



Northumberland
County Council

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Northumberland County Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Northumberland Local Plan

Post Adoption Statement

Report for

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Northumberland County Council (the Council) submitted the Northumberland Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19 - Publication Draft) January 2019¹ (hereafter referred to as the 'draft Local Plan') to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 29th May 2019 for independent examination (known as an Examination in Public or EiP) by Planning Inspectors, in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012². EiP Hearings took place during 2019 and 2020. Prior to and during the hearings, several Main Modifications (MMs) to the Draft Local Plan were proposed. Following the conclusion of the hearings, the Inspector and the Council agreed a schedule of proposed MMs which was then subject to consultation (9th June 2021 to 4th August 2021). In their report³ dated 26th January 2022, the Inspectors concluded that the Local Plan, subject to Main Modifications, was legally compliant and sound. The Northumberland Local Plan⁴ (hereafter referred to as the 'Local Plan') was subsequently adopted by the Council on 31st March 2022.
- 1.1.2 To support the development of the Local Plan, the Council commissioned Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited (Wood)⁵ to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), of the Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 This Post Adoption Statement is the final output of the SA process. It describes the way in which the Council has taken environmental and sustainability considerations and the views of consultees into account in the adopted Local Plan and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁶ (the SEA regulations).

1.2 The Northumberland Local Plan

Overview of the Local Plan

- 1.2.1 The Northumberland Local Plan sets out the vision, spatial principles, planning policies and site allocations that will guide development in the local authority area in the period up to 2036. It has been developed taking into account national planning policy and guidance, the objectives of other

¹ Northumberland County Council (2019) Northumberland Local Plan January 2019 Publication Draft Plan (Regulation 19) Available from: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/Northumberland-Local-Plan-Reg-19-Publication-Draft-January-2019-Web-PDF-Version.pdf>

² Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 767 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2012/767/contents/made>

³ Susan Heywood and Stephen Normington (2022) Report to Northumberland County Council: Report on the Examination of the Northumberland Local Plan, PINS File Ref: PINS/P2935/429/11. Available from:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/Northumberland-Local-Plan-Report-Final-26-January-2022.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Plan.aspx>

⁵ Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited came into effect on 16th April 2018 with work prior to this date undertaken under the company's former names Amec/Amec Foster Wheeler.

⁶ Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Available from: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2004/1633/pdfs/ukSI_20041633_en.pdf and subject to the amendments in Statutory Instrument 2018 No. 1232 The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018. Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/1232/introduction/made>

plans and programmes, assessment (including SA), the findings of evidence base studies and the outcomes of engagement.

1.2.2 The Local Plan includes the following key parts:

- the Local Plan Spatial Vision, Objectives and Outcomes;
- the overarching Local Plan strategy in terms of the amount of new development to be accommodated;
- site allocations to deliver the development requirements;
- Local Plan policies including development requirements for the site allocations.

1.2.3 Overall, the Local Plan makes provision for 17,700 dwellings and 242 hectares of employment land (split between 41 hectares on strategic employment sites and 201 hectares of generally available employment land) over the plan period with the aim of creating some 15,000 jobs. In respect of minerals, three sites for sand and gravel extraction and five sites for crushed rock extraction have been allocated. No waste sites have been allocated in the plan and there are no Gypsy and Traveller sites. In accordance with a settlement hierarchy approach, the Spatial Strategy⁷ which “*focuses the majority of new development in Northumberland's key settlements with smaller scale development allowed elsewhere in order to support local services and the rural economy. It restricts development in the open countryside ... focussing development in the most sustainable locations ...*”.

1.2.4 The spatial vision is supported by 8 objectives covering the following topics:

- Economy and Jobs;
- Homes;
- Environment;
- Connections;
- Community Health and Wellbeing;
- Climate Change;
- Resources; and
- Quality of Place.

1.2.5 Each strategic objective is explained through outcomes that identify what Northumberland will be like in 2036.

Economy and Jobs - key outcomes:

- Land and buildings will have been identified in sustainable locations to meet demand, allow for choice and to provide for an additional 15,000 new jobs between 2016 and 2036.
- Close co-operation with partners across administrative boundaries will ensure that locations in the south east and central areas of Northumberland will be seen regionally, as attractive alternatives to the Tyneside market and that the north of the County can benefit from the Scottish Borders and Edinburgh employment markets. Likewise the western areas of Northumberland can benefit from the economic opportunities arising from its connection with Cumbria.

⁷ Northumberland County Council (2019) Regulation 19 Submission Plan, para 4.23

- Existing employment sites will have been protected relative to need and demand.
- A diverse range of interconnected sites around the Blyth Estuary will have been provided and will have supported growth of strategically important sectors.
- High quality office accommodation will have been developed at Northumberland Business Park and in the other Main Towns.
- Northumberland's market towns will be key drivers of economic activity.
- The creation and expansion of hubs for business services and creative industries in the County's historic market towns, rural business developments, and more home run enterprises will have been realised.
- The tourism sector will have grown in a sustainable way benefiting rural areas, communities and visitors. The potential for Northumberland's environmental and historic assets to make a substantial contribution to the County's economy will have been realised, while ensuring their full protection, and where possible their enhancement. Tourist and visitor facilities will be located in appropriate places, enhancing Northumberland as a visitor destination.
- The economic benefits of the extraction of minerals will have been given the appropriate weight in the determination of planning applications.
- A range of accessible opportunities for adults and young people to support them into education, employment and training will have been provided.
- Businesses will have benefited from the economic opportunities presented by an ageing population to offer goods and services to older people as consumers as well as using their skills and experience as part of the County's workforce.
- Forest management and processing and agriculture industries will have been supported and their economic growth facilitated.
- Appropriate retail, leisure and employment opportunities will have been located within town centres, with the existing vitality and viability protected.
- Transport and communications networks and the County's gateways to international growth – the Ports of Blyth and Berwick, and links to Newcastle International Airport and the East Coast Main Line - will have been supported and improved.

Homes - key outcomes:

- The focus of new housing development will have been in the Main Towns and Service Centres across Northumberland. Areas of new homes will have been planned and designed to respect local character and safeguard the significance of heritage assets.
- In smaller settlements a level of new housing development that is proportionate to the size of the settlement, and appropriate to its character, will have been delivered, meeting local needs wherever possible.
- Significant progress will have been made towards addressing the shortfall in affordable homes across Northumberland.
- An appropriate strategy will have been adopted to manage the proportion of holiday and second homes across Northumberland.
- Housing will have been provided by a variety of methods including, by community land trusts and through self-build.

- A range of housing tenures, types, prices and sizes will have been provided in order to help meet local needs for different groups of the population, including meeting the needs of an ageing population.
- Housing design and location will allow older people and vulnerable groups to live as independent lives as possible.
- Lifetime neighbourhoods will have been developed in locations which have the greatest potential to support older people to remain independent as they age.
- New sites will have been provided for any additional identified need for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Environment - key outcomes:

- Northumberland's natural, water, historic and built environments will continue to be experienced and valued by residents and visitors, within the scope that is possible to maintain their full conservation and allow for their enhancement where appropriate.
- Wherever possible, development will have been directed away from our most sensitive and valuable natural assets, habitats and species, towards less sensitive locations and no net loss to biodiversity will have been experienced.
- New development will have contributed to the delivery of priorities set out by the Local Nature Partnerships or other strategic biodiversity initiatives.
- Northumberland's Green Infrastructure networks will have been maintained and enhanced.
- The landscape character of Northumberland will have been protected and enhanced, including protection of significant views, particularly to and from iconic heritage features in the landscape of Northumberland.
- Tranquillity and Northumberland's dark skies will have been protected.
- Development will have been avoided that would have an adverse impact on water quality.
- Satisfactory provision will have been made as part of development proposals for water supply and sewerage infrastructure to ensure sustainable water management and drainage.
- The character of the historic settlements will have been conserved and enhanced.
- Features and areas of historical and cultural value will have been conserved and where possible enhanced in accordance with their significance, including the sensitive re-use of historical buildings and a reduction in buildings at risk.
- Northumberland's distinctive heritage will have been used as the inspiration for new developments.
- Archaeological sites and features will have been protected in accordance with their significance.
- The Outstanding Universal Value of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire - Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site will have been protected and enhanced.
- Opportunities will have been taken to better reveal the significance of heritage assets.
- The design and management of public spaces is suitable for all.

Connections - key outcomes:

- Provision of essential infrastructure e.g. transport, water supply, sewerage, energy, flood alleviation, telecommunication, education, and health and social care, will have been coordinated and positively planned for.
- There will have been effective partnership working between the Council, other infrastructure providers and developers to facilitate infrastructure delivery and opportunities for the co-location and multi-functional use of existing and new infrastructure services, amenities and facilities.
- Existing infrastructure services and facilities will have been protected, unless they are no longer needed or there is alternative provision elsewhere.
- The provision of new or improved infrastructure, where need is demonstrated, will have been positively supported, provided there is no detrimental environmental impact.
- A range of viable, efficient sustainable transport alternatives will have been provided to reduce reliance on the private motor vehicle, although it is recognised that in rural areas reliance on the private car will remain extensive.
- Improvements to transport and communications infrastructure and the County's gateways to international growth – Dualling of the A1 and A69, the East Coast Main Line and Tyne Valley Railways, the Ports of Blyth and Berwick, passenger services on the Northumberland Line, and links to Newcastle International Airport will have been supported.
- County highways and Highways England roads will have been improved to incorporate safe, comfortable and convenient standards for cycling, facilitating increased travel by cycle and reduced car dependence.

