

Richmondshire District Council

Local Plan 2018-2035

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report



April 2020



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Consultation

Consultation on this document has helped to ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is comprehensive, robust and adequate to support the Local Plan. In accordance with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) the three Strategic Environmental Assessment bodies were consulted (Historic England, Environment Agency and Natural England) for their comments on the scope and level of detail alongside neighbouring authorities (Duty to Cooperate partners) and other relevant bodies for completeness.

Responses were received from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Other bodies to respond were the Coal Authority, Highways England, CPRE North Yorkshire and Darlington Borough Council. Comments have been considered and a number of amendments made where relevant and necessary. The proposed amendments, the Council's response and the changes made are available in the summary table within appendix 4.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Report is the initial scoping phase in undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment for the Richmondshire Local Plan Review. It identifies the scope and level of information to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal report. It will set out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment and identify relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives. A further assessment will be carried out on the emerging options to inform the preparation of the Preferred Options consultation document.
- 1.2 Sustainability is about making sure that the decisions taken now will help to ensure that our quality of life improves, not just in the short term, but for future generations too. So a Sustainability Appraisal is, in essence, a technique for considering how much a plan will contribute to the different environmental, social and economic factors that contribute to our overall quality of life both now and in the future.
- 1.3 Therefore the purpose of this Scoping Report is to ensure that when the Sustainability Appraisal of the Richmondshire Local Plan is carried out, it will consider all relevant significant issues of environmental, social and economic sustainability. It will also show the method and identify the objectives by which the options and policies in the Plan will be sufficiently evaluated during their development and prior to their adoption and implementation.
- 1.4 This document therefore;
 - Reviews other relevant policies, plans, programmes and objectives which will inform the Local Plan;
 - Provides baseline information in relation to Richmondshire District and the surrounding area;
 - Identifies the sustainability issues; and
 - Proposes the sustainability objectives and appraisal methodology.

2. Introduction and Context

- 2.1 This report is a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Richmondshire Local Plan review. As such it describes the Local Plan which is being assessed and the area which the appraisal will focus on. It also sets out the key social, economic and environmental conditions in the assessment area as well as the methodology of the sustainability appraisal.
- 2.2 This section provides some background on the reviewed Richmondshire Local Plan that will be assessed as well as the key requirements for the appraisal.

The Local Plan

- 2.3 The current Development Plan for Richmondshire is the Local Plan Core Strategy (2012-2028) which was adopted in December 2014. It provides the strategic development policies for the part of the District that's outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- 2.4 Following the adoption of the Richmondshire Local Plan 2012-2028: Core Strategy, all saved policies within the Richmondshire Local Plan 1999-2006 except Policy 23 - Development Limits were superseded and are no longer saved. Policy 23 will be saved until development limits and land use allocations are updated in the Local Plan 2018-2035, but it is modified by Core Policy CP4, which enables the assessment of development proposals both within and adjacent to the areas defined in Policy 23. This is necessary to ensure that the Council's statutory development plan is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.5 The new Local Plan will be a single document which will set out the spatial strategy and policies for the use of land and buildings in this area. The Local Plan (2018-2035) will be a single document and comprise of a review of the adopted Local Plan Core Strategy 2012-2028 and will provide site allocations, a masterplan for Catterick Garrison, land use designations, revised Development Limits for settlements identified in the settlement hierarchy and detailed development policies. It will also include an updated and revised Proposals Map.
- 2.6 The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is the planning authority for the National Park and therefore the Richmondshire Local Plan refers only to the area outside of the Park.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.7 The definition of Sustainable development was defined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 which is "Development that meets the needs of the

present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The concept of sustainable development is embedded in the planning system by the National Planning Policy Framework which states the 'purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development' referring now directly to the Brundtland definition and goes on to state that the planning system has three overarching objectives – economic, environmental and social to achieve sustainable development which are interdependent but need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives.

- 2.8 In order to ensure that new plans and strategies contribute towards sustainable development section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Local Planning Authority to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of each of the proposals in a plan during its preparation. More generally, [section 39 of the Act](#) requires that the authority preparing a plan must do so "with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development".
- 2.9 The NPPF explains that a Sustainability Appraisal should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives including opportunities for net gain. It sets out that significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable, mitigation measures should be proposed or where this is not possible compensatory measures should be considered.
- 2.10 A Sustainability Appraisal can be used to test the evidence underpinning the plan and help to demonstrate how the tests of soundness have been met. Sustainability appraisal should be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the Local Plan.
- 2.11 In addition the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive must also be complied with. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive is a European Union requirement that seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes. The aim of the Directive is "to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."

- 2.12 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive is implemented through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which apply to a plan or programme related solely to England (or part of England), or to England (or part of England) and any other part of the United Kingdom. Where the Directive applies there are some specific requirements that must be complied with and which, in the case of Local Plans, should be addressed as an integral part of the sustainability appraisal process.
- 2.13 Both processes have been undertaken together and the term Sustainability Appraisal throughout the rest of this report refers to both assessments.
- 2.14 Assessment is also required under the Habitats Directive. A Habitats Regulations Assessment however follows different principles to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment and therefore will be undertaken separately, although certain elements such as information gathering and developing options will be undertaken simultaneously. A Habitats Regulations Report will be published alongside the Sustainability Report at the appropriate stages.

Overview

- 2.15 Richmondshire is one of the largest Districts in England, covering 131,867 hectares (509 square miles) although it is also one of the most rural and sparsely populated having a population of roughly 53,700. Approximately, 73,180 hectares (280 square miles) of the District's area lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, where around 7,500 people live. Richmondshire is a predominantly rural area and includes Catterick Garrison, a coalescence of the villages of Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn and one of the largest military bases in Western Europe, the historic market town of Richmond and service centre of Leyburn. Richmondshire has a very low population density of only 0.4 persons per hectare, the third lowest in England.
- 2.16 The Richmondshire plan area, shown on Figure 1, is situated in the east of the District and lies outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It stretches from the Tees Valley and Vale of Mowbray lowlands in the east, through the Pennine fringe into lower Swaledale and Wensleydale in the northern Yorkshire Dales. It also includes a small outlying area around Tan Hill.

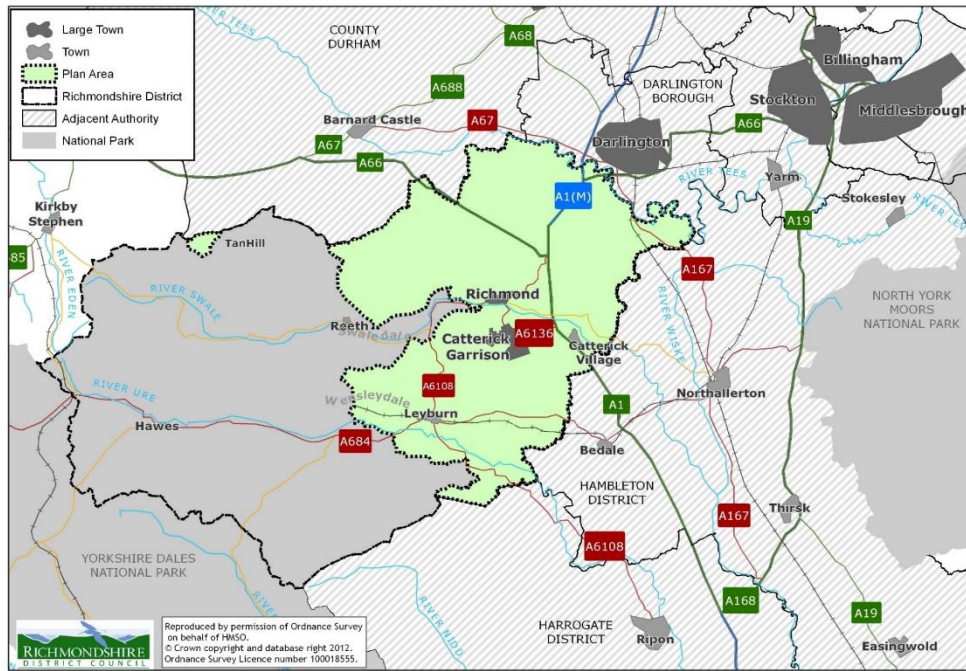


Figure 1: Richmondshire Plan Area

- 2.17 The plan area sits within a wider geographic context bordering Darlington in the Tees Valley and the deeply rural Yorkshire and Durham Dales and rural lowlands. Darlington acts as a sub-regional centre for much of the plan area population, providing retail and other services, and employment. It is linked by several roads, including the upgraded A1 (m), A66, A167 and B1263.
- 2.18 The Richmondshire and Hambleton plan areas share many similarities, reflected in shared transport links between towns and villages. The A684 runs through Wensleydale to Bedale and the upgraded A1 (m) at Leeming Bar. The Wensleydale Railway currently links Leeming Bar with Redmire via Leyburn.
- 2.19 Richmond is an historic Market Town positioned on the steep slopes of the Swale Valley. Historically it has been the main administrative and service centre for the District. Its significance remains but, with the post-war growth of the military base at Catterick Garrison and neighbouring settlements, it is no longer as dominant as it once was and it has lost out to the growth in Darlington and other larger centres.
- 2.20 Hipswell, Scotton and Colburn - including the Catterick Garrison main military site - is generally known as Catterick Garrison. This masks a complicated area that has evolved through the growth of military facilities, which have coalesced with the settlements. A modern town centre has now been created which provides a range of retail and leisure facilities serving residents of the whole of Richmondshire and beyond. This has reduced reliance on neighbouring centres outside of the District such as Darlington for shopping

and leisure. Although there is a strong military character to this area it is not exclusive and there are now large areas of open market housing following disposal of military accommodation and development on former military land. Colburn is the largest domestic settlement offering a range of housing and other services and has been the main focus for growth in recent years.

- 2.21 Leyburn is the main town serving a wide rural catchment area covering Lower Wensleydale and Upper Swaledale. It is a market town serving the local agricultural economy and is also an important tourist centre. The town sits at a crossroads and operates as a hub for public transport in the area. Its connections favour east west travel along Wensleydale towards Bedale and Northallerton.
- 2.22 There are over 70 villages which vary in size considerably and are distributed across this large rural area. Two thirds of this population live in the seven largest settlements, with estimated populations of Catterick Garrison 16,630, Richmond 8,450, Catterick Village (including Marne Barracks) 3,320, Leyburn 2,230 and Brompton on Swale 1,730.
- 2.23 The population of the plan area is estimated to be 46,218 (ONS, 2015), which is 88% of the District total. The age profile of Richmondshire is skewed by the large military population, particularly by the number of young adult males (aged 20–34) associated with the army at Catterick Garrison. Figure 2 compares Richmondshire’s age profile to the county, region, and England profiles. Richmondshire has a younger age profile than North Yorkshire in total, with more similarity with the more youthful age profiles of the Yorkshire & Humber region and England as a whole because of the Armed Forces population.

