



Stockton on Tees Local Plan

Community Impact Assessment

Adoption Version

January 2019

1.0 Introduction to Community Impact Assessment

- 1.1 The Equality Act 2010 aims to ensure that everyone has a fair chance in life. It contains a requirement for Local Authorities to consider the diverse needs and requirements of the communities in the Borough when planning its services. Local Authorities also have a duty under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006 (Gender Equality) to positively promote race, disability and gender equality.
- 1.2 The Equality Act also establishes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which the Council, as a public body, is required to follow. The PSED requires that in the exercising of its functions, the Council has due regard for the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a Protected Characteristic and those who do not; and
 - Foster good relations between people who share a Protected Characteristic and those who do not.
- 1.3 Community Impact Assessment (CIA) is Stockton Council's approach to equality impact assessment and is used, where appropriate, in order to improve the work of the Council. It does so by making sure that the Council does not discriminate and that, where possible, promotes equality. It is a way to ensure the likely impacts on the people who live and work within Borough are carefully considered, thus demonstrating 'Due Regards' as required under the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.4 The Local Plan is now ready for adoption – the strategies and policies have undergone a rigorous public examination, extensive engagement and consultation with residents and businesses, and publicity for those who may have an interest in the Plan. This document provides the final Community Impact Assessment in preparing the Local Plan for adoption and implementation. This means that, as far as possible, any negative consequences of strategies and policies have been eliminated or minimised and opportunities for promoting equality maximised. Post adoption, the Council will monitor the impact and efficacy of the strategies and policies in the Local Plan and make changes if circumstances dictate. At that stage, it may be appropriate to make further formal assessment, dependent on the scale and nature of any proposed changes.

Scope and Detail of Assessment

- 1.5 This assessment aims to consider impacts on groups with the following protected characteristics as identified by the Equality Act 2010:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Race / Ethnicity
 - Religion or belief (including lack of religion or belief)
 - Sex

- Sexual Orientation
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

1.6 Table 1 below sets out the process the Council has followed in this Assessment.

Table 1: The Community Impact Assessment Process

Stage 1: Screening	Identify the purpose and aims of the 'policy' to be assessed and the need and scope for a CIA.
Stage 2: Scoping the Assessment	Consideration of policy function
Stage 3: Consideration of data and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of existing data ● Consideration of mitigation or methods to further promote equality; ● Consultation and further research; ● Repetition of previous stages as necessary.
Stage 4: Assessment	Assess the impact or effects of the policy on equality target groups. Decide when further assessment is necessary.
Stage 5: Reviewing and scrutinising the impact	Outline future arrangements for monitoring and review

The Borough and People of Stockton on Tees

1.7 Stockton-on-Tees forms a vital part of the wider Tees Valley economy, which has a successful history of working in partnership to create the best conditions for economic growth. The Tees Valley covers the five Local Authority areas of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees. Tees Valley is a functional economic area that is distinct in terms of business composition, industry focus, growth sectors, assets and infrastructure from that of the wider geography. However, Stockton on Tees Borough is a significant economic area in its own right including a number of strong business locations and distinct settlements.

1.8 The Borough's 2017 population has increased by 4.5% since 2007, whereas across the North East region there has only been an increase in population of 3.2%.

Table 2: Population Figures

Population	Stockton-on-Tees	North East	United Kingdom
All Ages	196,487	2,644,727	66,040,229
Males	96,793	1,297,924	32,581,801
Females	99,694	1,346,803	33,458,428

1.9 Work has been carried out in recent years to look at the changing profile of the Borough's population, the impact this is likely to have on public services and how the Council's services will need to adapt. The Borough's population is projected to increase by 5.1% by 2041 equating to an additional 9,959 residents compared with 2017. The numbers of residents aged 65-79 and over 80 are projected to increase dramatically

whereas the number of people aged 45-64 is projected to decrease. The percentage increase in the Borough is greater than that for the population across the North East.

- 1.10 Life expectancy as a whole is increasing across the Borough but the inequalities are continuing to increase for men and women. In 2014-2016 Stockton-on-Tees Borough reported the greatest inequality in life expectancy nationally, and health inequalities remain a priority focus in Stockton-on-Tees.
- 1.11 The Borough has a unique social and economic mix with discrete geographical areas of multiple and isolated types of deprivation, situated alongside areas of relative affluence. The Department of Communities and Local Government's indices of multiple deprivation (IMD) 2015, show Stockton-on-Tees is ranked 88 out of the 326 Local Authorities districts in England making it within the 30% most deprived areas nationally. Whilst 28% of the population live within the top 20% of least deprived areas of England, 28% live in the 20% most deprived areas. In addition, 34 out of the 120 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) across Stockton-on-Tees are within the 20% least deprived LSOAs in England, whereas 33 of the LSOAs are within the 20% most deprived LSOAs in England.
- 1.12 Comparisons with the 2010 IMD indicate that the gap is increasing between the most deprived and the less deprived areas of the Borough. However, despite the Borough's levels of relative deprivation, a resident satisfaction survey carried out in 2015 showed that 87% of residents are satisfied with their local area.

