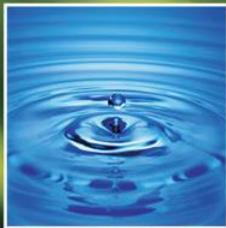


Tees Valley JSU

# Sustainability Appraisal of the Waste and Minerals Development Plan

Scoping Report

January 2007



# Entec

*Creating the environment for business*



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**Report for**

Director  
Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit  
PO 199  
Melrose House  
Melrose Street  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2XF

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**Main Contributors**

Ross McLaughlin

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**Issued by**

.....  
Ross McLaughlin

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**Approved by**

.....  
Neil Marlborough

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**Entec UK Limited**

Northumbria House  
Regent Centre  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
18980

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Tees Valley JSU

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January 2007



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## List of Abbreviations

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AA	Appropriate Assessment
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
CA	Civic Amenity
CS	Core Strategy
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DBC	Darlington Borough Council
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Policies Document
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
IRF	Integrated Regional Framework
JSU	Joint Strategy Unit
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
MC	Middlesbrough Council
MWDP	Minerals and Waste Development Plan
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RCBC	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SBC	Stockton Borough Council
TV	Tees Valley





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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1 Background

Entec was appointed in August 2006 to develop two Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (MWDPD) on behalf of the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit (JSU), namely the Core Strategy and Development Policies Document. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which will shape the content of the final documents, is also being prepared in tandem with the main body of the MWDPDs. The SA will incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and will be undertaken in line with guidance issued by ODPM (2005) in '*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*'.

MWDPDs will set out the spatial vision, objectives and core principles for Minerals and Waste development in the Tees Valley until 2021. The MWDPD Strategy will be influenced by a number of documents including the *Securing the Future: UK National Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)*, *Waste Not, Want Not - A strategy for tackling the waste problem in England (2002)*, *North East Regional Spatial Strategy* and *Tees Valley Structure Plan*.

The Development Policies will align with the aims and objectives of the Core Strategy.

### 1.1.1 An overview of Tees Valley

The Tees Valley is located in the south-east corner of England's North East region and is bordered to the north and west by County Durham and North Yorkshire to the south. The sub-region comprises five Borough Councils, namely Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, and has a population of 652,000<sup>1</sup>. The majority of population is concentrated in the main service centres such as Stockton and Middlesbrough which both expand from the banks of the River Tees. Like many areas throughout the UK the Tees Valley has historically been dependant on traditional industries such as steel, iron and chemicals manufacturing and whilst these industries still play an important role in the future of the local economy there has been a major shift in employment terms towards the service sector. The sub-region has an above average proportion of people with health problems, single parent households, households without access to a car and people renting from Local Authorities or Housing Associations<sup>2</sup>. The Tees Valley also benefits from areas of high environmental quality and biodiversity such as miles of spectacular coastline, dramatic countryside and acres of ancient woodland. The Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast and North York Moors are both European designated sites that exist in the sub region.

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<sup>1</sup> Mid 2004 – Population Estimates

<sup>2</sup> Inform, Tees Valley JSU Information & Forecasting (March 2006)

## 1.2 Purpose of this Document

This Scoping Report outlines the scope of the SA for the Core Strategy (CS) and the Development Policies Document (DPD). Both of the MWDPDs are currently in production and are being consulted on in tandem with this document. These documents can be described as:-

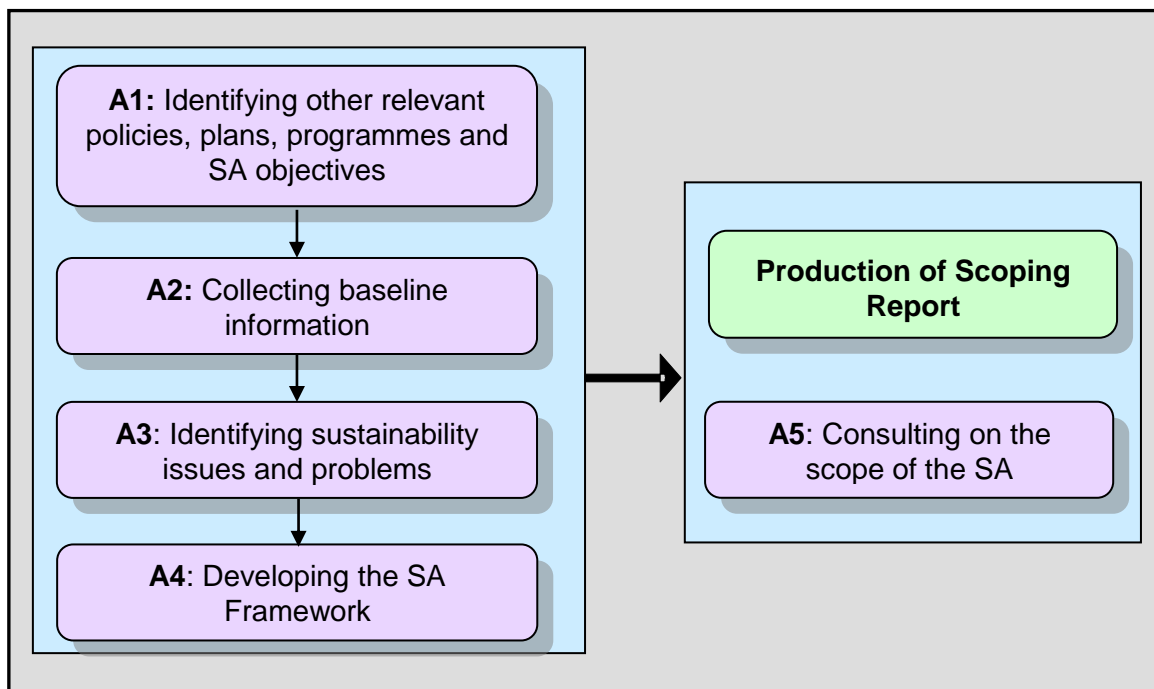
- **Core Strategy Development Plan Document (CS):** This will comprise the long-term spatial vision, and overarching primary policies needed to achieve strategic objectives for Waste and Minerals issues in the Tees Valley. It will provide a coherent spatial strategy until 2021 and will contain measurable objectives consistent with the emerging RSS.
- **Development Policies Document (DPD):** Will identify specific minerals and waste sites in conformity with the Core Strategy. This document will provide a framework to assess future minerals and waste planning applications in the Tees Valley. The DPD is dependent upon the Core Strategy and will align with its priorities.

The CS sets out the broad framework for spatial minerals and waste planning throughout the Tees Valley and the SA must be equally wide-ranging. Therefore the appraisal framework proposed in this Report could be used as the basis for assessing other plans and programmes which affect the sub region.

This Scoping Report covers the first main stage (Stage A) of the SA process (See Box 1.1) which involves setting the context of the SA, developing the SA framework, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.

**Ultimately the Sustainability Appraisal will be used to assess the performance of the options and preferred options against the existing baseline conditions identified within this report.**

**Box 1.1 Stage A of the SA Process (as identified in ODPM Guidance)**



The remaining stages of SA are identified in Box 1.2. These stages involve developing and assessing alternatives and assessing the effects of the MWDPDs. These effects will be described within a SA Report which will be published alongside the consultation draft MWDPDs which are scheduled to be published .....

