of objectives are believed to be compatible to some degree. Only one instance of incompatibility has been identified: SA objectives SA1 and SA11; the strengthening of Middlesbrough’s economy, through the establishment of new businesses and companies for example, may result in increased private car use if not developed in sustainable locations. However, such an impact can be minimised by ensuring economic activity is focused in sustainable locations where possible, with good access by public transport.

### Assessment

6.6 Having established SA objectives, Figure 6.2 overleaf shows the assessment matrix, which will form the basis for the SA for the Local Plan. This matrix will allow the Council to:

- evaluate and compare different options;
- consider the full range of effects that a decision may have, including cumulative impacts;
- ensure as far as possible, all opportunities are identified and exploited, and that potentially negative impacts are identified and mitigated;
- assemble evidence systematically, in order to provide a summary of the impacts and the likely scale of impacts;
- identify whether more specialised guidance and advice is required; and
- record and demonstrate the contribution and relevance of what is being appraised to sustainable development, and provide recommendations for the way forward.

Figure 6.2: SA assessment matrix

Option/Policy:								Comment
SA Objective	Will this option/policy assist in...	Yes		No		No effect/Unknown		
		✓✓	✓	x	xx	o	?	
1	strengthening the Middlesbrough economy?							
2	Alleviating deprivation and poverty?							
3	Developing a more sustainable employment market in Middlesbrough?							
4	To improve the skills and employment prospects of the resident population?							
5	respond and enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change?							

6	reducing health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles?							
7	Protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure?							
8	protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity?							
9	providing people with the opportunity to live in a decent and well-designed home?							
10	To create quality, safe and sustainable places?							
11	To reduce the need to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport options?							
12	to protect and enhance cultural heritage and the historic environment?							
<b>Summary</b>								
Will this option contribute towards the achievement of SA objectives?		Yes		No		No effect/ Unknown		Comment
		✓✓	✓	x	xx	o	?	
Recommendations								
Way Forward								

- ✓✓ Strong positive impact
- ✓ Slight positive impact
- x Slight negative impact
- xx Strong negative impact
- o Unlikely to have an effect
- ? Unknown impact

6.7 To assist the assessment of options/policies against SA objectives there are a number of ‘prompt’ questions to consider when needed, which can be used to develop more detailed questions that need to be answered if a more thorough appraisal is required. The ‘prompt’ questions are set out in Appendix F.

6.8 Where possible, to aid future progression of plans and policies some additional commentary explaining the decisions made will be recorded in the ‘comment’ column (Figure 6.2), providing detail on how findings have been reached. Some of the issues to be considered are:

- the scale of any impact, and whether it is direct or indirect;
- who it will affect;
- any relevant timescales;
- any opportunities or threats; and
- any mitigation or enhancement opportunities.

6.9 Once an assessment against each individual SA objective has been made, an assessment of the overall impact will be made in the 'summary' section (Figure 6.2), along with recommendations for future actions, if deemed necessary. This could range from a list of detailed recommendations, through to the need for a follow-up appraisal.

## **7. Scoping Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA**

- 7.1 In accordance with Article (3) (6) of the SEA Directive, the Government has designated ‘consultation bodies’ in relation to the SEA Directive, which must be consulted during the assessment process.
- 7.2 As set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Bodies’ Services and Standards for Responsible Authorities (2004), these are:
- Historic England;
  - Natural England; and
  - The Environment Agency.
- 7.3 These three consultation bodies have been directly consulted on the draft Scoping Report for five weeks during September and October 2022 and comments received have been reflected in this version of the Scoping Report.
- 7.4 The aforementioned document states consultation must occur ‘when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the Environmental Report’ i.e. SA. The Council is consulting on this Scoping Report more widely alongside the Local Plan Scoping Report from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- 7.5 Consultees are invited to respond to the consultation questions set out below, and/or write about issues that had not been covered:
- Scoping Stage A1: do the relevant policies, plans and programmes considered (Appendix A) effectively set the scope for future SA? Are there any others that require consideration?
  - Scoping Stage A2: are there any baseline indicators not included that might provide useful information? If so, could you please provide this information and/or a source for the necessary data?
  - Scoping Stage A3: given the nature of the Local Plan, do you agree with the key sustainability issues identified in section five? Are there any other issues that should be covered?
  - Scoping Stage A4: do the SA objectives cover the key sustainability issues adequately? If not, what changes would you suggest to ensure they do so?
  - Do you have any other suggestions for improving the clarity and/or content of future stages of the SA?



## 8. Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

### The Environmental Report

8.1 Following the consultation period on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, the Local Plan will be developed, concurrently with the Sustainability Appraisal, following the framework outlined above. The results of this will be summarised in an Environmental Report. A proposed structure for the Environmental Report is outlined in Table 6-1 below.

Table 8-1: Proposed structure for the Environmental Report

Section	Information to be included
Non- technical summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal process.</li> </ul>
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal, how, who was consulted, and when.</li> <li>• Possible difficulties in collecting data or assessment.</li> </ul>
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and integration with the Local Plan.</li> </ul>
Sustainability framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal objectives and appraisal criteria.</li> </ul>
Plan issues and alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of significant sustainability effects of the Local Plan policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assessment matrix for each policy/option.</li> <li>○ How problems were considered in developing the policies and choosing the preferred alternatives.</li> <li>○ Other alternatives considered, and why these were rejected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures to deliver Sustainability Appraisal objectives.</li> </ul>
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to project environmental impact assessment, design guidance etc.</li> <li>• Proposals for monitoring and reporting.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes

Level	Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives and targets particularly relevant to the Local Plan and/or SA
International	Environmental Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet,' EU (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital.</li> <li>To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy.</li> <li>To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being.</li> <li>To improve environmental integration and policy coherence.</li> <li>To enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities.</li> </ul>
International	Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive), (2009/147/EC), European Commission (EC) (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect all European wild birds and the habitats of listed species, in particular through the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</li> </ul>
International	Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), EC (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An improvement in the UK's share of energy from renewable sources - in gross final consumption of energy - from 1.3% in 2005 to 15% by 2020.</li> </ul>
International	European Union (EU) Covenant of Mayors, EC (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committing (voluntarily) local and regional authorities to increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources in their areas.</li> <li>Middlesbrough has signed the Covenant and aims to meet and exceed the European Union 20% Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reduction objective by 2020.</li> </ul>
International	Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC), EC (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintaining air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> </ul>
International	Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), EC (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In developing policies referring to water and land uses, consider the potential impacts that such policies might have on flood risks and the management of flood risks.</li> </ul>
International	Groundwater Daughter Directive (2006/118/EC), EC (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> <li>Compliance with good chemical status criteria and pollution trends to be reversed so environmental objectives are achieved by 2015.</li> </ul>
International	The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC), EC (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health.</li> <li>Preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.</li> </ul>
International	Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, United Nations (UN) (2002)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advancing and strengthening the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development. Poverty eradication; changing consumption and production patterns; and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development were recognised as essential requirements.</li> </ul>
International	The assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) (2001/42/EC), EC (2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>By ensuring that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>
International	Review of the European Sustainable Development Strategy - Renewed Strategy, EU (2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment.</li> <li>To ensure that our transport systems meet society's economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment.</li> <li>To promote sustainable consumption and production patterns</li> </ul>
International	European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention), Council of Europe (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every planning action or project should comply with landscape quality objectives. It should in particular improve landscape quality, or at least not bring about a decline.</li> <li>Each planning action or project should not only match, but also be appropriate to the features of the places.</li> </ul>
International	Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), EC (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwaters.</li> <li>Ensuring all aquatic ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good' status by 2015.</li> </ul>