The Stockton on Tees Local Plan

- 1.13 The Local Plan sets out the Council's policies and proposals to guide planning decisions and establishes the framework for the sustainable economic growth and development of the Borough up to 2032. It contains the vision for our Borough we want to create and be a part of in 2032:

'In 2032, the major settlements and industrial locations in Stockton-on-Tees Borough are fundamental to the economic growth and success of the Tees Valley City Region and its positive contribution to the northern and national economies. Economic growth continues to be focused on sites of strategic importance as well as established sites which are accessible from the strategic transport networks and remain attractive to local businesses and new inward investment.

Economic growth across the Borough is supported by a high quality local road network, and modern sustainable transport and communications infrastructure. Residents and visitors make full use of opportunities for sustainable transport choices.

The upgraded and regenerated centres of Stockton, Billingham and Thornaby, are supplemented by facilities and investment in Norton and Yarm which provide opportunities for a range of improved retail, culture, leisure, and related facilities. Residents have access to the very best in housing, education and training, health care, employment, sport, recreational and cultural facilities, which has created a better quality of life for existing and future generations.

Sustainable communities have been created through new housing development in sustainable locations, in particular through the redevelopment of previously developed land within the regenerated River Tees corridor alongside other development in the conurbation, a sustainable urban extension at West Stockton, as well as extensions to the conurbation. Wynyard has grown into a sustainable settlement of high quality, accommodating a mix of executive housing, market housing and additional

employment development. All residents have access to high-quality social, community and green infrastructure.

The diversity, quality and character of the natural and built environment, together with the Borough's unique historic assets continue to be valued, protected, enhanced and resilient to climate change for the benefit of everyone.'

2.0 Name of service/function or policy being assessed:

2.1 Stockton on Tees Local Plan ((2017 to 2032) (STLP) Adoption Version)

3.0 The Community Impact Assessment Process

Stage 1: Screening

What is the purpose of the proposed Stockton on Tees Local Plan 2017- 2032?

3.1 The Local Plan sets out the Council's vision for the Borough, and the strategy, objectives and policies needed to deliver that vision for development in the Borough during the plan period. The Plan includes detailed site allocations for housing, employment and other uses including policies for development management. It will replace the current Adopted Core Strategy (2010), Adopted Stockton on Tees Local Plan (1997) and Alteration No1 (2006).

Who in the main will be affected?

3.2 The new Local Plan will affect all people living, working, visiting or carrying out business within the Borough, and may impact on neighbouring authority areas. Given this, there is a need to assess all the policies in the final version of the Local Plan – which themselves stem from strategies and overarching themes.

Stage 2: Scoping the Assessment

What are the aims, objectives, outcomes, purpose of the policy, service change, function that you are assessing?

3.3. It is important that the Council has an up- to-date Local Plan prepared and adopted in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Government guidance explains that a local (development) plan '*is at the heart of the planning system with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Plans set out a vision and a framework for the future development of the area, addressing needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure – as well as a basis for conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and achieving well designed places.*'

Who implements or delivers the policy, service or function? State if this is undertaken by more than one team, service, and department including any external partners.

3.4 The overarching development strategies will be implemented by the Council as a whole. Where the Plan is development focussed, it forms the basis of decisions and

guidance which affects external stakeholders including the public, developers and service providers.

Stage 3: Consideration of Data

Have the impacts identified been assessed using up to date and reliable evidence and data? Please state evidence sources and conclusions drawn (e.g. survey results, customer complaints, monitoring data etc.).

- 3.5 The Council's Annual Monitoring Report provides a profile of the Local Plan area and Census data provides information about the make-up of individual communities. The evidence base which underpins the Local Plan includes information on housing, employment and infrastructure needs. An array of evidence has been used to formulate strategy and policy and the full range of supporting documents can be found via the Council's [website](#). Full engagement and consultation has taken place with the public, duty to co-operate partners, statutory bodies, and town and parish councils, and everyone who lives, works, and visits the area via local press and consultation events. The [Statement of Community Involvement](#) sets out the Council's adopted approach to consultation and publicity, and a series of Consultation Statements set out the details of consultation and responses.

Have you engaged or consulted with any identified groups or individuals if necessary and what were the results, e.g. have the staff forums/unions.