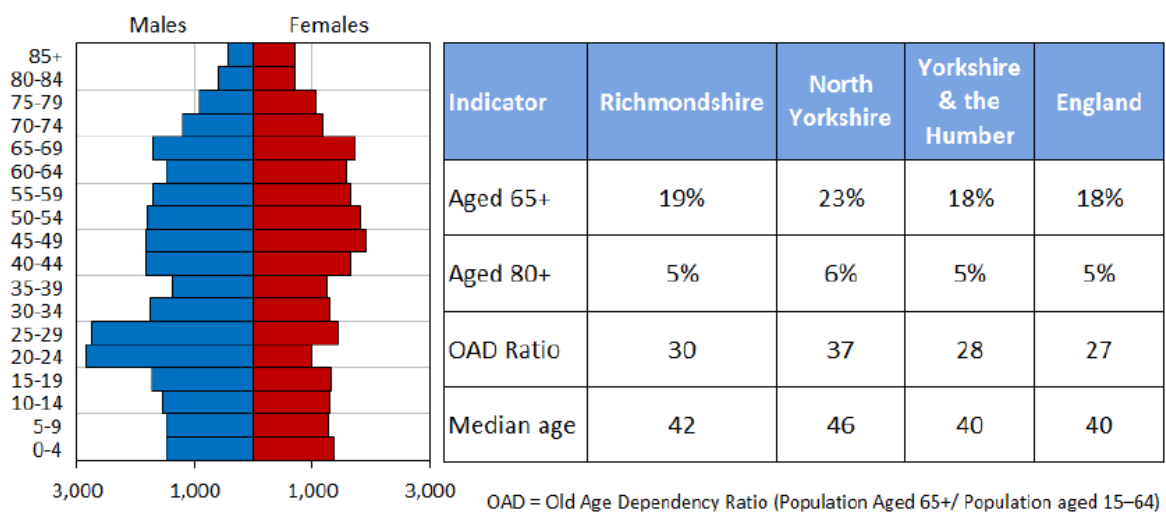


Figure 2: Age Structure & Old Age Dependency Ratio

- 2.24 Richmondshire has an Old Age Dependency ratio of 30, compared to a national average of 27 for England, 46 for North Yorkshire and 40 for the Yorkshire and Humber region. This means that the 65+ population of Richmondshire is equivalent to 30% of the 15–64 age-group population, compared to 27% across England in aggregate, 46% in North Yorkshire and 40% in the region.
- 2.25 The plan area lies to the east of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and the lower stretches of the Swale and Ure valleys form natural extensions of this nationally designated landscape area. The Nidderdale and North Pennines Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) extend from the south and north-west into small parts of the plan area. Within the remainder of the area there are many other identifiable landscapes with their own distinctive qualities and character. Many areas have a local landscape importance, particularly around the historic settlements. The present landscape has been influenced by several country estates. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is the largest single landowner and operates training estates over very substantial areas of moorland.
- 2.26 The plan area is rich in its green infrastructure, encompassing extensive habitats, major landscape features such as river corridors and flood meadows, along with wide green corridors and ecological networks. The Tees, Swale and Ure river corridors are important wildlife habitats, as are the upland moorland areas, all supporting the locally rich biodiversity. Numerous areas, sites and other features provide a network of nature conservation resources spread across the plan area. There are 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, along with over 200 local Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, including Foxglove Covert, an important Local Nature Reserve in the Catterick Garrison military estate.
- 2.27 West of the plan area, the North Pennines Dales Meadows, are designated as a Special Area of Conservation and this overlaps in part with the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area which has rare and vulnerable birdlife. Both of these areas are of European importance.
- 2.28 Over 1,200 archaeological sites are identified by the North Yorkshire Environmental Record in the plan area. There are 41 designated Conservation Areas, and over 1,200 listed buildings and structures. In addition to formally recognised built heritage, there are many other buildings of genuine quality or features which enrich the urban and rural environments that give the plan area its local distinctiveness. Scott's Dyke is a nationally important linear earthwork running through the plan area and along the eastern edge of Richmond, in particular.
- 2.29 There is very little contaminated land and air quality is good. The River Swale and River Tees floodplains limit development, particularly in lowland areas.

The River Ure floodplain does not pass through any settlements in the plan area. Large parts of the plan area provide important sources of groundwater.

- 2.30 Richmondshire's working age population, including the military, is around 33,500, of which 81% are economically active and 77% are in employment, higher than regional and national levels (ONS, Annual Population Survey 2017). The claimant rates for employment related benefits remain well below national (2.1) and regional levels (2.5) at 1.4 (NOMIS, 2018). Richmondshire resident full time weekly earnings (£539.7) is higher than regional but lower than national weekly earnings. Richmondshire workplace full time weekly earnings (£485.0) is significantly lower than regional and national earnings (ONS, ASHE, 2017). Micro scale businesses (0-9 employees) account for 90% of local business units and enterprises compared with 88% across Yorkshire and Humber (IDBE, ONS 2017)
- 2.31 There are about 19,350 (2016) dwellings in the plan area, of which around 2% are second homes, 0.6% are holiday homes and around 3% are vacant properties. 63% of dwellings in the plan area are owner occupied, 15% are privately rented, 12% are social rented or shared ownership and the remaining 10% are Service Families Accommodation.
- 2.32 There are two distinct Housing Market areas in Richmondshire. The central and northern parts of the plan area fall mainly into the Darlington and the Tees Valley area. The remaining, predominantly rural area, participates in much wider high value and leisure markets characterised by affluent commuters, quality of life, second and holiday homes. In-migration and rural attractiveness are strong drivers of the housing market.
- 2.33 The ratio of median house price to median gross annual earnings in Richmondshire is 7.94 (ONS, 2018). This is lower than the neighbouring North Yorkshire areas but significantly higher than the neighbouring Tees Valley areas. The median gross annual income of £25,197 in the District is a barrier to owner-occupation for many families. The median house price is £200,000 and requires a household income of £51,428 to purchase (assuming a 10% deposit and 3.5x income multiple is required for mortgage).

3. Framework and Methodology

3.1 The flowchart at Figure 3 below is derived from the National Planning Practice Guidance and sets out the process that a Sustainability Appraisal should follow as they relate to a Local Plan. This scoping report represents stage A and is the first part of this process. This Scoping Report sets out the context for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Richmondshire Local Plan. This is necessary in order to create a series of objectives against which all the policy options and proposed sites will be tested.

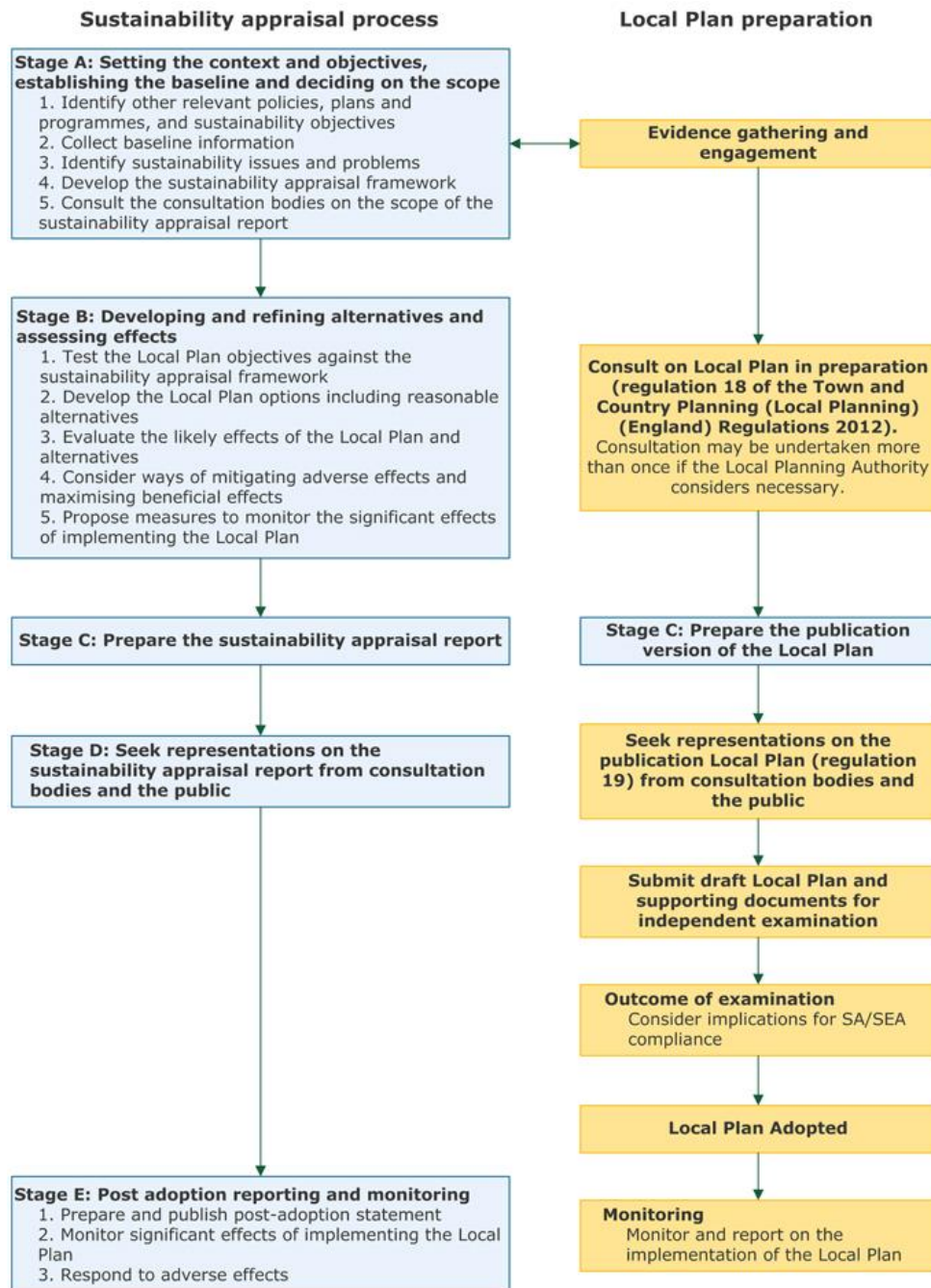


Figure 3: Sustainability Appraisal Flowchart

3.2 The following table in Figure 4 sets out which Sustainability Appraisal document each stage will be included within.

Stage A: Setting the context and establishing the baseline <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives 2. Collecting baseline information 3. Identifying environmental problems 4. Developing SA objectives and testing their compatibility 5. Consulting on the scope of the SA <p style="text-align: right;">Output: Scoping Report</p>
Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Testing the plan objectives against the SA objectives 2. Appraising strategic alternatives 3. Predicting the effects of the plan, including alternatives 4. Evaluating the effects of the plan, including alternatives 5. Mitigating adverse effects 6. Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the plan <p style="text-align: right;">Output: Sustainability Appraisal Report</p>
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report <p style="text-align: right;">Output: Sustainability Appraisal Report</p>
Stage D: Consulting and decision making <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Consulting on the draft plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report 3. Appraising significant changes 4. Appraising significant changes resulting from representations at the DPD Examination 5. Decision making and provision of information <p style="text-align: right;">Output: Sustainability Appraisal Statement</p>
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalising aims and methods for monitoring 2. Responding to adverse effects <p style="text-align: right;">Output: Included in Annual Progress Report on Plan implementation</p>

Figure 4: Table outlining SA Stages

3.3 The options put forward in the Preferred Options consultation document and any alternative options put forward in response to the consultation will be assessed against the sustainability issues and this process will inform the emerging preferred options. In addition the vision and objectives of the plan will be assessed in accordance with this methodology.

Scoping Report

3.4 The first part of a Sustainability Appraisal is the Scoping Report. The Scoping Report contains five steps which constitute the process for producing a Scoping Report, as explained below:

- **Stage A1** – Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protections objectives. Policies within the Local Plan Review will be influenced by other relevant international and national legislation. Therefore the Scoping Report lists relevant legislation and policies and their key objectives and details how future Local Planning policies take these objectives into account during the preparation.

- **Stage A2** – Baseline information detailing a range of social, economic and environmental data is obtained from a number of sources. Collectively this data will be used as the baseline to provide the basis for identifying issues and determining objectives for the Local Plan Review.
- **Stage A3** – The baseline information provides the evidence base from which the Local Authority is able to identify sustainability and environmental issues and problems. Environmental issues are a key consideration for Richmondshire as many areas are identified for environmental designation and protection.
- **Stage A4** – Developing the sustainability appraisal framework through the creation of SA objectives and testing their compatibility. They will be used to appraise the policy options as the Local Plan Review progresses. The SA objectives provide the opportunity to compare the potential effects of all reasonable options considered.
- **Stage A5** – Consultation on every element of the SA is fundamental and required by national regulations. The Scoping Report will be informed through consultation with statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders within the plan area.

4. Identify relevant plans and programmes (Stage A1)

- 4.1 In fulfilling the requirements of particularly the SEA Directive it is necessary to identify the relationship of the Local Plan to other relevant plans and programmes at International, European, National and Regional levels.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 of this report provides a comprehensive listing of relevant plans and programmes so far identified (although it remains under development and review and will continue to evolve in light of consultation feedback as the Sustainability Appraisal process progresses).

5. Baseline Information (Stage A2)

- 5.1 One of the key requirements of Sustainability Appraisal is to predict and monitor the effects of implementing a plan. In order to do so effectively it is necessary to have an understanding of the baseline position.
- 5.2 This section forms an important starting point for ascertaining the current and likely future state of the plan area as well as helping to identify the sustainability issues.
- 5.3 The collection of baseline data contained in Appendix 2 has been reviewed in order to ensure all economic, social and environmental projection objectives are considered throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. The baseline information will be continuously updated as the Local Plan progresses to include emerging evidence base studies.

6. Sustainability Issues and Problems (Stage A3)

6.1 The review of existing plans and strategies and baseline data has highlighted a number of key issues that the Local Plan will need to consider as set out below.

