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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping (SPD), and as such should be read in conjunction with the SPD.
- 1.2 Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space Sport and Recreation (PPG17) outlines the need for local authorities to set standards for open space and recreation provision based on a robust local evidence base. Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17 (PPG17 Guidance) outlines the process to be undertaken to complete this evidence base.
- 1.3 The aim of the standards are to improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and built sports and recreation facilities, through better planning for open space and through the ability to request planning obligations from developers due to evidence based standards. Improved open space supports sustainable development.
- 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for this document has already been undertaken as part of a generic scoping report for the Core Strategy and Regeneration Development Plan Documents, together with the Residential Design Guide and Open Space and landscaping Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 1.7 The SA has been undertaken to appraise the social, economic, and environmental effects that are likely to emerge as a result of implementing the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD. The SA process for the SPD is as follows:
 - Establish other relevant plans and programmes;
 - Determine the baseline data;
 - Set out the sustainability issues;
 - Develop a sustainability framework;
 - Analyse the SPD against the sustainability framework;
 - Consult on the SA alongside the SPD; and
 - Monitoring.

1.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 The World Commission on Environment and Development published a report known as the 'Brundtland Report' (1987), which provided the most common definition of sustainable development. The report defined sustainable development as being:

“Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

- 2.2 In 2005 the government published 'Securing the Future – The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy'. This strategy contained the following five guiding principles:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

- 2.3 At a regional level, the Government Office of the North East published 'Sustaine' the Integrated Regional Framework for the North East, which contained 17 sustainability objectives that have been adapted to fit the purpose of this sustainability appraisal. The Scoping Report for this document has been undertaken using those sustainability objectives.

- 2.4 Shaping our Future: A Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees 2008-2021 has a threefold spatial vision for the Borough, incorporating economic, environmental and social themes which are:

- ***Stockton-on-Tees driving Economic Renaissance at the heart of a vibrant Tees Valley City region;***
- ***An enhanced quality of place, including renewed town centres and improved local neighbourhoods; and***
- ***Enhanced well-being and achievement for local people.***

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The advice provided by the ODPM in November 2005 recommends that the SA process is undertaken in five stages:

- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
- Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects;
- Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability report;
- Stage D: Consulting on the SPD and the sustainability report; and
- Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD.

3.2 Stage A has already been covered by the scoping report produced for this document in 2005. This document was a result of consulting with statutory bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal.

3.3 Stage B is the main body of the appraisal process, which involves testing the Open Space, Recreation and Landscape objectives against the sustainability objectives, developing the options and assessing the effects of the plan, establishing mitigation measures and methods for monitoring.

3.4 This document is Stage C, which documents the appraisal process, and the development of the SA through stages A and B.

3.5 Stage D will be completed when the report is published for public consultation alongside the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD.

3.6 As the SA is an ongoing process, Stage E will take place once the SPD has been adopted.

4 STAGE A – SCOPING

4.1 This section begins with a list of the relevant plans, programmes or objectives for the SA of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD. Following this, a section outlines the baseline situation in the Borough, followed by a discussion of the sustainability issues. The section is completed with a set of sustainability objectives, which are then used to appraise the SPD.

OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.2 This section summarises the relevant plans and programmes used and assessed in developing the SPD, outlining their main objectives and criteria.

Planning Obligations Circular 05/2005

- 4.3 The circular provides guidance on the governments approach to planning obligations. The guidance states how planning obligations must be:

- relevant to planning;
- necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms;
- directly related to the proposed development;
- fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development; and
- reasonable in all other respects.

Core Strategy DPD

- 4.4 The Core Strategy is the overarching document of the Local Development Framework and as such is being prepared first. It sets out, in broad terms, the pattern of development and growth in the Borough over the next 15 years, and how this will be achieved. This document sets out the key planning policy for the Borough based on its unique feature and characteristics and taking account of other strategies and programmes which affect the area.

Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 4.5 The Stockton-on-Tees Green Infrastructure Strategy aims to deliver the vision of the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy in Stockton-on-Tees. The multi functional nature of green infrastructure will be used to provide benefits to local residents and the local environment based on both local needs and green infrastructure principles. The strategy will provide a long-term vision for green infrastructure in the Borough and encourage partnership working.

- Key functions and benefits of green infrastructure include:
- Travel and transport
- Recreation
- Settings and image
- Learning
- Natural and built heritage
- Working landscapes
- Ecosystem services

Sport and Active Leisure Strategy

- 4.6 Stockton's Strategy for Sport & Active Leisure seeks to ensure the effective planning and coordination of a range of opportunities for participation in sport and active leisure to meet the needs and aspirations of the boroughs residents , and to support the objectives of the Council and its strategic partners.

The vision of the strategy is:

'To positively contribute to the Health, Educational Attainment and Economy of Stockton through raising the levels of participation in sport & active leisure within the community. We will achieve this by offering a quality sport and leisure environment that is equally accessible to all which encourages the achievement of personal goals.'

- 4.7 The three strategic aims, which underpin the vision, are as follows:
- Through strong and cohesive partnerships we will develop opportunities for all sectors of the community to participate in sport & active leisure, at whatever level they choose;
 - To develop robust structures (physical and organisational), in which to develop sustainable and high quality sport/ active leisure opportunities
 - To inspire a generation to participate in sport and physical activity through the delivery of high profile initiatives that promote and realise the many benefits that sport can provide

Local Plan 1997

- 4.8 Relevant policies from the Local Plan have been saved by the Secretary of State, as part of the transitional arrangements from the local plan to the LDF system. Open space and recreation policy is currently part of this body of saved policies which will be replaced by policy in the Core Strategy or Environment DPD once adopted.

The North East of England Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021

- 4.9 The RSS outlines the long term strategy for spatial development in the north east Local Development Frameworks produced at the Local Authority Level must be in general conformity of this strategy. The RSS and LDF make up the statutory Development Plan outlined in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SPD conforms to the policy in the RSS, as it supports Green Infrastructure and high quality development and redevelopment.

Shaping our Future: A Sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough of Stockton –on-Tees 2008-2021

- 4.10 This strategy outlines how public agencies will use resources and work with the public and voluntary sector to improve the Borough's ability to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

The strategy is based around a number of core improvement themes:

- Economic Regeneration and Transport
- Environment and Housing
- Safer Communities
- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Adults

'Play Matters' Stockton –on-Tees Children's Trust Board Play Strategy 2007-2012

- 4.11 Developed in response to the 2004 children's play review "Getting Serious About Play" this strategy is linked to the five Every Child Matters Outcomes particularly 'Be Healthy'. Widespread public consultation including adults and children from 4-19 years informed the development of the strategy which aims to improve opportunities for play throughout the Borough and links the importance of play to wider objectives.