- 3.6 The vision, strategies, objectives and policies of the new Local Plan have developed over time and through earlier preparation of Regeneration Development Plan Document – the Regeneration and Environment Local Plan (RELP). The RELP was originally intended to be three separate documents: the Regeneration DPD, the Environment DPD and the Yarm and Eaglescliffe Area Action Plan. All of those documents have been publicised and consulted upon internally with the Council's officers and Members, and more widely in accordance with the regulations, and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement operational at that time. The previous planning policy documents have also been subject to Sustainability Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment, and the consultation and engagement required in those processes.
- 3.7 The Council has consulted with everyone on its consultee database by email and/or letter, including the specific consultation bodies and general consultation bodies identified in the Statement of Community Involvement, as well as individual members of the public who requested to be notified of STLP progress. Officers have also taken the plan and proposals to libraries to speak directly to the public, and ran publicity in the Council's newspaper and advertised in the local press.
- 3.8 The Sustainability Appraisals undertaken during the process of developing the strategy, objectives and policies of the STLP have been informed by external as well as internal scrutiny during workshop sessions. In working this way, we were able to take account of opinions and comments on the plan from various sections of professional and voluntary sectors.
- 3.9 Elected Member briefing sessions have been held throughout the process of preparation of the STLP, to offer Members an opportunity to discuss and comment on

previous drafts. Further to this internal Local Plan Officers Steering Group including senior officers from other Council services have helped the development of the Plan strategy and policies.

- 3.10 Details of the stages of public consultation undertaken are provided in the STLP Consultation Statements.
- 3.11 The Council prepared a Statement of Community Involvement and this was published in November 2016. This sets out how the Council involve all interested parties, including the local community, in the preparation of Local Development Documents as well the determination of planning applications. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out most of the requirements for involving interested parties in the preparation of Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 3.12. The Local Plan also has a number of other accompanying documents, which support the plan. This includes a Sustainability Appraisal, Consultation Statement, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Infrastructure Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal document examines the vision, priorities, policies, and housing and employment sites to determine the extent to which they embody the principles of sustainable development, and whether they will result in any significant positive and negative effects on the environment, local economy and society, housing and health and well-being. These documents have been available for public scrutiny.
- 3.13 Throughout the process, the Council has engaged with local residents, businesses, land owners and developers. Firstly, a consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was undertaken in summer 2016 for an 8 week period alongside targeted consultation on the Local Plan. A further consultation on the draft Local Plan was then held in autumn 2016 for a 9 week period.
- 3.14 The documents were made available at all libraries across the Borough along with promotional posters and flyers. Consultation letters and emails were sent to all those on the Local Plan consultation database. For the Statement of Community Involvement and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report a total of 736 interested parties, including organisations and individuals were sent letters or emails. For the Draft Local Plan, a total of 746 interested parties, including organisations and individuals were consulted. In addition, six events were held throughout the consultation at libraries across the Borough.
- 3.15 To further engage and promote the consultation an article publicising the Draft Local Plan was placed within the Catalyst e-bulletin; Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association (SRCGA) sent out an e-mail letter to all members. Catalyst provides representation and support for Stockton on Tees' voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE). The e-bulletin goes out to 700+ email addresses representing around 430 organisations. Stockton Residents and Community Groups Association (SRCGA) offers support to residents associations and other community and voluntary groups across the Borough; 67 e-mails relating to the Draft Local Plan consultation were sent out. More detailed information on the consultations is included in the Consultation Statement, which details how the consultation was carried out.

- 3.16 Furthermore, the Local Plan has an extensive evidence base in order to inform all the policies, this includes a Town Centre Study, Local and Neighbourhood Centres Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, and Open Space Assessment. These documents provide us with the important information, such as the local retail needs and open space requirements of the residents in the Borough.
- 3.17 During the summer of 2018, the draft local plan was scrutinised by an independent Inspector, appointed by Government – during, before and after a series of public Hearing Sessions. In those sessions, to which the public were entitled to attend and be formally involved, the Local Plan objectives, strategies and policies and supporting evidence were examined. Officers of the Council, consultants, stakeholders and interested parties helped the Inspector understand the aim, context and evidence underpinning the Local Plan.
- 3.18 The examination has led to proposals for modifications to the Local Plan to make it ‘sound’. Those modifications have been subject to publicity and consultation, which involved a further CIA. This consultation gave the opportunity for views to be expressed on those Main Modifications. A variety of information was made available for completeness, however representations were only sought in relation to the post-submission Main Modifications. Whilst all representations received have been passed to the Inspector, the Council made clear that he would not consider the following:
- Comments on the Additional Modifications Schedule.
 - Comments on the Policies Map schedule.
 - Parts of the Local Plan which are not subject to a change identified in the Main Modification schedule.