Biodiversity, fauna and flora

- A number of SACs (particularly the North Pennine Dales Meadows), SPAs, SSSIs and Ancient Woodland within and adjacent to the Local Plan Area which must be protected.
- Development should not adversely impact upon the priority habitats and species present in the Local Plan Area and geological conservation including regional geological sites should be taken in to consideration.
- A number of SINCS, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves which should be protected, maintained and enhanced.

Population and human health

- Increasing older demographic with an increasing population of 65+ which needs to be supported and planned for
- Reduction in working age population which needs to be addressed
- Provide development which encourages healthy lifestyles and access to open space and recreation facilities to contribute towards addressing obesity in school children and the wider population.
- Distant access to essential local facilities including health facilities and services which are essential to the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- Isolated pockets of deprivation which should be addressed and support provided.

Water

- Ensure development does not adversely affect water resources and water quality including aquifers which are important to local water supply or rivers and streams which feed in to the wider network.

Air

- Ensure development does not result in air pollution on major and local road exceeding national standards.

Soil

- Small areas of Grade 2 and 3 soils support the production of arable crops and provide an important ecosystem service which should be protected and maintained.

Material Assets

- Residential Waste produced is below regional and national averages but the amount produced can still be reduced.
- Household Waste recycled is below regional averages so the Local Plan should seek to encourage the recycling, reuse and composting of waste.

Climatic Factors

- A number of settlements and areas in the Local Plan Area are located in the fluvial functional floodplain where development should be avoided.
- Increasing frequency of extreme weather events as a result of the changing climate which requires Local Plan policies to ensure development is adaptable and mitigates impact through a range of measure including minimising surface water run-off.
- Domestic Electricity and Gas consumption above the national average which the Local Plan should address by encouraging development which minimises use through design and orientation including maximising solar gain.

Cultural Heritage and landscape

- Large number of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Scheduled Ancient monuments which the Local Plan should ensure the protection, maintenance and where appropriate, enhancement of.

- A number of properties on the Heritage at Risk register which the Local Plan should encourage the protection and maintenance of along with their setting.
- A number of non-designated heritage assets which the Local Plan should seek to ensure the significance of are sustained and enhanced.
- The Local Plan Area contains part of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is in close proximity to the North Pennines AONB and adjoins the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Local Plan must take account of its impact on these designated landscapes.
- Richmondshire Plan Area has a complex landscape with a range of characters reflecting its transitional nature from the Pennine Moors to the West and Vale and Lowlands to the East. The Local Plan should consider the importance of the setting of these landscapes.
- A number of tranquil areas and intrinsically dark sky landscapes which the Local Plan should seek to protect and limit impact of development upon.

Social

- Affordability of housing is a barrier to many of lower and average incomes which the Local Plan needs to address
- Crime rates are generally low but the Local Plan needs to ensure perception of crime and safety is maintained.
- Broadband connections and speeds are lower and the Local Plan should ensure this is enhanced through new development.

Economic

- Ensure income levels are maintained and increased through the Local Plan encouragement of employment opportunities providing higher quality jobs.
- Ensure economic activity is maintained and number of larger businesses (250+) is increased by encouraging appropriate growth through the Local Plan.

7. Sustainability Appraisal Objectives (Stage A4)

- 7.1 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects and implications of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. These objectives will be used in the later stages of the sustainability appraisal process to measure the proposed options in terms of their contribution or otherwise to sustainable development.
- 7.2 The previous SA framework, used for the appraisal of the adopted Richmondshire District Local Plan Core Strategy 2012-2028, provided the starting point for the development of a set of SA objectives for the reviewed Local Plan. The previous SA objectives have been reviewed in light of the revised and updated review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline information and key sustainability issues for Richmondshire and amendments have been made to a number of the objectives to ensure that they are appropriate for the SA of the Local Plan Review.
- 7.3 The proposed SA framework for the Local Plan Review is presented below and in further detail within Appendix 3. All of the topics specifically required by the SEA Regulations (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations) are clearly addressed by the headline SA objectives, as shown in the final column of the table.
- 7.4 The review of the SA objectives has sought to avoid duplication and any single SA objective covering too many issues which would result in a high number of mixed effects being identified for that SA objective. Where further rewording has been undertaken in relation to the SA objectives this has been done to more directly address topic requirements of the SEA Regulations and the key sustainability issues for Richmondshire. Updates also reflect the changing context in which the Local Plan Review is being undertaken.
- 7.5 The sustainability objectives identified are:

Sustainability Objectives

1. To protect and enhance biodiversity (achieving a net gain), geo-diversity and the wider natural environment including ancient woodland, priority and protected species
2. The prudent and efficient use of natural resources by minimising waste and re-using and recycling natural resources and materials locally
3. To ensure a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality

4. To make the most efficient use of land through optimising opportunities for the re-use of existing buildings and brownfield land.
5. To provide a good quality built environment, including green spaces and green infrastructure corridors and ensure higher standards of sustainable design and construction, incorporating energy and water conservation measures, waste recycling facilities and increased use of sustainable materials.
6. To ensure the creation of high quality, contextual buildings and places in which to live and work
7. To ensure all development is resilient to climate change and contributes towards radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
8. To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape and protect the special qualities and setting of the AONB, National Park, Tranquil and Dark Sky Areas and other protected areas.
9. To improve health and wellbeing by ensuring all groups of the population have access to adequate leisure facilities, recreational activities and health services.
10. To conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting and improve understanding and enjoyment of local cultural heritage.
11. To provide a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.
12. To provide a reduction in crime and improve the perception of safety and security.
13. To provide a range of good quality employment opportunities available to all
14. To provide conditions which encourage economic growth, business success, diversification of existing enterprises and investment in both urban and rural locations.
15. To provide education and training opportunities which build the skills and capacity of the population

16. To maintain and enhance provision of infrastructure including local services and community facilities to ensure needs can be met locally
17. To encourage vibrant communities that participate in decision making
18. To protect and enhance water resources and water quality
19. To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources, both now and in the future

8. Next Steps - Appraisal Methodology

8.1 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan will be used in the following ways:

- To assess options for the Local Plan
- To assess the objectives of the Local Plan
- To assess and inform the selection of potential sites
- To identify any mitigation measures which can be built into the Local Plan

8.2 The sustainability objectives themselves will be used for assessing the options, objectives and policies of the Local Plan. The assessments will be undertaken in terms of the criteria below:

Category	Likely Effect on the SA objective
↑↑	Significant positive effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objective
↑	Positive effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objective
N	Neutral effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objective
↓	Negative effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objective
↓↓	Significant negative effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objective
~	No relationship or link with the Sustainability Appraisal Objective

Figure 5: Table outlining SA Assessment Criteria

8.3 In addition the nature of the effects will be considered in terms of whether they are:

- Direct or indirect;
- Long term (16 years+), medium term (5-10 years), short term (0-5 years), temporary or permanent;
- Local or wider in geographical extent;
- Cumulative and in-combination.

8.4 Some effects may be cumulative and may result from different effects acting together to create a combined effect or accumulating over time. Such effects may be as a result of different aspects of the same policy or plan combining to create an increased cumulative effect, or as a result of other plans or projects acting together with a plan policy. Effects may also be synergistic, where the different effects combine to create a new effect. These effects will be noted where applicable.

- 8.5 The Issues and Options consultation document sets out a number of spatial objectives for the new Local Plan an assessment will be carried out of all these options and any alternative options in preparation of the Preferred Options document. The Vision and Objectives set out in the Issues and Options consultation document will also be assessed in accordance with this methodology.

Site Selection Methodology

- 8.6 Sustainability Appraisal should identify the cumulative and significant effects upon sustainability objectives. The assessment of cumulative effects will involve looking at the effects upon each sustainability objective in turn. This assessment will then assist in determining whether there are likely to be any significant effects.
- 8.7 The Council will be preparing a Site Selection Methodology which will be used to assess the sites which have been submitted as part of the Local Plan process. The Sustainability Objectives will be embedded within the Site Selection Methodology. The Sustainability Appraisal objectives and ultimately the performance of the Local Plan should be monitored and will be reported through the Annual Monitoring Report. Appendix 3 sets out some prompts which will be utilised to assist the Site Selection process and some initial indicators which will be used to monitor progress on meeting the sustainability objectives.
- 8.8 It should be noted that in many cases the data available cannot be attributed to action as a direct result of the Local Plan but represents the best information available and will show overall progress against sustainability objectives.

9. Summary & Next Steps

- 9.1 This Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Richmondshire Local Plan (2018 - 2035) has been undertaken according to the current Planning Practice Guidance and is the outcome of the first stage (Stage A) of the Sustainability Appraisal process.
- 9.2 It should be noted that the work undertaken in preparing this Scoping Report, including the baseline data, will be reviewed, following consultation with the relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment Bodies and other Statutory Consultees. The Council is also continuing to review and update its evidence base. This means that further data and relevant information is likely to become available as the SA is developed. Where relevant this will be fed into the SA process and the final SA report.
- 9.3 The proposed methodology and framework will be used to undertake a full Sustainability Appraisal of the Richmondshire Local Plan (2018-2035). This will also inform the emerging Preferred Options for the Local Plan which will contain the proposed strategy, policies and proposals including the location for allocations, the types of uses which will be appropriate and any on site requirements. The results of the assessment of potential sites, including any explanation for discarded sites and an assessment of the Preferred Options version of the Local Plan will be published alongside each other. Any mitigation measures identified can then be incorporated prior to formal publication of the Plan.
- 9.4 This section of the Scoping Report sets out how the subsequent stages of the Sustainability Appraisal will be undertaken below.

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Testing the plan objectives against the SA objectives 2. Appraising strategic alternatives 3. Predicting the effects of the plan, including alternatives 4. Evaluating the effects of the plan, including alternatives 5. Mitigating adverse effects 6. Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the plan 	Output: Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report 	Output: Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D: Consulting and decision making	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Consulting on the draft plan and Sustainability Appraisal Report 3. Appraising significant changes 4. Appraising significant changes resulting from representations at the DPD Examination 5. Decision making and provision of information 	Output: Sustainability Appraisal Statement
Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalising aims and methods for monitoring 2. Responding to adverse effects 	Output: Included in Annual Progress Report on Plan implementation

Figure 6: Table outlining stages to SA

Appendix 1 - Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Objectives

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
International		
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (United Nations 2002)	Commitment to economic development, social development and environmental protection — at the local, national, regional and global levels. This specifically includes reducing vehicle and carbon emissions; reducing biodiversity loss; increasing water efficiency; and, increasing sustainable production	The Plan should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
World Health Organisation Guideline Values	This establishes certain guidelines for healthy noise levels	The Local Plan should take in to consideration the guidelines on healthy noise levels
Kyoto Protocol (United Nations 1992) & Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015)	Commitment to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	The Plan should seek to minimise greenhouse gas emissions from new development.
Aarhus Convention (2001)	The Aarhus Convention establishes obligations in three fields or 'pillars':	The Council should ensure that the public are given adequate opportunity to contribute towards, and participate in the decision making process for the local