Key objectives

- To develop and promote high standards of play provision across the Borough.
- To increase the range, distribution and quality of child led play activities across the Borough.
- Provide a range of appropriately risk managed play environments, which physically challenge and stimulate the minds of children and young people.
- Promote free inclusive and accessible play opportunities for all children and young people, whatever their age ability and circumstances.
- To empower children and young people to contribute as equal partners in the development monitoring and review of play provision.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Play Area Strategy 2007 – 2010

- 4.12 This strategy aims to provide a framework for the future development and management of equipped play areas in the Borough in order to ensure the effective targeting of resources, to inform planning policy and the use of Planning Obligations and to encourage cooperation between stakeholders.
- 4.13 The Strategy also outlines the benefits of appropriate play provision and its contribution to wider social and environmental agendas such as anti social behaviour, inequality and exclusion and environmental quality.

- 4.14 Existing play areas have been categorised into a hierarchy of Destination, Neighbourhood and Doorstep sites. These designations reflect relative levels of use and relative size of catchment areas therefore indicating the required resource levels for different sites.

Strategic objectives

- Equity- Provide high quality diverse play equipment across the Borough that are convenient to access from people's homes
- Community Safety- Create play areas where children and parents feel safe, eliminate unacceptable levels of risk and reduces anti social behaviour through good design and other measures.
- Environmental Quality – Provide attractive play areas in well-maintained environments.
- Social Inclusion and Accessibility – Provide convenient and safe pedestrian access to facilities, improve access for disabled people and people from disadvantaged sections of the community. Provide convenient and safe car parking, public transport and cycle access to larger play sites with wider catchment areas.

Stockton-on-Tees Climate Change Action Plan 2007 – 2012

- 4.15 This plan acknowledges concerns about climate change and aims to cut emission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough area through more efficient energy use, renewable energy, waste management, sustainable transport and green procurement. The target is to reduce green house gas emissions by 8.75% below the 2000 level by 2012. Other aims are to raise awareness and involve communities, to provide a framework to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to demonstrate the social, economic and environmental benefits of taking climate change actions.
- 4.16 Objective 7 and 8 of the Plan, set out below, are the issues that are most relevant to this SPD.
- Objective 7: Promote cycling as an attractive alternative to the private car for journeys made within the Borough.
 - Objective 8: Green infrastructure managed and developed functioning as a carbon sink and contributing towards sustainable lifestyles.

Cemeteries 5 Year Improvement Plan

- 4.17 This plan seeks to improve the quality of cemeteries and closed churchyards, limiting the health and safety risks to users. It identifies the relevant condition of cemeteries on a number of different aspects such as:
- Walls and boundaries
 - Ground stability and drainage works
 - Roads and footpath works

- Chapels and buildings
- Street furniture
- Expansion and development
- Horticultural Aesthetics work and trees

4.18 The plan then outlines a process of continual monitoring and repair, excluding Memorials for which funding will be sought from elsewhere.

Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011: Cycling Strategy

4.19 Set against the five themes of the Central Government/ Local Government Association's Shared Priority for Transport; congestion, accessibility, road safety, air quality and other quality of life, the strategy's aim is to achieve "more people cycling, more often, and more safely". Relevant objectives are:

- To develop a seamless hierarchy of cycle routes, allowing cyclists to access all parts of the Borough.
- To develop and implement a robust planning and design process to deliver cycle-friendly infrastructure as an integral part of the Borough's transport network.
- To provide a safe and efficient well maintained cycling network.
- To provide more and better cycle facilities to remove theft as a barrier to cycling as a transport mode choice.
- To provide for the needs of cyclists at all stages of the land use planning and development control processes.

North East Strategy for the Environment 2008

4.20 This strategy, produced by the North East Environment Forum, is designed to ensure that "an understanding that social and economic activity must be undertaken within environmental limits in line with the fundamental principles of sustainability". There are four main themes through which objectives are highlighted:

- Sustainable communities – how environmental and cultural assets contribute towards better places to live and work.
- Resource management – Making best use of our resources.
- Environmental Infrastructure – safeguarding key natural, physical and cultural assets realising their potential.
- Towards Delivery – Action to meet the region's environmental objectives whilst also delivering social and economic benefits.

Tees Valley Sport Sub-Regional Facilities Strategy (draft) and A Regional Facilities Strategy for Sport England North East (draft)

4.21 A Sport England Facilities Strategy has been produced at both the regional and sub-regional level. These strategies determine the adequacy of existing facilities compared to regional and sub-regional

need and identify strategic issues and opportunities at the regional and sub-regional level. The built facilities section of this PPG17 assessment will sit beneath these strategies and take the assessment of the adequacy of built sports facilities down to the Local Authority Level.

Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy

- 4.22 Green Infrastructure is a network of multi functional green and blue spaces. This approach to open spaces acknowledges the many benefits that open space provides including those to health, environment, biodiversity, local economies and local identity.
- 4.23 The Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the strategic green infrastructure network across the Tees Valley in relation to existing green infrastructure and highlights priorities and actions at the sub-regional level. It outlines the following vision.
- 4.24 To develop by 2021 a network of green corridors and green spaces in the Tees Valley that:
- Enhance the quality of place and environment for existing and future communities and potential investors
 - Provide an enhanced environment for new development and regeneration projects, which produces high quality design and renews the housing market
 - Creates and extends opportunities for access, recreation and enhancement of biodiversity.

Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan

- 4.25 The Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan is a living document that highlights the sub-regional priority bird and mammal species, and habitats. The plan encourages partnership working between National Government Agencies, Local Authorities and Non Government Organisations.

BASELINE SITUATION

- 4.26 The following information has been extracted from the previous scoping reports prepared by the Council, which have been consulted on by statutory consultees and others.
- 4.27 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is one of the 5 unitary authorities forming the Tees Valley sub-region. The Borough is located at the heart of the Tees Valley on either side of the River Tees. Within the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East, Stockton forms part of the Tees Valley City Region, along with Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Darlington, Hartlepool and Sedgefield. This is also identified in the three northern Regional Development Agencies ' (One North East, Yorkshire Forward and the North West Regional Development Agency) Northern Way Growth Strategy (2004), which aims to unlock the potential for economic growth in the North.
- 4.28 The Borough has the largest population of the Tees Valley authorities, concentrated in the main urban area of Stockton, and three district centres of Billingham, Thornaby, and Yarm. There is also a major new housing development at Ingleby Barwick. In addition to the retail centres, the Borough has out of town retail centres at Teesside Park and along Portrack Lane.
- 4.29 The Stockton-on-Tees Borough owes much of its early development to the River Tees with Yarm being the most prosperous port on the river during the 13th Century. By the 17th Century, Stockton became a major river port transporting coal to London. The Borough is also famous for the first passenger railway as well as for its iron and steel industries. The River Tees has an increasing focus for leisure following the development of the Tidal Barrage in 1995. Extensive regeneration programmes are also being brought forward for many of the former industrial sites.