Community health and wellbeing – key outcomes

- Accessible local services and community facilities will have been protected and where possible, enhanced.
- Green infrastructure, open space provision and recreational facilities will continue to be protected and where possible, enhanced to help promote social inclusion and health and wellbeing.
- State of the art hospitals will provide improved healthcare.
- Communities will have access to high quality education facilities.
- Neighbourhood Plans will have been produced by communities that wish to promote particular development in their areas, adding detail to the overarching policies within the Local Plan.
- Strategic growth will have been matched by the delivery of improved and new community infrastructure.

Climate Change - key outcomes:

- A sustainable pattern of development will have been delivered, including the focusing of the provision of housing, employment, education, healthcare and retail particularly within Main Towns and Service Centres resulting in a reduction in the need to travel.
- The supply of energy and heat from renewable and low carbon sources will have contributed towards meeting national targets and helped to address fuel poverty.

- New development will have incorporated sustainable building practices and where possible will have contributed to improving the existing building stock.
- High energy efficiency will have been incorporated into new development.
- New developments will have been effectively assessed for the risk of flooding and if appropriate will have been sited elsewhere.
- New developments will have incorporated multifunctional green infrastructure, which can assist in the mitigation of and adaption to climate change.

Resources - key outcomes:

- Finite mineral resources across the County have not been unnecessarily sterilised and land has been made available to meet defined needs;
- Minerals extraction, transport and processing does not have unacceptable adverse impacts on natural resources (air, water, soil), the natural and historic environment or local communities;
- Net gains in biodiversity have been delivered, with the creation of new priority habitats and green infrastructure in minerals reclamation schemes;
- The minerals industry remains an important source of employment;
- Northumberland continues to have a well-established and spatially distributed network of waste management facilities, with sufficient capacity. Recycling and recovery rates are maximised;
- The need to generate energy is effectively balanced with the need to protect Northumberland's environment and communities from any significant adverse impacts associated with it;
- Efficient use is made of land and existing buildings, with priority given to the development of previously developed land, wherever possible.

Quality of Place - key outcomes:

- The design of new development will have been of a high quality for its purpose.
- The individual character of the places in Northumberland will have been maintained and improved.
- New development in Northumberland will have provided attractive living and working environments that are valued by their communities.
- Development will have improved the accessibility to services for communities.
- Public spaces will be welcoming and easy to move around.
- The people of Northumberland will continue to be proud to live in the County.

Preparation of the Local Plan

- 1.2.6 The first major stage in the development of the Local Plan was the publication of a Draft Local Plan for consultation from 4th of July to 15th of August 2018. This included a number of strategic options concerning the quantum of land to be provided for housing and employment and the spatial distribution of development in the County and site allocations for housing, and employment to support this stage of the preparation of the Local Plan.

- 1.2.7 Following consultation, and an analysis of responses, the Council then prepared the Publication Draft Local Plan. Representations were invited on the Publication Draft Local Plan between 30th January and 13th of March 2019 and following analysis of consultation responses the Local Plan together with supporting information including assessments and evidence-base studies was submitted to the government (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) on 29th May 2019. The government appointed a planning inspector to conduct an independent examination (known as an “Examination in Public” or “EiP”) into the Local Plan. EiP Hearings took place during 2019 and 2020. Prior to and during the hearings, several Main Modifications (MMs) to the Local Plan were proposed. Following the conclusion of the hearings, the Inspector, and the Council, agreed a schedule of proposed MMs set out in a Post Hearings Letter of 24th February 2021.
- 1.2.8 The Council consulted on the Main Modifications to the draft Local Plan and Policies Map Changes between Wednesday 9th June 2021 and Wednesday 4th August 2021 with the representations subsequently passed to the Inspector for consideration on 14th September 2021.
- 1.2.9 The Planning Inspectorate issued the Inspector’s Report to the Council on 26th January 2022; this concluded that the Local Plan, with the associated Main Modifications, is legally compliant, sound and consistent with national planning policy. The Local Plan was subsequently adopted by the Council on 31st March 2022.
- 1.2.10 Further information relating to the adopted Local Plan is available via the Council’s website: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Plan.aspx>

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.3.1 Under Section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to carry out a SA of the Local Plan to help guide the selection and development of policies and proposals in terms of their potential social, environmental and economic effects. In undertaking this requirement, local planning authorities must also incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁸ (the SEA regulations).
- 1.3.2 The SEA regulations seek to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 1.3.3 At paragraphs 15-16, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)^{9,10} sets out that local plans provide a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities and that they must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. In this regard, paragraph 32 of the NPPF reiterates the requirement for SA/SEA as it relates to local plan preparation:

“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements¹¹. This should demonstrate how

⁸ Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Available from http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2004/1633/pdfs/ukSI_20041633_en.pdf and subject to the amendments in Statutory Instrument 2018 No. 1232 The Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018. Available from <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/1232/introduction/made>

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

¹⁰ All references to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in this report reflect the 2021 NPPF which continues the requirement of paragraph 32 of the 2019 NPPF that stated: “Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements.”

¹¹ The reference to relevant legal requirements refers to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)."

- 1.3.4 National Planning Practice Guidance¹² also makes clear that SA plays an important role in demonstrating that a local plan reflects sustainability objectives and has considered reasonable alternatives.
- 1.3.5 In this context, SA has played an integral role in the development of the Local Plan with each main stage of the plan's preparation having been accompanied by a SA Report, prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the SEA regulations:
- The Draft Local Plan was subject to appraisal and the resulting SA Report¹³ (along with the draft plan) was subject to consultation that ran from 4th July to 15th August 2018. Only one consultation response on the SA was received (from Natural England) and which was summarised in Appendix B of the Regulation 18 Report.
 - The Publication Draft Local Plan was then subject to appraisal and the resulting SA report¹⁴, which contained the findings of the SA of the Publication Draft Local Plan for Regulation 19, was subject to consultation that ran from 30th January to 13th March 2019. Nine consultation responses were received, including the three Statutory SEA consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England).
 - A final SA Report was prepared to accompany the submission of the Draft Local Plan¹⁵.
- 1.3.6 To ensure that the final, adopted Local Plan has taken into account sustainability considerations, and to meet the Council's responsibilities under the SEA regulations, the Main Modifications (and for completeness, the Policies Map Changes) to the draft Local Plan were also subject to SA¹⁶. The appraisal demonstrated that the proposed MMs and also the changes to the policies map do not impact on the previous conclusions of the SA. These findings were presented in an addendum to the SA Report that accompanied the Publication Draft Local Plan. The consultation on the SA Addendum ran from 9th June 2021 to 4th August 2021.
- 1.3.7 The SA work undertaken in support of the Local Plan can be viewed on the Council's website: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Plan.aspx>

1.4 Purpose of this Post Adoption Statement

- 1.4.1 This Post Adoption Statement represents the conclusion of the SA process and fulfils the plan and programme adoption requirements of the SEA regulations. In accordance with Regulation 16 (4) of the SEA regulations, this statement sets out the following:
- how environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan (**Section 2** of this document);
 - how the SA Reports have been taken into account (**Section 3**);

¹² MHCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance, Plan-making, Paragraph: 001 Reference 001 Reference ID: 11-001-20190722. Available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

¹³ Wood (2018) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Regulation 18 Consultation Sustainability Appraisal Report

¹⁴ Wood (2019) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Regulation 19 Consultation Sustainability Appraisal Report

¹⁵ Wood (2019) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Submission Draft Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Report

¹⁶ Wood (2021) Northumberland Local Plan: Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Submission Version of the Local Plan – Appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications 2021

- how opinions expressed in response to the consultation on the SA Reports have been taken into account (**Section 4**);
- the reasons for choosing the Local Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (**Section 5**); and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the Local Plan (**Appendix A**).

2. How Environmental and Sustainability Considerations Have Been Integrated into the Local Plan

2.1 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the Local Plan

Preparation of the Local Plan

2.1.1 Environmental and wider sustainability considerations have been integral to the key decisions made by the Council in respect of the policies and proposals of the Local Plan. The integration of these considerations into the plan making process has principally been achieved through:

- the development of a comprehensive evidence base on topics including (inter alia) housing, the economy and employment, environment, heritage, transport and infrastructure;
- continuous engagement with key stakeholders and the public on the emerging Local Plan and related environmental and sustainability matters;
- the consideration of national planning policy and the objectives of other plans and programmes at the national, regional and local level;
- fulfilment of the Council's Duty to Cooperate; and
- ongoing assessment including SA as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)¹⁷.