In accordance with the tasks identified in Box 1.1, the Scoping Report is structured into the following sections:

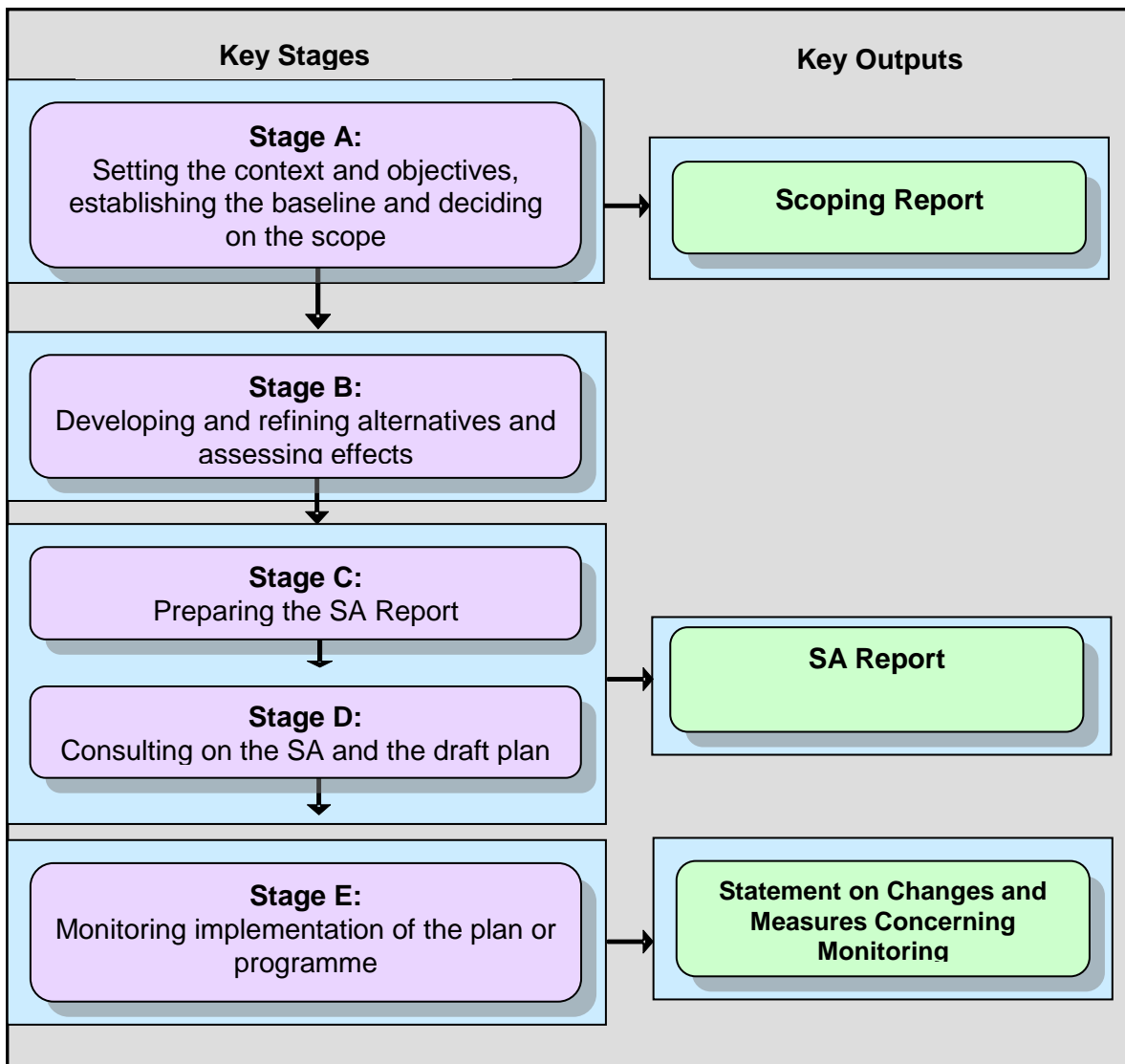
**Section 2: Links with Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies.** This section outlines the review of relevant international, national, regional and sub-regional documents to assist in identifying the key sustainability issues and sustainability objectives in the sub region.

**Section 3: Key Sustainability Issues for the Tees Valley.** This section sets out relevant baseline information for the sub-region as well as identifying and describing the key sustainability issues.

**Section 4: Development of the SA Objectives.** This section sets out the proposed SA objectives and the appraisal criteria.

**Section 5: The SA Framework.** This section sets out the proposed SA framework and describes how the framework will be used to assess policies.

**Section 6: Conclusion.** This section provides an explanation of the subsequent stages of SA. It also provides a quality assurance checklist.

**Box 1.2 Stages of Sustainability Appraisal**

## 1.3 Consultation on the Scoping Report

A workshop was held in December 2006 at the Wynyard Rooms in Billingham to agree the SA objectives and the key sustainability issues for the area. A list of attendees is shown in Appendix C.

This report is being sent to a number of organisations for consultation which will include the statutory consultees under the SEA Regulations<sup>3</sup> (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency). The report is also being published in five Borough Councils website. Comments received will be considered and the scope and level of information provided within this document amended, as appropriate.

Procedures for responding to consultation on this Scoping Report are provided in Box 1.3

### Box 1.3 Responding to Consultation on the Scoping Report

We would welcome your views on this Scoping Report. The consultation period will run for 5 weeks from the **X<sup>th</sup> March 2007** to the **X<sup>th</sup> May 2007**. There are a number of questions identified throughout this report. However, we are particularly interested to know the following:

**1. Do you agree that the SA objectives cover the breadth of sustainability issues appropriate for the Tees Valley?** These 15 objectives are presented alongside appraisal criteria in Section 4. They will be used to appraise the Core Strategy.

**2. Do you know of any key baseline evidence which will help to inform the SA process?** The key baseline evidence relating to each sustainability issue is presented in Section 3.2 and Appendix B. This information will be used to help inform the appraisal process.

**3. For the purposes of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) do you think the Core Strategy and Development Policy Document have the potential to impact nature conservation sites of European importance (SPA's and SAC's)?** Further information on screening for Appropriate Assessment is provided in the Biodiversity Key Issue Section on page 13.

Please provide comments by the **X<sup>th</sup> May 2007**. Comments should be sent to:

Post: Ross McLaughlin  
Entec UK Ltd  
Planning and Environmental Consultant  
Northumbria House  
Regent Centre  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE3 3PX

Email: ross.mclaughlin@entecuk.co.uk

<sup>3</sup> *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).*

## 2. Links with Other Plans & Programmes

The purpose of reviewing plans and programmes as part of the SA is to ensure that the relationship with these other documents is fully explored and to ensure that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are taken on board through the SA. Reviewing plans and programmes can also provide appropriate information on the baseline for the plan area and the key sustainability issues.

A list of plans and programmes are identified in Table 2.1. Appendix A contains the review of these documents. This review identifies objectives and targets which will have implications for the SA and illustrates how they have been taken on board by the SA. Relevant objectives identified in these documents have been integrated within the SA objectives.