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Level	Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives and targets particularly relevant to the Local Plan and/or SA
International	European Biodiversity Strategy, European Commission (1998)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipating, preventing and addressing the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at source.</li> </ul>
International	Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climatic Change, UN (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UK has committed to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 12.5% from 1990 levels by 2008-2012 - an 8% reduction in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions over this time period.</li> <li>The UK government also has an aspirational target for itself of a 20% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010.</li> </ul>
International	Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora Directive (Habitats Directive) (92/43/EC), EC (1992);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making provision for the protection of specified habitats and species, through the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).</li> <li>To maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of European Community interest.</li> </ul>
International	The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Valetta Convention), Council of Europe (1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modification of development plans likely to have adverse effects on the archaeological heritage.</li> </ul>
International	The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), Council of Europe (1985)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include the protection of the architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensure this requirement is taken into account at all stages in the drawing up of development plans.</li> <li>Make the conservation, promotion and enhancement of the architectural heritage a major feature of planning policies.</li> </ul>
International	Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, UN (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats.</li> <li>Signatory states should promote policy to ensure the conservation of wild flora, fauna and natural habitats; and integrate conservation into planning, development and environmental policies.</li> </ul>
International	Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserving terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.</li> <li>As a Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) Party, the UK should provide immediate protection to endangered species and aim to conclude agreements for the conservation and management of species identified by the convention.</li> </ul>
International	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the conservation and prudent use of wetlands.</li> </ul>
National	Equality Act, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Equality Act places specific duties on public authorities, including the duty to advance equality of opportunity between people with protected characteristics and those without. Public authorities should remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with protected characteristics and take steps to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics.</li> <li>The Local Plan will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment using the Council's assessment framework to determine any impacts on people with protected characteristics to ensure they are not disadvantaged by the plan</li> </ul>
National	Housing and Planning Act 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act makes widespread changes to housing policy at the national level. Measures introduced in the Act relate to starter homes, and permitting the sale of higher value local authority homes. Starter homes are the new affordable housing product designed by the government to specifically meet the housing needs of younger generations and to allow them to access homeownership. The overarching aim of the Act is to promote home ownership and increase levels of house building.</li> <li>The Local Plan will need to consider future policies to address issues in the Act such as starter homes</li> </ul>
National	Localism Act, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The Localism Act includes a number of important packages. - The new act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life; - The act makes sure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a</li> </ul>

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		<p>bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done. - The act places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Plan will need to reflect the principles of Localism as identified in the document. The Local Plan will need to incorporate the concept of Neighbourhood Planning, with the intention of giving neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which people live</li> </ul>
National	Planning Practice Guidance, CLG (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides additional guidance to local planning authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the planning policy set out in the NPPF.</li> </ul>
National	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, CLG (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working collaboratively (with other local planning authorities) to develop a fair and effective strategy to meet need through the identification of land for sites.</li> <li>Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale.</li> <li>Plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development.</li> <li>Promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites.</li> <li>Plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments, and make enforcement more effective for local planning authorities to ensure their Local Plan includes fair, realistic and inclusive policies.</li> <li>To increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply.</li> <li>To reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions.</li> <li>To enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure.</li> <li>For local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment.</li> </ul>

National	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building a strong, competitive economy.</li> <li>Ensuring the vitality of town centres.</li> <li>Promoting sustainable transport.</li> <li>Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.</li> <li>Requiring good design.</li> <li>Promoting healthy communities.</li> <li>Protecting Green Belt land.</li> <li>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change.</li> <li>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</li> <li>Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.</li> </ul>
National	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Act makes provision relating to spatial development and town and country planning; and the compulsory acquisition of land. It sets out a number of legislative requirements for the production of Local Plan documents</li> <li>The Local Plan must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act</li> </ul>
National	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area Act) 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Act consolidates certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest with amendments, to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commission</li> <li>In preparing the Local Plan and its policies the LPA will need to have regard to its duties in relation to listed buildings and conservation areas. The SA will assess the plan's effects on heritage assets</li> </ul>

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National	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 provides for the scheduling of ancient monuments and offers the only legal protection specifically for archaeological sites.</li> <li>The Local Plan will protect ancient monuments and archaeological areas through its development strategy and planning policies. The Sustainability Appraisal will assess impacts on the historic environment.</li> </ul>
National	Planning and Energy Act (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act states that local planning authorities may in their Local Plans include policies imposing reasonable requirements for a proportion of energy used in development in their area to be energy from renewable or low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development. The Act also allows local planning authorities to set and apply policies in their local plans which require compliance with energy efficiency standards for new homes that exceed the requirements of the Building Regulations. The Deregulation Act 2015 introduced legislation to remove section 1c of the Planning and Energy Act regarding setting higher energy efficiency standards, however the amendment has not yet been commenced.</li> <li>The Local Plan should consider the provisions of this Act together with the Climate Change Act 2008, and consider how it can increase the use of renewable energy sources and minimise carbon emissions</li> </ul>
National	Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act requires local authorities to keep a register of persons interested in acquiring plots of land to bring forward for self-build housing schemes within their area and to have regard to those persons when carrying out certain functions, including planning functions.</li> <li>The Local Plan will need to consider its self-build register to enable it to assess the demand for custom and self-build housing when allocating sites through the Local Plan and to determine whether a revised policy relating to self-build is required.</li> </ul>
National	Historic England Good Practice Advice note - the Historic Environment in Local Plans (GPA1) (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Good Practice Advice note is to provide information on good practice to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the related guidance given in the National Planning Practice Guide (PPG). This document sets out information to help local planning authorities make well informed and effective local plans.</li> <li>The Local Plan should follow this good practice advice note to ensure that the plan delivers the best outcomes for the historic environment, and the SA should include objective relating to the historic environment and ensure that any effects are carefully assessed in line with the advice note.</li> </ul>
National	Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Historic England Advice Note seeks to provide advice on historic environment considerations as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment process, to ensure that potential impacts on the historic environment are properly assessed and mitigated.</li> <li>The SA should take account of the advice in the guidance note in assessing the effects on the historic environment.</li> </ul>
National	The Heritage Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's vision and strategy for heritage and the historic environment. It sets out the Government's direction and priorities for England's heritage in the coming years, building on commitments in the Culture White Paper 2016 and the broader Industrial Strategy. It focuses around four themes of: - The role of heritage in creating great places - Getting more people involved in heritage - Promoting the UK's heritage internationally - Supporting and resourcing the heritage sector</li> <li>The Local Plan will need to include a strategic heritage policy, and ensure that new development protects and enhances the historic environment. The effects of the plan on the historic environment will be assessed through the SA</li> </ul>
National	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Statutory Instrument No. 490 (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and is not directly connected with</li> </ul>