Local Plan Content

2.1.2 In accordance with the NPPF, the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development underpins the Local Plan. This aim is encapsulated in the vision for the county as follows: *"Northumberland's physical and cultural identity will be conserved and nurtured; its resources will be utilised in a sustainable way. The breadth, scale and quality of its special, varied landscapes and biodiversity will be conserved, enhanced and increased. The quality of its buildings and spaces will be conserved and improved. New development will be well designed, minimise environmental harm and reduce the effects of climate change. The economy will be thriving and competitive, and deliver more and better jobs. Supported by investment and infrastructure, building on existing strengths whilst diversifying and realising the potential of the rural and visitor economy. The health and wellbeing of the county's people and communities will be safeguarded by continually improving education and skills, and ensuring access to decent, affordable homes, services and facilities is secured."* To deliver the vision, objectives have been developed covering the following topics: Economy and Jobs; Homes; Environment; Connections; Community Health and Wellbeing; Climate Change; Resources; and Quality of Place.

2.1.3 The vision for the County seeks to deliver economic and social transformation whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. Reflecting its emphasis on these three strands of sustainability, the

¹⁷ Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations') requires that competent authorities assess the potential impacts of land use plans on the Natura 2000 network of European protected sites to determine whether there will be any 'likely significant effects' (LSE) on any European site as a result of the plan's implementation (either alone or 'in combination' with other plans or projects); and, if so, whether these effects will result in any adverse effects on that site's integrity. The process by which the impacts of a plan or programme are assessed against the conservation objectives of a European site is known as 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA).

vision has been assessed as being compatible with the majority of the SA objectives, although the appraisal has found that it does leave room for uncertainties as potential conflicts could arise between growth, resource use and environmental factors.

2.2 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations in the SA

- 2.2.1 To provide the context for the SA, and in compliance with the SEA Directive, a review of other relevant plans and programmes was undertaken and the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and its evolution without the Local Plan were considered; together, they informed the identification of a series of key sustainability issues. This information was initially set out in the 2018 SA Scoping Report¹⁸ and was updated throughout the subsequent iterations of the SA in order to ensure that all contextual information continued to be appropriate, and the resulting appraisal framework robust.
- 2.2.2 The key sustainability issues identified through the review of plans and programmes and analysis of baseline information informed, and were reflected in, the objectives and guide questions that comprised the framework used to appraise the Local Plan (the SA Framework) (see **Table 2.1**). Broadly, the SA objectives presented the preferred sustainability outcome which usually involved minimising detrimental effects and enhancing positive effects.

Table 2.1 SA Framework

SA Objectives	Guide Questions	SEA Directive Topic(s)
1. To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? Will residents' quality of life be adversely affected? Will it help in tackling rising obesity levels? Will it increase regular participation in sports/exercise? Will it maintain and enhance healthcare facilities and services? Will it provide for or improve access to high quality, accessible healthcare facilities? Will it help to provide for and support the ageing population of Northumberland? Will it maintain / improve access to open space, recreational and leisure facilities? Will it help to reduce pollution (noise, emissions, light)? 	Population and Human Health.
2. To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including healthcare, education, retail and leisure? Will it promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community, cultural and leisure facilities? Will it promote the vitality and viability of town centres? Will it encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Will it maintain and enhance rural facilities? Will it decrease the amount of traffic using the road system? Will it reduce adverse impacts of transportation on communities and the environment? 	Population and Human Health.
3. To deliver safer communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote design of buildings and spaces to reduce crime and the fear of crime? Will it help reduce incidence of anti-social behavior and substance misuse? Will it encourage social inclusion? Will it contribute towards road safety for all users? 	Population and Human Health

¹⁸ Amec Foster Wheeler (2018) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Available from <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/NCC-SA-Scoping-Report-Final.pdf>

SA Objectives	Guide Questions	SEA Directive Topic(s)
4. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	<p>Will it provide an adequate supply of affordable housing?</p> <p>Will it support the provision of a range of house types and sizes to meet the needs of all part of the community?</p> <p>Will it ensure a flexible supply of land for residential development, especially in the rural parts of Northumberland?</p> <p>Will it ensure that appropriate use is made of the existing housing stock?</p> <p>Will it promote of sustainable building techniques including innovative building materials and construction methods?</p> <p>Will it provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</p> <p>Will it promote improvements to the existing housing stock?</p> <p>Will it help to ensure the provision of good quality, well designed homes?</p>	Population and human health.
5. To strengthen and sustain a resilient local economy which offers local employment opportunities.	<p>Will it help provide good quality, well paid employment opportunities that meet the needs of local people?</p> <p>Will it maximise opportunities for all members of society?</p> <p>Will it tackle the causes of poverty and deprivation?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance the vitality and viability of existing employment areas?</p> <p>Will it provide employment land in areas that are easily accessible by public transport?</p> <p>Will it direct appropriate retail, leisure and/or employment opportunities to town centre locations to aid urban regeneration?</p> <p>Will it support the rural economy and farm diversification?</p> <p>Will it recognise the importance of the environment to the local economy?</p> <p>Will it encourage or promote tourism?</p> <p>Will it encourage development of a low-carbon economy in Northumberland?</p> <p>Will it address the lack of working age population in the County?</p>	Population.
6. To deliver accessible education and training opportunities.	<p>Will it provide, support and improve access to high quality educational facilities?</p> <p>Will it improve the skills and qualifications throughout the working age population?</p> <p>Will it help to provide a supply of skilled labour to match the needs of local businesses?</p> <p>Will it reduce inequalities in skills across Northumberland?</p> <p>Will it support community enterprises and the voluntary sector?</p> <p>Will it support the creation of flexible jobs to meet the changing needs of the population?</p>	Population.
7. To reduce the need for travel, promote more sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.	<p>Will it reduce the need to travel and reliance on the private car?</p> <p>Will it increase the range, availability and use of sustainable travel choices i.e. public transport, walking, cycling?</p> <p>Will it promote car-share schemes and/or working from home?</p> <p>Will it reduce traffic volumes?</p> <p>Will it help to reduce out-commuting?</p> <p>Will it support investment in transport infrastructure?</p>	Population

SA Objectives	Guide Questions	SEA Directive Topic(s)
8. To conserve and enhance Northumberland's biodiversity and geodiversity.	<p>Will it conserve and enhance internationally, nationally and locally nature conservation designated sites and areas of ancient woodland and protected species?</p> <p>Will it meet the conservation objectives of all designated sites?</p> <p>Will it help to improve the quality of SSSI to help ensure more are in favourable condition?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance woodland cover and management?</p> <p>Will it avoid habitat fragmentation and strengthen ecological framework?</p> <p>Will it ensure all new developments protect and enhance local biodiversity?</p> <p>Will it contribute to the achievement of objectives and targets within the Northumberland Biodiversity Action Plan?</p> <p>Will it incorporate a network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure within new developments, where appropriate?</p> <p>Will it result in a net gain for the natural environment with each new development?</p> <p>Will it provide opportunities for people to access the natural environment?</p>	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
9. To ensure the prudent use and supply of natural resources.	<p>Will it minimise the loss of soils to development?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance soil quality and functioning?</p> <p>Will it ensure that mineral resources are not sterilised unnecessarily?</p> <p>Will it provide an adequate supply of minerals to meet society's needs?</p>	Material Assets and soils.
10. To encourage the efficient use of land.	<p>Will it promote the use of previously developed land (PDL) and minimise the loss of greenfield land?</p> <p>Will it avoid the loss of agricultural land including best and most versatile land?</p> <p>Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?</p> <p>Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure?</p> <p>Will it prevent land contamination and facilitate remediation of contaminated sites?</p>	Material Assets and soils.
11. To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's river, transitional and coastal and ground and surface water bodies.	<p>Will it maintain and where possible enhancing the flow, quality and quantity of rivers, ground and surface water bodies and coastal waters?</p> <p>Will it encourage sustainable and efficient management of water resources?</p> <p>Will it ensure that essential water infrastructure is co-ordinated with all new development?</p> <p>Will it contribute positively to achieving objectives set for the Northumbria and Tweed/ Solway River Basin Management Plans as part of delivery of the Water Framework Directive?</p> <p>Will it encourage sustainable practices in aquatic farming, fishing and other businesses?</p> <p>Will it contribute positively to achieving the aims of the integrated Northumberland Coast AONB Management Plan and use an ecosystem approach to coastal and marine management?</p>	Water, biodiversity, fauna and flora.
12. To improve air quality.	<p>Will it maintain and improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it mitigate the impacts on air quality from road transport?</p> <p>Will it discourage or mitigate against uses that generate NO2 or other particulates?</p>	Air and human health.