**Table 2.1 List of Plans and Programmes**

European
<b>Directives and Conventions</b>
UNCED, Earth Summit, Rio (1992) Agenda 21, Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere
European Strategy on Sustainable Development (2001)
Directive 200/76/EC on the incineration of waste
EU Biodiversity Strategy (1998)
The Sixth Environmental Action Program of the European Community 1600/2002/EEC
The World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (United Nations) (2002) <i>Commitments arising from Johannesburg Summit.</i>
European Commission (1992) <i>Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive).</i>
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971).
European Community (1979) Bern Convention of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste COM(2005)666 final
European Commission (1979) <i>Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds.</i>
European Commission (2000) <i>The Water Framework Directive.</i>
EU Waste Framework (1975-ongoing).
European Commission (1999) <i>The Landfill Directive.</i>
European Commission (1996) <i>Air Quality Framework Directive.</i>
National
<i>Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).</i>
<i>Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).</i>
DEFRA (2002) <i>Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England.</i>
<i>Waste not, Want not - A strategy for tackling the waste problem in England (Government Strategy Unit, November 2002)</i>
DEFRA (2005) <i>Making space for water: developing a new government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.</i>

DETR (2000) <i>The air quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Working together for clean air.</i>
Dept. of Trade and Industry (2003) <i>Energy white paper. Our energy future: creating a low carbon economy.</i>
Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (2000) <i>Waste strategy.</i>
<i>The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).</i>
Department of Health (2004) <i>Choosing Health – White paper</i>
<i>Securing the future: the UK Government sustainable development strategy (2005).</i>
Urban white paper: our towns and cities (2000).
The National Assessment of Civic Amenity Sites, Network Recycling (2004)
ODPM (2005) <i>Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (inc Climate Change Supplement)</i>
ODPM (2005) <i>Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres</i>
ODPM (1994) <i>Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</i>
ODPM (2005) <i>Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management</i>
ODPM (2001) <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport</i>
ODPM Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
ODPM (1990) <i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</i>
ODPM (2002) Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation
ODPM (2003) Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy
ODPM (2004) Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control
ODPM (2004) Planning Policy Statement 24: Planning and Noise
ODPM (2001) Planning Policy Statement 25: Flood Risk
OPPM Minerals Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals
ODPM Minerals Planning Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England
<b>North East</b>
Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East: (Submission Draft 2006)
Regional Transport Strategy (2005)
Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report 2004 (published 2006) (NERAWP)
Regional Waste Management Strategy (2004)
North East Regional Energy Strategy (2005)
And the Weather is today.....' Climate Change in the North East
Integrated Regional Framework - North East (2004)
Leading the Way: The Regional Economic Strategy for the North East of England (ONE North East, 2006)
Skills North East – Skills Action Plan 2006-2007
Moving Forward: The Northern Way First Growth Strategy Report (Northern Way Steering Group, 2004)
A Biodiversity Audit of the North East (North East Biodiversity Forum, 2001)
Heritage Counts 2005 (North East)
<b>Tees Valley (sub-regional)</b>
Tees Valley Structure Plan (2004)

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2002 (TVJSU) (Covers the four former Cleveland authorities but not Darlington)
Tees Valley Transport Strategy (2001-2006) updated using 2006 Monitoring Report
Tees Valley Partnership – 2005-2008 Investment Plan
Tees Valley Vision Strategic Framework
Draft Tees Valley Climate Change Strategy (2006 -2012)
Tees Valley City Region Development Programme
A life cycle assessment of Municipal Solid Waste in the Tees Valley using the WRATE model, D. Bunford, (2006)
<b>Local – Darlington, Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool Local Authorities</b>
Darlington Local Plan (1997)
Hartlepool Local Plan (2006)
Middlesbrough Local Plan 1999-2006
Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan 1999-2006
Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan 1997-2006 with Alteration No. 1 (2006)
Middlesbrough's Environmental Sustainability Strategy
Middlesbrough Council Environmental Sustainability Strategy Priorities for 2006-2007
Middlesbrough Community Strategy, 2005
Environmental Standards Service Plan 2006 – 2007, Hartlepool Borough Council
Waste Management Service Plan 2006 – 2007, Hartlepool Borough Council
Neighbourhood Services Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2005 – 2010, Hartlepool Borough Council
Where Quality Comes to Life (Community Strategy), Darlington Council
Performance and Action Plan 2005 – 2006, Darlington
Sustainable Environment Strategy 2006 – 2021, Redcar and Cleveland
Community Strategy 2004 – 2021, Redcar and Cleveland Partnership
Community Strategy 2005 -2008, Stockton Renaissance

Box 2.1 illustrates how the MWDPDs relates in a hierarchical way to international, national, regional and other local plans and programmes. It is these documents that are more likely to contain environmental and sustainability objectives and targets and these were the focus of the review in Appendix A.



**Box 2.1 Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes**

## 3. Key Sustainability Issues

### 3.1 Introduction

An essential part of the SA process is the identification of the current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is only with a knowledge of existing conditions that the Tees Valley MWDPDs can be monitored, assessed and ultimately deemed whether the plan has been a success or otherwise.

The SEA Directive requires that the evolution of the baseline conditions of the plan area (that would take place without the plan or programme i.e. 'trends') are identified. This is useful in informing assessments of significance, particularly with regard to the effect that conditions may already be improving or worsening and the rate of such change. Where information on these trends is available it has been included within Appendix B along with detailed baseline statistics. Each issue is briefly summarised in Table 3.1 with additional information presented in the following sub-sections.

**Table 3.1 Key Sustainability Issues for the Tees Valley**

Key Sustainability Issues for the Tees Valley	
A.	<b>Making better use of resources:</b> The increasing demand for raw materials resulting from economic development and social change is putting pressure on existing resources in the Tees Valley. There is also a need to encourage efficiency and reduce consumption.
B.	<b>To move up the waste hierarchy:</b> There is the need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to improve / increase the already established network of recycling and transfer facilities in the sub region. The recognised preferred order for dealing with waste is through reduction; re-use; recycling and composting; energy recovery and finally, the option of last resort; disposal.
C.	<b>Air quality:</b> Air Quality in the Tees Valley is measured using a variety of fixed and mobile stations that assess and define air pollutants in the UK. Emissions in the Tees Valley predominantly arise from vehicle movements (nitrogen dioxide, PM10, Hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and benzene) and industrial process (Ozone). Clearly, air pollution should be minimised given the negative environmental and health implications.
D.	<b>Water quality:</b> The Tees Valley's coastal and river valley location ensures that controlled waters are an integral part of the sub region's landscape.
E.	<b>Biodiversity:</b> The Tees Valley has two internationally renowned sites for their biodiversity interest at <i>Teesmouth &amp; Cleveland</i> and the <i>North York Moors</i> . The sub-region also has a number of other national and locally designated sites of conservation interest as well as a large number of non-designated sites which are of conservation value.
F.	<b>Quality of rural and urban landscapes:</b> There is a need to protect and enhance areas of important landscape character in the sub-region. This includes areas of green and open space as well as how built settlements relate with each other.
G.	<b>Cultural heritage:</b> There is a need to protect and enhance the sub region's cultural heritage for future generations' appreciation.
H.	<b>Climate change:</b> The impact of climate change will affect the sub-region's population, natural environment and material assets. The effects of climate change will not be consistent across the sub-region and will impact communities and habitats differently. For example the coastal and river basin areas of Hartlepool and Graythorpe and the associated harbours are more at risk from rising sea levels / flood risk than the inland areas. Industrial operators and residents all have a part to play in the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the Tees Valley. It has also been proven that there are detrimental and wide ranging implications of climate change on the global economy.

Key Sustainability Issues for the Tees Valley	
I.	<b>Crime:</b> Overall crime, and especially theft, remains high in the Tees Valley compared to the National Average. There is a need to focus on designing out crime and <i>Secured by Design</i> initiatives as part of new development.
J.	<b>Health:</b> The sub-region has an above average proportion of people with a health problem. It has been proven that the creation of attractive and pleasant environments can improve health and well being of the residents who live there.
K.	<b>Public involvement:</b> There is a need to encourage and support different groups in the democratic process such as the young, old, disabled and people from ethnic minorities to contribute to developing a diverse and strong community and effective decision making process.
L.	<b>Economic growth / employment:</b> The need to address the long term loss of employment opportunities in traditional industries such as chemicals, steel and iron manufacturing and support high technology skills and service sector which has been developing over recent years.
M.	<b>Education:</b> The sub-regions population suffers from a shortage of skills and low educational attainment compared to the UK average.
N.	<b>Movement of materials:</b> The traditional reliance on the transportation of materials by road is seen as an aspect that can be improved given the sub-regions existing network of port and rail facilities. Reducing transport movements can will reduce climate change and reduce congestion.
O.	<b>Access to waste facilities:</b> There is a need to improve accessibility to key waste and minerals services and facilities to ensure they are appropriately used and serve a sufficient threshold population.