The adoption of the Local Plan is to be made by Stockton’s Full Council, with the democratic process involving the Council’s Planning Committee and Cabinet which gives a final opportunity for Member involvement.

What plans do you have in place, or are developing, that will mitigate any likely identified negative impacts? For example, what plans, if any, will be put in place to reduce the impact?

- 3.19 It is intended that the implementation of the STLP will act to reduce inequalities in the social, physical and natural environment and mitigate the envisaged adverse impacts of new development on the community and Borough as a whole. The Assessment has not revealed any adverse impact on any particular group. It is considered that the Local Plan will not unlawfully discriminate against any group or individual, or provide the grounds for such discrimination.

Who will be affected by this proposal? For example, who are the external/internal customers, communities, partners, stakeholders, the workforce etc.? Please consider all of the Protected Characteristics listed. Bear in mind that people affected by the proposals may well have more than one protected characteristic.

- Age:
- Disability:
- Gender Reassignment:
- Marriage and Civil Partnership:

- Pregnancy and maternity:
- Race:
- Religion and Belief:
- Sex:
- Sexual orientation:
- Other:

All of the above protected characteristics, all those in the Borough and possibly beyond Stockton's administrative boundaries could be affected by the Local Plan.

What are any likely positive impacts for the group/s identified above? You may wish to refer to the Equalities Duties detailed in the background information.

- 3.20 The STLP is written for all members of the community and not for specific individuals or groups. As a result, it is unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on any particular individual or group. There are however proposals within the STLP which could have positive impacts on some age and disability characteristics, and more generally in respect of policies in respect of sustainable design, meeting housing needs, gypsy and traveller populations, transport and community infrastructure.

What are the likely negative impacts for the group/s identified above? If so then are any particular groups affected more than others and why?

- 3.21 The STLP could have an impact on all those who live and work in the Borough regardless of age, disability or other protected characteristics. No potentially adverse impacts have been identified for any particular group. The proposed allocations and policies are unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on any particular group because they are not aimed at specific individuals or groups but only at the Borough's future development. There are however specific policies in respect of transport and infrastructure, and to meet the accommodation requirements of those in need of affordable homes, disabled and older persons, and gypsies and travellers. If these policies are not adopted by the Council, there could be adverse impacts on living opportunities and conditions in the Borough.

Stage 4: Assessment:

- 3.22 The assessment of Local Plan policies are set in **Appendix 1**

Stage 5: Reviewing and scrutinising the impact

What plans do you have in place to monitor the impact of the proposals once they have been implemented? (The full impact of the decision may only be known after the proposals have been implemented).

- 3.23 The STLP will be subject to a full implementation and monitoring regime to assess the impact of policies, whether objectives are being met and overall as a package helping to deliver corporate priorities. Whilst it is not envisaged that the plan will have an adverse impact on any particular group, the impact of policies can only be measured over time. Therefore, the plan includes an Implementation and Monitoring Framework, which means that the efficacy and impact of plan policies can be reviewed annually and documented, amongst other matters, in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

What course of action does this CIA suggest you take? More than one of the following may apply.

Outcome 1: No major change required. The CIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

Outcome 2: Adjust the policy to remove barriers identified by the CIA or better promote equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers identified? (Complete action plan).

Outcome 3: Continue the policy despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunities to promote equality identified. You will need to ensure that the CIA clearly sets out the justifications for continuing with it. You should consider whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact (see questions below). (Complete action plan).

Outcome 4: Stop and rethink the policy when the CIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. (Complete action plan).

Action Plan and Timetable for Implementation

- 3.24 ***It is considered that Outcome 1 is applicable and an Action Plan is not required. This is because the CIA does not identify any adverse impacts that would lead to inequalities that require a major change in the strategy, objectives and policies in order to proceed to Adoption. The wide ranging evidential and consultation activities in the preparation and subsequent adoption of the Local Plan, and iterative nature of Community Impact Assessment, means that the Council do not consider that the Local Plan strategies and policies will unlawfully discriminate against any group or individual, or provide the grounds for such discrimination. Furthermore, it is considered that the Council has demonstrated 'due regards' across all protected characteristics.***
- 3.25 ***A full implementation and monitoring regime is set out in an Appendix to the Local Plan, and progress against the policies will be reported in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.***