SA Objectives	Guide Questions	SEA Directive Topic(s)
13. To reduce and or avoid flood risk to people and property.	<p>Will it help to minimise the risk of flooding to people and property in new and existing developments?</p> <p>Will it help to minimise the risk of minewater flooding?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance the natural function of floodplains</p> <p>Will it promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in appropriate circumstances?</p> <p>Will it take into account predicted future impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and flooding events?</p> <p>Will it discourage development in areas at risk from flooding?</p> <p>Will it ensure that new development does not give rise to flood risk elsewhere?</p>	Population, water and climatic factors
14. To minimise greenhouse gases and ensure resilience to the effects of climate change through effective mitigation and adaptation	<p>Will it reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change e.g. flooding, disruption during extreme weather etc?</p> <p>Will it reduce vulnerability of the economy to climate change and harness any opportunities that may arise?</p> <p>Will it support low carbon and renewable energy and sustainable design?</p> <p>Will it ensure that impacts and opportunities of climate change on natural habitats and species are full considered and incorporated in spatial planning decisions?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption or providing energy from waste?</p> <p>Will it lead to an increased proportion of energy needs being met from renewable sources?</p> <p>Will it promote energy efficiency in buildings and new development?</p> <p>Will it reduce contributions to climate change through sustainable building practices?</p> <p>Will it contribute to reducing Northumberland's carbon footprint?</p>	Climatic Factors
15. To reduce the amount of waste that is produced and increase the proportion that is reused, recycled and composted.	<p>Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?</p> <p>Will it reduce waste arisings and increase waste reuse, recycling and recovery?</p> <p>Will it reduce hazardous waste?</p> <p>Will it reduce waste in the construction industry?</p> <p>Will it provide a framework in which businesses, communities and individuals take more responsibility for their own waste?</p> <p>Will it ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management?</p> <p>Will it provide a suitable range of facilities throughout the County to assist in increasing rates of recycling and composting?</p>	Material Assets
16. To conserve and enhance Northumberland's cultural heritage and diversity.	<p>Will it conserve and where appropriate enhance sites, features and areas of historical, archaeological or cultural value in both urban and rural areas including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and Historic Parks and Gardens?</p> <p>Will it recognise the significance of heritage assets and their settings and the contribution of the setting to the significance?</p> <p>Will it ensure appropriate archaeological or building assessments are undertaken prior to development?</p> <p>Will it promote sensitive re-use of historical assets and buildings of local historic interest, where the opportunity arises?</p> <p>Will it improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage and historic sites?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements?</p>	Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

SA Objectives	Guide Questions	SEA Directive Topic(s)
17. To conserve and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Northumberland's rural and urban landscapes.	<p>Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and underused land?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance the County's townscapes, seascapes and landscape character?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance natural landscapes within the urban area, including recreational open space and strategic green corridors?</p> <p>Will it help to deliver a comprehensive network of multifunctional Green Infrastructure, addressing deficiencies and gaps and providing Green Infrastructure with new development where appropriate?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance areas with landscape designations and take account of their management objectives?</p> <p>Will it protect the strategic function of the Green Belt?</p> <p>Will it maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of settlements?</p> <p>Will it improve access to the countryside for recreation?</p> <p>Will it promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape?</p>	Landscape.

- 2.2.3 The SA process has considered the contribution of the Local Plan towards each of the appraisal objectives above, drawing on the baseline information to predict the likely significant effects. Specifically, the following key components of the Local Plan have been appraised against the SA objectives:
- Local Plan Vision and Objectives;
 - the quantum of growth to be provided over the plan period (development requirements) and the distribution of that growth (Spatial Strategy) and reasonable alternatives for growth and distribution;
 - site allocations to deliver the development requirements across the County (including reasonable alternatives); and
 - Local Plan policies including development requirements for the proposed site allocations.
- 2.2.4 The appraisal identified the likely changes to the baseline conditions as a result of the Local Plan's implementation. These effects were described (where possible) in terms of their extent, the timescale over which they could occur and whether the effects would be temporary or permanent, positive or negative, short, medium and/or long-term. Secondary, synergistic and cumulative effects were also considered.

3. How the SA Report Has Been Taken into Account

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 The development of the Local Plan has been iterative, with SA (along with the wider evidence base) playing an integral role in each of the stages of the Local Plan's development. The findings of the SA were documented in SA Reports in order to help inform the plan and fully integrate environmental and wider sustainability considerations into the Council's decision making. These stages were as follows (report dates in brackets):

- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March 2018);
- Sustainability Appraisal Report: Reg.18 Consultation (June 2018);
- Sustainability Appraisal Report: Reg.19 Consultation (January 2019);
- Sustainability Appraisal Report: Submission (May 2019);
- Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Submission Version of the Local Plan – Appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications 2021 (May 2021).

3.1.2 Production of the SA Scoping Report was informed by a review of other relevant policies, plans and programmes as well as baseline information and the identification of key sustainability issues affecting the County, the Scoping Report set out the proposed framework for the appraisal of the Local Plan (the SA Framework). The Scoping Report was subject to consultation that ran from 28th March to 2nd May 2018 with responses received that resulted in amendments to the SA Framework, against which all aspects of the emerging draft Local Plan were appraised.

3.1.3 **Table 3.1** presents a summary of the key stages in the development of the Local Plan, the associated SA work undertaken and the key conclusions of the appraisal.

Table 3.1 Local Plan Stages and SA Reports

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
Reg.18 Consultation (July 2018)	<p>The SA Report included an appraisal of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the compatibility of the emerging Local Plan Spatial Principles with the SA objectives • four housing and growth options • five spatial distribution options • site allocations • plan policies 	<p>Spatial Principles The vision for the County seeks to deliver economic and social transformation whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. Reflecting its emphasis on these three strands of sustainability, the vision has been assessed as being compatible with the majority of the SA Objectives, although the appraisal has found that it does leave room for uncertainties as potential conflicts could arise between growth, resource use and environmental factors. The appraisal has found the draft Local Plan objectives to be broadly supportive of the SA Objectives. Where possible incompatibilities have been identified, tensions between the objectives can be resolved if development takes place in accordance with all of the draft Local Plan Objectives.</p> <p>Growth Options Four housing growth scenarios were considered by the Council as part of the development of the Draft Local Plan:</p>

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
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- Option 1: Baseline 'business as usual' official projections (6,900 additional workplace jobs – 314 per annum, 10,186 dwellings over the plan period with 509 dwellings per annum);
- Option 2: Local housing need standard method – average household growth 2016-26 rolled forward (14,340 dwellings over the plan period with 717 dwellings per annum);
- Option 3: Intermediate jobs-led (12,100 additional workplace jobs – 550 per annum, 15,533 dwellings per annum with 777 dwellings per annum); and
- Option 4: Ambitious jobs-led growth (16,500 additional workplace jobs – 750 per annum, 17,700 dwellings over the plan period with 885 dwellings per annum).

The range of significant positive and negative effects increased through the options, reflecting the scale of additional housing and employment proposed in each option.

Spatial Distribution Options

Five options were considered by the Council for the potential distribution of development in the County:

- Distribution Option 1: Proportionate distribution.
- Distribution Option 2: Proportionate distribution within the constraints of the Green Belt.
- Distribution Option 3: Proportionate distribution with additional targeted growth.
- Distribution Option 4: Dispersed distribution.
- Distribution Option 5: New Settlements.

The distribution options are all expected to have significant positive effects by providing new housing across Northumberland, except for Option 5 which would only provide development in new settlements to the detriment of meeting need elsewhere in the County (and that the amount of housing that would be provided could be affected by Green Belt constraints). All of the options would have positive effects on the range and accessibility of community services and facilities, economy and the delivery and accessibility of educational facilities. Options 1, 2 and 3 would result in significant positive effects with regard to reducing the need to travel within the County as new development are located near to key settlements and where they are needed. Options 3, 4 and 5 would increase the amount of traffic on Northumberland's local road network more than Options 1 and 2 due to either requiring more development than the other options (Option 3) or by locating development in rural areas where there would be less access to sustainable modes of transport (Option 4) or being source of new traffic (Option 5). This will result in Options 3, 4 and 5 having a significant negative effect on air quality, whilst Options 1 and 2 have positive effects on air quality.