## 3.2 Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline Data

The spatial planning capability of the Tees Valley JSU has a direct responsibility for some of the below issues; for others, it has less influence. In all cases the JSU and its constituent Local Authorities must work with a range of other agencies to achieve change.

### A – To make better use of resources

The Tees Valley MWDPDs shall provide a strategic framework for the management of natural resources in the sub-region until 2021. ‘Resources’ are defined to incorporate finite natural elements such as water, soils, flora, fauna but for the purposes of this appraisal resources (defined under this SA objective) predominantly focuses on minerals resources. This is due to the topic of the documents being assessed and other supporting objectives (see below topics) which more appropriately deal with biodiversity, water and energy issues. Notwithstanding, consumption is also deemed to be an integral issue relating to making better use of natural resources which is examined within this appraisal.

The North East Regional Spatial Strategy sets a framework for reducing the need for primary aggregates and sets out that the Tees Valley has a provision to supply 0.16m tonnes of sand and gravel and 2.2m tonnes of crushed rock by 2016. Figures from the North East Annual Aggregates Monitoring Report (RAWP Report) highlights there have been a marginal decrease in sales of sand and gravel whilst crush rock has increased between 2001 and 2005. 2005 figures show there have been sales of 0.4m tonnes of sand and gravel and 3.8m sales of crushed rock. The RAWP report also highlights that there has been steady increase in the sales of secondary aggregates to 1371m tonnes by 2002. Sales for non aggregate uses have remained fairly consistent at around 496m tonnes (as measured in 2002).

The AMRI report has shown that in the Cleveland sub-region (Hartlepool, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton and Middlesbrough) had 42 sales of Limestone and the whole minerals industry supported 882 jobs in 2005.

According to the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) an 'Ecological Footprint' measures how much nature we have, how much nature we use, and who uses what. The sub regions Ecological Footprint represents the amount of biologically productive land and water its residents use. We use land for the natural resources it can provide, such as food and timber, for its ecological services, such as absorbing waste, and to build and live on. The Footprint sums these areas, wherever they may fall in the world. Put another way, the Ecological Footprint measures how large a garden a person, city, or country, needs to sustainably support them. Each Local Authority within the Tees Valley has been independently assessed to show an ecological footprint between 5.12 and 5.27. It is worth noting that the UK average footprint is 5.4 ha whilst the world average footprint is 2.2 ha per person which still exceeds the Earth's biocapacity by over 20 percent. Overshoot means using resources more quickly than they can be replenished<sup>4</sup>.

#### **Ecological Footprints**

- Darlington = 5.3 ha
- Hartlepool = 5.12 ha
- Middlesbrough = 5.21 ha
- Redcar and Cleveland = 5.25 ha
- Stockton = 5.27 ha
- UK Average = 5.4 ha
- World Average = 2.2 ha
- Sustainable equilibrium = 1.8 ha

Source: <http://www.sei.se/teap/background.php>

## **B. To move up the waste hierarchy**

There is a need to move towards sustainable waste management and achieve as much value from resources as possible. This is driven by factors such as increasing volumes of waste, a decreasing landfill capacity, and higher targets for reuse and recycling of waste. The preferred order for dealing with waste is through reduction; re-use; recycling and composting; energy recovery and finally, the option of last resort; disposal. Given the waste nature of the documents being appraised this is a key measure of its overall success.

All waste has the potential to adversely affect the environment by contaminating the air, soil or water. Though there are uncertainties about the type and magnitude of health effects which derive from waste dispersal in the environment, some adverse impacts are probable. Pressing for waste minimisation presents substantial practical and political challenges; but these challenges need to be tackled for the sake of longer term environmental and social benefits.

One issue facing the Tees Valley is the growing amount of waste produced and how to manage it now and in the future. Environment Agency municipal waste figures show waste collected by the relevant authorities in the sub region has risen by around 15,000 tonnes between 1998 and 2003 from 285,000 tonnes to 301,000 tonnes. Major volumes of waste, unless adequately managed and treated, can have the potential to cause significant environmental and health problems. However, it also has potential value as a resource if it can be re-used or recycled. Long term provision needs to be made to manage waste in an efficient and environmentally sound manner.

- There was a total of 301,070 tonnes of municipal waste collected by authorities in the Tees Valley in 2002-2003
- 210,495 tonnes of this was incinerated to generate electricity and materials for recycling at SITA's Energy from Waste Plant on Teesside
- 2,511 tonnes of commercial and industrial waste was processed in the Tees Valley in 2002-2003, 51% was reused or recycled.

Source: *Environment Agency Data 2002-2003*

<sup>4</sup> Stockholm Environmental Institute

The sub region benefits from having an established network of treatment and transfer facilities and is recognised as an area that can generate value and handle a variety of specialised and general waste. Most notably the Energy from Waste Plant on Teesside processes the majority of municipal waste from Stockton, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool.

### **C – To ensure good air quality**

The UK government has set a framework of air pollutants in order to universally measure air quality. Amongst other local and mobile monitoring stations the Tees Valley has 4 continuous national network monitoring points (referred to as AURN) at Brekon Hill (Middlesbrough), Corporation Road (Redcar and Cleveland), Cowpen Bewley (Stockton) and High Street (Yarm, Stockton).

According to the Tees Valley Air Quality Report (Progress Report 2004) the results from the fixed AURN and local monitors across all of the air pollutants show a good degree of consistency on a year by year basis between 2000 and 2003, but with no clear signs that nitrogen dioxide levels are reducing. Anomalies in 2003 were deemed to be a result of prolonged spells of high pressure weather during February, March and April, which restricted normal dispersion. Nitrogen Dioxide, PM10, Nitrogen Oxide, Carbon Monoxide and Benzene are mainly associated with vehicle emissions and increased transport.

Ozone is the only air pollutant which concern is raised about meeting defined objectives / targets. The reason for the high level of ozone exceedances at Redcar is likely to be associated with hydrocarbon emissions from the industrial complexes along the Tees estuary. During summer fine weather periods pollutants are taken out to sea on night time off-shore breezes, but are then returned to the coastal region as higher levels of ozone by day time on-shore breezes<sup>5</sup>.

#### **Air Pollutants**

- Nitrogen Dioxide
- Particulate PM10
- Sulphur Dioxide
- Carbon Monoxide
- Benzene
- 1,3, Butadiene
- Lead
- Ozone
- Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Source: [www.airquality.co.uk](http://www.airquality.co.uk)

### **D – To protect and enhance the quality of the sub regions controlled waters**

The location of the Tees Valley's, being in a coastal area and river valley, ensures controlled waters is integral part of the sub regions landscape. The sub region is supplied by Northumbrian Water who bears water to the Tees Valley from five reservoirs located in the Teesdale area which has one of the UK's highest potable water compliance level standards. Bran Sands, a centralised effluent and sludge treatment centre which services the needs of industry and the population of Tees Valley, is a fundamental part of the £200m Tees Estuary Environment Scheme (TEES), providing a sustainable, modern industrial and municipal waste treatment facility for Tees Valley<sup>6</sup>.