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		or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.
National	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving the current regime for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.</li> <li>Improving the sustainability of water systems.</li> </ul>
National	Guidance on flood risk assessments: climate change allowances, The Environment Agency (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making allowances for climate change within flood risk assessments</li> </ul>
National	The Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving carbon management, helping the transition towards a low-carbon economy in the UK.</li> <li>An 80% (at least) cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 to be achieved through action in the UK and abroad, with a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020. Both targets are against a 1990 baseline.</li> </ul>
National	National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strategy sets out a vision of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change up to the year 2100.</li> </ul>
National	Manual for Streets, DfT, DCLG and Welsh Assembly (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing technical guidance for lightly trafficked residential streets (although its principles can apply to high streets), showing how the design of streets can be enhanced, and how street design can reinforce local distinctiveness and identity.</li> <li>Encouraging sustainable development through the connectivity of streets and the recognition of the need to design for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, rather than just vehicular traffic.</li> </ul>
National	Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of the Industrial Strategy is to boost productivity by backing businesses to create good jobs and increase the earning power of people throughout the UK with investment in skills, industries and infrastructure. The Government White Paper sets out the approach to building an industrial strategy that addresses long term challenges to the UK economy by improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. It identifies five foundations of productivity: Ideas; People; Infrastructure; Business Environment; and Places</li> <li>The Local Plan's policies and proposals should encourage economic growth across the plan area and take account of changing economic conditions and requirements. The SA will need to consider objectives in relation to economic growth and development.</li> </ul>
	Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act seeks to improve management and increase protection of the marine environment and improve recreational access to England's coast.</li> </ul>
	Marine Policy Statement (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. It was prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.</li> </ul>

Level	Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives and targets particularly relevant to the Local Plan and/or SA
National	Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy, HM Government (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without comprising the quality of life of future generations.</li> <li>Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels, with a 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> below 1990 levels by 2010, and 60% by 2050.</li> </ul>
National	The Future of Transport: a network for 2030, Department for Transport (DfT) (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balancing the need to travel with the need to improve quality of life through enhanced road networks with more capacity.</li> <li>Railways with improved efficiency.</li> <li>Enhancing local travel.</li> </ul>
National	Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination: Contaminated Land Report 11, Environment Agency (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide the technical framework for structured decision-making about land contamination.</li> </ul>
National	Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out how the Government wants the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which</li> </ul>

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	(2008)	<p>need to be taken to get there. The vision for 2030 includes: - “improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps; - Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; - Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; - Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and - Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan should support the 2030 vision for the water environment, and the SA should assess the plan’s effects on the water environment</li> </ul>
National	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental legislation which details the requirements of plans and programmes to undertake a wider sustainability assessment of potential impacts. This legislation formalises the need for new planning documents to comply with the requirements of the European SEA Directive.</li> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan will need to be undertaken in line with the Regulations in order to satisfy the SEA Directive.</li> </ul>
National	Environment Act, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Act, which became law in 2021, <b>acts as the UK’s new framework of environmental protection</b>. Once the UK left the EU, rules on nature protection, water quality, clean air and other environmental protections that originally came from the EU were at risk. The Act includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened biodiversity duty</li> <li>• Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
National	25 Year Environment Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan sets out the Government’s goals for improving the environment within a generation. It sets a wide range of targets covering topics including clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, reducing the risk of harm from environmental hazards, using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently, enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, minimising waste, managing exposure to chemicals and enhancing biodiversity</li> <li>• The Local Plan’s aims and objectives should be aligned with those in the 25 year environment plan, particularly around areas such as mitigating and adapting to climate change, enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment, and creating and restoring habitat. The SA will assess the environmental effects of the plan and promote improved outcomes.</li> </ul>
National	Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This strategy sets out the Government’s proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy through the 2020s. It explains how the whole country can benefit from low carbon opportunities, while meeting national and international commitments to tackle climate change</li> <li>• 50 key actions are centred around the following themes: - Accelerating clean growth (developing world leading Green Finance capabilities) - Improving business and industry efficiency – 25% of UK emissions - Improving our homes – 13% of UK emissions (improving energy efficiency of homes, rolling out low carbon heating, accelerating the shift to low carbon transport – 24% of UK emissions - Delivering clean, smart, flexible power – 21% of UK emissions - Enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources – 15% of UK emissions - Leading in the public sector – 2% of UK emissions. - Government leadership in driving clean growth</li> <li>• The Local Plan should consider how its policies and proposals could support the Clean Growth Strategy, e.g. through its approach to promoting clean energy, encouraging the shift to low carbon transport and improving the efficiency of new homes.</li> </ul>
National	Clean Air Strategy (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clean Air Strategy 2019 sets out actions to improve air quality by reducing pollution from a wide</li> </ul>