Site Allocations

The Draft Local Plan allocated 39 housing sites, a wide range of local and strategic employment sites and 7 aggregate minerals sites. No waste or Gypsy and Traveller sites are allocated. Overall, the scale of housing and employment land to be delivered through the proposed site allocations is considered to be significant and will help to meet the future needs of the County, its communities and businesses over the plan period whilst minimising the potential for significant adverse environmental effects. This reflects both the characteristics of individual sites and also the fact that the majority of dwellings and employment land will be delivered in/adjacent to urban areas for the main towns and sustainable settlements, which have greater capacity in terms of their sustainability to receive growth. The minerals sites will ensure there is a supply of natural resources to meet needs and will help to provide for example a supply of local building materials for construction needs. There is the potential for new development to result in adverse environmental effects (and in some cases significant negative effects). However, in many cases (such as in respect of biodiversity, water,

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
Reg.19 Consultation (January 2019)	<p>The SA Report included an appraisal of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the compatibility of the emerging Local Plan Spatial Principles with the SA objectives the preferred housing and growth strategy the preferred spatial distribution site allocations plan policies 	<p>floodrisk, cultural heritage and landscape), it is anticipated that the potential adverse effects could be mitigated or reduced at the project level.</p> <p>Plan Policies</p> <p>The implementation of the proposed policies contained in the draft Local Plan is anticipated to have positive effects across all of the SA Objectives. These effects are expected to be significant in respect of: health and well-being, community services and facilities, housing, economy, education and partly for travel, natural resources, climate change, cultural heritage and landscape. This broadly reflects the likely social and economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing and employment in the County over the plan period and the strong framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve the County's natural and built environments and resources, and the promotion of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Spatial Principles</p> <p>The vision for the County seeks to deliver economic and social transformation whilst protecting and enhancing the environment. Reflecting its emphasis on these three strands of sustainability, the vision has been assessed as being compatible with the majority of the SA Objectives, although the appraisal has found that it does leave room for uncertainties as potential conflicts could arise between growth, resource use and environmental factors. The appraisal has found the draft Local Plan objectives to be broadly supportive of the SA Objectives. Where possible incompatibilities have been identified, tensions between the objectives can be resolved if development takes place in accordance with all of the draft Local Plan Objectives.</p> <p>Preferred Housing and Growth Strategy</p> <p>The preferred housing and growth strategy in the Local Plan makes provision for 17,700 dwellings and 242 hectares of employment land over the plan period with the aim of creating some 15,000 jobs.¹⁹</p> <p>The housing provision is anticipated to have a number of positive effects on the SA objectives, particularly in relation to health as it will help to improve living standards; housing, as it will greatly enhance people's chances of living in and owning their own home; economy, as it will attract new residents in to the County thereby increasing the local workforce, partly on transport, as it will help to utilise existing public transport services; and partly on land use, as it will help to re-use PDL. Delivery of the housing provision in accordance with requirements for good design would help to avoid landscape or cultural heritage harm and there could be enhancements as part of new housing developments.</p> <p>The employment provision is lower than in the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan reflecting that less land is available at the Blyth Estuary Strategic Employment Area. The provision (both new allocations and land carried forward) is also anticipated to have a number of positive effects on the SA Objectives, it will help to raise wealth levels and in turn improve living standards, which will have a positive effect on health and well-being, it will indirectly help to have positive effects on relation to housing as it will increase people's chances of living in their own home, it will help to strengthen and sustain the economy of Northumberland through provision of employment land to meet needs and to encourage inward investment, and it will in part have positive effects</p>

¹⁹ The Reg 19 SA Report notes at para 5.3.10 (page 137) that "... the Council [is] taking forward the 'ambitious growth' scenario. This development strategy is predicated on an ambition to support the delivery of additional, better paid and higher skilled jobs in the County, and to provide homes to meet not only the needs of the resident population, but also to accommodate the needs of people moving into Northumberland, who create and fulfil jobs across the County." and at para 5.3.11 (page 137) that: "This means that there will be some 15,000 jobs sought during the Local Plan period, which is around 8,700 more than the 'business as usual' situation. Translation of this future jobs growth into employment land needs has suggested that even with the higher growth scenario placing reliance on certain market conditions in the economy which are land hungry, the modelled requirement for available land shows that only about 40 hectares of employment land is then needed for the Publication Draft Local Plan period."

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
		<p>on transport as a number of the employment sites are in accessible locations and therefore could utilise existing public transport connections.</p> <p>Preferred Spatial Distribution</p> <p>The preferred spatial distribution option (Option 2 - Proportionate distribution within the constraints of the Green Belt) is expected to have significant positive effects on housing, by providing new housing across Northumberland, with positive effects on the range of and accessibility of community services and facilities, economy and the delivery and accessibility of educational facilities by encouraging the creation of new development across the County. The creation of new development will have an effect on the natural environment and its associated assets, although this will be mitigated to an extent by locating developments in sustainable locations. The preferred option has overall less negative effects than the other options due to it resulting in the loss of the smallest amount of Green Belt land and in turn land use.</p> <p>Site Allocations</p> <p>The Publication Draft Local Plan allocated 36 housing sites, a wide range of local and strategic employment sites and 7 aggregate minerals sites. No waste or Gypsy and Traveller sites are allocated. Overall, the scale of housing and employment land to be delivered through the proposed site allocations is considered to be significant and will help to meet the future needs of the County, its communities and businesses over the plan period whilst minimising the potential for significant adverse environmental effects. This reflects both the characteristics of individual sites and also the fact that the majority of dwellings and employment land will be delivered in/adjacent to urban areas for the main towns and sustainable settlements, which have greater capacity in terms of their sustainability to receive growth. The minerals sites will ensure there is a supply of natural resources to meet needs and will help to provide for example a supply of local building materials for construction needs. There is the potential for new development to result in adverse environmental effects (and in some cases significant negative effects). However, in many cases (such as in respect of biodiversity, water, floodrisk, cultural heritage and landscape) it is anticipated that the potential adverse effects could be mitigated or reduced at the project level.</p> <p>Plan Policies</p> <p>The spatial policies, overall, provide many significant and minor positive effects on the objectives. In particular, these policies seek to focus growth in the County's most sustainable settlements and ensure new development will therefore be accessible to key services and facilities. These policies would have a significant positive effect on housing by ensuring sufficient, well-designed, affordable dwellings are provided over the plan period, offering a mix of tenures and typologies to meet the County's OAN requirement. They would also have a significant effect on transport by ensuring delivery of well-connected developments that encourage accessibility and the use of sustainable modes of transport. By providing a framework to promote sustainable development, collectively the policies score significant positives against biodiversity, natural resources, air quality, climate change, cultural heritage and landscape.</p> <p>Where negative effects were identified, such as on water resources and waste production, the analysis concluded that policies were in place to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote best practice in development in respect of waste pollution and attention to the likely effects of climate change.</p>
<p>Submission Local Plan SA Report (May 2019)</p>	<p>The SA Report included an appraisal of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the compatibility of the emerging Local Plan Spatial Principles with the SA objectives 	<p>Preferred Housing and Growth Strategy</p> <p>The delivery of 17,700 dwellings (albeit that much of this represents existing housing sites carried forward and sites in neighbourhood plans, with only a relatively small number of new sites allocated in the draft Local Plan) and 242 of employment land (41ha on strategic sites and 201ha of generally available</p>

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preferred housing and growth strategy • the preferred spatial distribution • site allocations • plan policies 	<p>employment land) for employment uses is expected to have significant positive effects on housing and the economy.</p> <p>Spatial Distribution</p> <p>Focusing the proposed growth in the main towns, service centres and service villages should ensure that prospective residents and worker have good access to key services and facilities by virtue of the wide range of services and facilities these settlements provide and their good transport links. It is also anticipated that growth will promote investment in additional facilities, services and infrastructure. This is expected to help promote the regeneration of PDL sites and address deprivation whilst minimising the need to travel by car and promoting walking and cycling. Growth across the County is likely to have a range of adverse environmental and social effects during both construction and operation of new development arising from, for example, land take, disturbance (e.g. noise), increased vehicle movements and associated emissions to air, the use of energy and resources, the generation of waste and impacts on landscape and townscape character. These adverse effects are likely to be minimised through the implementation of Local Plan policies and mitigation at the site level and are not considered likely to be significant.</p> <p>Site Allocations</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan allocated 36 housing sites, a wide range of local and strategic employment sites and 7 aggregate minerals sites. No waste or Gypsy and Traveller pitches/sites are allocated. Overall, the scale of housing and employment land to be delivered is considered to be significant and will help to meet the future needs of the county, its communities and businesses over the plan period. Whilst minimising the potential for significant adverse environmental effects. This reflects both the characteristics of individual sites and also the fact that the majority of dwellings and employment land will be delivered in/adjacent to urban areas for the main towns and sustainable settlements which have greater capacity in terms of their sustainability to receive growth. Overall, significant positive effects have therefore been identified in respect of health, community services and facilities, housing and the economy, although cumulatively, development could place pressure on key services and facilities (if unmitigated). There is the potential for new development to result in adverse environmental effects (and in some case significant negative effects) However, in many cases (such as in respect of biodiversity, water, flood risk, cultural heritage and landscape) it is anticipated that the potential adverse effects could be mitigated or reduced at the project level.</p> <p>Plan Policies</p> <p>The implementation of the proposed policies contained in the Draft Local Plan is anticipated to have positive effects across all of the SA Objectives. These effects are expected to be significant in respect of: health and wellbeing, community services and facilities, housing, economy, education and partly for travel natural resources, land use, climate change, cultural heritage and landscape. This broadly reflects the likely social and economic benefits associated with the delivery of housing and employment in the County over the plan period and the strong framework provided by the plan policies that will help to conserve the County's natural and built environments and resources, and the promotion of sustainable modes of transport. The policies will help to deliver well designed developments which will have a range of positive effects on the SA Objectives. Good design will help to improve health and wellbeing, ensure access to good quality homes and help to protect and enhance the environment. Despite the overall positive cumulative effects associated with the implementation of the Draft Local Plan policies, cumulative negative effects on the SA Objectives have also been identified against some of SA objectives, including: biodiversity, natural resources, air quality, climate change, cultural heritage and landscape. This principally reflects impacts associated with the construction and operation of new housing and employment uses including resource use and</p>