All measured bathing waters in the Tees Valley have recorded a good or excellent rating in 2006 tests by the Environment Agency and there are a number of Groundwater Protection Zones around Hartlepool, Stockton and Darlington. River Quality throughout the sub region significantly varies. In 1970 the River Tees was considered to be the most polluted estuary in

<sup>5</sup> Tees Valley Air Quality Report – Progress Report 2004

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.teesvalleyregeneration.co.uk/pages/investment/home/industry=water>

the United Kingdom with over 500 tonnes of waste being discharged into the river each day<sup>7</sup>. Today the River Tees is classified as Fairly Good (classification C as defined by the Environment Agency).

## **E – To protect and enhance the sub regions biodiversity and geodiversity**

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants (flora) and animals (fauna) in an area and their associated habitats. The necessity of preserving biodiversity is recognised from an international to a local level. Biodiversity has importance in itself and is increasingly valued for its positive effects on quality of life issues and local amenity value.

### **EU Designation in the Tees Valley**

- North York Moors SAC
- North York Moors SPA
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA

*Source: Natural England*

The underlying geology of the Tees Corridor is split between solid rock and a thin covering of clays, mud and silt. The Tees Valley is rich in areas of biodiversity interest. The most important of these is the internationally designated North York Moors and Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast which are recognised as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) respectively. In addition the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is also a Ramsar site recognised for the wide array of migratory birds that frequent its intertidal sand and mudflats, rocky shore, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh and sand dunes. The Tees Valley also has 18 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and around 300 local non statutory sites identified such as Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Regionally Important Geographical Sites (RIGS) and Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). A number of strategic wildlife corridors are also identified in the sub region including the River Skerne, Greatham Creek to Crookfoot Reservoir and the Coastline.

## **Screening for Appropriate Assessment / Habitat Regulations Assessment**

Appropriate Assessment (AA) or Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is the process to assess the impacts of a plan or project against the conservation objectives of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA). SACs and SPAs are referred to as European Sites; collectively, these sites form a European Union-wide network known as Natura 2000. The AA determines whether the impacts of plans would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site. Following a ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) that the United Kingdom had failed to transpose the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) into UK Law in case C-06-/04 (Commission v United Kingdom) and as a result the UK Government is amending the Habitat Regulations.

With respect to these matters this Scoping Report includes information about the location and condition of European Sites within the Tees Valley (under objective 5 of Appendix B) and **we seek your views as to whether you consider that the scope of the WMDPDs is likely to affect the sub-regions SPA and SAC.**

Discussions with the JSU regarding the likely effects of the WMDPDs have led to the view that it is too early to determine. This provisional opinion will be reviewed as work progresses and will be determined prior to the Preferred Options Consultation.

<sup>7</sup> [www.wildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk)

## **F – To protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the rural and urban land and landscapes**

The Tees Valley has a varied built and natural landscape / environment, from the gently undulating North York Moors to the spectacular and biodiversity rich coastal stretches. The main Tees Valley conurbation merges the settlements of Redcar, Middlesbrough and Stockton whilst the other major population centres of Hartlepool and Darlington lie to the north and west of the sub region, respectively. There are also a number of rural hamlets to the north, south and west of the sub region.

There are also a number of areas such as Billingham which have a strong industrial fabric and form. The sub region has a large reserve of previously developed employment land in the region of 1,132 ha which equates to 59% of the entire North East's brownfield employment land stock<sup>8</sup>.

Although there is not a defined greenbelt within the Tees Valley the importance of retaining settlement identity and open countryside is of paramount importance and is imbedded within current planning policy. Green wedges and development restrictions on the periphery of existing settlements provide important opportunities for recreation and preserving community identity.

## **G – To protect and enhance the sub region's cultural heritage**

The Tees Valley has a long and varied history and development that is portrayed in buildings, landscapes and monuments to this day. Iron and Bronze Age landscapes and features can be experienced whilst walking through the Eston Hills whilst Middlesbrough's Listed Transporter Bridge looms over the City emphasising the Tees Valley strong industrial past. In the Tees Valley conservation areas are mainly in the older villages and small town centres, although there are also a number within the main built up areas. Conservation areas can have an important role in promoting the Tees Valley, attracting visitors and enriching the lives of local people<sup>9</sup>.

### **Cultural heritage statistics in the Tees Valley**

- 1,894 Listed Buildings
- 33 Grade I Listed Buildings
- 15 'Buildings at Risk'
- 122 Scheduled Monuments
- 56 Conservation Areas
- 7 Registered Parks and Gardens

*Source: Heritage Counts 2005*

## **H – To reduce the causes and impacts of climate change**

According to the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP):

*As global temperature warms, global-average sea level may rise by between 7 and 36 cm by the 2050s, and by between 9 and 69 cm by the 2080s. The majority of this change will occur due to the expansion of warmer ocean water. It appears unlikely that the West Antarctic ice-sheet will contribute much to sea-level rise during the twenty-first century.*

<sup>8</sup> RSS Technical Background Report

<sup>9</sup> Tees Valley Structure Plan

Careful planning and design is required to ensure an effective use of natural resources, for example by:

- minimising the environmental damage of future development through sustainable construction,
- reducing emissions from existing development; and
- encouraging 'carbon neutral' development.

The Tees Valley should reduce its contribution of emissions of greenhouse gases and should develop policies to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are unavoidable. Different areas of the sub-region are at varying risks from climate change, Hartlepool and the wetlands around Teesmouth are particularly at risk from the impacts of climate change (rising sea levels)<sup>10</sup>. Managing the risk and effects of coastal erosion will be a key concern for the future. The Stern Report (October 2006) has also provided the most vivid indication of the financial implications of ignoring climate change concluding that it will cost the world \$3.88 trillion if climate change is not addressed within a decade.

Climate change is likely to lead to stormier winters, rising sea levels and an increased risk of flooding to coastal towns. This needs to be addressed in measures such as flood protection and the location of future growth. The Tees Valley along with every other Authority organisation and individual must seek to reduce greenhouse gasses emissions (Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the principal gas linked with climate change) from buildings, industries and transport and the implications of these issues will need to be considered within the Core Strategy and the Development Policies Document to ensure that the spatial planning aspects are addressed. Any development policy measures that seek reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions whether it be to reduce the transport of materials or greater energy efficiency should contribute towards a commitment to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction which should be consistent with the Government's commitments (under the Kyoto Treaty) to reduce national emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and the Tees Valley's Draft Climate Change Plan to achieve a minimum target of 8.75% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> below 2000 levels by 2012 and a further 27% by 2030.

#### **Energy Consumption in the Tees Valley (GWh)**

- Darlington = 2,889
- Hartlepool = 2,779
- Middlesbrough = 3,521
- Redcar & Cleveland = 8,842
- Stockton = 10,692

*Source: Department of Trade & Industry, 2003  
figures based on Total Final Energy  
Consumption at LA Level*

## **I – To reduce Crime**

Community safety, crime and the fear of crime are key social issues in all communities. Elevated low-level crime levels can lead to areas becoming run down and deprived. The factors which affect crime and the fear of crime are tied to other issues such as health and well being, regeneration and housing. Overall crime figures for 2005 / 2006 still show incidents in the Tees Valley are above the national average although there has been a reduction in rates from 2004 / 2005<sup>11</sup>. It terms of crime relating to minerals and waste issues illegal disposal of waste (fly

<sup>10</sup> Area with potential to flood as defined by the Environment Agency

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.teesvalley-jsu.gov.uk/tvstats.htm>



tipping) and reported incidents of ‘pickers’ (theft of valuable items from Civic Amenity Sites) are deemed to be a key measurable indicator.