Economic and Social

- 4.30 The Borough's traditional economic base was predominantly heavy industry including chemical processing and steel production and engineering. The decline in these sectors meant the loss of thousands of jobs but, more optimistically, has led to many of the current regeneration opportunities.
- 4.31 The Borough has had to adapt and respond to the change and now represents a modern industrial and service based economy. However, although the existing manufacturing base is smaller, it is still significant with a technically skilled workforce remaining. According to the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit ('JSU', 2005) 13% of the jobs in the Borough are within the manufacturing sector, whereas nearly 78.7% of jobs are in the service sector. Less than 1% (0.7%) are jobs in the primary industries, and the construction sector provides 7.6% of jobs.

- 4.32 In April 2007, the JSU Economic Profile reported that 14.3% of the Borough's working age population had at least an NVQ level 1 or equivalent¹ qualification, the same as Great Britain as a whole, although lower than the Tees Valley figure of 16.5%, and the North East figure of 15.5%. In terms of NVQ level 2 or equivalent², the Borough had the highest percentage of all the comparative areas, with 18.6% of working people holding at least this level of qualification. The Tees Valley figure for this level of qualification stood at 17%, the North East was 18.3%, and Great Britain as a whole was 15.8%. For NVQ level 3 or equivalent³, the study reported that 17.8% of the Borough's working age population had at least this level of qualification, compared to 14.7% for the Tees Valley, 15.4% for the North East, and 15.1% for Great Britain overall. The same survey reported that 25.4% of the Borough's working age population had obtained at least a NVQ level 4 or equivalent qualification⁴, higher than both the Tees Valley regional figure of 18.4%, and the North East figure which stood at 21.3%, although slightly lower than the figure for Great Britain as a whole which stood at 26.5%.
- 4.33 The unemployment rate within the Borough as at March 2007 according to the JSU stands at 3.5%, lower than when taking the Tees Valley as a whole (4.1%), but slightly above the regional average for the North East that stands at 3.4%, and above the figure for Great Britain that stands at 2.6% (Source: JSU Economic Profile 2007).
- 4.34 The Borough continues to experience huge unemployment disparities between wards. For example, in the Stockton Town centre ward the unemployment rate is 10.5%, as opposed to Ingleby Barwick, whose Western and Eastern wards experience 1.1 % and 1.2% unemployment levels respectively. Source TVJSU (2007).
- 4.35 The Borough has a unique economic and social mix, with areas of disadvantage situated alongside areas of affluence. According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, the Borough has 12 wards that are in the top 10% deprived wards in England.
- 4.36 A Nathaniel Litchfield and Partner's Retail Study (2004) showed Stockton Town centre suffered from 113 vacant retail units, equating to approximately 22% of the total retail units, higher than both the sub-regional and national average. The Town Centre has undoubtedly benefited from investments such as the £43 million Wellington Square retail development. In addition, Thornaby and Billingham District Centres also suffer from high vacancy rates.

¹ NVQ Level 1 equivalent = 1 O Level, 1 CSE/GCSE etc.

² NVQ level 2 equivalent = 5 O Levels, 1 A Level etc.

³ NVQ Level 3 equivalent = 2 or more A Levels etc.

⁴ NVQ Level 4 equivalent = Degree, Higher Degree, Professional Qualifications etc.

- 4.37 The Local Housing Needs Assessment ('LHNA', 2006) identified there are 76,900 households in the Borough. Of these, 74.6% of households are owner-occupiers, whilst 20.4% are social tenants. According to the LHNA, the overall mean average house price as of March 2006 is £128,642, and the cost of an entry level home is £82,673. This means that a single income household would need an income of £23, 621 p.a. (based on a mortgage 3.5 times their salary), and a two – income household would need an income of £28,508 p.a. (based on 2.9 times their gross income). In terms of affordability, the LHNA reported that there is a need for 200 affordable dwellings over the next five years, although this figure is to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Population and Demographics

- 4.38 According to the JSU the population for the Borough stands at 187,100 persons living in 79600 dwellings (JSU, 2005). The Census data (2001) indicated that current life expectancy rates in the Borough are 79.7 years for females and 75.3 for males. Comparison with previous years suggests that life expectancy rates are on the increase. The population and household projections compiled by the JSU (2005) indicate that the population of the Borough will remain relatively stable over the next 15 years, with an increase of 1.6% from 186,300 in 2003, to 189,200 in 2016, and a slight reduction to 187,900 by 2021.
- 4.39 15% of the Borough's population are aged over 65, whereas nationally and regionally across the North East this percentage rate is nearer 16.5%. (2001 Census). The population and household projection figures of the JSU (2005) indicate the population of children aged 0-15 will reduce by 21% between 2003 - 2021, and there will also be a reduction of working age population of some 4% during the same period. The population of people of retirement age or over will see an increase of 46%. These and other factors mean there is a projected increase in the total number of households in the Borough of some 11%.
- 4.40 20% of the Borough's population is considered to have a limiting long-term illness. This figure is higher than the national average of 18% but is lower than the North East regional average of 23%. (Source 2001 Census).

Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora and Landscape

- 4.41 The Borough contains a variety of landscapes and important wildlife habitats which are protected because of their physical interest and important general amenity role. Stockton on Tees Borough is included within landscape character area 23: Tees Lowlands, as defined by Natural England (formerly the Countryside agency). The main characteristics of this area are:
- A broad low-lying plain of gently undulating, predominantly arable farmland, with some pasture, and wide views to distant hills.

- Meandering, slow moving river Tees flows through the heart of the area, dividing the lowlands to north and south.
- Contrast of quiet rural areas with extensive urban and industrial development, concentrated along the lower reaches of the Tees, the estuary and coast.
- Large scale chemical and oil refining works, dock facilities and other heavy plants along the Tees estuary form a distinctive skyline both by day and by night.
- Overhead transmission lines and pylons, motorway corridors, railway lines and other infrastructure elements are widespread features.
- Woodland cover is generally sparse, but with local variation such as at Skerne Carr, on steep banks of the middle reaches of the Tees, and to parkland and managed estates.
- Distinctive areas of peaty fenland flatts and carrs within the Skerne lowlands, and extensive areas of mud flats, saltmarsh wetlands and dunes at mouth of the river Tees, which support valuable wildlife habitats.
- Minor valleys and linear strips of open land extend as "green corridors" from rural farmland into the heart of the Teesside conurbation.