Local Plan Document	Summary of the Accompanying SA Report (what was appraised)	Key Conclusions
Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Submission Version of the Local Plan – Appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications (June 2021)	The SA Report included an appraisal of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Spatial Vision and Objectives • Delivering the Vision • Site allocations • Plan policies 	<p>emissions. However, where negative effects have been identified, in part for waste, land use and landscape, these relate to waste generation and land take associated with the new development proposed through the Draft Local Plan, and associated loss of landscape character as there will be loss of greenfield land and some limited Green Belt releases for employment land.</p> <p>Spatial Vision and Objectives MMs 1 and 2 propose changes to the supporting text in Chapter 3 of the draft Local Plan: Spatial Vision, Objectives and Outcomes. As these are changes to the supporting text, they are not considered significant for the purposes of the SA and so do not impact on the previous conclusions of the SA.</p> <p>Delivering the Vision MM6 introduces changes to Policy STP5 including a requirement for a completed Healthy Planning Checklist (instead of a Health Impact Assessment Screening) and so the appraisal commentary has been revised to ensure reference to the Healthy Planning Checklist. The policy already scores significant positively against SA Objective 1 (Health) so there is no change to the score.</p> <p>Site Allocations MMs 97 and 98 introduce new minerals site allocations – Ebchester for sand and gravel, and Shiel Dykes for crushed rock. These new allocations do not change the previous conclusions of the SA on the minerals site allocations, i.e., that they will contribute to ensuring that there is a supply of natural resources to meet needs and will help to provide for example a supply of local building materials for construction needs. This will have sustainability benefits as it will help to reduce the need for importing such materials and in turn reduce associated HGV movements, which will also have positive benefits from reduced vehicle emissions. Development of these minerals' sites in accordance with plan requirements for environmental safeguards will help to ensure that the minerals sites do not have any adverse effects on the County's environment. Additional minerals sites will also help to strengthen and sustain the economy of Northumberland.</p> <p>Plan Policies Many of the proposed MMs to policies propose amendments to policy wording and either add or delete criterion from the policies. In each case professional judgement has informed whether such changes have been considered significant for the SA. The appraisal of policies found that the changes to policies resulted in either no change or minor positive changes.</p>

3.2 How the Findings of the SA Have Been Taken into Account

- 3.2.1 The SA has helped to shape the strategic direction of the Local Plan. In particular, the findings of the SA of the emerging Local Plan and reasonable alternatives have informed the Council's decisions in respect of:
- the quantum of growth to be accommodated in Northumberland over the Local Plan period;
 - the overall distribution of that growth across the Northumberland (the Spatial Strategy); and
 - the sites to be allocated in the Local Plan to deliver the overall quantum of growth based on the preferred Spatial Strategy.
- 3.2.2 Further information regarding the strategic options considered in preparing the Local Plan and appraised as part of the SA process is provided in **Section 5**.

- 3.2.3 Through the SA, a number of recommendations were also made concerning the emerging Local Plan policies and these were set out in the SA Reports prepared in support of the Regulation 19 and Submission Local Plan. Several mitigation measures were identified in the Regulation 18 SA report concerning recommended changes to policy. These proposed measures and the Council's response (including the policy changes made) were summarised in Appendix I of the Regulation 19 SA Report. Several further measures were also identified in the Regulation 19 SA Report concerning recommended changes to the proposed Draft Local Plan policies, to be considered by the Council prior to adoption of the Local Plan and addressed through Main Modifications. Changes made to the Local Plan through the iterative SA process include amendments to ensure a consistent approach to the biodiversity enhancement reflecting the requirements for biodiversity net gain.
- 3.2.4 No additional mitigation measures were identified as a result of the appraisal of the Main Modifications.

4. How Opinions Expressed During Consultation Have Been Taken into Account

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The development of the Local Plan has been informed by extensive, ongoing engagement and public consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Consultation Feedback Reports have been published by the Council following each consultation stage (Regulation 18, Regulation 19 and Main Modifications) and on submission of the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State, the Council published a Consultation Statement²⁰. The Consultation Statement described the engagement undertaken during the preparation of the Local Plan, a summary of the main issues raised and details of how the comments received were taken into account.
- 4.1.2 Following consultation on the scope of the SA in March 2018, SA Reports have been prepared and published for consultation at each of the following key Local Plan stages:
- Draft Local Plan Reg.18 Consultation (June 2018);
 - Draft Local Plan Reg.19 Consultation (January 2019);
 - Submission Local Plan (May 2019);
 - Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal Report of the Submission Version of the Local Plan – Appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications (June 2021).
- 4.1.3 SA consultation feedback has been published following each of the above consultation stages (with a summary of the submission and response contained in Appendix B to the subsequent SA Report). Each appendix provides a summary of the responses received to the respective SA Report and the main issues raised by respondents; they additionally include a full schedule of comments including the resulting response/action taken.

4.2 SA Consultation Summary

- 4.2.1 The Scoping Report was subject to consultation that ran from 28th March to 2nd May 2018. A total of 6 responses were received to the consultation from the statutory SEA consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) as well as a range of other stakeholders. Responses related to all aspects of the Scoping Report and resulted in amendments to the SA Framework. Appendix B of the Scoping Report contains a schedule of the consultation responses received to the Scoping Report, the Council's response and the subsequent action taken.
- 4.2.2 The SA process is iterative and involves the development and refinement of the Local Plan by testing the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the emerging Plan options, spatial strategy, policies and allocations. In this respect, SA is undertaken throughout the preparation of the Local Plan with the findings presented in a series of interim SA Reports.

²⁰ Northumberland County Council (2019) Northumberland Local Plan Regulation 22 Statement of Consultation. Available online: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/NCC-Local-Plan-Reg-19-Reg-22-Statement-of-Consultation.pdf>

- 4.2.3 The Draft Local Plan was subject to appraisal and the resulting SA Report²¹ (along with the draft plan) was subject to consultation that ran from 4th July to 15th August 2018. Only one consultation response on the SA was received (from Natural England) and which was summarised in Appendix B of the Regulation 19 Report.
- 4.2.4 The Publication Draft Local Plan was then subject to appraisal and the resulting SA report²², which contained the findings of the SA of the Publication Draft Local Plan for Regulation 19, was subject to consultation that ran from 30th January to 13th March 2019. Nine consultation responses were received, including the three Statutory SEA consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England).
- 4.2.5 A final SA Report was prepared to accompany the submission of the Draft Local Plan.
- 4.2.6 The Draft Local Plan (together with supporting information including assessments and evidence-base studies) was submitted to the government (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) on 29th May 2019. The government appointed a planning inspector to conduct an independent examination (known as an "Examination in Public" or "EiP") into the Local Plan. EiP Hearings took place during 2019 and 2020. These included discussion of the SA with the Inspector considering how the SA was undertaken and how it had informed the Local Plan.
- 4.2.7 Prior to and during the hearings, several Main Modifications (MMs) to the Local Plan were proposed. Following the conclusion of the hearings, the Inspector, and the Council, agreed a schedule of proposed MMs set out in a Post Hearings Letter of 24th February 2021. These were screened to determine whether any of the MMs were likely to have significant effects and where the potential for effects was indicated, the relevant proposed MMs were then subject to SA, with the findings then presented in an addendum.
- 4.2.8 The Council consulted on the MMs to the draft Local Plan and Policies Map Changes between Wednesday 9th June 2021 and Wednesday 4th August 2021. This included the Addendum to the SA Report (June 2021) with the representations subsequently passed to the Inspector for consideration on 14th September 2021. These were also summarised in the Consultation Feedback Report²³ for the Main Modifications stage.

²¹ Wood (2018) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Regulation 18 Consultation Sustainability Appraisal Report

²² Wood (2019) Northumberland Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Regulation 19 Consultation Sustainability Appraisal Report

²³ Northumberland County Council (2021) Northumberland Local Plan Examination Schedule of responses to the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Main Modifications and Policies Map Changes

5. The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan as Adopted in the Light of the Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 SEA Regulation 12(2) require that *"an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated"*. Information to be provided includes *"an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with"* (SEA Regulations Schedule 2 (8)).

5.1.2 The UK Government's SEA guidance²⁴ discusses possible interpretations of handling 'reasonable alternatives'. It states that *"Only reasonable, realistic and relevant alternatives need to be put forward"*. The Government's Planning Practice Guidance²⁵ notes that the reasonable alternatives *"need to be sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each so that meaningful comparisons can be made"* and that in completing their assessment it is important to:

- *"identify any likely significant adverse effects and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset them; and*
- *provide conclusions on the reasons the rejected options are not being taken forward and the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of the alternatives"*.

5.1.3 The SA of the Local Plan has been an iterative process, undertaken alongside and integrated with the development of the Local Plan itself. The reasonable alternatives considered in preparing the Local Plan and appraised through the SA process have related to:

- development requirements (the amount of housing and employment to be accommodated in the Plan area)
- the Spatial Strategy (where, in broad terms, growth should be located); and
- site allocations associated with the proposed spatial strategy.