Appendix 1

Assessment of Policies

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
		Race	Disability	Gender	Age	Faith	Sexual Orientation	
SD1 - Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development	Follows the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in supporting sustainable development and working proactively to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. It states that development which accord with policies of Local Plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, and where policies are not relevant or out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise taking into account policies of NPPF.	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy reflects national policy (NPPF 2012) and is included so that sustainable development is pursued for the benefit of all.
SD2 - Strategic Development Needs	Sets out the requirements for the Borough's development needs including housing, employment sites and retail floor space (comparison and convenience).	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy sets out the strategic growth needs to 2032 for housing, economic growth and other development needs. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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SD3 - Housing Strategy	Outlines that a rolling 5 year supply of housing land will be met through provision of sufficient deliverable housing sites which incorporate a range of housing such as affordable housing; custom and self-build housing, and the Council's approach to failing delivery. It sets out the geographical distribution of housing sites within the Borough. It supports domestic extensions where they are in keeping with the property and the street scene and avoid significant loss of privacy and amenity for the residents of neighbouring properties. It also sets out the instances when the Council will support replacement dwellings in the countryside.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Sets out the Council's strategy for delivery of housing and replacement dwellings in the countryside, including locations, types and design of domestic extensions. It has the potential to benefit all. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
SD4 - Economic Growth Strategy	Outlines areas where economic development should be located across the Borough, giving support for the redevelopment of previously developed land and prominent sites which have been derelict for a significant period of time. It supports appropriate sustainable tourism proposals in the Borough's main town centres, tourist attractions, main parks, country parks and River Tees Corridor, and rural enterprises. Supports the creation of employment and training	0	0	0	0	0	0	Strategic policy driving the location and nature of employment uses. Supports the creation of employment and training opportunities and securing such in major developments. This has the potential to benefit all. No implications for any people with a particular protected characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
		Race	Disability	Gender	Age	Faith	Sexual Orientation	
	opportunities for residents particularly those in the most deprived areas and priority groups.							
SD5 - Natural, Built and Historic Environment	Seeks to protect, conserve and enhance the natural, built and historic environment alongside meeting the challenge of climate change.	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy seeks to preserve the Borough's environment for the benefit of all. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
SD6 - Transport and Infrastructure Strategy	Promotes a safe road network alongside realistic alternatives to the private car through improvements to the public transport network and routes for pedestrians/ cyclists. Highlights the need for targeted highway improvements and supports provision of sustainable communities, the need for community infrastructure and expansion of the communications network, including telecommunications and high speed broadband.	0	+	0	+	0	0	This policy promotes sustainable transport, providing for community and digital infrastructure. It will be benefit all but could have a positive impact on those who may have reduced mobility by virtue of Age and Disability characteristic.
SD7 -Infrastructure Delivery and Viability	Promotes and sets out the mechanisms for the delivery of appropriate infrastructure when it is required so it can support new development through the use of planning obligations and other means including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Where it is non-viable, to fund all or part of the infrastructure applicants it requires	0	0	0	0	0	0	A process and advisory policy relating to the provision of infrastructure. No implications for people with any particular protected characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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	robust evidence of the viability of the proposal to demonstrate this.							
SD8 - Sustainable Design Principles	Sets out broad design criteria for determining planning applications taking account of the surrounding environment, heritage assets, gateway entrances, green infrastructure, and separation between buildings, privacy and amenity for existing and future occupants, and access and parking, consider public safety, seek to design out crime, provide appropriate waste recycling and collection facilities, and for commercial developments to provide appropriate signage and shop fronts.	0	+	0	+	0	0	This policy seeks sustainable design in new development. It has the potential to benefit all, but particularly the inclusivity element which would benefit the Age and Disability characteristics.
H1 - Housing Commitments and Allocations	Defines the housing commitments and allocations across the Borough which are required to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land, and makes reference to associated infrastructure requirements.	0	+	0	+	0	0	The potential to benefit all by creating new homes for the plan period in attractive and sustainable environments. Local Infrastructure and sustainable transport may be of particular benefit to those of Age and Disability characteristic.