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		<p>range of sources. The strategy sets out how the government will: - Protect the nation's health - Protect the environment - Secure clean growth and innovation - Reduce emissions from transport, homes, farming and industry It complements the Industrial Strategy, the Clean Growth Strategy and the 25 year Environment Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Local Plan needs to reflect national air quality objectives set out in the strategy. The strategy recognises land use and transport planning as important parts of an integrated approach to air quality improvements. The Local Plan should through its strategy and policy framework seek to improve air quality where possible. The SA will assess the plan's effects on air quality</li> </ul>
National	Strategic plan for the next four years: better outcomes by 2020 (Public Health England)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Public Health England (PHE) Strategic Plan sets out how the organisation intends to protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities over the next 4 years. It also outlines actions PHE will take over the next year to achieve these aims and deliver its core functions. It builds on the Department of Health's Shared Delivery Plan, the NHS 5 Year Forward View, and From Evidence into Action. It includes a number of points relevant to planning, including that PHE will support the increasing understanding of the importance of the environmental determinants of health, including climate change, and will provide expert advice on the health aspects of town planning and housing</li> <li>The Local Plan review will need to carefully consider the local environmental determinants of health and ensure policies and proposals contribute to improving public health</li> </ul>
National	Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offering threatened species and habitats better protection.</li> </ul>
National	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Habitats Regulations are the principle means by which the EU Directive (92/43/EEC) is transposed in England, and they also transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive. The 2017 Regulations consolidate and update the 2010 Regulations.</li> <li>The Local Plan will need to undertake a Habitats Regulations screening assessment and an Appropriate Assessment in line with the provisions of the Regulations, to determine any potential effects on European protected sites and to identify any required mitigation measures to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites</li> </ul>
National	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking or promoting steps by others to further conserve of habitats and species.</li> </ul>
National	Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk. It created the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for local authorities and requires the Environment Agency to provide a strategic overview role of all flood risk. It places a duty on all flood risk management authorities to co operate with each other and share information. It requires LLFAs to maintain a register of structures and features that are likely to significantly affect flood risk in their area.</li> <li>In preparing the Local Plan the Council will need to carefully assess flood risk and work closely with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority.</li> </ul>
National	Natural England Green Infrastructure Principles, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature rich beautiful places</li> <li>Active and healthy places</li> <li>Thriving and prosperous places</li> <li>Improved water management</li> <li>Resilient and climate positive places</li> </ul>
National	Environment Agency Medium Term Plan 2021-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies investment programme from 2021-27</li> </ul>
National	Groundwater protection guidance, Environment Agency 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on the impact on activity that could lead to input of substances to ground which could affect quality of quantity of groundwater.</li> </ul>
National	Land Contamination risk management (LCRM) 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to assess and manage the risks from land contamination.</li> </ul>
Regional	North East Marine Plan documents (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The North East Marine Plan provides a framework that will shape and inform decisions over how the areas' waters are developed, protected and improved over the next 20 years. Through its vision for economic, environmental and social prosperity, the North East Marine Plan will ensure effective and sustainable use has been made of the space and resources available, whilst taking account of the area's</li> </ul>



## Appendix A: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes

		distinctive characteristics.
Regional	Northumbria River Basin Management Plan, Environment Agency (2015) and consultation draft 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying pressures on the water environment of the Northumbria River Basin and setting out actions to be taken to address these pressures.</li> <li>Local Authorities promoting the wide scale use of sustainable drainage systems and take into account the objectives of the plan within Local Development Documents (LDDs).</li> </ul>
Regional	Northumbria Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) 2015-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Regional	Integrated Regional Framework for the North East, SustainE (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening the economy.</li> <li>Adapting to and mitigating against climate change.</li> <li>Living within environmental limits.</li> <li>Developing a more sustainable employment market.</li> <li>Establishing a strong learning and skills base.</li> <li>Improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.</li> <li>Protecting and enhancing the environment.</li> <li>Building sustainable communities.</li> <li>Developing sustainable transport.</li> <li>Promoting and respecting the region's culture and heritage.</li> </ul>
Regional	North East Invasive Non-native Species Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document focuses on freshwater and riparian species, and aims to 'develop and maintain cost-effective strategic approaches to prevent, detect, control and eradicate specified INNS in North East river catchments through the coordinated action of river catchment partnerships.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), Entec UK for the Tees Valley authorities (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the re-use, recycling and recovery of value from waste.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy, Entec UK for the Tees Valley authorities (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing waste generation and working towards zero landfill.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan (2016-2026) Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase economic growth across the Tees Valley</li> <li>Increase the number of jobs in the Tees Valley by 25,000 by 2026.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Local Industrial Strategy (2019) Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to transform the economic performance of the area and drive increase productivity</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan 2020-2030, 2020 Tees Valley Combined Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a vision for transport in the Tees Valley 'to provide a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable, low carbon and safe transport network for people and freight to more within and to and from Tees Valley'</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy 2010-2020, Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing emissions by changing our consumption habits and behaviour.</li> <li>Improving energy efficiency.</li> <li>Increasing the amount of renewable energy generated and used in the Tees Valley.</li> <li>Ensuring services, lifestyles, buildings and local environment are equipped to cope with climate change.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Catchment Flood Management Plan, Environment Agency (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish flood risk management policies which will deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term.</li> <li>A programme investigating the culverts would be beneficial to develop adequate maintenance plan and reduce the risks on Newham Beck and Marton West Beck.</li> <li>Deliver actions specified by the Tees Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy and Middlesbrough Beck Project.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU) (2008)	<p>By 2021 develop a network of green corridors and green spaces that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enhances the quality of place for existing and future communities and potential investors;</li> <li>provides an enhanced environmental context for new development, regeneration projects and housing market renewal, and produces high quality design and developments;</li> </ul>