4.42 Within the borough there are also a number of sites which are recognised for their nature conservation importance, these are:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area and International Ramsar site;
- 5 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Briarcroft Pasture, Cowpen Marsh, Seal Sands and Hartlepool Foreshore and Wetlands, Whitton Bridge Pasture);
- Teesmouth National Nature Reserve;
- Sites of Nature Conservation Importance.

4.43 The Borough has 14 Local Nature Reserves (LNR), which are generally declared for their natural and/or educational interest.

4.44 There are three areas within the Borough where the use, form and features of the land combine to produce a landscape of particular quality and attractiveness. These are designated as Special Landscape Areas in the 1997 Adopted Local Plan and are as follows:

- Leven Valley;
- Tees Valley; and
- Wynyard Park.

- 4.45 Some 0.87% of the Borough's total land area is covered by ancient woodland (English Nature, SBC GIS, 2003). These are semi natural woods that have been features on the landscape since 1600AD and make an important contribution to the landscape as well as their importance as historical assets and wildlife habitats. In addition, Tees Forest has an important influence on the rural landscape creating over 400 hectares of new recreational woodland within the Borough over the past 10 years.
- 4.46 Tees Valley Wildlife Trust produced a Biodiversity Action Plan in 1999 and aims to highlight where action is necessary and enable targeting of resources. The Action Plan identifies 25 habitat priority groups within the Tees Valley and a total of 159 species.

Soil

- 4.47 As at July 2004, there was potentially 5,568 hectares of contaminated land. The disposal of waste can also have a major impact on soil, with 13.3% of all waste going to landfill. This is exacerbated by the increasing amount of household waste being produced yearly. Targets to encourage recycling and composting may help to reduce the impacts of waste disposal on soil.

Water

- 4.48 Flooding is an important land use issue within the Borough, with the increased prominence of flood risk. Given the River Tees runs the length of the Borough, and the additional tributaries the River Leven, Lustrum and Billingham Beck are spread across the whole Borough, it will continue to be important to balance pressures for new development with the alleviation of potential flooding, flood vulnerability and the beneficial effects of flooding the natural environment.
- 4.49 PPS25: Development and Flood Risk sets out national planning policies relating to this issue and sets out the sequential and exception tests and the requirement for a Strategic Flood Risk assessment to support LDF documents. The Council, along with the other Tees Valley authorities, recently commissioned JBA Consulting to produce a Tees Valley Strategic Flood Risk (SFRA). The SFRA indicates the flood risk of the different areas of the Borough, through application of a zoning system, Zone 1 being the areas in the least risk of flooding, Zone 3 being areas at the greatest risk of flooding. Developers are recommended to refer to the information contained within the SFRA prior to submitting applications.

Air

- 4.50 Currently, there are currently no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared within the Borough. The Council does however

monitor the main air pollutants at Yarm and Billingham. Emissions from certain industrial processes are controlled under an authorisation or permit scheme, administered either by the Environment Agency or the Council's Environmental Health department.

Transport

- 4.51 The Census established that car ownership is higher in the Borough than the sub-region and the North East as a whole. Only 29.6% of households in the Borough did not own a car, compared with the Tees Valley (34.2%) and the North East (35.9%). Findings from the 2001 Census data also indicate that 72.5% of people travel to work by car, either as the driver (63.2%) or the passenger (9.3%). This figure is higher than the Tees Valley (69.1%), the North East (65.4%) and the figure for England and Wales (62.4%). Only 0.7% of people travel to work by train, and although the figure for the Tees Valley as a whole is 0.9%, the figures for the Borough are much lower than the North East (3.1%), and well below the percentage for England and Wales (7.2%).

Material Assets

- 4.52 The Borough is fortunate enough to have an excellent network of parks, attractive areas of open space and highly accessible popular Country Parks. Town parks are located in Stockton, Billingham and Thornaby, and contain facilities such as children's play areas, orienteering trails and bowls and tennis facilities. Ropner Park is a particularly attractive site and is included in English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The park was recently restored back to its Victorian glory thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4.53 The Council has confirmed a total of 584 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) within the Borough as at June 2005. The number of TPOs made does not give a true reflection of the number of trees that are protected as a result of the TPO, but can provide a significant indication of the importance trees make in the urban as well as rural landscapes.

Cultural Heritage

- 4.54 The Stockton Borough has 4% of the North East region's listed buildings and also 4% of the total number of conservation areas. English Heritage has records of Grade I and II* listed buildings considered to be at 'risk'. Out of the 7 Grade I listed buildings in Stockton, 3 are considered to be at risk, as well as 3 out of a total of 43 Grade II* listed buildings. There are currently 11 Conservation Areas within the Borough, all of which were appraised through the Conservation and Historic Environment Folder Supplementary Planning Document.

- 4.55 In terms of archaeological importance, the Borough had a total of 1,399 recorded heritage assets, as at 2004, of which 8 are nationally important. Amongst the earliest of these is the Thorpe Thewles Iron Age settlement, which was excavated in the early 1980s. Many of the best sites in Stockton have been chance finds, for instance an unusual Bronze Age cemetery was found at Ingleby Barwick by house builders in 1997. In the early 1980s schoolchildren discovered an Anglo Saxon cemetery at Norton which when excavated produced some of the finest metalwork of the period in the region. More recently, a Roman Villa has been excavated at Ingleby Barwick and Stockton also contains remains of the internationally important Stockton and Darlington Railway of 1825.

5 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD aims to promote further the sustainable development objectives of the Local Plan, Alteration Number 1, and the emerging Core Strategy and Regeneration DPDs. The improved provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities will contribute to the sustainable development in the Borough.