H2 - West Stockton Sustainable Urban Extension	Sets out the requirements for the West Stockton Sustainable Urban Extension and need for development to accord with masterplan. Also defines the required infrastructure requirements including school, community facilities and highway infrastructure.	0	+	0	+	0	0	The potential to benefit all by creating new homes with community and transport infrastructure in an attractive and sustainable environment. Local Infrastructure and sustainable transport may be of particular benefit to those with Age and Disability characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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H3 - Wynyard Sustainable Settlement	Supports a masterplan approach to deliver a sustainable settlement at Wynyard. Outlines that cross boundary working with Hartlepool ensure that infrastructure required is provided including highway mitigation, footway and cycleway connection and other community facilities. New development will also need to respect setting of Wynyard Registered Park and Garden and enhance the Castle Eden Walkway.	0	+	0	+	0	0	The potential to benefit all by creating new homes with community and transport infrastructure in an attractive and sustainable environment. Local Infrastructure and sustainable transport may be of particular benefit to those with Age and Disability characteristic.
H4 - Meeting Housing Needs	Allocations and commitments identify a range and mix of housing including executive housing; apartments and townhouses; ageing population, accessible and adaptable and custom and self-build housing. Unless otherwise justified, the policy requires the provision of on-site affordable housing in small clusters at a level of 20% on site on schemes of more than 10 dwellings or with a combined gross floor space of above 1000sqm. Sets out that off-site affordable housing commuted sum will be calculated in accordance with the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document 8 or any successor. Supports proposals for specialist housing and independent living,	0	+	0	+	0	0	This policy will make a positive contribution to the identified housing needs of the Borough and will assist in developing diverse communities. It will have a positive impact on older people and those with specialist housing needs. It has the potential to particularly benefit those with Age and Disability characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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	including extra care, supported housing and extensions to dwellings to provide accommodation for dependent relatives. Supports high quality living environments with higher density development close to public transport accessibility. Encourages empty homes back into use and enhance energy efficiency of existing homes. Requires student accommodation to demonstrate they are compatible with the wider social and economic regeneration objectives, and are conveniently located to education establishments and local facilities.							
H5 - Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	Gypsy and Traveller accommodation will be met on existing sites, where possible but where this cannot be met new sites will be permitted where it accords with policy SD8 'Sustainable Design Principles'; is well connected to schools, shops, health care and other local facilities; is large enough to satisfactorily accommodate the development; and, is not of a scale which would dominate the nearest settled community. The existing site for Gypsies and Travellers at Mount Pleasant Grange (Bowesfield Lane) is safeguarded unless the Council is	+	0	0	0	0	0	In specifically considering accommodation for the travelling community, it safeguards the site at Mount Pleasant Grange with a criteria based policy to meet needs elsewhere. It has a positive impact on those with this Race characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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	satisfied that there is no longer a need for this provision.							
EG1 - General Employment Sites	Outlines areas where new general employment proposals should be located and that sites and premises which are allocated for office, industrial and logistics uses. All existing land and buildings last used for employment purposes will be protected from alternative uses, unless evidence that development does not lead to loss of key strategic sites; site or premise is no longer required for employment purposes; loss of site does not result in a negative impact on existing businesses; and, it has been demonstrated that redevelopment or refurbishment of the site is not viable. Sites appropriate for major mixed use developments in Stockton Town Centre are also highlighted, while support is also given to the continued regeneration of Billingham and Thornaby District Centres.	0	0	0	0	0	0	In setting out the Council's approach to the location and protection of general employment uses, this policy has the potential to benefit all. No implications for people with any particular protected characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
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EG2 - Managing Centres	Policy seeks to maintain and enhance the retail function of units in all centres in the Town Centre Hierarchy (SD4). Proposals for change of use from retail supported provided it does not detrimentally impact on the retail function of the centre; and does not result in the loss of a key retail unit; does not result in an over-concentration of non-retail or evening economy uses, food and drink uses supported in town, district and local centres, providing they do not result in a harmful over-concentration either in an area or across the centre as a whole or as a cluster within the centre, supports the existing variety of uses within the High Street frontages of Yarm and Norton, protected residential properties are identified to protect their historic character.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Seeks to ensure town centre development is directed towards an existing centre as a priority, as a consequence it may consolidate development and services in a location accessible by public transport. This may benefit all but of particular benefit to those of Age and Disability characteristic.
EG3 – Protecting Centres	Directs Retail (A1 use class) and other Town Centre uses to suitable and available sites and premises in defined centres setting out the sequential order to site selection. Supporting proposals in sequentially less preferable locations where it has been demonstrated that there are no available and suitable sites or premises in sequentially preferable locations. New retail development	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy is concerned with the vitality and viability of town or other centres. As a consequence it may consolidate development and services in a location accessible by public transport. This may benefit all. Local Infrastructure and sustainable transport may however, be of particular benefit to those of Age and Disability characteristic.