### **J - To improve and safeguard health and well being while reducing inequalities in health**

Health and well being is a core issue in the Tees Valley that affects all residents. In order to improve health and well being Authorities not only need to ensure there is an appropriate level of health services, facilities, open space and recreational activities in the sub region but also provide an effective policy framework to protect the quality of life for all residents.

The 2001 census showed that the Tees Valley had a higher proportion of people with a health problem than the national average. People of working age 3.7% more likely to have a health problem than the average for England and Wales at 17.3% compared to 13.6%.

Bearing in mind the nature of the documents that are being assessed in this appraisal it has been noted that there are only a limited number of ways that the Core Strategy and Development Policy Document, in isolation, can influence health and well being issues. Notwithstanding, it has been considered that there is opportunity to monitor waste and minerals developments in terms of being a ‘good neighbour’ (social isolation) and also the long term benefit of providing open space / recreational facilities as part of restoration schemes.

### **K – To increase public involvement in minerals and waste planning**

#### **Community Liaison Groups**

- Facilitate an open exchange of information
- Ensure accurate information
- Enable community to ask questions and raise concerns
- Monitor progress
- Shape restoration plans

Engaging with the public during the development of minerals and waste projects is an important factor to delivering good design, community benefits and ensuring the appropriate management / operation of sites. There is also potential to increase the general awareness of waste management through engagement. A key way of measuring such factors is by monitoring the number and success of community liaison groups for minerals and waste developments.

### **L – To ensure high and stable levels of employment and economic growth in the Tees Valley**

The Regional Economic Strategy (2006 – 2011) and Draft Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan seek to provide framework for the future economic development in the region and provide a focussed set of principles for the Tees Valley. Historically the Tees Valley has been heavily dependent on traditional industries such as shipbuilding, iron & steel manufacture and chemicals. However, since the 1970s almost 90,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in the sub-region and whilst manufacturing remains significant within the local economy there has, in fact, been a major shift in employment terms toward the service sector<sup>12</sup>.

The October 2006 edition of Economic Profile for the Tees Valley (compiled by the Tees Valley JSU<sup>13</sup>) has shown that employment rates in the sub region are 4.1% behind the national

<sup>12</sup> Inform, Tees Valley JSU (March 2006)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.teesvalley-jsu.gov.uk/reports/i&f/atecon%20-%20econ%20profile%20Oct%202006.doc>

average at 70.4% compared to 74.5% for the UK. The report also highlights that VAT registrations have increased between 2004 and 2005 from 940 to 1,040 and overall VAT stocks had increased by 360 between the beginning of the financial years of 2005 and 2006 (10,425).

GVA data shows the contribution of an area to the national economy in terms of the value of goods and services produced in that area. The GVA per head in the Tees Valley in 2002 was 25 percent below the UK average<sup>14</sup>.

### **M – To raise educational and training achievement across the sub region**

Due to the shift away from traditional manufacturing in the sub region towards service industries there is a large proportion of the workforce which needs to be re-trained in order to gain new skills.

With regards to qualifications, the Tees Valley has an 18.4% NVQ4 attainment rate compared to the national average of 26.5%. Trade apprenticeships in the sub region are 8.5% compared to the national average 5.6%<sup>15</sup>.

Given the nature of the documents being appraised it will also be important to monitor the number of further education courses and training that are recognised by the Chartered Institute of Waste Management.

**Table 3.2 Qualifications (all figures are for working age)**

	Tees Valley (%)	North East (%)	GB (%)
NVQ4 and above	18.4	21.3	26.5
NVQ3 and above	14.7	15.4	15.1
Trade and apprenticeship	8.5	7.3	5.6
NVQ2 and above	17	18.3	15.8
NVQ1 and above	16.5	15.5	14.3
Other Qualifications	6.2	6.6	8.4
No Qualifications	18.8	15.6	14.3

Source: Viewed online at [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk) Data from the Annual Population Survey (2005).

### **N – To reduce the movement of materials and increase choice of transport mode**

The movement of materials is an important issue that also has implications for climate change, air emissions and road congestion. The reduction of road and air transportation is seen as a way of positively contributing towards climate change. The Tees Valley already

**Freight road transport energy consumption (thousands of tonnes of fuel)**

- Darlington = 24.1
- Hartlepool = 13.7
- Middlesbrough = 17.8
- Redcar & Cleveland = 14.3
- Stockton = 33.5

Source: Department of Trade & Industry, 2004 figures based on Freight movements

<sup>14</sup> Inform, Tees Valley JSU (March 2006)

<sup>15</sup> 2005 Annual Population Survey

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supports existing rail and port infrastructure which would benefit any future minerals and waste developments.

Reducing the need to travel by providing appropriate processing and treatment facilities within the sub region and clustering like developments, thereby reducing transboundary travel, is also considered to be an positive contribution towards reducing climate change and road congestion.

### **O – Access to waste and mineral facilities**

Around 1.9 million people live within a half hour drive of the urban area of Stockton and Middlesbrough<sup>16</sup> and the sub region benefits from arterial road network including the A1(M), A19, A689, A66 and A174. Access to minerals and waste facilities is an important issue and one that can affect the use of facilities, recycling rates and may also reduce the need to travel.

Households in Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton benefit from a weekly kerbside collection of residual waste and a fortnightly collection for kerbside recycling. Redcar and Cleveland runs a fortnightly collection for both. The National Civic Amenity (CA) Site Report states that urban authorities should aim to provide a CA site within a 10minute drive for every resident. In order to achieve this aim an appropriate (in terms of type and location) network of facilities need to be provided. There are currently 5 CA sites that serve the sub region.

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<sup>16</sup> Tees Valley Economic Profile, October 2006