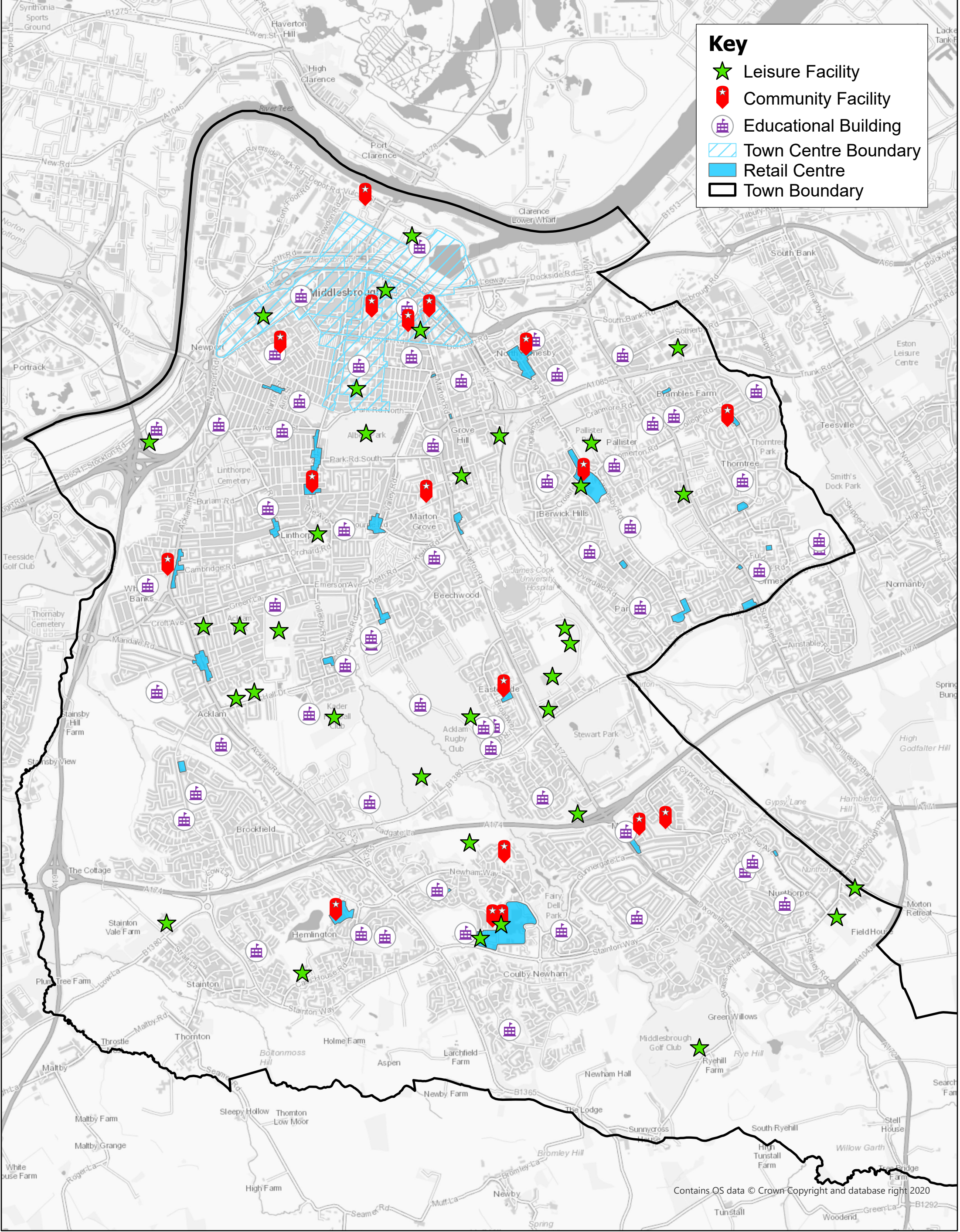
## Appendix A: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creates and extends opportunities for access, regeneration, and enhancement of biodiversity; and</li> <li>provides a buffer against the effects of climate change.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, JBA Consulting (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing guidance and information on the nature of the flood risk in the Tees Valley, to inform the future allocation of development sites.</li> </ul>
Sub-Regional	Tees Valley Housing Strategy (2016) NLP on behalf of the five Tees Valley authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First housing strategy to be prepared for the Tees Valley Combined Authority</li> <li>Aligning the supply of new housing across the Tees Valley with economic growth aspirations</li> <li>Maximise the use of existing housing stock</li> <li>Enable self-reliance and independent living through better use of existing housing and specialist accommodation.</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Strategic Plan, Middlesbrough Council (2021-24)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three aims People, Place and Business</li> <li>People - Working with communities and other public services in Middlesbrough to improve the lives of local people</li> <li>Place - Securing improvements in Middlesbrough's housing, infrastructure and attractiveness, improving the town's reputation, creating opportunities for local people and improving our finances</li> <li>Business- Promoting investment in Middlesbrough's economy and making sure we work as effectively as possible to support our ambitions for people and place.</li> </ul>
Local	Transforming Middlesbrough Town Centre - a post covid strategy, Middlesbrough Council, 2021	<p>Making the Town Centre a destination through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Living: creating a housing offer and lifestyle that people want to be part of.</li> <li>Learning: enhancing our already fantastic education offer to bring more students to Middlesbrough.</li> <li>Working: attracting businesses and creating jobs.</li> <li>Health and Wellbeing: providing the facilities people need to have a great quality of life.</li> <li>Civic: bringing together public services in central areas</li> <li>Culture and Leisure: creating experiences and spaces for people to enjoy.</li> <li>Retail: maintaining a strong retail offer, in the right place</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough City Centre Strategy 2019-2023, Middlesbrough Council	Five priorities have been identified to have a transformational impact for Middlesbrough: 1. A Quality Place; 2. Attract and Enhance; 3. Animate and Inspire; 4. Opportunity and Investment; 5. Connect
Local	Green Strategy, Middlesbrough Council (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets on a 10 year vision for a green future for Middlesbrough, include three broad aims</li> <li>To make Middlesbrough Council net carbon neutral by 2029</li> <li>To ensure Middlesbrough as a town in net carbon neutral by 2039</li> <li>Middlesbrough Council to be a lead authority on environmental issues</li> </ul>
Local	Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Land Use Consultants (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Strategy is designed to identify and prioritise the actions required to strengthen Middlesbrough's network of green and blue features up until 2037, at all scales.</li> <li>Provides a Vision of a robust network, providing a broad range of functions – from play and recreation to biodiverse habitats and flood resilience.</li> <li>Sets out an Action Plan of Priority Opportunities and delivery mechanisms</li> </ul>
Local	Landscape and Heritage Assessment, Land Use Consultants, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An assessment of landscape and historic environment within Middlesbrough</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Climate Change Community Action Plan 2010 - 2020, Middlesbrough Council (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing Middlesbrough's contributions to climate change.</li> <li>Increasing Middlesbrough's preparedness for the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Supporting potential opportunities for businesses and the wider Middlesbrough community that result from climate change.</li> <li>Reducing Middlesbrough's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 31% by 2020 based on a 2005 baseline (aspirational).</li> <li>Reducing Middlesbrough's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 based on a 2005 baseline (long-term).</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes

Local	Middlesbrough Council Strategic Surface Water Flooding Study, JBA Consulting (2010)  N.B. Partial update to the 2007 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage surface water flooding in identified critical drainage areas in the future.</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage surface water flooding in identified critical drainage areas in the future.</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Local Implementation Plan 2021, Middlesbrough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number and severity of casualties on the Borough's highway network</li> <li>Minimise congestion and manage traffic flow on the highway network Improve highway network</li> <li>improve highway network reliability and resilience</li> <li>Improve local air quality</li> <li>Remove transport as a barrier to accessing jobs, education and training, leisure and retail opportunities</li> <li>Provide targeted interventions and measures to assist mode shift and allow highway users to make informed travel choices</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Strategy, Middlesbrough Council (2018)	<p>The strategy details our plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>build on our city-scale ambitions for Middlesbrough by providing a fully integrated transport network, which not only makes it easy to get around within the town, but also provides a gateway to the rest of the Tees Valley</li> <li>deliver an integrated transport network which promotes sustainable travel (walking, cycling, public transport) by making sure different modes of travel work together seamlessly - for example, connecting walking and cycling routes to public transport routes - to enable development and growth</li> <li>reduce the number of people dependent on their cars, which will reduce congestion, improve air quality, and help both social and economic regeneration</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Leisure and Built Facilities Strategy, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report provides detail as to what exists in the Authority, its condition, location, availability and overall quality and makes recommendations for the future.</li> </ul>
Local	Playing Pitch Strategy Final Report, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and plan for new provision.</li> <li>Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision.</li> <li>Maximise access to all outdoor playing pitches including school playing pitches.</li> </ul>
Local	OSNA 2018, Middlesbrough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a comprehensive policy framework for the protection, enhancement, accessibility and use of parks and green spaces.</li> <li>Making sure that green spaces enhance the quality and diversity of the environment, the life of local communities and promote civic pride and social inclusion.</li> <li>Ensuring that the green space network meets the needs of local people, now and in the future.</li> </ul>
Local	Middlesbrough Contaminated Land Strategy, Middlesbrough Council (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying and dealing with contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 having regard to regeneration and sustainable development.</li> </ul>
Local	Marton West Neighbourhood Plan, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood Plan for the Marton West Neighbourhood Area.</li> </ul>
Local	Stainton and Thornton Neighbourhood Plan, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neighbourhood Plan for the Stainton and Thornton Parish.</li> </ul>