Local Plan Policy	Are Equality groups affected because of proposed Policy? :Key: (+) Positive Impact or (-) Negative Impact or (O) Neutral	Protected Characteristic						Comment
		Race	Disability	Gender	Age	Faith	Sexual Orientation	
	outside retail centre subject to impact assessment where convenience retail proposals are excess of 500 square metres (net) and comparison retail proposals are excess of 1,000 square metres (net). Supports development where it will not have a significant adverse impact, both individually and cumulatively, on existing, committed and planned public and private investment in a centre and the vitality and viability of existing centres. For other leisure uses in out of town locations requires where the proposal is of a scale and format which threatens comparable facilities or investment which is planned or committed in town, district and local centres.							
EG4 - Seal Sands, North Tees and Billingham	Policy seeks to direct proposals for hazardous installations, process industries, or emerging specialist sectors to available sites within this area, whilst also recognising the importance of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site. Port and River based industries which are water compatible are directed to sites and premises at Billingham Riverside.	0	0	0	0	0	0	By allocating land for specialist uses, thus providing employment opportunities. The policy will benefit all sections of the community. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

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EG5 - Durham Tees Valley Airport	Safeguards land at Durham Tees Valley Airport for the continued operation of a regional airport which includes, operational infrastructure; terminal facilities; car facilities; maintenance facilities; ancillary offices; warehousing/distribution; training centres and hotel accommodation. Allocates land for airport related and general employment uses. Supports transport improvements to enable future aviation and economic growth at the airport. Supports new development proposals which are not already identified where it can be demonstrated that it is necessary to enable the long term sustainability and viability of the airport, proposals within the relevant zones of the airport will require appropriate consultation with the operator of the airport, there is also a general presumption against new development unless the proposal accords with relevant Government guidance.	0	0	0	0	0	0	Allocating and safeguarding land for the Airport can provide employment and leisure opportunities. The policy will benefit all sections of the community. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

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EG6 – Small Scale Facilities	Directs proposals for small-scale town centre uses and hot food takeaways designed to defined town, district and local centres first, and then to existing available and suitable premises in other existing shopping parades in the catchment area of the proposal. Supports appropriate small scale facilities within major new residential and employment developments where no similar facilities exist within reasonable walking distance. Resists small-scale (under 150sqm) town centre uses outside town, district, and uses local centres and shopping parades which serve a localised catchment area; do not adversely impact upon the vitality and viability of any designated centre; and are within the limits to development. Resists hot food takeaways outside designated centres where it will result in a harmful over-concentration of uses.	0	+	0	+	0	0	This policy seeks to direct small scale facilities and uses in accordance with the retail hierarchy but allows for such uses within major new residential developments and local centres under certain circumstances. This will benefit all and in particular those with mobility issues such as people with Disability and Age characteristics.

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EG7 - Supporting Rural Economic Development	Supports and promotes sustainable growth and expansion of both new and existing rural land-based businesses and enterprises, both through the conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings. Retail development associated with farm shops and horticultural nurseries will be supported where they are small scale/ancillary and do not harm local centre. Proposals for farm diversification will need to be accompanied by a whole farm diversification plan. The introduction and improvement of information communications technology (ICT) networks to help support local businesses, including the expansion of high-speed broadband is supported. The Council will support and promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, which meet the day to day needs of rural communities.	0	+	0	+	0	0	This policy is concerned with rural land based businesses and enterprises, and retention of community services. The economic growth aspect of this policy could have a positive impact on the rural population in terms of easier access to employment. The retention of community services will benefit all, but in particular those with Age and Disability characteristics.

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EG8 -Agricultural, Forestry and Other Rural Based Enterprise Dwellings	Supports proposals for temporary and permanent agricultural or forestry accommodation where essential for agricultural, forestry or other rural based enterprises/businesses, subject to considerations of scale and nature alongside locational, functional and financial tests.	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy aims to ensure that the provision of new dwellings outside the development limits is justified and of good design to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on the rural area. No implications for people with any particular protected characteristic.
TI1 - Transport Infrastructure	Promotes an integrated, efficient and accessible public transport network and seeks realistic alternatives to the private car through improvements to the public transport network and providing safe and attractive routes for pedestrians, cyclists and other uses; seeks to minimise congestion and the environmental impact of transport; identifies and protects a number of targeted improvements to highway infrastructure, safeguards routes for cycleway/footways, and infrastructure to facilitate sustainable freight movements by rail and water. Requires proposals likely to generate significant additional journeys to provide a Transport Assessment or Statement and a Travel Plan, as appropriate.	0	+	0	+	0	0	In promoting alternative modes of transport to the private car, this policy seeks to provide for all members of the community, there is the potential for a particularly positive impact towards those who may have reduced mobility with Age or Disability characteristics.