SOCIAL ISSUES

- 5.2 **Population** – The baseline data shows the population of the Borough is projected to increase slightly, although within this slight increase there will be a number of sustainability issues. Firstly, there is a projected decrease in the number of children aged 0-15, secondly, there is a projected increase in the number of people of retirement age or over, and thirdly, there is a projected increase in the total number of households. The increase in population overall will place further pressure on existing services, and increases in certain groups within the overall population will mean pressure on some services, such as health and housing. The decrease in young people, coupled with the decrease in the population of working age may also have an impact on the Borough's economy.
- 5.3 **Housing** – Although nearly 75% of the Borough's households are owner-occupiers, affordability still remains an issue within the Borough. With the average house price of £128,642, many households are still unable to enter the housing market in the Borough, or, able to move from a property that is unsuitable i.e. too small. Both the projected increase in the number of households and the number of people of retirement age or over will also impact on the housing market within the Borough, resulting in a need for particular types of dwellings. Fuel poverty is another important affordability issue, resulting from a household's inability to heat their homes through energy inefficient homes and low incomes. This is likely to become an issue as fuel prices continue to rise.

- 5.4 **Education and Skills** – Because the economic profile of the Borough and sub region as a whole has changed, there is an increased emphasis on the need for the working age population to be retrained and have access to new skills. This is particularly important given the population projections since it increases pressure on adults already in the workforce, or currently not in employment, to meet these future skills needs.
- 5.5 **Fear of Crime** – Statistics show that the number of people with a fear of crime, both during the day and evening have continued to improve since 2000. In 2004, a poll conducted by Mori showed that 89% of respondents felt safe during the day, and 19% felt safe after dark. Therefore there is still an issue with people’s perception of the Borough after dark, although this has shown an improvement
- 5.6 **Deprivation** – The Borough has 12 wards that fall into the top 10% most deprived wards in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. Therefore, a key sustainability issue is to provide opportunities to improve people’s quality of life within the pockets of deprivation in the Borough.

ENVIRONMENT

- 5.7 **Transport** – A major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, every effort should be made to reduce the need to travel, especially by car. A key sustainability issue therefore is to increase the number of people travelling to work by public transport, on foot, or bicycle, which would help improve local air quality. The location of development should therefore be encouraged in areas easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists or along good public transport routes, and companies should be encouraged to adopt Travel Plans. Linkages of open space should also be encouraged through green infrastructure planning to provide sustainable transport routes and attractive recreational walks for the population.
- 5.8 **Biodiversity** – Protecting and enhancing the Borough’s biodiversity and geodiversity resources is a key sustainability issue for spatial planning, and new development should avoid a negative impact on either designated (SSSI etc) or non-designated sites (i.e. woodlands). Climate change is likely to affect species distribution, therefore care needs to be taken to avoid fragmenting sites with either current or potential habitat value. Development should make a positive contribution to the biodiversity and geodiversity of the Borough, especially in relation to open space and landscape.
- 5.9 **Built Environment** – Sustainability issues for the built environment include the protection and enhancement of the Borough’s historic built environment, reducing people’s fear of crime through a safer built environment, and for all new development to make a positive contribution to the existing built environment. This issue is important

because not only will it improve people's quality of life, but also allow the Borough to continue to attract both residents and commercial activity, through providing an attractive and safe built environment. In relation to planning obligations, this may take the form of a landscaping scheme, public art / public realm improvements, that can enhance a developments setting, or the installation of CCTV, which may increase the public's feeling of safety.

ECONOMIC

- 5.10 **Industry and Commerce** - The Borough has had to adapt and respond to the structural changes in the economy and now represents a modern industrial and service based economy. Although the existing manufacturing base is smaller, it is still significant. The Borough faces a challenge to further develop the new sectors of the economy whilst maintaining a healthy manufacturing base. A key area for improvement is the number of new business start ups, which, according to the JSU, saw 315 new start ups in the financial year 2005/6. Conversely, in the same financial year, there were 250 businesses that de-registered, the highest in the Tees Valley.
- 5.11 **Retail** - Another key sustainability issue for the Borough is the vitality and viability of the Borough's Town, District, Local and Neighbourhood retail centres. It is proposed that further regeneration, such as the Southern Gateway site is undertaken in certain areas to further combat these high vacancy rates. Thornaby District centre has full planning permission for the redevelopment of the centre and adjacent Tristar site. The Council, Stockland UK Development Ltd and the Billingham Partnership are currently working on a redevelopment scheme for Billingham District Centre.
- 5.12 **Employment** - Employment within the service sector is increasing partly due to the recent developments in Stockton town centre as well as the contribution of the University of Durham's Stockton campus. Major redevelopment has also taken place on the former steel production site known as Teesdale and further opportunities exist on the North Shore strategic development site. As indicated by the baseline data, the Borough enjoys lower unemployment than the sub region as a whole, although it is higher than the overall figures for both the North East and Great Britain.

6

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The following sustainability objectives have been developed originally by the Council's Strategic Environmental Assessment Steering Group, which was attended by sustainability officers, planning officers and local transport plan officers, the GIS team and members of policy and performance along with help from planning consultants WS Atkins.
- 6.2 The North East Regional Assembly has produced an Integrated Regional Framework, which sets out a total of 17 sustainability objectives for the region. These objectives were developed to form the basis of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East's sustainability objectives and have been used widely throughout the region following advice from the Government Office North East.

	Sustainability Objectives
SA1	To ensure stable levels of employment and achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth
SA2	To improve the viability and vitality of defined retail centres
SA3	To implement regional gateways that contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth
SA4	To ensure accessibility for all to job facilities, goods and services across the Borough
SA5	To ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home
SA6	To help improve the health of Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health by providing opportunities for physical activity
SA7	To improve the opportunity and achievement in education and lifelong learning
SA8	To promote safer communities, reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime
SA9	To protect and enhance buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity, and protect and enhance their settings
SA10	To protect and enhance local distinctiveness of the Borough's urban and rural landscape.
SA11	To ensure good local air quality for all
SA12	To protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's ground, river and sea waters
SA13	To reduce the causes and impacts of climatic change
SA14	Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property
SA15	To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled, reused and recovered.
SA16	To protect and enhance local biodiversity and geodiversity
SA17	Make better use of our natural resources such as land and soil

- 6.3 These objectives were modified and progressed in order to be applicable to the Stockton Borough, and also subject to two public consultations as a result of the earlier scoping work already carried out.
- 6.4 The Open Space Recreation and Landscaping SPD has three main elements that need to be tested against the sustainability objectives in order to identify their likely short, medium, and long-term impacts on sustainable development. These elements are the setting of standards for open space provision, the setting of standards for built sports and recreation provision and landscaping guidance.