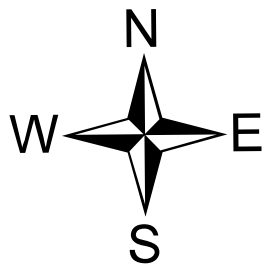
**Key**

- ★ Leisure Facility
- ★ Community Facility
- Educational Building
- Town Centre Boundary
- Retail Centre
- Town Boundary

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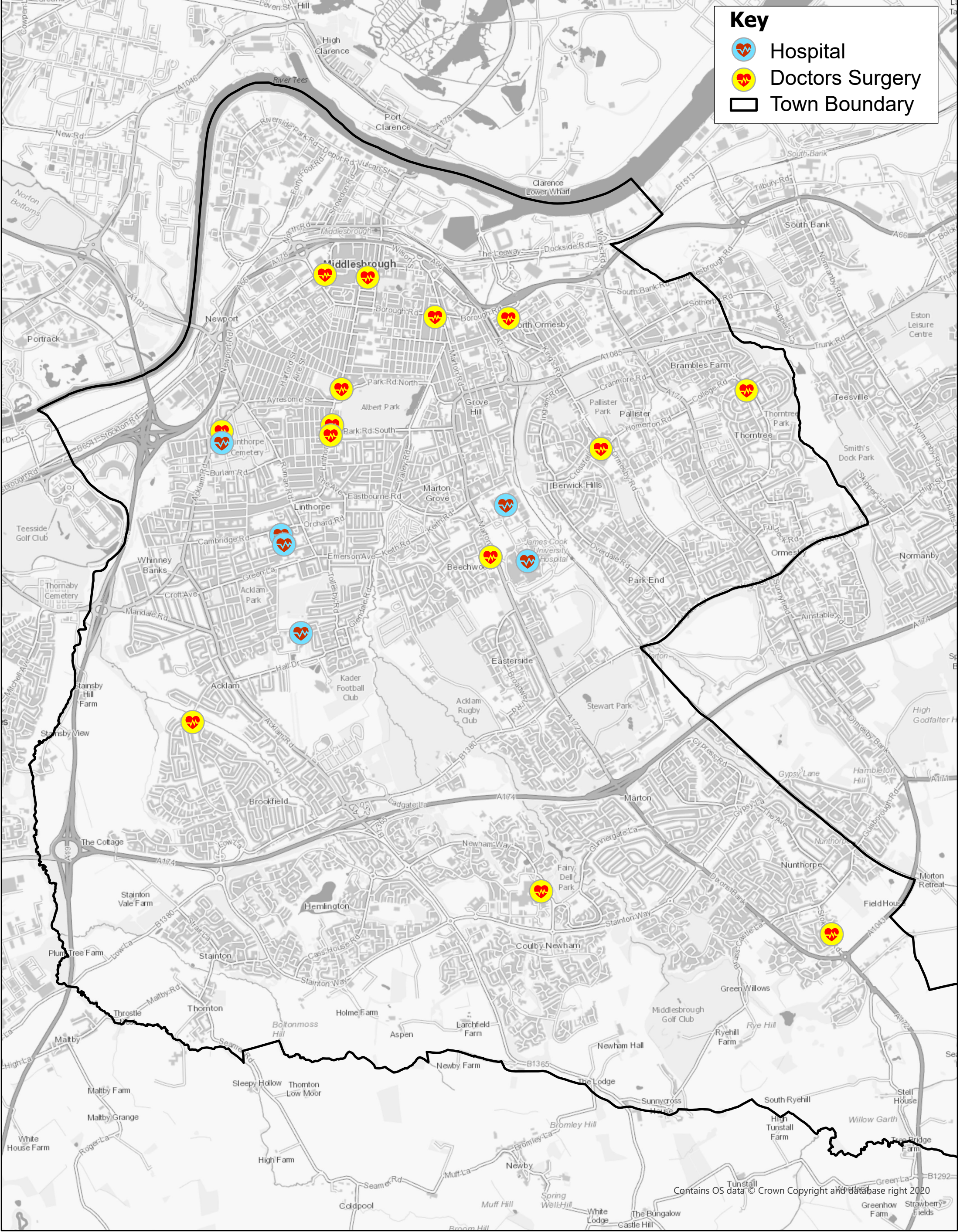
<b>Appendix B - Local Economy, Employment &amp; Education</b>	
Service Area: Planning	
Map Reference:	Scale: 1:30,000@A4
Map created by: J Manders	Date - 20/7/22
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**Key**

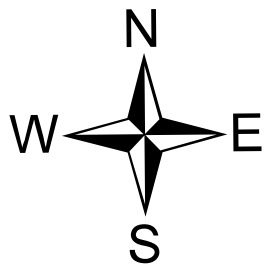
-  Hospital
-  Doctors Surgery
-  Town Boundary