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access to environmental information; • Public participation in decision-making on matters related to the environment; and • Access to justice (i.e. administrative or judicial review proceedings) in environmental matters. 	<p>plan documents. All local plan documents to be made publicly available.</p> <p>Consultation on the SA should be undertaken in accordance with SA / SEA regulations, giving both statutory consultees and the public opportunities to comment on the SA.</p>
The COP21 Paris Agreement on Climate Change	Key objectives of this include: Under Article 2: to hold “the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels” and to increase “the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions in a manner that does not threaten food production”. Under Article 5:	The Local Plan should aim to reflect these objectives.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>“Parties should take action to conserve and enhance as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases...including forests”.</p>	
<p>UN Sustainable Development Goals (Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)</p>	<p>Sets 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets to stimulate action up to 2030. All are relevant, but of key relevance to the Richmondshire Local Plan and SA are:</p> <p>Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;</p> <p>Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;</p> <p>Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;</p> <p>Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;</p>	<p>The Local Plan should aims to reflect these goals.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<p>The strategy sets the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect species and habitats • Maintain and restore ecosystems • Achieve more sustainable agriculture and forestry • Making fishing more sustainable and seas healthier • Combat invasive alien species • Help stop the loss of global biodiversity 	<p>Local Plan should include a policy / policies relating to biodiversity, which seek to ensure its protection and enhancement.</p> <p>The SA should take into consideration the main themes of the Biodiversity Strategy and seek to reflect these in the SA objectives / decision making criteria.</p>
EU SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment as an integral component of the Management Plan.	SEA is being undertaken within the Sustainability Appraisal.
EU Framework Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC)	Take account of the waste hierarchy and associated principles as well as encourage waste efficient development.	The Plan should seek to ensure that the waste hierarchy is taken into account in any new development in the District.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
<p>EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 97/49/EC) (2009)</p>	<p>The maintenance of the populations of all wild bird species across their natural range with the encouragement of various activities to that end.</p> <p>The identification and classification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species, as well as all regularly occurring migratory species</p> <p>The establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds.</p>	<p>The SA should seek to protect and enhance wild bird populations. SPAs will be safeguarded through the HRA which is being undertaken on the Plan along with the Policies proposed</p>
<p>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p>	<p>Sets out environmental measures to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources & prevent pollution in future.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards will be in place to ensure no unacceptable levels of pollution.</p>
<p>EU Habitats Directive (93/43/EEC) (As amended by 97/62/EC)</p>	<p>Directive requires that measures are taken to avoid significant deterioration of natural habitats as well as disturbance of species for</p>	<p>A separate HRA is being undertaken on the Local Plan. Policies within the plan should seek to ensure measures are taken to avoid significant deterioration of natural habitats and avoid disturbance of species.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	which the area has been designated.	
EU Air Quality Framework Directive (2008/50/EC)	Air quality should not be reduced and should be enhanced where necessary.	The Local Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to ensure new development does not result in a worsening of air quality in the District.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Water resources should be adequately considered in the development of policies and water quality should be retained at an appropriate standard.	Consideration should be given to the impact upon water resources including the effects of flood and use of water during production of the Local Plan.
EU Assessment & Management of Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Requires member states to draw up strategic noise maps and action plans assessing the impacts of noise on individuals.	The Local Plan should ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect surrounding areas from noise pollution from new employment development in the District.
EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.	The need to ensure that energy efficiency forms part of the mitigation strategy to reduce the impact of climate change upon the environment.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
<p>European Landscape Convention 2004</p>	<p>Measures for landscape:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raising awareness of the value of landscapes among all sectors of society, and of society's role in shaping them; • promoting landscape training and education among landscape specialists, other related professions, and in school and university courses; • the identification and assessment of landscapes, and analysis of landscape change, with the active participation of stakeholders; • setting objectives for landscape quality, with the involvement of the public; • the implementation of landscape policies, through the establishment of plans and practical programmes. 	<p>A revised landscape character assessment is being undertaken to inform the Plan.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2002/91/EC)	Promotes the energy performance of buildings within the European Community, taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions, as well as indoor climate requirements and cost effectiveness.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the guidance of the directive. Include sustainability objectives to promote energy efficiency in building and related land use.
EIA Directive	The Revised EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) defines projects for which Environmental Impact Assessment is mandatory as well as projects which are subject to a screening procedure that considers defined thresholds and criteria to determine whether EIA is necessary. The Directive establishes that environmental impacts of a relevant project should be provided in an EIA report and sets out consultation arrangements	This will be integrated into the Plan.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention).	Article 5 states: "Each party undertakes to seek to reconcile and combine the respective requirements of archaeology and development plans by ensuring	The Plan should take account of architectural heritage

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	that archaeologists participate in planning policies designed to ensure well-balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest”.	
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention)	This makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.	The Plan should take account of archaeological heritage
National		
National Planning Policy Framework 2019	Sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.	The plan will need comply with the NPPF.
National Planning Practice Guidance (online guidance)	Online guidance which provides further detail on the interpretation and application of national policy.	The plan will need to comply with this guidance.
National Housing Standards	The Government created an approach for the setting of technical standards for new	Include SA objectives which promote sustainable development and seek to achieve higher levels of efficiency (e.g. in energy, water etc.) where appropriate.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>housing as set out in 'The Ministerial statement' (25th March 2015). Local Planning Authorities have the option to set additional technical requirements exceeding the minimum standards required by Building Regulations in respect of an optional nationally described space standard and in relation to accessibility only.</p> <p>Nationally Described Space Standard (NDSS). A single standard for minimum space requirements is set out by national guidance.</p> <p>Accessible Housing. In relation to accessible housing, national guidance states that if a LPA chooses to adopt standards in relation to accessible housing, then they can relate only to 2 categories, and a target percentage would need to be set for each category.</p>	
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015)	Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites	The plan will need to comply with this policy.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	The National Planning Policy for Waste encourages a sustainable approach to waste management.	The plan will need to comply with this policy
Housing White Paper 2017 (Fixing our Broken Housing Market)	Government White Paper outlining ways to address issues in the housing market by encouraging the construction of more homes	The plan will need to take account of the objectives outlined in this White Paper which have largely been incorporated in the revised NPPF
25 Year Environment Plan	Sets out the government's goals for improving the environment. It details how the government will work with communities and businesses to do this over the next 25 years.	The plan will need to take account of and reflect the relevant objectives set out in the plan.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	The Act established National Parks with the twin purposes of conservation and public enjoyment.	The Local Plan should be consistent with National Park purposes.
Environment Act 1995	Established all-purpose National Park Authorities with revised twin purposes and a duty in pursuing these purposes to 'seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities'.	The Local Plan should be consistent with National Park purposes.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended	Implements Directive 79/409/EEC (see above) Outlines the statutory obligations on nature conservation. Provides for the	The Local Plan should be consistent with the National Park purposes and duty.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Sets out requirements in relation to Public Rights of Way.	
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW)	Amended the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. Establishes open access rights and provides greater powers for protection of SSSIs.	The Local Plan should ensure that new development provides appropriate protection for areas of SSSI in the District.
Climate Change Act 2008	Sets targets for the reduction of emissions by 80% by 2050 and puts in place procedures for adapting to climate change and assessing the risk of climate change.	The Local Plan should ensure that new development is designed to minimise energy use and supports radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
Energy Act (2013)	Aims to further the Government's objectives to meet the UK's decarbonisation and renewable targets at least cost to consumers.	The Local Plan should contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and delivering renewable energy and sustainable growth
Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)	Guiding principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; 	The Local Plan should be consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Achieving a sustainable economy; ● Promoting good governance; and ● Using sound science responsibly. 	
<p>Mainstreaming Sustainable development: the Government's vision and what this means in practice</p>	<p>This builds on Securing the Future (above) and sets out the following areas action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainable development in Government ● Green economy ● Action to tackle climate change ● Protecting and enhancing the natural environment ● Fairness and improving wellbeing ● National and international sustainable development ● Building a Big Society ● Business Planning ● Operations and procurement commitments ● Transparency and public accountability 	<p>The Local Plan should contribute to sustainable development principles.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
National Air Quality Strategy (DEFRA 2008)	Sets standards for air quality which should not be exceeded	The Local Plan should ensure that air quality standards should not be compromised by new development.
DEFRA Rural Statement (2012)	The Rural Statement outlines the Government's commitment to rural England and reflects the vision of successful rural businesses and thriving communities.	The Local Plan should aim to reflect this vision.
UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)	Demonstrates how the UK contributes to meeting the 20 'Aichi targets'.	Will need to take account of Biodiversity Action Plan
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (DEFRA, 2011)	<p>Vision:</p> <p>By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone.</p>	The Plan should ensure that allocations will conserve and enhance conditions for wildlife.
Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2009)	By 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the	The Plan should ensure that soils are safeguarded.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.</p>	
<p>Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (Natural England Technical Information Note, 2012)</p>	<p>This note states that where significant development of agricultural land is unavoidable, poorer quality land should be used in preference to that of higher quality, except where this would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations.</p>	<p>The quality and extent of any agricultural land being lost should be considered when assessing sites.</p>
<p>Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (DEFRA 2013)</p>	<p>Aims to protect, improve and expand England's forests and woodlands whilst realising their social and environmental benefits and improving the governance of woodlands through simplification of governance structures.</p>	<p>The Plan should ensure there is no detrimental impact on trees.</p>
<p>Climate Change and Biodiversity Adaptation: The role of the Spatial Planning System (Natural England 2009)</p>	<p>Identifies the role the planning system could play in helping biodiversity adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should minimise impact on environmental assets.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Government Review of Waste Policy in England (DEFRA, 2011)	We need to move beyond our current throwaway society to a 'zero waste economy' in which material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as the very last resort.	Consideration need to be made towards contributing to this vision.
Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)	The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 is a key element of the Government's agenda for speeding up the planning system. The provisions introduce powers which allow for the reform and speeding up of the plans system and an increase in the predictability of planning decisions, the speeding up of the handling of major infrastructure projects and the need for simplified planning zones to be identified in the strategic plan for a region.	The Local Plan will need to take account of this act
Housing & Planning Act 2016	An Act to make provision regarding housing, estate agents, rent air charges, planning and compulsory purchase.	Policies will need to take account of this Act

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place a duty on local planning authorities to actively promote the development of Starter Homes and embed them in the planning system • unlock brownfield land to provide homes faster, requiring local authorities to prepare, maintain and publish local registers of specified land • support the doubling of the number of custom built and self-built homes to 20,000 by 2020 • ensure that every area has a Local Plan • reform the compulsory purchase process to make it clearer, fairer and faster • simplify and speed up neighbourhood planning 	
Localism Act (2011)	The Localism Act 2011 introduced the requirement of local authorities to comply with the 'Duty to	

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>Cooperate' in the preparation of Development Plan Documents (the 'local plan'). The purpose of this is to satisfy both legal compliance and soundness issues in plan making, to ensure that any 'cross administrative boundary issues' are addressed. The Localism Act also included provisions for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plan and once adopted, for these to form part of the statutory Development Plan for a local area.</p>	
<p>Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990</p>	<p>In addition to normal planning framework set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest 	<p>Policies relating to listed buildings and their settings and conservation areas must address the statutory considerations of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (see in particular sections 16, 66 and 72) as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the development plan.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Provides specific protection for scheduled monuments	Policies relating to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas and their settings must address the statutory considerations of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act as well as satisfying the relevant policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and the development plan.
The National Adaptation Programme and Third Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation Report – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate, July 2018	Builds on the national Climate Change Risk Assessment and contains a mix of policies and actions to help the UK adapt to climate change. The report sets out visions for the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Environment • Infrastructure • People & Built Environment • Business & Industry • Local Government 	Develop policies that account for resiliency aims, would be a cross cutting theme over multiple subjects. Sustainability objectives that seek a better adaptation to climate change, including mitigations of climate change. Include SA objectives which seek to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to make the area more resilient to a changing climate.
CIEEM Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice principles for development. A practical Guide (2019)	The guide focuses on implementing good practice for designing and achieving Biodiversity Net Gain.	Biodiversity Net Gain is an emerging policy requirement that will need to be incorporated within the Local Plan Policies. This guide will provide good practice for creating this.
Natural Environment White Paper (2011)	This paper sets out the Government’s approach to	This document set out some of the governments key intentions regarding improving and protecting the natural environment. This has to a large degree being