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T12 - Community Infrastructure	Seeks to ensure that community infrastructure is delivered and protected to meet the needs of the growing population. Resists the unjustified loss of playing fields, valued local shops, services and facilities, without provision of appropriate compensatory facilities if required.	0	+	0	+	0	0	The provision and protection of local community infrastructure and services will help to reduce the need for travel and may therefore be of particular benefit to those with reduced mobility such as those of an Age and Disability characteristic.
T13 - Communications Infrastructure	Supports the expansion of communications networks and telecommunications development where it does not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest. Requires compatibility of new development with local fibre and internet connectivity including open access ducting to industry standards.	0	+	0	+	0	0	Support for telecommunications infrastructure has the potential to provide new and improved access to leisure, education and employment opportunities to those with limited access. It could be particularly beneficial with Age and Disability characteristic.
ENV1- Energy Efficiency	Encourages development to minimise the effects of climate change and promotes reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and zero carbon development. Requires major developments to provide 10% of predicted energy requirements over and above building regulations from renewable energy sources, and all non-residential developments to achieve	0	0	0	0	0	0	Aim to improve energy efficiency of development, promote renewable and low carbon energy generation, mitigation to minimise the impact on climate change, which is a clear benefit to all. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

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	minimum BREEM rating of 'very good' (or any future national equivalent).							
ENV2 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Supports appropriate proposals for renewable energy including small-scale renewable and low carbon energy generation where they are no adverse impacts. As no suitable areas for wind energy generation have been identified seeks to resist planning applications for commercial wind turbines in the countryside. Applications for energy generation from renewable and low carbon sources (other than wind energy generation), will be considered against the principles in policy SD8. Where appropriate, schemes to restore a site to its original condition at the end of its operational life will be required.	0	0	0	0	0	0	These policies set out the Council's support for decentralised and low carbon energy systems. It has the potential to benefit all and has no implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
ENV3 - Decentralised Energy Generation and Supply	Promotes and supports decentralised energy such as District Heat and Power Networks.	0	0	0	0	0	0	

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ENV4 -Reducing and Mitigating Flood Risk	Directs new development to areas of low flood risk and sets out that development in other areas will need to apply the sequential and exception tests in accordance with national policy. It seeks to ensure that proposals take account climate change; that flooding is not increased elsewhere and that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are prioritised. Supports Flood Alleviation Scheme on Lustrum Beck.	0	0	0	0	0	0	In aiming to mitigate flood risk, this policy has the potential to benefit all and has no implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
ENV5 - Preserve, protect and enhance ecological networks, biodiversity and geodiversity	Seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geological resources within the Borough. Supports proposals that enhance nature conservation and management, preserve the character of the natural environment and maximise opportunities for biodiversity and geological conservation. It seeks to achieve net gains in biodiversity and this may include the potential for a strategic approach to biodiversity offsetting. Existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows of amenity or nature conservation value protected, where loss is unavoidable replacements sought, where practicable.	0	0	0	0	0	0	This is a wide ranging environmental policy the consequences of which will be of benefit to all. It has no implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

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ENV6 - Green infrastructure, ecological networks and open space, green wedges and agricultural land	Aims to protect and support the enhancement, creation and management of green infrastructure to improve its quality, value, multi-functionality and accessibility. It seeks protection of open space unless surplus to requirements; has no recreational, nature conservation or amenity value; would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality; is for another sports or recreational provision or is ancillary to the use of the open space. Seeks to protect enhance and extend ecological avoiding linking sites of ecological importance or by avoiding there fragmentation and isolation.	0	+	0	+	0	0	This wide ranging open space, environmental accessibility policy has consequences that will be of benefit to all. It has no implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
ENV7 - Ground, Air, Water, Noise and Light Pollution	Requires proposals which cause pollution either individually or cumulatively to incorporate measures to prevent or reduce their pollution so as not to cause unacceptable impacts on living conditions, and where suitable mitigation can be achieved that would bring pollution within acceptable levels. Supports the improvement of water quality through retention and creation of river frontage habitats, inter-tidal or sub-tidal habitats; protecting natural water bodies from	0	0	0	0	0	0	The policy seeks to prevent or reduce pollution in the interests of the natural environment and human population. It has no implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.

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	modification; and the naturalisation of heavily modified water bodies.							
HE1 -Conservation and Enjoyment of the Historic Environment	Seeks to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the Borough's historic environment is maintained and promoted.	0	0	0	0	0	0	In seeking to conserve and enhance heritage assets, these policies will benefit all. No implications for any people with any particular protected characteristic.
HE2 -Conserving and Enhancing Stockton's Heritage Assets	Promotes local distinctiveness by requiring applicants to undertake recording and assessments of the significance of heritage assets, the preservation of archaeological remains, resisting the loss of heritage asset, in whole or part, unless the reasonable steps to ensure new development will proceed after loss has occurred.	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HE3 - Stockton & Darlington Railway	Seeks to support development which safeguards the route of the Stockton & Darlington railway of 1825, the branch line to Yarm and associated structures, archaeological remains and setting.	0	0	0	0	0	0	