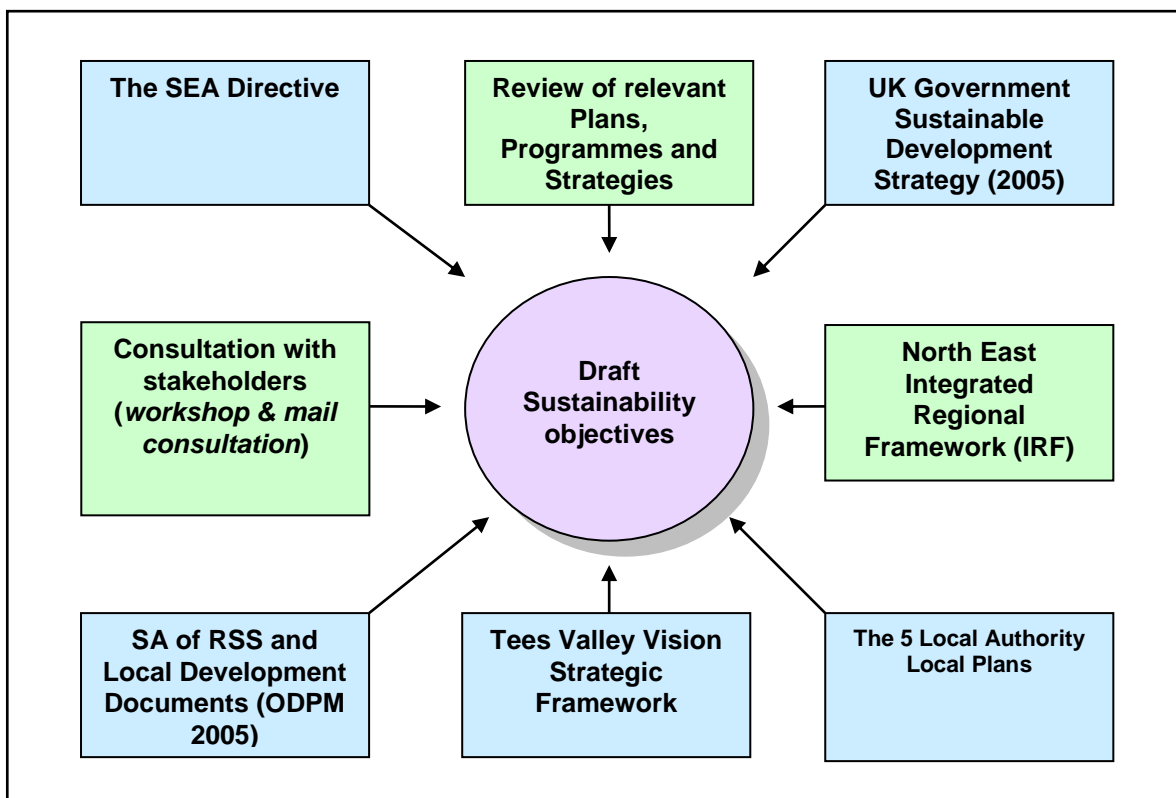
## 4. Development of the SA Objectives

### 4.1 Introduction

The SA objectives or “appraisal criteria” are components of a framework that will be used consistently to appraise the WMDPDs. The SA objectives are derived from a number of key sources (identified in the Box 4.1). Following provisional work to complete the review of plans, programmes and strategies, a draft set of SA objectives were developed. These were broadly based on the SA objectives developed to appraise the North East Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) and North East Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Additionally, each of the Local Plans and Programmes reviewed were used to ‘fine tune’ each objective and sub-question within a local context, paying particular attention to local issues. These objectives define the long term aspirations for the sub-region with regard to social, economic and environmental considerations. Given the focus of the WMDPDs particular emphasis was placed on creating objectives that would adequately measure direct impacts on waste and minerals issues.

**What are SA objectives?** ‘Objectives specify a desired direction for change and they should *focus on outcomes*, not how the outcomes will be achieved (‘inputs’); they should focus on ends rather than means; on the state of the environment rather than on responses to pressure on it. For instance, they should focus on “improving biodiversity” or “Improving access”, rather than say establishing wildlife areas or protecting rail corridors (different ways of getting to what is really wanted).’ (Therivel, R (2005) SEA in Action).


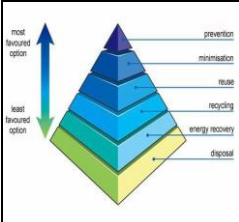

#### Box 4.1 Development of the SA Objectives











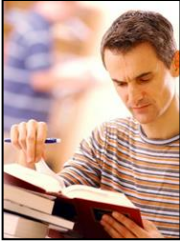

The objectives were discussed, revised and provisionally agreed at a workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, held at the Wynward Rooms, Billingham. Relevant Council Officers, members of the JSU, community groups and representatives from the three statutory consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) were invited to attend. A full list of attendees is given at Appendix C.

Following the workshop, a revised set of SA objectives were circulated to members of the JSU Steering Group. The finalised draft set of objectives following further feedback from the workshop attendees is presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1 Draft SA Objectives**

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed Appraisal Criteria
 <p><b>1. To make better use of resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce mineral consumption?</li> <li>• Will it minimise mineral sterilisation?</li> <li>• Will it increase the sales of secondary minerals?</li> <li>• Will it provide an appropriate level of aggregates?</li> <li>• Will it harness natural resources e.g. wind, tidal for energy?</li> <li>• Will it make better use of local resources? (proximity principle)</li> <li>• Will it reduce Ecological Footprint?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>2. To move up the waste hierarchy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it divert materials away from landfill?</li> <li>• Will it increase the reuse of materials?</li> <li>• Will it increase innovative in recycling and waste facilities?</li> <li>• Will it increase local recycling rates?</li> <li>• Will ensure an adequate network of waste management facilities to meet society's needs?</li> <li>• Will it encourage the use of 'energy from waste technologies' where it doesn't detract from recycling?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>3. To ensure good air quality for all</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it maintain or improve dust, odour and emissions from minerals and waste facilities?</li> <li>• Will it reduce environmental degradation from the eight main air pollutants?</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed Appraisal Criteria
 <p><b>4. To protect and enhance the quality of the sub region's controlled waters?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect and enhance the quality of the sub region's controlled waters? (inland, ground, aquifer, coastal, bathing, rivers and sea waters)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>5. To protect and enhance the sub-region's biodiversity and geodiversity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect SSSI's, SPA's and SAC's and other statutory designated sites?</li> <li>• Are opportunities taken in operation and restoration of waste and minerals sites to enhance biodiversity?</li> <li>• Will it protect non-statutory (local) designated sites?</li> <li>• Will it take into consideration species and habitats?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>6. To protect and enhance the quality and diversity of the rural and urban land and landscapes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce greenfield development?</li> <li>• Will it increase remediation of contaminated land?</li> <li>• Does it enhance the rural or urban landscape?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>7. To protect and enhance the sub region's cultural heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it protect and enhance historic landscapes and features?</li> <li>• Will it preserve and enhance heritage settlements and buildings?</li> </ul>
 <p><b>8. To reduce the causes and impacts of climate change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?</li> <li>• Will it reduce imports and exports of materials?</li> <li>• Will it reduce flood risk?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the loss of coastal resources due to sea level rises?</li> <li>• Will it reduce energy consumption?</li> <li>• Will it increase the use of renewable and waste energy sources?</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. To reduce crime</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce fly tipping?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the use of unlicensed sites?</li> <li>• Will it increase the use of 'Designing out Crime'?</li> </ul>

Proposed SA Objectives		Proposed Appraisal Criteria
		principles on waste and minerals facilities?
	<b>10. To improve and safeguard health and well-being while reducing inequalities in health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it ensure that waste and minerals sites are appropriately managed in order to reduce social isolation?</li> <li>• Will it increase the amount of recreational facilities and open space?</li> </ul>
	<b>11. To increase public involvement in minerals and waste planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it increase community liaison groups?</li> <li>• Will it encourage education and training?</li> <li>• Will it promote awareness of waste management generally?</li> </ul>
	<b>12. To ensure high and stable levels of employment and economic growth in the Tees Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it generate new employment and reduce unemployment in the sub region?</li> <li>• Will it increase GDP in the sub region?</li> <li>• Will it protect existing business and increase business start up's?</li> <li>• Will it encourage social enterprise?</li> <li>• Will it encourage clusters of related development?</li> <li>• Will it increase the value of post industrial land?</li> </ul>
	<b>13. To raise educational and training achievement across the sub region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it improve qualifications?</li> <li>• Will it ensure people have access to learning and training opportunities relating to waste and minerals?</li> <li>• Will it raise awareness of waste management technology?</li> </ul>
	<b>14. To reduce the movement of materials and increase choice of transport mode</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it encourage use of rail and port infrastructure?</li> <li>• Will it reduce the transportation of materials by road?</li> </ul>


Proposed SA Objectives	Proposed Appraisal Criteria
 <p><b>15. Access to waste and minerals facilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it reduce the need to travel?</li> <li>• Will it increase the number of Civic Amenity Sites in the Tees Valley?</li> <li>• Will it increase 'kerbside recycling initiatives'?</li> <li>• Will it provide more facilities for small to medium enterprise?</li> </ul>

Table 4.3 shows the extent to which the draft SA objectives encompass the range of issues identified in the SEA Directive.