COMPATABILITY OF SUSTIANABILITY OBJECTIVES

- 6.5 Government advice recommends that the sustainability objectives are tested against each other for compatibility. This will help identify any tensions and conflicts surrounding what the sustainability objectives are trying to achieve, although it must be pointed out some of these conflicts may not be able to be resolved fully. For example, there may be conflict between those objectives associated with housing or economic development and those concerned with biodiversity and the natural environment.
- 6.6 Although conflict may exist, there is no reason to remove or alter the sustainability objectives; the objective of this exercise is to allow subsequent decisions to be well informed and aware of such conflicts.
- 6.7 The priority is to achieve a 'win-win' situation, so that all the objectives can be achieved. However this may not always be achieved, and therefore choices will have to be made.
- 6.8 In making choices where conflict occurs, the government advises the LPA should reach a decision on priorities, hence it may be reasonable to give a ranking to the objectives, whilst ensuring this exercise still meets the requirements of the SEA.
- 6.9 The result of the compatibility test can be viewed below in figure 2. The compatibility test involved the use of a set of impact symbols, to illustrate the likely impact on the other objectives. It must be noted that when carrying out the appraisal of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD, fewer impact symbols were used in order to provide greater clarity, as these are more specific in nature and therefore easier to appraise. Given the strategic nature of the sustainability and core strategy objectives however, more impact symbols were required.
- 6.10 As the results illustrate, there is, in the majority of cases, some degree of compatibility or neutrality between the objectives. It is suggested that there is the possibility of some or indirect incompatibility when comparing four sets of objectives, discussed below.
- 6.11 The first of these occurs between SA1 and SA11, 'ensuring stable levels of employment and achieving high and sustainable levels of economic growth', against 'ensuring good local air quality for all'. There could be a possible conflict between these two objectives, since an increase in economic activity may result in increased traffic, for both commuting and the transporting of goods, thus reducing local air quality. However, in mitigation, by ensuring the majority of economic activity takes place within the urban area, supported by a reliable public transport system, this may increase the compatibility of the two objectives.

Compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17
SA2	✓																
SA3	✓	✓															
SA4	✓	✓	✓														
SA5	✓ [~]	☹	✓ [~]	✓ [~]													
SA6	✓ [~]	☹	✓ [~]	✓	✓												
SA7	✓ [~]	☹	✓ [~]	✓	✓ [~]	✓ [~]											
SA8	✓ [~]	✓	✓	✓	✓	☹	✓										
SA9	✓ [~]	✓	✓	☹	✓	☹	☹	✓									
SA10	☹	✓	✓	☹	✓	☹	☹	✓ [~]	✓								
SA11	x [~]	☹	☹	✓	✓ [~]	✓	☹	☹	☹	☹							
SA12	☹	☹	☹	☹	☹	✓ [~]	☹	☹	☹	✓	✓						
SA13	✓	☹	☹	✓	✓	✓ [~]	☹	☹	✓	✓	✓	✓					
SA14	☹	☹	☹	☹	✓	✓	☹	☹	☹	✓	☹	✓	✓				
SA15	✓ [~]	x [~]	✓ [~]	✓ [~]	✓ [~]	☹	☹	☹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☹			
SA16	☹	☹	☹	☹	x [~]	✓ [~]	☹	☹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
SA17	✓ [~]	✓	✓ [~]	✓	x [~]	☹	☹	☹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓	Compatible
✓ [~]	Some/Indirect Compatibility
x [~]	Some/Indirect Incompatibility
☹	No relationship

- 6.12 It was felt ‘vital and viable defined retail centres’ may lead to an increase in the amount of waste produced, resulting from an increase in the number of visitors to an area, and the length of time spent there. Therefore objectives SA2 and SA15 do have a potential to conflict with each other.
- 6.13 There is possible incompatibility between ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home and protecting and enhancing local biodiversity and geodiversity. Any new development may have the potential to have a negative impact on biodiversity and geodiversity. By ensuring mitigation measures are put in place, such as adopting biodiversity by design principles, the possible incompatibility of these two objectives can be lessened.
- 6.14 The final compatibility conflict concerns the possible negative impact on making better uses of our natural resources such as land and soil resulting from ensuring everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home. By its very nature, development uses natural resources; therefore there is some possible incompatibility of these two objectives. However, by using measures to minimise the use of natural resources, a possible benefit may result.

7 APPRAISAL OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SPD

7.1 As part of the Scoping Report for this SA the objectives of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD were assessed against the sustainability objectives. The result of this assessment is demonstrated in the table below.

- A. Ensure that standards for the provision and maintenance of open space and recreational facilities are achievable;
- B. Enhance and improve access to quality, safe and secure green spaces for all residents on foot or by sustainable transport; and
- C. Encourage landscaping standards within new developments.

		Sustainability Objective														
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Supplementary Planning Document's Objective	A	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	-	√	-	?	-	?	√	√
	B	-	-	-	-	-	√	-	√	√	√	?	-	?	√	√
	C	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	√	-	?	-	-	√	√

KEY	
√	Likely to be compatible
X	Likely to be a conflict
?	Possibly either compatible or conflict
-	No relationship

8 STAGE B - APPRAISAL OF THE OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND LANDSCAPING SPD.

- 8.1 The following tables are the results of appraising the three main elements of the SPD. Each element is appraised individually against the sustainability objectives the aim of this is to identify the likely short, medium, and long-term impacts of the guidance contained within the SPD.
- 8.2 There is also appraisal of a 'do nothing' option, which appraises the impact on the sustainability objectives should the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD not be adopted.

1 Assessment of Setting Standards For Open Space Provision

Key ✓ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 1 - To ensure stable levels of employment and achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth	-	-	-	Enhancement of open space and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 2 - To improve the viability and vitality of defined retail centres	-	-	-	Enhancement of open space and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 3 - To implement regional gateways that contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth	?	?	?	Dependent on the types of gateways developed, quality open space can enhance certain major developments. Setting standards will ensure that major development contains on site open space provision.
SA 4 - To ensure accessibility for all to job facilities, goods and services across the Borough	✓	✓	✓	Setting standards for opens space provision will improve access to open space facilities, by highlighting areas with a lack of access and defining reasonable levels of access.
SA 5 - To ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home	-	-	-	Enhancement of open space and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 6 -To help improve the health of Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health by providing opportunities for physical activity	✓	✓	✓	Through improving open space and recreational provision, the ability of the population to access open space and recreational opportunities will be enhanced. This should help to increase the health and fitness of the Borough's population.
SA 7 - To improve opportunity and achievement	-	-	-	Enhancement of open space and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.