5.1.4 The findings of the appraisal of the preferred options and reasonable alternatives were reported in the SA Reports at each stage of Local Plan's preparation and subject to public consultation.

5.2 The Reasons for Choosing the Local Plan as adopted and for Rejecting Reasonable Alternatives

5.2.1 The Local Plan has evolved over a number of years, from the Regulation 18 consultation in 2018 to the Main Modifications consultation in 2021. During the course of the preparation of the Local Plan, the Council has identified and carefully considered a range of options relating to the quantum

²⁴ ODPM et al (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. Available on line: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

²⁵ DLUHC (2020) *Planning Practice Guidance: Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal*. Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 11-018-20140306. Available online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

of growth to be accommodated over the Local Plan period and its distribution across the plan area together with the site allocations to deliver that growth.

5.2.2 The reasonable alternatives considered in preparing the Local Plan and appraised through the SA process have related to:

- Growth options (based on jobs and dwellings);
- Spatial distribution options;
- Site allocations for housing, employment and minerals.

Development Requirements and Spatial Strategy

5.2.3 The Submission SA Report describes the evolution of the development requirements and Spatial Strategy, including the outcomes of the appraisal of associated preferred options and reasonable alternatives. An outline summary of the reasons for identifying the options dealt with, for the selection of preferred options and for the rejection of reasonable alternatives is provided in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Development Requirements and Spatial Strategy Options

Option	Reason for Including the Option	Reason for Selecting/Rejecting the Option
Growth options (based on jobs and dwellings)		
Option 1: Baseline business as usual	This represented a demographic starting point, in which population and household growth accorded with that set out in sub-national projections. The number of jobs that this population could support, was informed by this growth taking into account the changing age profile of Northumberland's workforce and changes to the retirement age.	The level of housing growth is less than that required when applying the Government's standard methodology. This may inhibit existing households in securing the homes they need and attracting a working age population. In this option, there is very little slack in the labour market due to a shrinking of the labour force, particularly within the age group 16-64. It was considered that this may impact upon economic growth in the county.
Option 2: Local housing need standard method	This represented the level of housing required in accordance with the Government's standard method. This included uplift from the baseline household projections to take into account affordability. While this option could not be tested for its implications for jobs, it was considered appropriate to include it as the Government's official approach to identifying housing need.	The level of housing required by the standard method represents a minimum starting point for setting Local Plan housing requirements and does not take into account economic growth aspirations. Given the plan's objectives in relation to housing and jobs, this option was not considered ambitious enough.
Option 3: Intermediate jobs-led growth	This represented a sense check on Option 4. While Option 4 seeks to align Northumberland's job growth with the North East Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), Option 3 considers a scenario by which these ambitions are not met in full, and therefore represented a more cautious growth scenario.	While this option would generate significant job growth and require a level of housing above that required by Option 2, it is not considered that it reflects the economic ambitions of the Council, or that the level of housing would deliver sufficient choice or allow for the delivery of sufficient affordable homes or homes suitable for an increasingly ageing population.
Option 4: Ambitious jobs-led growth	This represented the level of job growth forecast in Northumberland, if the county generated its share of the regional job growth as set out in the North East Strategic Economic Plan. It was considered	Local plan objectives include attracting more and better jobs, attracting and retaining working age people, and extending housing choice by delivering homes for existing and future communities and to support the economy.

Option	Reason for Including the Option	Reason for Selecting/Rejecting the Option
	reasonable that the Local Plan should consider whether this level of growth was appropriate in the County.	Therefore, it was considered appropriate to plan for an ambitious level of job growth in the County and to ensure sufficient housing was provided to meet the needs of current residents and those attracted to the county for work. This decision was reinforced by the North of Tyne Devolution Deal and Borderlands Growth Deal which were emerging when the plan was being prepared and are catalysts for economic growth.
Spatial distribution options		
Option 1: Proportionate distribution	This option would see a continuation of the current distribution of development across the county, with most development focused in the larger settlements, and smaller scale development allowed elsewhere. As such, it was considered a reasonable option.	While the distribution would help maintain the roles of settlements, to allow for proportionate growth in some settlements would require land to be removed from the Green Belt. Given that the level of housing growth required under the Ambitious jobs-led growth option could be accommodated without the need for the release of Green Belt, this option was rejected.
Option 2: Proportionate distribution within the constraints of the Green Belt	This option would see a continuation of the current distribution of development across the county, with the most development focused in the larger settlements, and smaller scale development allowed elsewhere. However, unlike Option 1, it would not allow for the release of Green Belt to accommodate this growth. Given the need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances for the release of Green Belt, the inclusion of this option was justified.	This option would help maintain the roles of settlements. Given that the level of housing growth required under the Ambitious jobs-led growth option, could be accommodated without the need for the release of Green Belt, this option was chosen. It was considered that exceptional circumstances to justify the release of Green Belt for housing did not exist.
Option 3: Proportionate distribution with targeted growth	This option would see a continuation of the current distribution of development across the county, allowing all settlements to grow, but with additional growth in key settlements primarily in the southeast and central parts of the county well connected to the Tyneside conurbation. Supporting additional growth close to employment centres was considered a reasonable alternative.	While the settlements to which additional growth might have been directed are located close to Tyneside, many are constrained by the Green Belt and additional development could result in sprawl and risk the merger of settlements.
Option 4: Dispersed distribution	The option would see a change from the current distribution and see more development in the countryside and rural areas. This option was included as it had the potential to strengthen the rural economy and extend housing options in less developed parts of the county.	While this option may strengthen the rural economy, it was considered that it did not align with the principles of sustainable development, would require more journeys by private cars, and the viability of maintaining and providing services for an increasingly dispersed population would become increasingly problematic.
Option 5: New settlements	This option would see the creation of new settlements of sufficient size to support a number of key services, located close to employment centres or transport links. This was considered a reasonable option given that growth of some settlements is constrained.	This approach would reduce the level of development going to established towns and villages and may impact upon the viability of key services and facilities within them. There is limited space to accommodate new settlements in the southeast of the county close to the main employment centres, while much of the land along the county's key transport routes closest to Tyneside, is designated Green Belt.

- 5.2.4 The selection of the preferred housing site allocations has been informed by the Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and a 'call for sites' that the Council issued between 12th February and 12th March 2018, alongside other evidence base studies, while also taking account of those sites which already have planning permission or extant permissions for development. The SHLAA resulted in a filtering exercise for sites in the County, from an initial list of 3,818 site records of which 2,481 are medium to large-sized site of 0.2 hectares or more or that have capacity for five or more dwellings. 238 specific sites form part of the five year supply of 'deliverable' sites for housing, with a further 525 sites considered to be potentially 'developable' in the plan period. Following consideration at Examination and subsequent Main Modifications to the draft Local Plan, there are 32 sites allocated across the plan area, comprising 9 sites in the south east area with 344 to 424 dwellings; 8 sites in the central area with 190 to 239 dwellings; 6 sites in the north area with 295 to 405 dwellings; and 9 sites in the west area with 296 to 380 dwellings.
- 5.2.5 Some 242 hectares of employment land (split between 41 hectares on strategic employment sites and 201 hectares of generally available employment land) has been allocated over the plan period with the aim of creating some 15,000 jobs. The County has allocated sufficient employment land to allow for flexibility in supply. To prevent economic growth from being constrained in certain submarkets in the County over the plan period owing to a lack of available land for new business growth, new employment land allocations were considered for: Hexham, Morpeth, Ponteland and Prudhoe. The assessment of employment sites²⁶ includes reasonable alternatives considered.
- 5.2.6 In respect of minerals, three sites for sand and gravel extraction and five sites for crushed rock extraction have been allocated as part of Main Modifications of the Local Plan. Some of the proposed allocations were discounted because of heritage and highways concerns and because they were no longer available. Replacement and reinstated sites have been assessed in a way consistent to that used to assess the allocations originally proposed. These assessments are set out in updated technical papers²⁷. No waste sites have been allocated in the plan and there are no additional Gypsy and Traveller sites allocated. Existing waste management facilities and services have capacity to cater for additional waste produced over the plan period. There is a need for new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots over the plan period, although the Council's updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2018) suggests that these will be needed over the medium term with existing sites likely to have potential to accommodate some additional pitches and plots. Main Modifications of the Local Plan commit the Council to prepare a separate Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan, when the need for, and the location of any additional provision will be considered and informed by updated evidence.

5.3 Summary

- 5.3.1 Overall, the adopted Local Plan makes provision for 17,700 dwellings and 242 hectares of employment land (split between 41 hectares on strategic employment sites and 201 hectares of generally available employment land) over the plan period with the aim of creating some 15,000 jobs. In respect of minerals, three sites for sand and gravel extraction and five sites for crushed rock extraction have been allocated. No waste sites have been allocated in the plan and there are no Gypsy and Traveller sites.