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	protecting and improving the natural environment.	replaced by the 25 year environment plan but still provides background to national approach on the natural environment.
Defra Biodiversity Net Gain Consultation (2018) and Government Response (2019)	This consultation and subsequent government response sets out the governments proposed approach to implementing the mandatory net gain for biodiversity that was established via the Environment Bill.	These documents provide clarity and detail on how the government intends to implement the mandatory net gains in biodiversity. This document can inform the preparation of Local Plan policies in this area.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)	This implements the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and creates a legal duty and require that a plan's cumulative climate impacts are assessed and taken into account.	The preparation of the Local Plan and its policies needs to ensure that its cumulative climate impacts are assessed and taken in to account including assessing the consistency of proposed policies with relevant climate objectives and targets.
Regional		
The Humber River Basin Management Plan, 2009	River Basin Management Plans are statutory plans which deliver the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. They identify the current status of waters in England and Wales and propose a programme of actions, including water body status	The Plan needs to ensure that policies and allocations do not harm the water environment.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>objectives, to protect and improve the aquatic environment. The Government is currently consulting on updated River Basin Management Plans.</p>	
<p>Northumbria River Basin Management Plan, 2016</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plans are statutory plans which deliver the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. They identify the current status of waters in England and Wales and propose a programme of actions, including water body status objectives, to protect and improve the aquatic environment. The Government is currently consulting on updated River Basin Management Plans.</p>	<p>The Plan needs to ensure that policies and allocations do not harm the water environment.</p>
<p>Sub Regional</p>		
<p>North Yorkshire and East Riding Spatial Plan</p>	<p>The Plan is a non-statutory planning framework which seeks to co-ordinate plans and planning/investment decision in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding area.</p>	<p>The Spatial Plan priorities will need to be considered in the new Local Plan.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Strategy 2015-2021	The Strategy aims to double house building (compared to 2012-14 build rates) and triple the delivery of affordable housing. The Strategy also aims to get Local Plans in place.	The preparation of the Local Plan is a direct aim of the Strategy.
North Yorkshire and East Riding Strategic Economic Plan	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support and encourage small businesses to grow; ● Provide support for major business growth opportunities; and ● Be recognised as a strong voice for local business at a local and central government level. 	The Local Plan need to contribute towards the aims of the Plan.
North Yorkshire Waste Local Plan (2006)	The County Council aims to encourage a more sustainable approach to waste management which acknowledges the waste hierarchy but also recognises that local circumstances and selection of Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) may have	The Local Plan should ensure that opportunities are provided for recycling waste produced from new development in the District.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>overriding influence on waste management practices. To seek a balance between providing essential facilities to treat and dispose of waste with the need to protect, and where possible, enhance the environment and the quality of life in North Yorkshire, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. To protect the environment and local amenity from potential harm from waste related development To seek a reduction in the amount of waste that requires treatment and disposal To secure an adequate and integrated network of facilities for dealing with waste generated within, or in proximity, to North Yorkshire</p>	
<p>North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (1997)</p>	<p>To achieve a balance between satisfying the need for minerals and the need to protect the environment, which maximises the</p>	<p>The Local Plan should ensure that sustainable use is made of minerals in new development in the District and reserves are safeguarded.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>sustainability of both. Safeguarding mineral resource.</p>	
<p>North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016 - 2045 (North Yorkshire County Council, 2016)</p>	<p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth - contributing to economic growth by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks and services; • Road Safety – Improving road and transport safety; • Access to services – Improving equality of opportunity by facilitating access to services; • Environment & Climate Change – Managing the adverse impact of transport on the environment; • Healthier Travel – Promoting healthier travel opportunities. 	<p>The Local Plan should incorporate the objectives of the existing LTP4</p>
<p>Let's Talk Less Rubbish – A Municipal Waste Management Strategy for the City of York and North Yorkshire 2006 – 2026 (York and North Yorkshire Waste</p>	<p>To promote the value of waste as a natural and viable resource, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-using, recycling and composting the maximum 	<p>The Local Plan should aim to ensure that new development incorporates ways to increase recycling activity.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Management Partnership Strategy, 2006)	<p>practicable amount of household waste;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising opportunities for re-use of unwanted items and waste by working closely with community and other groups; • Maximising the recovery of materials and/or energy from waste that is not reused, recycled or composted so as to further reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. 	
Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Capacity in Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH, 2011) (York and North Yorkshire Sub-Regional Action Plan)	<p>Local policies and targets should support renewable energy, including policies for new development and strategic sites. Educate communities, authorities and members about appropriate technologies for the sub-region; Develop skills in local communities and support mechanisms to help communities to deliver renewable energy schemes; Investigate and integrate local manufacture and</p>	Renewable energy policies will be incorporated into the plan.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>management of renewable energy technologies within local economic strategies; Identify delivery vehicles, and the role and capacity of local authorities to assist in delivery; Share local knowledge and skills through a coordinated forum; Stimulate the development of regional biomass supply markets; Identify a lead coordinator for activity in the sub-region, who can act as a promotional lead and also co-ordinate funding to local priorities; Develop greater understanding of the relationship between renewable energy development and the sub-region's landscape character and natural environment; Identify opportunities on brownfield land for renewable energy installations in tandem with regeneration and redevelopment initiatives; Training for officers, members and statutory consultees on technologies;</p>	

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan	The Management Plan sets out a strategy, policies, targets and ambitions for the National Park in the long term. The plan sets out aspirations to increase young families living in the Park.	The aspirations of the Management Plan should be taken account of during the preparation of the Local Plan where relevant and/or possible.
Nidderdale AONB Management Plan	The Management Plan provides a framework for partnership by helping all those who have an interest and involvement in the AONB to see ways in which their decisions can contribute to looking after the area. Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act places a 'duty of care' on relevant bodies which include Local Authorities by stating that 'in exercising or performing any function in relation to, or so as to affect land in an area of outstanding natural beauty, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB'.	The Nidderdale AONB covers a small area of the Plan Area and therefore the Local Plan will need to consider the Management Plan objectives.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
North Pennines AONB Management Plan	<p>The plan provides a framework for action for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife, landscape and aspects of our cultural heritage between 2019 and 2024.</p> <p>It includes a series of 'outcomes' under three main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking after natural and cultural heritage • Valuing and sharing what's special • Nurturing a natural economy 	The North Pennines AONB is in close proximity to the Plan Area and therefore the Local Plan will need to consider the Management Plan objectives.
North Pennine Dales Meadows Site Improvement Plan	The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing	Part of North Pennines Dales Meadows SAC is located within the Plan Area which the Plan must consider its impact upon through the Habitat Regulations Assessment. This document outlines the issues affecting the condition of the site which will help to inform this process.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	management activities which are required for maintenance.	
North Dales Meadows Supplementary Advice	This document provides Natural England's supplementary advice about the European Site Conservation Objectives relating to North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC.	This Supplementary Advice to the Conservation Objectives presents attributes which are ecological characteristics of the designated species and habitats within a site. The listed attributes are considered to be those that best describe the site's ecological integrity and which, if safeguarded, will enable achievement of the Conservation Objectives. This will help identify the key ecological characteristics which the Plan can consider its impact upon via the Habitats Regulation Assessment.
Darlington Borough Council Local Plan Core Strategy (2011) and Emerging Local Plan (2016 -2036)	The current and/or emerging Local Plans set out the Authority's vision for development in their area over the plan period including the amount of new housing and economic development that will be required and where this should be located. It also sets out all other Local Plan Policies that development proposals are required to satisfy.	Local Planning Authorities are required when preparing their Local Plans to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Therefore any policies requiring cross-boundary collaboration proposed within the Richmondshire Local Plan or neighbouring policies will need to be taken account of and agreed through joint-working and the Statement of Common Ground.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan (2015-2030) and Emerging Local Plan (2023-2040)	The current and/or emerging Local Plans set out the Authority's vision for development in their area over the plan period including the amount of new housing and economic development that will be required and where this should be located. It also sets out all other Local Plan Policies that development proposals are required to satisfy.	Local Planning Authorities are required when preparing their Local Plans to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Therefore any policies requiring cross-boundary collaboration proposed within the Richmondshire Local Plan or neighbouring policies will need to be taken account of and agreed through joint-working and the Statement of Common Ground.
Hambleton District Council LDF (2010) and Local Plan 2018 - 2035	The current and/or emerging Local Plans set out the Authority's vision for development in their area over the plan period including the amount of new housing and economic development that will be required and where this should be located. It also sets out all other Local Plan Policies that development proposals are required to satisfy.	Local Planning Authorities are required when preparing their Local Plans to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Therefore any policies requiring cross-boundary collaboration proposed within the Richmondshire Local Plan or neighbouring policies will need to be taken account of and agreed through joint-working and the Statement of Common Ground.
Durham County Council Local Plan – County Durham Plan (2035)	The current and/or emerging Local Plans set out the Authority's vision for development in their area over	Local Planning Authorities are required when preparing their Local Plans to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
	<p>the plan period including the amount of new housing and economic development that will be required and where this should be located. It also sets out all other Local Plan Policies that development proposals are required to satisfy.</p>	<p>Therefore any policies requiring cross-boundary collaboration proposed within the Richmondshire Local Plan or neighbouring policies will need to be taken account of and agreed through joint-working and the Statement of Common Ground.</p>
<p>Harrogate Borough Council Local Plan (2014-2035)</p>	<p>The current and/or emerging Local Plans set out the Authority's vision for development in their area over the plan period including the amount of new housing and economic development that will be required and where this should be located. It also sets out all other Local Plan Policies that development proposals are required to satisfy.</p>	<p>Local Planning Authorities are required when preparing their Local Plans to cooperate with each other on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Therefore any policies requiring cross-boundary collaboration proposed within the Richmondshire Local Plan or neighbouring policies will need to be taken account of and agreed through joint-working and the Statement of Common Ground.</p>
<p>River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)</p>	<p>This provides an overview of the flood risk across the river catchment and recommended ways of managing the risk now and over the next 50 to 100 years.</p>	<p>The Plan needs to ensure that policies and allocations take account of the recommended ways of managing flood risk in the catchment plan.</p>

Plan / Programme	Objectives	Implications for Local Plan
Local		
Conservation Area Statements & Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans	These documents set out the features which are of particular significance to the character and setting of the Conservation Areas. This includes important historic sites, archaeology, listed buildings, architectural features, building materials, character areas and open spaces.	The Local Plan should make reference to relevant Conservation Area Statements & Conservation Area Appraisals & Management Plans to ensure they are taken account of when development proposals are brought forward and should also be taken account of in the preparation of policies including site allocations and directions of growth.
Richmondshire Biodiversity Action Plan	The aim of the Richmondshire BAP is to: Translate national guidance within the UK BAP to action at a local level; identify locally important habitats and species; develop local partnerships to help maintain and improve biodiversity and provide guidance on how to do this; raise local awareness of biodiversity and its importance; and set up effective monitoring systems.	The BAP provides details on locally important habitats and species and will form part of the evidence base and background to the Policies on the natural environment and Biodiversity Net Gain in the Local Plan.

Appendix 2 – Baseline Information

SEA Directive Topic / Sustainability Topic	Baseline Information	Indicators/Targets
<p>Biodiversity, fauna and flora</p>	<p>North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area – covers 24,977 ha, 2,375 ha (9.5%) within Plan Area North Pennine Moors & Dales Meadows Special Areas of Conservation – covers 25,198 ha, 2,383 ha (9.5%) within Plan Area Sites of Special Scientific Interest – cover 26,070 ha, 2,540 ha (9.7%) within Plan Area 190 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). 99.4% (1438ha) in the Plan Area 1056 ha of Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Foxglove Covert Local Nature Reserve is 40.5 ha</p>	<p>Changes in priority habitats and species and areas designated for their environment value or geology.</p> <p>Percentage of SSSIs in favourable condition</p>
<p>Population and human health</p>	<p>The Mid-2017 population estimate for the District was 53,700 broken down as follows:- 0-15 years 9,125 (17%) 16-64 years 33,550 (62.5%) 65+ years 11,025 (20.5%)</p> <p>This compares to the Mid 2001 population figures of 47,067 broken down as follows:- 0-15 years 9,213 (19.6%) 16-64 years 30,065 (63.9%) 65+ years 7,199 (15.5%)</p> <p>A total of 4,762 persons provide unpaid care (2011 Census) 21.5% for 50 + hours per week</p> <p>Low ethnic diversity with 95.4% of population classified as white (2011 Census)</p>	<p>Address the decrease in working age population and provide for increasing older population.</p> <p>Address isolated pockets of deprivation.</p>

	<p>Only isolated pockets of deprivation in the District (least 30% according to 2015 IMD. Main indicator distance to services.</p> <p>15.2% of population have limiting long-term illness (2015 IMD)</p> <p>85% of population perceive themselves as having good or very good health, which is above the national average of 81% (2011 Census)</p> <p>Prevalence of obese children on receptions year 21% and Year 6 32%, which is below regional and national levels of 22% and 34% (2017/18)</p> <p>According to 2017 mid-year population estimates 21% of the population were over the age of 65 which is above the regional and national of 18%.</p> <p>Life expectancy of 80 years for Males and 83 years for Females which are broadly in line with the regional and national figures.</p>	
Water	<p>Groundwater sources include the Millstone Grit and Carboniferous Limestone aquifers which are important to local water supply where no mains supply exists. This also supplies base flows to rivers. Sustainable land management including extending the area of permanent grassland and semi-natural habitats can assist the infiltration of rainwater to recharge the aquifer.</p> <p>116 of the 204 (57%) waterbodies in Richmondshire including groundwater and lake waterbodies are failing in terms of water quality standards and have objectives</p>	Ensure protection of important aquifers and base river flows