1 Assessment of Setting Standards For Open Space Provision

Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
in education and lifelong learning				
SA 8 - To promote safer communities, reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	?	?	?	Through effectively designed areas of open space, opportunities for crime can be reduced by increasing the natural surveillance of an area.
SA 9 - To protect and enhance buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity, and protect and enhance their settings	√	√	√	Enhancing open space and recreational facilities can protect and enhance the built environment.
SA 10 - To protect and enhance local distinctiveness of the Borough's urban and rural landscape.	√	√	√	Enhanced open space can contribute to the character of the urban and rural landscape.
SA 11 - To ensure good local air quality for all	√	√	√	The securing of open space through planning obligations is likely to make a positive contribution towards this objective.
SA 12 -To protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's ground, river and sea waters	?	?	?	The securing of open space and recreational facilities through planning obligations is likely to have an uncertain effect on this objective.
SA 13 - To reduce the	√	√	√	As hotter and drier summers are expected, areas of open space are vital to cool the heat

1 Assessment of Setting Standards For Open Space Provision

Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
causes and impacts of climatic change				generated by densely populated urban areas.
SA 14 - Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property	√ I?	√ I ?	√ I?	With flooding events likely to increase, areas of open space can also act as temporary wetlands to accommodate flood water.
SA 15 - To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled, reused and recovered.	√ I?	√ I?	√ I?	Open space may offer opportunities to manage the composting of waste, thus reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.
SA 16 -To protect and enhance local biodiversity and geodiversity	√	√	√	An increase in the open space cover of the Borough will provide additional opportunities for habitat creation and species movement.
SA 17 - Make better use of our natural resources such as land and soil	√	√	√	The open space standards provide information about effective locations for and types of open space in different areas, this results in more effective planning of open space land use.

Assessment of Setting Standards for the Provision of Built Sports and Recreation Facilities.

Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 1 - To ensure stable levels of employment and achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth	√	√	√	Enhancement of sports and recreational facilities may improve the health of the Borough's workforce and improve employment levels and economic growth.
SA 2 - To improve the viability and vitality of defined retail centres	?	?	?	Enhancement of sport and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective however, when facilities are located in town centres they can improve the vitality and viability of retail areas.
SA 3 - To implement regional gateways that contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth	-	-	-	Enhance built sports and recreation provision is unlikely to have an impact on regional gateways.
SA 4 - To ensure accessibility for all to job facilities, goods and services across the Borough	√	√	√	The setting of standards for built sports and recreation facilities can improve access to these facilities as services defining levels of reasonable access and by highlighting areas of deficiency.
SA 5 - To ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home	-	-	-	Enhancement of sport and recreational facilities does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 6 -To help improve the health of Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health by providing opportunities for physical activity	√	√	√	Through improving sport and recreational provision, the ability of the population to access sport and recreational opportunities will be enhanced. This should help to increase the health and fitness of the Borough's population.

Assessment of Setting Standards for the Provision of Built Sports and Recreation Facilities.

Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 7 - To improve the opportunity and achievement in education and lifelong learning	√	√	√	Recreational facilities can provide locations for education and life long learning opportunities, the enhancement of these facilities is likely to have a positive outcome.
SA 8 - To promote safer communities, reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	?	?	?	Enhanced built sport and recreation facilities will provide opportunities to undertake sporting and other activities which may improve social involvement producing safer and more inclusive communities.
SA 9 - To protect and enhance buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity, and protect and enhance their settings	-	-	-	Enhanced built sports and recreation provision is unlikely to have an impact on the protection and enhancement of historic sites.
SA 10 - To protect and enhance local distinctiveness of the Borough's urban and rural landscape.	-	-	-	Enhanced sports and recreation provision is unlikely to have an effect on the enhancing the Borough's urban and rural landscape.
SA 11 - To ensure good local air quality for all	-	-	-	The enhancement of built sports and recreation provision is unlikely to have an impact on the Borough's air quality.
SA 12 -To protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's ground, river and sea waters	-	-	-	The enhancement of sport and recreation provision is unlikely to have an effect on the Borough's ground, river and sea waters.

Assessment of Setting Standards for the Provision of Built Sports and Recreation Facilities.

Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 13 - To reduce the causes and impacts of climatic change	-	-	-	The enhancement of built sport facilities is unlikely to have an impact on climate change.
SA 14 - Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property	-	-	-	The enhancement of built sports and recreation facilities is unlikely to have an impact on flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property.
SA 15 - To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled, reused and recovered.	-	-	-	The enhancement of built sport and recreation facilities is unlikely to have an impact on the amount of waste produced and the amount recycled, reused and recovered.
SA 16 -To protect and enhance local biodiversity and geodiversity	-	-	-	The enhancement of built sports and recreation facilities is unlikely to have an impact on local biodiversity and geodiversity.
SA 17 - Make better use of our natural resources such as land and soil	-	√	√	The standards in the SPD provide information about effective locations for and types of built sports and recreation facilities which may result in the more effective used of land.

Assessment of Providing Landscaping Guidance for Open Space				
Key ✓ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 1 - To ensure stable levels of employment and achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth	-	-	-	Enhanced landscaping of open space is unlikely to have an impact on employment and economic growth.
SA 2 - To improve the viability and vitality of defined retail centres	-	-	-	Enhanced landscaping of open space does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 3 - To implement regional gateways that contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth	?	?	?	Dependent on the types of gateways developed, quality open space can enhance certain major developments. Enhanced landscaping of open space will improve gateways where open space is important.
SA 4 - To ensure accessibility for all to job facilities, goods and services across the Borough	-	-	-	Enhanced landscaping of open space does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 5 - To ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home	-	-	-	Enhanced landscaping of open space does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 6 -To help improve the health of Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health by providing opportunities for physical activity	✓	✓	✓	Through improving the landscaping of open space the ability of the population to access open space and recreational opportunities will be enhanced. This should help to increase the health and fitness of the Borough's population.

Assessment of Providing Landscaping Guidance for Open Space				
Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 7 - To improve the opportunity and achievement in education and lifelong learning	-	-	-	Enhancement of open space landscaping does not have a strong relationship with this objective and therefore it is unlikely to have an impact.
SA 8 - To promote safer communities, reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	√	√	√	Through effectively designed areas of open space, opportunities for crime can be reduced by increasing the natural surveillance of an area.
SA 9 - To protect and enhance buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity, and protect and enhance their settings	√	√	√	Enhancing the landscaping of open space can enhance the built environment.
SA 10 - To protect and enhance local distinctiveness of the Borough's urban and rural landscape.	√	√	√	Enhanced landscaping of open space can contribute to the character of the urban and rural landscape.
SA 11 - To ensure good local air quality for all	√	√	√	The landscaping of open space with appropriate planting is likely to make a positive contribution towards this objective.
SA 12 -To protect and enhance the quality of the Borough's ground, river and sea waters	?	?	?	The landscaping of open space is likely to have an uncertain effect on this objective.