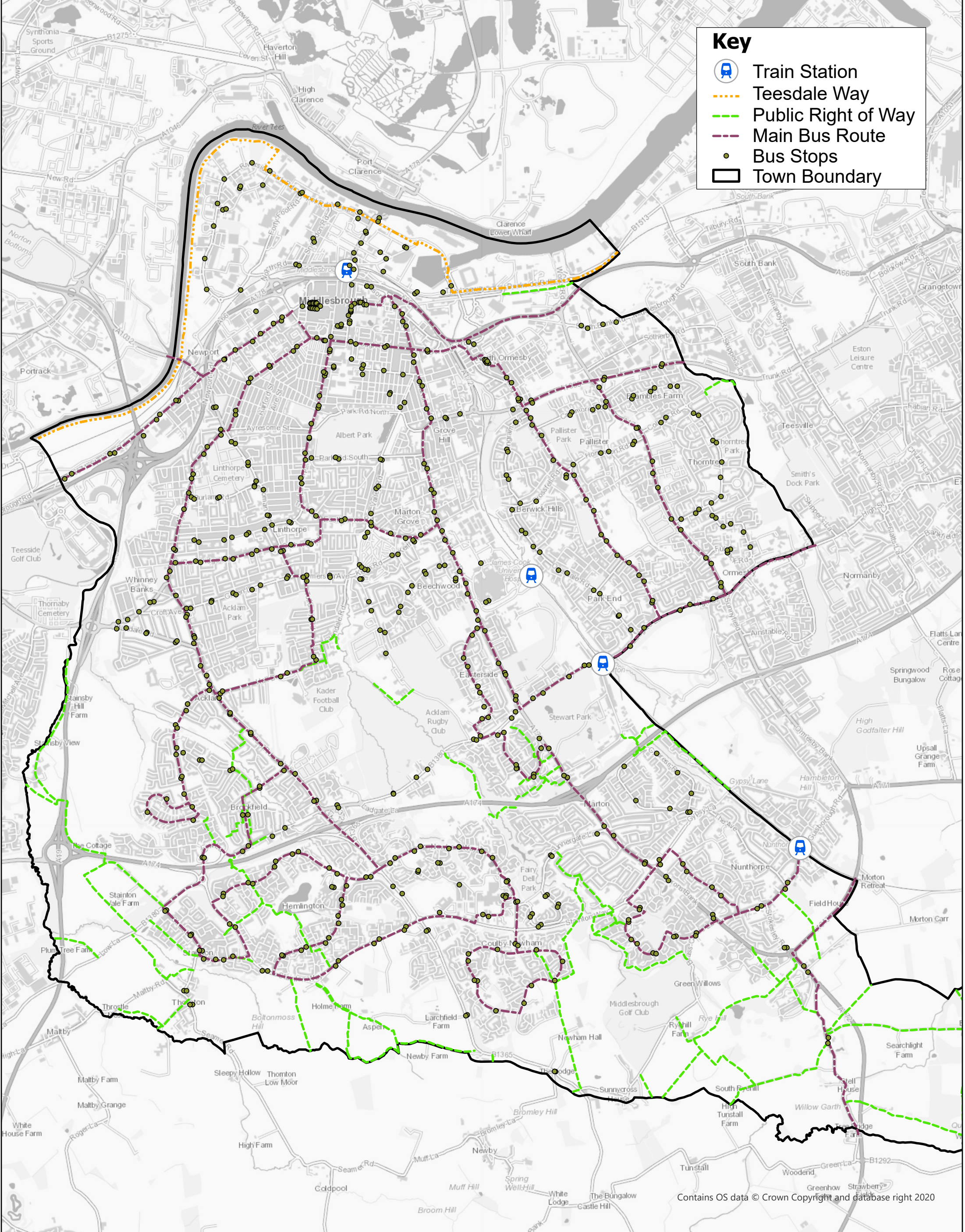
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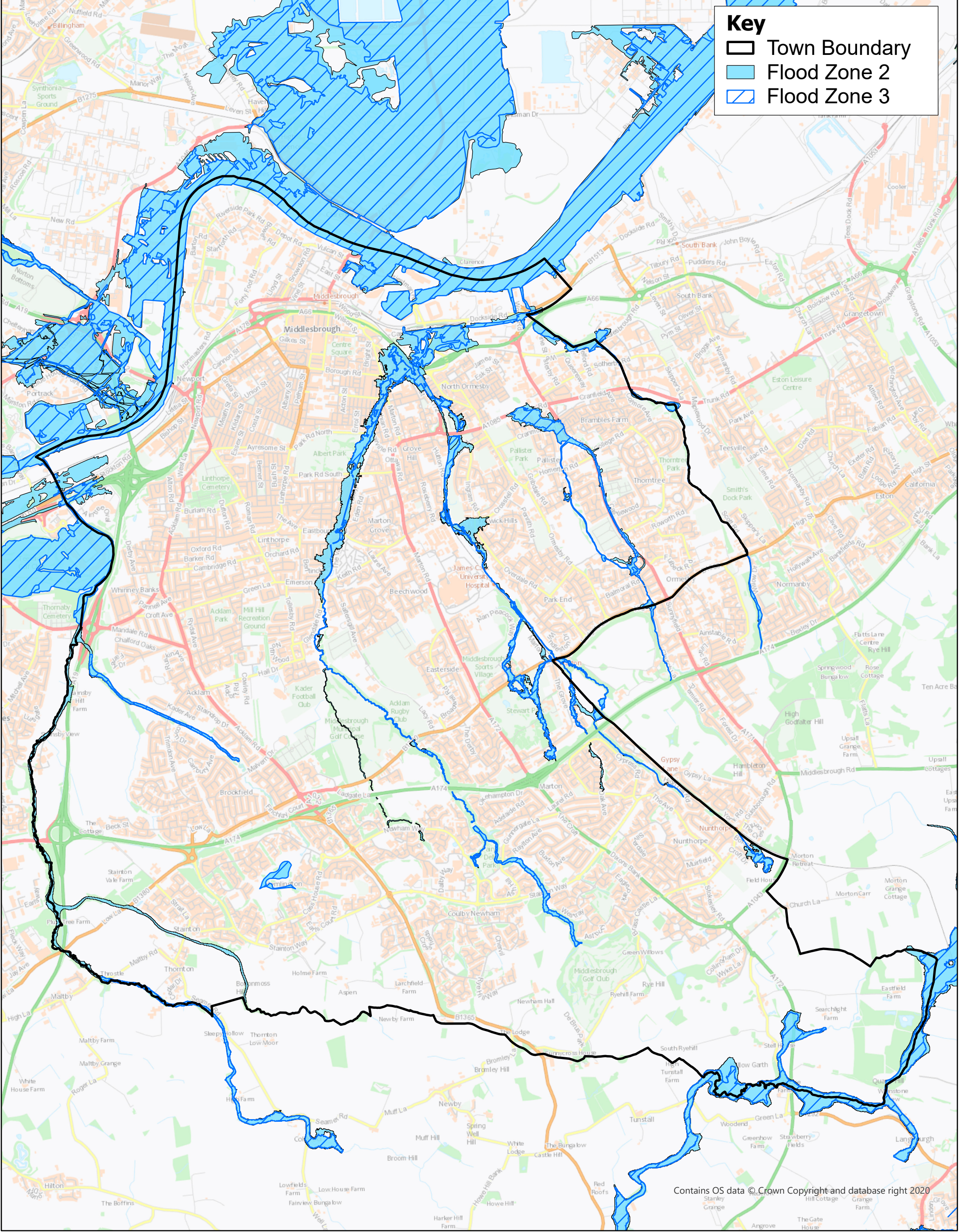
<b>Appendix C - Health Facilities</b>	
Service Area: Planning	
Map Reference:	Scale: 1:30,000@A4
Map created by: J Manders	Date - 20/7/22
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










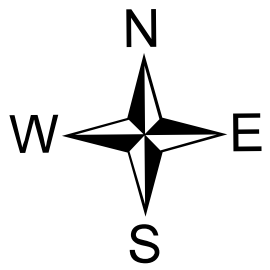
**Key**

-  Town Boundary
-  Flood Zone 2
-  Flood Zone 3

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<b>Appendix F - Flood Zones 2 &amp; 3</b>	
Service Area: Planning	
Map Reference:	Scale: 1:35,000@A4
Map created by: J Manders	Date - 20/7/22
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## **Appendix F: 'Prompt' Questions for SA assessment**

### **SA1 objective 1: Strengthening the Middlesbrough economy**

Will the option/policy...