	<p>requiring improvement. The top failing elements (with number of waterbodies in which they fail) are:</p> <p>Element Number of waterbodies in which they fail</p> <p>Dissolved oxygen 21</p> <p>Fish 21</p> <p>Macrophytes and Phytobenthos 15</p> <p>Phosphate 12</p> <p>Mitigation Measures Assessment* 10</p> <p>Invertebrates 8</p> <p>Zinc 6</p> <p>Cadmium (and its compounds) 6</p> <p>Lead (and its compounds) 5</p> <p><i>*Note: Mitigation Measures Assessment is associated with physical modification</i></p> <p>The top reasons for failure/deterioration (with number of reasons) are:</p> <p>Reasons for failure/deterioration Number of times in which this is the principal cause for failure/deterioration</p> <p>Sewage discharge (continuous) 27</p> <p>Poor nutrient management 23</p> <p>Poor soil management 23</p>	<p>Not result in the deterioration of water bodies and conserve and enhance the following:</p> <p>I. The natural geomorphology of water courses;</p> <p>II. The water quality; and</p> <p>III. The ecological value of the water environment, including watercourse corridors.</p> <p>Implement positive progress towards achieving “good” status or higher under the WFD in Richmondshire’s ground water and surface water bodies, with any new development being able to demonstrate:</p> <p>i. That there is no deterioration in the status of any surface or ground water body;</p> <p>ii. That it does not compromise the ability of any surface or ground water body to achieve its WFD status objectives;</p> <p>iii. That any proposed developments also meet wider environmental duties; and</p> <p>iv. That where possible, indicate how the proposed development contributes to the delivery of</p>
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	<p>Abandoned mine 22</p> <p>Barriers - ecological discontinuity 18</p>	<p>WFD objectives (set out in the RBMP).</p> <p>Manage water demand and improve water efficiency through appropriate water conservation techniques and good practice adaptation to assist climate resilience (for example grey-water recycling and rainwater harvesting); and</p> <p>Dispose of surface water appropriately and improve water quality through the incorporation of SuDS.</p>
Air	<p>There is limited pollution in Richmondshire with the main source being particularly Nitrogen Dioxide from road transport. The A1 (M) runs north/south and the A66 west/east across the district and there are several other A class roads in both rural areas and the District's towns and villages.</p> <p>Richmondshire District Council's 2019 Air Quality Progress Report showed that there are no exceedances of the nitrogen dioxide government set requirements with a general downward trend observed over the last 5 years.</p> <p>The narrow road and streets around Richmond are where higher levels are observed and continue to be closely monitored with diffusion tubes.</p>	<p>Ensure that maximum levels of Nitrogen Dioxide pollution are not exceeded.</p>
Soil	<p>Richmondshire District lies within the Yorkshire Dales, Pennine Dales Fringe, Vale of Mowbray and Tees Lowlands National Character Areas.</p>	<p>Maintain levels of higher quality Grade 1, 2 and 3b soils and agricultural land.</p>

	<p>Agricultural Land in the Vale of Mowbray and Tees Lowland Areas is predominantly Grade 3 (moderate to good quality) with some pockets of Grade 2 (very good quality).</p> <p>Agricultural Land in the Pennine Dales Fringe and Yorkshire Dales is predominantly Grade 4 (poor quality) with areas of Grade 5 (very poor quality) reflecting its moorland nature.</p>	
Material Assets	<p>In 2017/18 485 kg of residual waste was recorded per household, which was less than the waste per household in the Yorkshire and Humber region of 537kg.</p> <p>In 2017/18 37% of household waste was recycled compared to 35% the previous year. This is lower than the Yorkshire and Humber Region recycling rate of 42%.</p>	<p>Residential waste is reduced.</p> <p>Levels of reuse, recycling and composting is increased.</p>
Climatic factors	<p>Carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 totalled 407.5 tonnes which was equivalent to 7.6 tonnes per capita a figure which is decreasing year on year in line with national trends.</p> <p>In 2015 Domestic electricity consumption totalled 76,355 Mwh the average consumption of ordinary domestic electricity was 4.16 Mwh per meter above the England average of 3.78 Mwh per meter (BEIS, 2015)</p> <p>In 2015 average consumption of domestic gas totalled for the District was 164,543 Mwh with the average consumption of 14.24 Mwh per meter above the England average of 13.07 Mwh (BEIS, 2015)</p> <p>The 2019 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) identified functional floodplain (areas at the highest risk of</p>	<p>Decrease carbon dioxide emissions and reduce energy consumption</p> <p>Avoid development in the functional floodplain</p> <p>Adaptation and Mitigation of development to the changing climate</p>

	<p>flooding) within or adjacent to the Settlements of Cleasby, Stapleton, Croft on Tees, Gilling West, Hartforth, Catterick Village, Brompton on Swale, Scorton, Bolton on Swale and Richmond. The SFRA is currently being finalised.</p> <p>Increasing frequency of extreme weather events as a result of the changing climate.</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage and landscape</p>	<p>Currently there are 37 Grade I, 1,199 Grade II and 51 Grade II* Listed Buildings within the District (outside the National Park).</p> <p>Historic England records currently show that there are around 1,200 Listed Buildings within Richmondshire District (outside the National Park) and of that number, 7 appear in the 2019 Historic England “Heritage at Risk Register”.</p> <p>7 Parks and Gardens with Special Historic Interest and of national importance (6 Grade II Listed and 1 Grade II* Listed)</p> <p>102 Scheduled ancient monuments (outside the National Park)</p> <p>50 Parks and gardens of historic or landscape interest</p> <p>41 Conservation Areas within 38 settlements</p>	<p>Maintain protection of Listed Buildings, Structures and Landscapes</p> <p>Number of buildings on the “Heritage at Risk Register” is reduced.</p> <p>Number of Listed Buildings under each grade</p> <p>Number and % of Listed Buildings at risk</p> <p>Number of Listed Buildings Demolished</p> <p>Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments</p> <p>Number and % archaeological sites at risk</p> <p>Number of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens</p>

		<p>Number and % of Historic Parks and Gardens at risk</p> <p>Number of Conservation Areas</p> <p>Number and % Conservation Areas at Risk</p> <p>Number and % Conservation Areas with appraisals/management plans</p>
<p>Social factors</p>	<p>According to the 2011 Census there are 20,207 dwellings in the District and 36% of these properties were owned outright, with 28% owned with a mortgage and 11% socially rented.</p> <p>11.4% of dwellings were vacant or second homes according to the 2011 Census which is above the national amount of 4.3%.</p> <p>Between 2004 and 2019 2,427 new dwellings were completed in the District</p> <p>According to data published by DCLG in 2018 the lower quartile house price is 7.78 times that of the lower quartile annual earnings.</p> <p>8.5% children in out-of-work households compared to 13.5% nationally (2017). 7.3% of children living in poverty compared to 17% nationally (2016).</p>	<p>Number of annual completions are maintained to meet the Local Plan requirements.</p> <p>Affordability of housing is increased through a range of access points</p> <p>Maintain low crime levels and increase perception of safety.</p> <p>Improve Broadband coverage and speeds.</p>

	<p>In 2013/14 average points score of 418.5 at Key Stage 4 (GCSEs) which is significantly above the national average of 366.3.</p> <p>Crime Statistics Offences reported between June 2018 and May 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Crimes – 2,710 – 53.9 crimes per 1000 population England - 117.5 crimes per 1000 population • Violent Crimes – 822 • Criminal Damage – 242 • Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents – 866 • Burglaries – 136 • Robberies – 4 • Vehicle Crimes - 105 <p>4.4% of broadband connections in Richmondshire with low broadband speeds (less than 2 Mbit/s). Above the England average of 2.2%. Average broadband download speed of 24.37 Mbit/s which is below the England average of 45.08 Mbit/s. Average broadband upload speed of 4.57 Mbit/s which is below the England average of 6.05 Mbit/s. (Ofcom, 2017)</p>	
<p>Economy</p>	<p>Between April 2018 and March 2019 23,500 people were economically active of which 72.6% were in employment, 20.3% were self-employed and 3.3% unemployed. This compared to a national figure of 75.4% in employment, 10.7% who are self-employed and 4.1% who are unemployed.</p> <p>33.2% of the population have qualifications at NVQ level 4 and above which compares to a national figure of 39.3%</p>	<p>Maintain and Increase high employment rates.</p> <p>Maintain above average wage levels.</p> <p>Increase the proportion of the population with NVQ Level 4 and above qualifications.</p>

	<p>In 2018 the full gross weekly pay of residents of the District was 560.50 which is higher than the regional figure of 520.90.</p> <p>In July 2019 1.4% of those between 16-64 years were in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance compared to 2.8% nationally.</p> <p>In 2017 58.8% of employee jobs were on a full time basis and 41.2% on a part time basis compared to 67.5% full time and 32.5% part time nationally.</p> <p>In 2017 employee jobs by industry were:- Primary Services (B Quarrying and Mining) – 0.2% Energy and Water (D-E) – 0.2% Manufacturing (C) – 7.4% Construction (F) – 7.4% Services (G-S) – 85.3% Wholesale and Retail, including motor sales (G) – 17.6% Transport Storage (H) – 4.1% Accommodation and Food Services (I) -17.6% Information and Communication (J) – 1.3% Financial and Other Business Services (K-N) – 16% Public Administration, Education and Health (O-Q) – 22.1% Other Services (R-S) – 6.5%</p> <p>In 2018 UK Business Counts were as follows:- Enterprises Micro (0-9) – 2,490 Small (10-49) – 245 Medium (50-249) – 25 Large (250+) – 0</p>	
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	<p>Local Units Micro (0-9) – 2,720 Small (10-49) – 380 Medium (50-249) – 50 Large (250+) 5</p> <p>In 2016 there were 836 agricultural holdings according to the DEFRA census covering an area of 104,485 hectares which represented an increase of 10% from 2013. 2,130 people are directly employed in farming in the District, which is an increase of 3% from 2013.</p>	
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Appendix 3 – Sustainability Objectives, Appraisal Prompts and Monitoring Indicators

SEA Directive Topic / Sustainability Topic	Objective	Prompts	Potential Indicator
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	To protect and enhance biodiversity (achieving a net gain), geo-diversity and the wider natural environment including ancient woodland, priority and protected species	<p>Will the option / policy protect and enhance internationally, nationally and locally designated biodiversity / geo-diversity sites?</p> <p>Will the option / policy help to link habitats together or will it fragment them?</p> <p>Will important habitats and species outside of protected sites be affected?</p>	<p>Conservation status of North Pennine Moors SACs and SPAs</p> <p>Area designated for nature conservation importance</p> <p>Number of sites identified of local nature conservation importance, and proportion of local sites where positive conservation has been or is being implemented</p> <p>Number and type of internationally/nationally designated sites.</p> <p>Number of species relevant to the District which have achieved BAP</p> <p>Types and Prevalence of protected and priority habitats and species</p> <p>Amount and Condition of the Ancient Woodland</p>
Population and human health	To improve health and wellbeing by ensuring all groups of the population have access to adequate leisure facilities, recreational activities and health services.	<p>Will the option / policy increase or decrease access to health, wellbeing and leisure facilities?</p> <p>Will the option / policy increase exposure to factors that might</p>	<p>Proportion of the District population who are overweight or obese.</p> <p>Life expectancy at birth.</p>

		<p>affect health and wellbeing, such as air pollution, fast moving traffic?</p>	<p>Healthy Life Expectancy.</p> <p>% of people with limiting long term illness.</p> <p>Accessibility of new housing, employment and retail schemes by public transport.</p> <p>Number of new or improved healthcare facilities delivered annually through development.</p> <p>Number of new sports pitches or other leisure facilities delivered annually through development</p> <p>Levels of deprivation across the District.</p> <p>Provision of green infrastructure, open space and recreational facilities within new development</p>
	<p>To maintain and enhance provision of infrastructure including local services and community facilities to ensure needs can be met locally</p>	<p>Will adequate provision of local services and community facilities exist?</p>	<p>Accessibility of new housing, employment and retail schemes by public transport.</p> <p>Number of new or improved healthcare facilities delivered annually through development.</p> <p>Number of new sports pitches or other leisure facilities delivered annually through development</p>

			<p>Levels of deprivation across the District.</p> <p>Provision of green infrastructure, open space and recreational facilities within new development</p>
Water	To protect and enhance water resources, water quality and water availability	<p>Will the option / policy affect any sensitive water receptors?</p> <p>Will water be saved or will abstraction of water affect water availability?</p>	<p>River Basin Management Plan Water Body Ecological Status objectives</p> <p>Water availability in Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy</p> <p>Number of applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality.</p>
Air	To ensure a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality	<p>Will the option / policy promote use of public transport?</p> <p>Will the option / policy encourage active travel such as cycling and walking?</p> <p>Will the option / policy mean that journeys are longer?</p> <p>Could the option / policy decrease air quality affecting sensitive receptors?</p>	<p>Population living within Air Quality Management Areas</p> <p>Number of Air Quality Management Areas % of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution.</p> <p>Journey to work and school by transport mode.</p> <p>Traffic volumes</p> <p>Accessibility of new housing, employment and retail schemes by public transport.</p>