Assessment of Providing Landscaping Guidance for Open Space				
Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 13 - To reduce the causes and impacts of climatic change	√	√	√	As hotter and drier summers are expected, areas of open space are vital to cool the heat generated by densely populated urban areas. Landscaped open spaces with appropriate planting will be more effective for this purpose.
SA 14 - Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property	√	√	√	With flooding events likely to increase, areas of open space can also act as temporary wetlands to accommodate flood water. Appropriate landscaping could make open space more able to fulfil this role.
SA 15 - To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled, reused and recovered.	√	√	√	Open space may offer opportunities to manage the composting of waste, thus reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. Guidance can ensure the reuse of materials in the landscaping of spaces.
SA 16 -To protect and enhance local biodiversity and geodiversity	√	√	√	Suitable landscaping can help create spaces which enhance biodiversity, and is likely to have a positive impact on this objective.
SA 17 - Make better use of our natural resources such as land and soil	√/?	√/?	√/?	Landscaping guidance will provide information about suitable planting and management provision which will be beneficial to soils.

Assessment of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD – Do Nothing Option

Key ✓ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No Relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 1 – To ensure stable levels of employment and achieve high and sustainable levels of economic growth	-	-	-	The main elements of this SPD do not have a strong relationship with this objective therefore not producing the SPD is also likely to have a neutral impact.
SA 2 – To improve the viability and vitality of defined retail centres	-/X	-/X	-/X	Two of the main objectives of the SPD do not have a relationship with this objective however, the SPD aims to locate new built facilities where they can contribute to the vitality and viability of town centres. Therefore not producing the SPD could have a potentially negative effect in this objective.
SA 3 – To implement regional gateways that contribute to and deliver sustainable economic growth	X	X	X	The SPD aims to increase the provision of open space and quality of landscaping in new development including that in gateway sites, not producing the SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 4 – To ensure accessibility for all to job facilities, goods and services across the Borough	X	X	X	This SPD aims to improve access to open space and built facilities provision, not producing the SPD is likely to have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 5 – To ensure everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home	-	-	-	The SPD is not strongly linked to this objective so not producing the SPD is likely to have a neutral impact.
SA 6 – To help improve the health of Borough's residents and reduce inequalities in health by providing opportunities for physical activity	X	X	X	The SPD aims to secure open space, recreation and community facilities that would help achieve this objective, having no SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.

Assessment of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD – Do Nothing Option				
Key ✓ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No Relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
SA 7 – To improve the opportunity and achievement in education and lifelong learning.	X	X	X	Built sports and recreation facilities can provide locations for education and lifelong learning opportunities not having the SPD could have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 8 – To promote safer communities, reduce and prevent crime and reduce fear of crime	X	X	X	The SPD aims to ensure that new open space provision is designed to discourage crime and to improve open space and built facilities which can improve community cohesion. Not having the SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 9 – To protect and enhance buildings, sites, areas and features of historic, archaeological and architectural interest and diversity, and protect and enhance their settings	X	X	X	Through securing landscape and open space enhancements the SPD aims to contribute to achieving this objective, therefore having no SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 10 – To protect and enhance local distinctiveness of the Borough’s urban and rural landscape.	X	X	X	Through securing landscape and open space enhancements, the SPD aims to contribute to this objective. Having no SPD would be in conflict with this objective.
SA 11 – To ensure good local air quality for all	X	X	X	Open space and landscaping provision can improve air quality therefore not having the SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 12 –To protect and enhance the quality of the	?	?	?	The SPD’s impact on this objective is uncertain, therefore the impact of not having the SPD is also uncertain in this case.

Assessment of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD – Do Nothing Option				
Key √ Likely to be Compatible ? Uncertain Impact X Likely to conflict - No Relationship	Assessment of the effect			Further Comments on the Appraisal
	Short	Medium	Long	
Sustainability Objectives				
Borough's ground, river and sea waters				
SA 13 – To reduce the causes and impacts of climatic change	X	X	X	Enhanced and improved open space provision can have a positive impact on this objective so not having the SPD would have a negative impact.
SA 14 – Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people and property	X	X	X	The SPD aims to improve open space and landscaping provision which can have a positive impact on this objective. Due to this, not producing the SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 15 – To reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the amount recycled, reused and recovered.	?	?	?	The SPD does not have a strong relationship with this objective, however, open space provision can provide opportunities for composting and effective landscaping can reduce waste in the development process. The result of not having the SPD is uncertain in relation to this objective.
SA 16 –To protect and enhance local biodiversity and geodiversity	X	X	X	The SPD aims to secure obligations which would benefit this objective, therefore having no SPD would have a negative impact on this objective.
SA 17 – Make better use of our natural resources such as land and soil	X	X	X	The SPD will provide the ability to make sure that open space and built sports facilities provision is more effective in its type and location therefore resulting in a more effective use of land. Not having the SPD would therefore have a negative impact on this objective.

9 SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL.

- 9.1 Following the appraisal of producing the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD rather than not producing the SPD, the following issues have been highlighted:
- 9.2 The majority of the appraisal shows that the main elements of the SPD are likely to be compatible, have an uncertain impact, or have no relationship with the sustainability objectives. There are no occasions where the SPD is likely to have a negative impact on the sustainability objective.
- 9.3 In terms of the appraisal of the 'do nothing' option, this resulted largely with conflict with the sustainability objectives and some uncertain and neutral impacts. Therefore, due to the results of the appraisal, the correct course of action is to proceed with the consultation and subsequent adoption of the Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD.
- 9.4 However, the development that will be allowed through the use of planning obligations for open space and built sports facilities has not been appraised here. The sustainability of developments should be considered as part of the planning application process and through high level land use policies such as those in the Core Strategy.

MITIGATION MEASURES

- 9.5 The SPD's main elements; the setting of standards for open space, built sports and recreation provision and guidance on landscaping do not indicate any negative impacts that need to be mitigated.

MONITORING

- 9.6 Any planning obligations contributions to open space and built sports and recreation provision will be monitored, enabling the Council to ensure agreements are complied with, and to provide a transparent approach to the securing and application of planning obligations. Open Space and Built Facilities Audits will be updated to identify changes in the amount and quality of provision.
- 9.7 Under the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, Council's have a statutory to prepare and publish an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR seeks to report on how successful the policies contained within the LDF are, and for the purpose of this SPD, will seek to monitor the extent of planning obligation contributions to and the amount and quality of open space and facility provision achieved.