- increase employment levels and tackle the causes of deprivation?
- accelerate regeneration and optimise the use of brownfield sites in line with national planning guidance?
- increase the economic wealth and performance of the town?
- improve levels of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship amongst businesses, educational establishments and communities?
- increase the number of new and existing businesses?
- assist in the delivery of the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan and Local Industrial Strategy?
- increase research on the environmental and social impacts associated with economic growth?

### **SA Objective 2 Alleviating deprivation and poverty**

Will the option/policy...

- increase the overall supply of jobs and diversity of employment opportunities in Middlesbrough?
- contribute to reducing worklessness by improving labour market inactivity rates and getting people back into employment in stable and competitive sectors?
- develop appropriate employment opportunities that are accessible, diverse and plentiful?
- work with social enterprises and voluntary sectors to tackle deprivation and improve the position, skills and aspirations of communities?
- 

### **SA objective 3: Developing a more sustainable employment market in Middlesbrough**

Will the option/policy...

- increase the overall supply of jobs and diversity of employment opportunities in Middlesbrough?
- contribute to reducing worklessness by improving labour market inactivity rates and getting people back into employment in stable and competitive sectors?
- develop appropriate employment opportunities that are accessible, diverse and plentiful?
- encourage institutions and employers to attract and retain high-calibre people?



## **Appendix F: 'Prompt' Questions for SA assessment**

- address barriers to work and create avenues to entering the labour market that are transparent and open to all?
- work with social enterprises and voluntary sectors to tackle deprivation and improve the position, skills and aspirations of communities where worklessness is endemic?
- increase workforce diversity and ensure equality of opportunities?

### **SA objective 4: To improve the skills and employment prospects of the resident population**

Will the option/policy...

- increase the level of investment in skills and training?
- create opportunities for education, training and life-long learning?
- raise individual aspirations and improve the demand for and access to learning? (the young, training in employment, colleges and universities plus volunteering)?
- 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?
- retain a skilled workforce by slowing out-migration and providing additional skills?

### **SA objective 5: To respond and enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change**

Will the option/policy...

- mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change?
- identify and develop economic opportunities arising from climate change?
- increase the level of investment in clean technologies?
- increase the resilience to climate change (infrastructure, economic activity, spatial planning, agriculture, biodiversity, landscapes and land use, and housing and communities)?
- reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions?

### **SA6 objective 6: To reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles**

Will the option/policy...

- promote inclusiveness and reduce health inequality?
- decrease the causes of ill health (especially long term) and death by tackling the wider determinants of health?
- increase access to essential localised healthcare provision?

## **Appendix F: 'Prompt' Questions for SA assessment**

- tackle the main causes of ill health (smoking, obesity and alcohol) by encouraging healthier lifestyles and diets?
- promote sport, exercise and active recreation?
- provide access to safe, green and open spaces for activity, use of active design, and access to the natural environment?
- improve the well-being and mental health of the population?

### **SA objective 7: Protect and enhance green and blue infrastructure**

Will the option/policy...

- maintain and enhance the value and capacity of environmental infrastructure?
- contribute towards the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity (especially key habitats and species)?
- encourage the reclamation and reuse of derelict/previously developed land - especially undesignated land which serves a strategic purpose, whilst retaining significant biodiversity/geodiversity of recognised local importance?
- contribute to the protection and enhancement of landscape character?
- contribute to protecting air and water (quality and resources)?
- ensure that robust 'ecosystem services' are at our disposal, for example wetlands and woodlands as carbon stores; the role of flood plains?
- promote green infrastructure (especially through urban design)?

### **SA Objective 8: To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity**

Will the option/policy...

- contribute towards the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity (especially key habitats and species)?
- encourage the reclamation and reuse of derelict/previously developed land - especially undesignated land which serves a strategic purpose, whilst retaining significant biodiversity/geodiversity of recognised local importance?
- contribute to protecting air and water (quality and resources)?
- ensure that robust 'ecosystem services' are at our disposal, for example wetlands and woodlands as carbon stores; the role of flood plains?
- promote green infrastructure (especially through urban design)?

### **SA Objective 9: To provide people with the opportunity to live in a decent and well-designed home**

Will the option/policy...

- contribute towards the development of sustainable communities?

## **Appendix F: 'Prompt' Questions for SA assessment**

- encourage local communities to be involved in decision-making?
- decrease levels of and fear of crime?
- 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)?
- encourage a safe and inclusive, well-planned, well-designed, well-built and run community?
- provide a safe environment with open public spaces where people can relax and interact?

### **SA objective 10: To create quality, safe and sustainable places**

Will the option/policy...

- contribute towards the development of sustainable communities?
- encourage local communities to be involved in decision-making?
- decrease levels of and fear of crime?
- 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)?
- encourage a safe and inclusive, well-planned, well-designed, well-built and run community?
- provide a safe environment with open public spaces where people can relax and interact?

### **SA objective 11: To reduce the need to travel and promote the use of sustainable transport options**

Will the option/policy...

- develop sustainable transport solutions that reduce the need to travel by private car plus encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport?
- increase access to jobs, facilities, goods, services and greenspace?
- encourage effective use of technology such as ICT and broadband, especially as an alternative to travel?
- balance the economic requirements for national and international travel with the need to reduce carbon emissions?
- develop sustainable transport networks in the semi-rural areas, taking into account changes to public services?
- embed sustainable transport within the Local Development Framework, including encouragement of production of sustainable travel plans?

## **Appendix F: 'Prompt' Questions for SA assessment**

### **SA objective 12: to protect and enhance cultural heritage and the historic environment**

Will the option/policy...

- help to improve the image of the town, promoting civic pride and distinctiveness?
- develop tourism and leisure?
- protect and enhance historic, cultural and natural assets?
- encourage engagement with and access to culture and heritage?
- promote participation in cultural and heritage activities?