			Number of implemented Travel Plans
Soil	To make the most efficient use of land through optimising opportunities for the re-use of existing buildings and brownfield land.	<p>Will the option / policy minimise the amount of land used?</p> <p>Will best and most versatile land be protected?</p> <p>Will it prioritise the re-use of previously developed land?</p>	<p>% of new dwellings completed on brownfield land</p> <p>Quantity of vacant and/or derelict land and properties</p> <p>Losses of best and most versatile agricultural land</p>
Material Assets	<p>To provide a good quality built environment, including green spaces and green infrastructure corridors and ensure higher standards of sustainable design and construction, incorporating energy and water conservation measures, waste recycling facilities and increased use of sustainable materials.</p> <p>The prudent and efficient use of natural resources by minimising waste and re-using and recycling natural resources and materials locally</p>	<p>Will the option / policy encourage the use of sustainable design?</p> <p>Will the option / policy encourage the use of recycled building materials?</p> <p>Will the public realm be improved?</p> <p>Will greenhouse gases be reduced?</p> <p>Will green infrastructure be enhanced?</p>	<p>Additional green infrastructure created</p> <p>Amount of developments which comply with 'Secured by Design' principles</p> <p>Energy consumption within the District.</p> <p>Megawatts (MW) of installed renewable and low carbon energy capacity within the District</p> <p>Energy efficiency levels in new buildings</p> <p>Use of secondary and recycled aggregates</p> <p>Number of homes meeting national standards for water</p>

			<p>efficiency, and optional standards (where viable).</p> <p>Residual waste per household.</p> <p>Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting.</p> <p>Household waste sent to landfill</p>
Climatic factors	To ensure all development is resilient to climate change and contributes towards radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions	<p>Will the option / policy increase the resilience of habitats to climate change, such as through strengthening ecological networks?</p> <p>Will the option / policy increase resilience to climate change risks such as lower water availability, increased subsidence or heatwaves?</p> <p>Will the option / policy result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Amount or renewable energy installations completed</p> <p>Level of emissions (CO2) within the Authority Area.</p> <p>Energy consumption within the District.</p> <p>Renewable energy capacity within the District.</p>
	To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources, both now and in the future	Will the option / policy increase surface or fluvial flooding or will development be vulnerable to flooding?	<p>Number and type of flooding incident.</p> <p>Number of residential units granted planning permission contrary to EA objection.</p>

			Number of applications granted contrary to Lead Local Flood Authority advice on Surface Water Flooding.
Cultural Heritage and landscape	To conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting and improve understanding and enjoyment of local cultural heritage.	<p>Will designated heritage assets and their settings be protected?</p> <p>Will non-designated heritage assets and their settings be protected?</p> <p>Will historic character be enhanced?</p>	<p>Number and % of Conservation Areas with an up to date character appraisal and a published Management Plan.</p> <p>Number and % of Listed Buildings considered to be “at Risk”.</p> <p>Number of buildings of historic or architectural interest brought back into active use.</p> <p>Number, or % or area of historic buildings, sites and areas and their settings (both designated and non-designated) damaged.</p> <p>Number, or % or area of scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and undesignated archaeological sites and their settings damaged</p>
	To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape and protect the special qualities and setting of the AONB, National Park, Tranquil and Dark Sky Areas and other protected areas.	<p>Will designated landscapes be protected and enhanced?</p> <p>Will landscape character improve?</p>	<p>Area designated for nature conservation importance</p> <p>Number of sites identified of local nature conservation importance, and proportion of local sites</p>

		Will tranquillity improve or deteriorate?	where positive conservation has been or is being implemented Landscape and countryside quality
SA Topic: Social factors	To provide a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	Will housing supply increase in line with demand? Will affordable housing be supported?	Levels of population growth and population structural changes. Number of households on the household register. Number of people accepted as homeless (annually). House prices and housing affordability (house price to income ratios) Net housing completions Net affordable housing completions Housing Mix (new housing types and tenure). Housing land supply Net additional Pitches for Gypsies and Travellers Number and location of vacant or empty properties

			<p>Number of new dwellings meeting accessible housing standards.</p> <p>Number of new dwellings meeting nationally described space standards.</p>
	To provide a reduction in crime and improve the perception of safety and security.	Does the option / policy help 'design out crime'?	<p>Crime rates per 1,000 head of population</p> <p>Proportion of local people who feel safe in their community</p>
	To encourage vibrant communities that participate in decision making	<p>Does the option/policy support/maintain communities?</p> <p>Does the option/policy encourage community involvement in development?</p>	<p>No. of Neighbourhood Plans</p> <p>Proportion of the District population who are overweight or obese.</p> <p>Life expectancy at birth.</p> <p>Healthy Life Expectancy.</p> <p>% of people with limiting long term illness</p>
	To ensure the creation of high quality, contextual buildings and places in which to live and work	<p>Does the proposal maximise opportunities for high quality design?</p> <p>Is the option/policy encourage reflection of local setting?</p>	<p>No. of applications utilising Building for Life Standards</p> <p>Design Guides Produced</p> <p>Design Briefs Produced</p>
SA Topic: Economy	To provide a range of good quality employment opportunities available to all.	Will the option / policy create new jobs?	Amount of employment land completed

		<p>Will the option / policy increase access to jobs?</p>	<p>Proportion of working age population with no or lower level qualifications</p> <p>% of working age population with NVQ Level 4 and above.</p> <p>Proportion of working age population employed in each of the Soc 2010 Major Groups</p> <p>Number of jobs created, assessed against employment requirements and targets</p> <p>Number of jobs by employment sector</p> <p>Income level (Gross Weekly Pay)</p>
	<p>To provide conditions which encourage economic growth, business success, diversification of existing enterprises and investment in both urban and rural locations.</p>	<p>Will local services and businesses be supported?</p> <p>Will tourism be encouraged?</p>	<p>Levels of economic growth (Gross Value Added)</p> <p>Employment rate</p> <p>Number of jobs created, assessed against employment requirements and targets</p> <p>Number of jobs by employment sector</p> <p>Vacancy rates in employment locations</p>

			<p>Number of business start-ups and survivals</p> <p>Location of new business growth and development Increased levels of investment</p> <p>Increased levels of spend</p> <p>Enhanced retail facilities</p> <p>More visitors to the District and greater spend</p>
	<p>To provide education and training opportunities which build the skills and capacity of the population</p>	<p>Will the option / policy increase access to jobs?</p> <p>Does the option/policy encourage training opportunities for the local population?</p>	<p>Proportion of working age population with no or lower level qualifications.</p> <p>% of working age population with NVQ Level 4 and above.</p> <p>% of 16 year olds achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A* to C (including Maths, English and NOVQ attainment).</p> <p>Population and population growth levels.</p> <p>Education infrastructure capacity</p> <p>Level of education infrastructure delivered through development</p>

Appendix 4 – Summary of Responses to Scoping Report Consultation and amendments subsequently made

Consultee	Comment	RDC Response	RDC Amendment
Coal Authority	No specific comments at this stage.	N/A	N/A
CPRE NY	In general it is considered that the relevant Plans and Programme identified and reviewed are appropriate as identified in appendix 1 of the report.	N/A	N/A
CPRE NY	Sustainability issues identified are considered appropriate, however, no recognition at this stage has been given to the importance of ‘setting’ in relation to both nationally recognised and locally valued landscapes and heritage assets (designated or not) is acknowledged in the SA for the emerging plan in order to inform policy preparation.	Comment acknowledged and amendments made.	Cultural Heritage & Landscape – Bullet 2 – Addition of ‘along with their setting’. Bullet 5 – Addition of ‘The Local Plan should consider the importance of the setting of these landscapes’.
CPRE NY	CPRE North Yorkshire consider that reference to both tranquillity and dark skies are important in protecting the landscapes, countryside and well-being of the population and	Comment acknowledged and	Cultural Heritage & Landscape

	visitors of the rural district as a whole therefore believe that these important aspects should also be included within the SA going forward.	amendments made.	New Bullet – ‘A number of tranquil areas and intrinsically dark sky landscapes which the Local Plan should seek to protect and limit impact of development upon’.
Darlington Borough Council	The review of relevant plans, programmes and policies provides comprehensive coverage of relevant international, national, regional and sub-regional documents. We would however suggest that the adopted/ emerging local plans of neighbouring local authorities are also considered.	Comment noted and relevant Local Plans incorporated.	Reference to relevant Local Plans at Darlington, Yorkshire Dales, Hambleton, Durham and Harrogate included in Appendix 1.
Darlington Borough Council	There is no comparison of local data against national/regional figures and trends. It is therefore hard to consider how the area performs against comparators for each indicator.	Comparisons have been made where possible.	N/A
Darlington Borough Council	In terms of the indicators for biodiversity, fauna and flora it may also be worth considering identifying the types and prevalence of priority habitats and species in the plan area	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Addition of indicator - Types and Prevalence of priority habitats and species

Darlington Borough Council	The sustainability issues identified are considered appropriate.	N/A	N/A
Darlington Borough Council	The SA objectives would appear to cover all of the necessary issues. Before you start assessing potential sites it is worth considering carefully how some of the objectives will be applied specifically to sites – i.e. what factors will distinguish whether a sites performs well, or not so well, against each objective.	Advice welcomed and noted	N/A
Highways England	Paragraph 2.4 identifies that development limits and land use allocations will be updated in the Local Plan 2018 – 2035. Once land use allocations are known an assessment of their impact on the SRN will be required to understand the need for improvements to accommodate the proposed level and location of development.	Noted	N/A
Highways England	The sustainability objectives are identified in paragraph 7.5 of the Report. The third objective relates to ensuring a sustainable transport network which encourages sustainable transport choices to minimise congestion and improve air quality. Highways England are supportive of this objective.	Noted	N/A
Highways England	Within the site selection methodology, it is identified that the Sustainability Appraisal should identify the cumulative and significant effects upon sustainability objectives. Highways England welcome that a cumulative assessment of the impact of the local plan will be undertaken. This should include the impact on the SRN of traffic associated with allocated sites both individually and cumulatively.	Acknowledged and Noted	N/A
Historic England	The first two bullet points under Cultural Heritage and Landscape should include specific figures for the number of designated heritage assets within the District.	These are provided in Appendix 2.	N/A

Historic England	An additional requirement at the end of the bullet point 1 so that it accords with paragraph 185 of the NPPF: "...the Local Plan should ensure the protection, maintenance <i>and, where appropriate, enhancement of</i> ".	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Cultural & Heritage Bullet 1 – Addition of 'and where appropriate, enhancement of'
Historic England	Include reference to the desirability of sustaining and enhancing non-designated heritage assets.	Comment noted and amendment proposed	New Bullet - A number of non-designated heritage assets which the Local Plan should seek to ensure the significance of are sustained and enhanced.
Historic England	<p>Include potential opportunities for cultural heritage and landscape such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Delivering heritage-led regeneration and supporting the vitality and viability of town centres <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Developing a stronger sense of place and local distinctiveness by informing design <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting the innovative reuse of the existing building stock and addressing heritage at risk <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting heritage based tourism <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Achieving appropriate climate change resilience <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Improving awareness, involvement, and understanding of the historic environment 	It is considered that these are responses that will be included in the policies developed to address the sustainability issues	N/A

	<p>☐☐ Encouraging traditional building and craft skills development and using the historic environment as an educational Resource.</p>	and problems.	
Historic England	<p>Slightly amend wording of objective 6 to: “To ensure the creation of high quality, <i>contextual</i>, buildings and places in which to live and work” (or similar).</p>	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Addition of ‘contextual’ to objective 6
Historic England	<p>Amend the wording of objective 10 to: “To <i>conserve</i> and enhance the historic environment, <i>heritage assets and their setting</i> and improve understanding <i>and enjoyment</i> of local cultural heritage.”</p>	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Amend objective 10 to “To <i>conserve</i> and enhance the historic environment, <i>heritage assets and their setting</i> and improve understanding <i>and enjoyment</i> of local cultural heritage.”
Historic England	<p>Amend the final column relating to The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) to read: “The Plan should take account of <i>architectural</i> heritage”.</p>	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Amend archaeological heritage to architectural heritage
Historic England	<p>Add in an additional relevant document: The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention).</p>	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Addition of ‘The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage’ to the relevant plans and programmes.