²⁶ Northumberland County Council (2018) Employment Land: Strategy Considerations and Assessment of Sites Technical Paper available at: https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Local%20Plan/Employment-Land-Strategy-and-Assessment-of-Sites-Technical-Paper-December-2018-Final_1.pdf

²⁷ Northumberland County Council (April 2020) Aggregate minerals site allocations selection and appraisals Technical Paper available at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Reports.aspx>

- 5.3.2 The adopted Local Plan reflects the preferred options selected following the consideration of reasonable alternatives during each stage of its preparation, taking into account the evidence base for the Local Plan, engagement and assessment including SA. The adopted Local Plan also reflects the Main Modifications put forward by the Inspectors and appended in their final Report. The Main Modifications include amendments to some site allocations (see above) and designations, as well as changes to policy wording and supporting text. These are all deemed to be necessary to ensure that the Local Plan provides a sound and legally compliant Local Plan.

6. Monitoring

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 It is a requirement of the SEA Regulation to establish how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan will be monitored. However, as earlier government guidance on SEA²⁸ (ODPM *et al*, 2005) notes, it is not necessary to monitor everything, or monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead, monitoring needs to be focused on significant sustainability effects. Monitoring the Local Plan for sustainability effects can help to answer questions such as:

- Were the SA's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the Local Plan contributing to the achievement of desired SA objectives?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action desirable?

6.2 The Local Plan SA Monitoring Framework

6.2.1 Monitoring the Local Plan's implementation will focus on:

- significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage occurs;
- significant effects where there was uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be undertaken; and
- where there is the potential for effects on sensitive environmental receptors.

6.2.2 **Appendix A** presents the indicators that comprise the Monitoring Framework for the Local Plan. Consistent with the monitoring proposals contained in the SA Reports, indicators have been identified for all of the SA objectives contained in the SA Framework. The monitoring programme will predominantly use existing data collated at the national and local level.

6.2.3 In addition to the SA monitoring process, the Local Plan will also be subject to an ongoing programme of monitoring, which will be reported on an annual basis in the Council's Authority Monitoring Reports (AMRs) and include the key indicators set out in the Local Plan. The AMRs will be available to view on the Council's website and will be used to monitor the implementation of the Local Plan's policies in terms of whether they are contributing to the achievement of the Local Plan Strategic Priorities and Vision. Monitoring will also identify unexpected outcomes which will allow the Council to take appropriate action.

6.2.4 The monitoring process for the Local Plan and the SA will be carried out on an annual basis through the Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework.

²⁸ ODPM (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. Published September 2005.

Appendix A

Monitoring Framework

SA Objective	Indicator(s)	Source(s)	Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework
1. Health and Wellbeing: To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.	Life expectancy at birth.	Public Health England	In MIF (STP 1-9)
	Net loss or gain of open space or facilities for recreation as a result of the grant of planning permission for major housing developments.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (INF 1-6)
	Levels of obesity in Northumberland	Public Health England	In MIF (STP 1-9)
	Number of planning applications granted where adverse impacts identified in the Health Impact Assessment are not mitigated.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (STP 1-9)
	Overall County Area ranking in English Indices of Deprivation.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	In MIF (STP 1-9)
	Ranking of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of deprivation in the County Area, out of the whole of England.	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	In MIF (STP 1-9)
2. Community Services and Facilities: To improve the quality, range and accessibility of community services and facilities.	Total occupied floor space selling convenience or comparison retail goods (gross and net sales areas) in the 12 main town centres or primary shopping areas (7 larger centres)	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (TCS 1-6)
	Vacancy rates of shop front units within Main Towns, and Service Centres (no. of units, sqm & percentage)	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (TCS 1-6)
	Number of community Services and facilities retained as a result of refusal of planning permission.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (INF 1-6)
	Number of community facilities lost to other uses.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (INF 1-6)
	Implementation of infrastructure identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (INF 1-6)
	Number and floorspace of non-active frontage uses on ground floors within primary frontages by location and type (sqm & percentage)	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (TCS 1-6)
	Number of local village convenience shops and public houses in villages lost / retained as a result of planning decision.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (INF 1-6)



SA Objective	Indicator(s)	Source(s)	Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework
3. Community safety: To deliver safer communities.	Rates of Crime in Northumberland	Northumbria Police	In MIF (QOP 1-6)
4. Housing: To ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.	Net additional dwellings completed by size and type.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Housing land available.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Housing affordability ratio.	ONS	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Net affordable housing completions.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Number of market homes provided on rural exception sites.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Number of new Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches and plots approved.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Number of new dwellings achieving M4(2) of the Building Regulations 2015.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Number of self-build homes permitted	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Number and type of specialist residential accommodation completed.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
5. Economy: To strengthen and sustain a resilient local economy which offers local employment opportunities.	Net additional employment floorspace completed including by type.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Employment land available by type.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Number of businesses.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Jobs density.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Proportion of residents economically active/inactive.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Unemployment rates.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Employment by occupation.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Mean full time workers gross weekly pay.	Nomis	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
The percentage of working age people with qualifications at, or equivalent to, NVQ Level 2 and above.	Nomis	In MIF (STP 1-9)	
6. Education: To deliver accessible	The percentage of working age people with qualifications at, or equivalent to, NVQ Level 2 and above.	Nomis.	In MIF (STP 1-9) (as above – duplicate)

SA Objective	Indicator(s)	Source(s)	Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework
education and training opportunities.			
7. Travel: To reduce the need for travel, promote more sustainable modes of transport and align investment in infrastructure with growth.	Average distance travelled to work.	Office for National Statistics	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Commuting flows.	Office for National Statistics	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Car ownership - % of households owning one or more car/van.	Office for National Statistics	In MIF (TRA 1-8)
	Travel to work by different modes (e.g. bus, train, car, bike, foot).	Office for National Statistics	In MIF (TRA 1-8)
	Traffic volumes on strategic roads and junctions.	Office for National Statistics	In MIF (TRA 1-8)
	Number and percentage of planning applications permitted complying with Car-Parking Standards.	Highways England	In MIF (TRA 1-8)
	Number of travel plans implemented	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (TRA 1-8)
8. Biodiversity: To conserve and enhance Northumberland's biodiversity and geodiversity	Number of major planning applications permitted with significant adverse impacts on designated sites of biodiversity importance.	Natural England	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Change in area of designated biodiversity sites.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Number of TPO trees or woodland removed as a result of development permitted.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Net additional area of new priority habitat delivered.	Natural England	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Number and % of major developments generating overall net gains in biodiversity enhancement.	Natural England	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
9. Natural Resources: To ensure the prudent use and supply of natural resources.	Landbanks of permitted reserves of crushed rock and sand and gravel for aggregate use (years).	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (MIN 1-13)
10. Land Use: To encourage the efficient use of land.	Net dwelling completions as a percentage of total completions on previously developed land.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)
	Net additional amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ECN 1-17)
	Average density of major new housing sites completed.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (HOU 1-12)

SA Objective	Indicator(s)	Source(s)	Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework
11. Water Quality: To protect and enhance the quality of Northumberland's river, transitional and coastal and ground and surface water bodies.	% of river stretches with good/very good biological water quality.	Environment Agency	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
	% of river stretches with good/very good chemical water quality.	Environment Agency	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality grounds.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
	Water efficiency rate of new dwellings.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
12. Air Quality: To improve air quality.	Number of Air Quality Management Areas	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (POL 1-3)
13. Flood Risk: To reduce and or avoid flood risk to people and property.	Number of major planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
	Number and % of new major developments that do not incorporate SUDS and reduce water run-off.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (WAT 1-5)
14. Climate Change: To minimise greenhouse gases and ensure resilience to the effects of climate change through effective mitigation and adaptation	Renewable energy capacity installed by type.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (REN 1-2)
	Number of applications permitted for renewable and low carbon technologies.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (REN 1-2)
	CO ₂ emissions per capita.	Department for Business, Energy and Industry Strategy (BEIS)	Whilst not set out the MIF, this indicator is monitored by BEIS, and emissions data is included in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
	Energy consumption.	BEIS	Whilst not set out the MIF, this indicator is monitored by BEIS, and energy consumption is included in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
15. Waste: To reduce the amount of waste that is produced and increase the proportion that is reused, recycled and composted.	Volumes of household waste generated.	Northumberland County Council.	In MIF (WAS 1-4)
	Volumes of commercial and industrial and construction and demolition waste landfilled	Northumberland County Council, DEFRA, Environment Agency	In MIF (WAS 1-4)
16. Cultural Heritage: To conserve and	Number of listed buildings demolished.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)

SA Objective	Indicator(s)	Source(s)	Local Plan Monitoring & Implementation Framework
enhance Northumberland's cultural heritage and diversity.	Number of major developments permitted with significant adverse impacts on designated heritage assets.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Number of major developments permitted with significant adverse impacts on non-designated heritage assets.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Number of major developments permitted with significant adverse impacts on archaeological sites.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	Number of heritage assets identified as being 'at risk'.	Historic England	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
17. Landscape: To conserve and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and diversity of Northumberland's rural and urban landscapes.	Harm to non-protected landscape features	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)
	The number of major planning applications approved with significant adverse impacts on designated landscapes.	Northumberland County Council	In MIF (ENV 1-9)

wood.