**Table 4.2 The Draft SA Objectives Compared Against the SEA Directive Issues**

SEA Directive Issue	SA Objective
Biodiversity	5
Population *	10, 11, 12, 13
Human Health	10
Fauna	5
Flora	5
Soil	5
Water	4
Air	3
Climatic Factors	1,2,3,8,14
Material Assets *	1,2,7
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological	14
Landscape	13

\* These terms are not clearly defined in the SEA Directive

The assessment indicates that all of the topics mentioned within the Directive are covered by the SA objectives and as such will aid compliance with the scope of assessment required by the Directive (Annex I). An appraisal framework has been developed which combines the baseline information and the objectives and is discussed in the following section.



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## 5. The Proposed SA Framework

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### 5.1 Assessing Sustainability Performance

Table 5.1 sets out a proposed appraisal framework, developed to meet the requirements of the SA Guidance (including the requirements of the SEA Directive). It contains the SA objectives and appraisal criteria (presented in Section 4). The matrix enables the potential effects of the proposed policy to be considered against these objectives and criteria over the short, medium and long term and also encourages consideration of specific requirements of the SEA Directive within the commentary column. These factors are briefly explained below:

- **Timescale** - Will the potential effect manifest itself in the short, medium or the long term? The short term can be interpreted as being within the first year or so of the adoption of the WMDPDs, the medium term within the lifetime of the WMDPDs, and the longer term beyond this.
- **Commentary** - The commentary text within the matrix and summary text within the report will identify possible mitigation measures, in the form of amendments to policy or inclusion/removal of policy to increase the opportunity for sustainable development. Where a score is indicated as 'uncertain' the commentary should identify ways in which this uncertainty could be reduced, for example, through additional data collection or further consultation with experts.
- **Cumulative effects**, as well as the temporary/permanence and likelihood of the effects are identified within the commentary.
- **Transboundary** effects will be noted where the effect is felt differentially within the sub-region compared to the implications it has outwith the Tees Valley.

Each policy (or option) being appraised should be considered against each of the SA Objectives in the matrix in Table 5.2. This is undertaken by the appraisal team and is informed by the baseline data and evidence gathered as part of the Scoping Report. It should also be informed by expert judgement from various technical specialists including key stakeholders and consultees. The detailed criteria will be used to inform the assessment, although the individual criteria will not be answered.

The results are recorded using the measures identified in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 Possible Alignment between the Policies and the SA Objectives**

<b>Alignment</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Symbol</b>
Major Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	<b>++</b>
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	<b>+</b>
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective	<b>0</b>
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	<b>-</b>
Major Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	<b>--</b>
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	<b>~</b>
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	<b>?</b>

Table 5.2 Sustainability Appraisal Framework (Template)

Policy / Action / Activity					
SA Objectives	Detailed Criteria / Guidance	Timescale			Commentary / Explanation (to include cumulative and synergistic effects as well as the differential effects on urban/rural environment)
		Short term	Medium term	Long term	
1. To make better use of resources	Will it reduce mineral consumption? Will it minimise mineral sterilisation? Will it increase the sales of secondary minerals? Will it provide an appropriate level of aggregates?	++	++	+	
2. To move up the waste hierarchy	Will it divert materials away from landfill? Will it reduce the number of tonnes of waste produced per annum?	-	-	--	
3..... etc		?	?	?	
<b>Overall Commentary</b>					

- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	+ Move towards marginally	++ Move towards significantly	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	~ No Relationship
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## 6. Conclusions and Next Steps

This Scoping Report presents the findings of the initial tasks (Stage A) undertaken for the SA. It follows closely the advice and guidance provided by the ODPM and has been prepared to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive and associated regulations. It fulfils the requirements outlined within the Quality Assurance Checklist within the ODPM (2005) SA Guidance (see 6.1).

Following the end of the scoping consultation period, comments will be considered and the information in this report will be amended, as appropriate, in advance of its use during the next stages of the SA process.

The next stage of the SA process (Stage B) involves predicting and evaluating the effects of the WMDPDs. This appraisal will seek to demonstrate the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the WMDPDs and based on this appraisal will consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. The appraisal process will be reported within the SA Report which will be published for public consultation at the same time as the draft WMDPDs Preferred Options. The SA Report structure will follow that outlined in Appendix 15 of the ODPM Guidance on SA.

### 6.1 Quality Assurance

The ODPM SA Guidance contains a Quality Assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. Those relevant to this stage have been highlighted.

**Table 6.1 Quality Assurance Checklist**

<b>Quality Assurance Checklist</b>	
<b>Objectives and Context</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.</li> </ul>	Section 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.</li> </ul>	International and EC objectives and targets are identified in Appendix A. The commentary outlines where these are taken on board by the SA objectives and framework. Targets should be set following consultation on objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.</li> </ul>	Section 4 contains the SA objectives and detailed criteria. Monitoring will be undertaken by future updating of the 'Future Monitoring Framework' which has been started as part of the baseline exercise as shown in Appendix B.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.</li> </ul>	Section 2 identifies these documents and Appendix A reviews them.
<b>Scoping</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.</li> </ul>	Consultation has been ongoing. A workshop was held in December 2006 to which all the environmental consultation bodies were invited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The appraisal focuses on significant issues.</li> </ul>	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in this Scoping Report which should assist in focussing on the significant issues in the appraisal.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout the report where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.
<b>Baseline Information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan (trends) are described.</li> </ul>	See Section 3. Trends are identified within Appendix B.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.</li> </ul>	See Section 3.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.</li> </ul>	These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.

# Appendix A

## Review of Plans and Programmes

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## **Appendix B Baseline Tables (Future Monitoring Framework)**

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## Appendix C

### List of Workshop Attendees

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Workshop Attendees (December 2006)
John Woods, Coast and Country Housing
Brian Simpson, Middlesbrough Environment City
Meurig Harris, Koppers LTD
Chris Hayward, Renew Tees Valley
Mrs Vikki Jackson-Smith, J&B Recycling
Peter Close, Natural England
Paul Knowles, UK Wood Recycling Ltd
Bev Lambert, Environment Agency
Suzie Shaw, Environment Agency
Simon Waller, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Peter Wood, UK Coal
Ian Bond, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mr A&E Thompson, A&E Thompson
Martin Kerby, RSPB
J. Robert Campbell
Cllr Geoff Lilley, Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr Lupton
Cllr Cherrett
Peter Boydell, Corus
Dave Parrish, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Ian Fenny, Alab Environmental
Rob George, Darlington Borough Council
Geoff Storey, Aggregates Industries
Gillian Gibson, CPRE
Mike Chicken, Stockton Borough Council
Dave Pybus, Cleveland Potash Ltd
Gerry Carpenter, GONE
Fay McKenzie, JSU
Andrew Craig, JSU
Alex Conti, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Tom Barrett, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Tom Britcliffe, Hartlepool Borough Council
Brendan Boyle, Darlington Borough Council
Rosemary Young, Stockton Borough Council
Paul Copeland, Stockton Borough Council
Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough Council
Jason McKewan, Durham County Council
Helen Birdsalle, JSU
Roy Merrett, Hartlepool Borough Council
Richard Waldmeyer, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mary Campbell, Entec UK
Ross McLaughlin, Entec UK
Hannah Knight, Entec UK
Olly Buck, Entec UK
Neil Marlborough, Entec UK