Historic England	Move the reference to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 from the “objectives” column to the “plan/programme” column and complete the relevant columns accordingly.	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Addition of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to the Plans and Programmes Column.
Historic England	Delete reference to Historic England Corporate Plan.	Comment noted and reference deleted	N/A
Historic England	Include “Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans, Statements or other studies” as a relevant plan/ programme and complete the other columns accordingly.	Comment noted and amendment proposed	Addition of “Conservation Area Appraisals, Management Plans, Statements or other studies” to the Plans and Programmes.
Historic England	Include baseline figures for Grade II listed buildings.	Comment noted and update completed	Addition of “1,199” Listed Buildings
Historic England	Include most up-to-date figures for Heritage at Risk, available on the 2019 register on the Historic England website.	Comment noted and update completed	Updated to the 2019 figure which remains as 7 on the Heritage at Risk register.
Historic England	Clarify the distinction between the two types of historic parks and gardens identified and make it clear which group, if any, is of national importance.	Comment noted and	Addition of national importance (6 Grade

		clarification provided	II Listed and 1 Grade II* Listed)
Historic England	<p>Include the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of Listed Buildings under each grade · Number and % of Listed Buildings at risk · Number of Listed Buildings demolished · Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments · Number and % archaeological sites at risk · Number of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens · Number and % of Historic Parks and Gardens at risk · Number of Conservation Areas · Number and % Conservation Areas at Risk · Number and % Conservation Areas with appraisals/management plans 	Comment noted and additions proposed	<p>Inclusion of the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of Listed Buildings under each grade · Number and % of Listed Buildings at risk · Number of Listed Buildings demolished · Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments · Number and % archaeological sites at risk · Number of Registered Historic Parks and Gardens · Number and % of Historic Parks and Gardens at risk

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of Conservation Areas · Number and % Conservation Areas at Risk · Number and % Conservation Areas with appraisals/ management plans
Historic England	<p>Amend wording of the first two prompts under Cultural Heritage and Landscape as follows:</p> <p>“Will designated heritage assets <i>and their settings</i> be protected?”</p> <p>“Will non-designated heritage assets <i>and their settings</i> be protected!”</p>	Comments noted and amendment proposed	<p>Amendment of two prompts to: Will designated heritage assets and their settings be protected?</p> <p>Will non-designated heritage assets and their settings be protected?</p>
Historic England	Include potential indicators for scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and undesignated archaeological sites.	Comments noted and amendment proposed	<p>Addition of :</p> <p>Number, or % or area of scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and undesignated</p>

			archaeological sites and their settings damaged
Natural England	<p>Natural England welcomes the plans, programmes and objectives set out in appendix 1 regarding our statutory remit. We note in particular the inclusion of the 25 Environment Plan, our Climate Change and Biodiversity Adaptation the role of the Spatial Planning System publication and the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale AONB Management Plans. However we advise that you also consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> North Pennines AONB Management Plan. Available online at http://www.northpennines.org.uk/management-plan-2019-2024/ <input type="checkbox"/> Richmondshire Biodiversity Action Plan available online at https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/media/5114/richmondshire-biodiversity-action-plan.pdf <input type="checkbox"/> Richmondshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Pennine Dales Meadows Site Improvement Plan. Available online at http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6252591004516352 <input type="checkbox"/> North Pennine Dales Meadows Supplementary Advice. Available online at http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6605909522382848 <input type="checkbox"/> CIEEM's Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance. Available online at: https://cieem.net/biodiversitynet-gain-guidance-published/ 	Comment noted and additions made	All docs identified have been included in Appendix 1 review of relevant plans, programmes and objectives

	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Defra Net Gain Consultation 2018. Available online at https://consult.defra.gov.uk/landuse/net-gain/supporting_documents/netgainconsultationdocument.pdf</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Natural Environment White Paper. Available online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf</p>		
Natural England	We consider the implications of the plan for the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC to be a key sustainability issue which should be flagged in section 6.1.	Comment noted and additions made	Addition of: (particularly the North Pennine Dales Meadows)
Natural England	We recommend however that the appraisal takes geological conservation, including regional geological sites and protected species are taken into consideration.	Comment noted and additions made	Geological conservation including regional geological sites should be taken in to consideration.
Natural England	Furthermore we advise that the plan lies within 2.5km of the North Pennines AONB and advise that this should be considered in the landscape section.	Comment noted and additions made	Amend to: The Local Plan Area contains part of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is in close proximity to the North Pennines AONB and adjoins

			the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Local Plan must take account of its impact on these designated landscapes.
Natural England	We advise that the indicator/target related to best and most versatile (BMV) land should consider all BMV land, including grades 1 and 3b, not just the grade 2 predicted in strategic mapping.	Comment noted and additions made	Addition of - Maintain levels of higher quality Grade 1, 2 and 3b soils and agricultural land.
Natural England	Natural England would like to see consideration of ancient woodland and protected species, in addition to priority species, in relation to sustainability objective 1 biodiversity, fauna and flora.	Comment noted and additions made	Additions of: Amount and Condition of the Ancient Woodland Types and Prevalence of protected and priority habitats and species Addition of: to protect and enhance biodiversity, geo-diversity and the wider natural environment

			including ancient woodland, priority and protected species.
Natural England	We recommend that the potential indicators under the soil objective should include monitoring of losses of best and most versatile agricultural land.	Comment noted and additions made	Losses of best and most versatile agricultural land
Natural England	We recommend that the framework should include consideration of impacts on the settings of relevant AONBs and National Parks as well as the special qualities.	Comment noted and additions made	Addition of setting in the following: To maintain and enhance the quality and character of the landscape and protect the special qualities and setting of the AONB, National Park, Tranquil and Dark Sky Areas and other protected areas.

Environment Agency	<p>Page 15 – 6.1 – <i>Biodiversity, fauna and flora</i></p> <p>There should be a reference to Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves within this section, as they should be protected through the Local Plan.</p>	Comment noted and addition made	Addition of Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves to read: A number of SINCS, Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves which should be protected, maintained and enhanced.
Environment Agency	<p>Page 15 – 6.1 – <i>Water</i></p> <p>This section is limited to the protection of and would benefit from being expanded further, to include water resources, quality and perhaps flood risk.</p>	Comment noted and addition made. Flood risk is covered within the climatic factors section.	Amend to: Ensure development does not adversely affect water resources and water quality including aquifers which are important to local water supply or rivers and streams which feed in to the wider network.
Environment Agency	<p>Objective 1 - <i>To protect and enhance biodiversity, geo-diversity and the wider natural environment.</i></p>	Comment noted and addition made.	Amend to: To protect and enhance biodiversity (achieving a net

	<p>We consider that there should be a direct reference to Biodiversity Net Gain within this objective, as the government has signalled its intent to require development to deliver 10% minimum Net Gain for Biodiversity in the forthcoming Environment Bill 2020.</p>		<p>gain), geo-diversity and the wider natural environment including ancient woodland, priority and protected species</p>
Environment Agency	<p><i>Objective 7 - To ensure all development is resilient to climate change and reduces the risk of flooding.</i></p> <p>Along with understanding, managing and adapting to the implications of a changing climate. Climate change is also one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and the need to act on a local level is very important. Need to consider how to help wildlife adapt to climate change.</p> <p>You should also consider how to minimise climate change impacts on groundwater resources and risks from contaminated land and also the potential impacts on water resources and water quality from a changing climate. This should be considered at a local level.</p> <p>We consider that it might be beneficial to include a separate objective for flood risk, as increased flood risk is not the sole impact of climate change. The new objective should be to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources, both now and in the future. The climate change objective should perhaps focus on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.</p>	<p>Comment noted and amendments made</p>	<p>Amend objective 7 to: To ensure all development is resilient to climate change and contributes towards radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>Addition of objective 19 to state: To reduce the risk of flooding from all sources, both now and in the future</p>
Environment Agency	<p><i>Objective 18 - To protect and enhance water quality</i></p> <p>Local Plans offer an opportunity to consider development in the context of available water resources, balancing economic growth with protecting and enhancing the water</p>	<p>Comment noted and water resources added to objective</p>	<p>Amend to: To protect and enhance water resources and water quality</p>

	<p>environment. Local Plans should consider all water users, ensuring domestic supplies are protected but not at the expense of the environment and other users.</p> <p>There should be an objective around water resources, as well as water quality. These could be either through combined or separate objectives, and should include the prevention of pollution and contaminated land, and reducing water consumption and abstraction, as well ensuring water resources to support future development and the protection and enhancement of all waterbodies, including ground and surface waters.</p>	<p>18. Further detail will be covered by Local plan policies and do not need to be within objective</p>	
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Appendix 1 - Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Objectives</p> <p>Page 30 - EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>The implications for the plan should be expanded to include the consideration of the effects of flood and use of water in the Local Plan and perspective locations for development. You should also ensure that the sustainability objectives include those relevant from the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Page 35 - Climate Change Act 2008</p> <p>There is further support in Chapter 14 of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that local policy should support "radical reductions" (para 148) in emissions in line with the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>Page 43 – The Humber River Basin Management Plan, 2009</p> <p>You may also need to consider the Northumberland RBMP, as this covers a small part of the District of Richmondshire.</p> <p>We recommend that the regard is also given to the River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan, which provides an overview of the flood risk across the river catchment and recommended ways of managing the risk now and over the next 50 to 100 years.</p>	<p>Comments noted and additions made</p>	<p>EU WFD – Amend implications to: Consideration should be given to the impact upon water resources including the effects of flood and use of water during production of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Climate Change Act 2008 – Amend implications to: The Local Plan should ensure that new development is designed to</p>

			<p>minimise energy use and supports radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Addition of Northumbria RBMP to the list of plan/programmes.</p> <p>Addition of River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan</p>
Environment Agency	<p>Climate Change</p> <p>The UK planning and environmental legislation sets out that local plans must include robust evidence-based carbon targets. There is a legal duty through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004 that requires local plans to include policies “designed to secure” that development and use of land contributes to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.</p> <p>The Local Authority needs to set local carbon targets based on an assessment of local potential and taking into account national and international targets. Planning policies then need to be developed that are consistent with these targets and a monitoring mechanism created to allow for review of future performance.</p> <p>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 – which implement the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive creates a legal duty</p>	Comments noted and additions made	<p>Addition of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 to list of programmes and plans.</p>

	<p>and require that a plan’s cumulative climate impacts are assessed and taken into account. This includes assessing the consistency of proposed policies with all relevant climate objectives and targets.</p>		
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>In response to 6.1 Sustainability Issues and Problems (Stage A3) – page 15</p> <p>At the highest level, the key issues that the Local Plan will need to consider should look to align with Government and DEFRA thinking as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan such as the ambition for ‘Clean and plentiful water’:</p> <p><i>“We will achieve clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable by: reducing the damaging abstraction of water from rivers and groundwater, ensuring that by 2021 the proportion of water bodies with enough water to support environmental standards increases from 82% to 90% for surface water bodies and from 72% to 77% for groundwater bodies reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for biodiversity or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans supporting OFWAT’s ambitions on leakage, minimising the amount of water lost through leakage year on year, with water companies expected to reduce leakage by at least an average of 15% by 2025 minimising by 2030 the harmful bacteria in our designated bathing waters and continuing to improve the cleanliness of our waters; we will make sure that potential bathers are warned of any short-term pollution risks”</i></p> <p>The key issues should also align with the principles of the current River Basin Management Plan for the Humber River Basin District, considering water quality as well as water quantity.</p> <p>The ongoing issues that are outlined in the plan (Section 3.2) indicate where local government can support other regulators and operators in applying the relevant legislation and policy:</p> <p>Physical modification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government and internal drainage boards grant land drainage consents under the Land Drainage Act 1991. 	<p>Comments noted. These detailed matters can be addressed through specific policies and evidence base comments. They SA issues and problems do flag these at a high level</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government consider impact on hydromorphology when preparing spatial plans and local flood risk management plans, decisions on development management, new buildings and infrastructure. Government and agencies (Environment Agency) to explore effectiveness of existing approach to planning guidance on development in flood plains and coastal erosion risk areas. Government and agencies (Environment Agency) to review flood defence design standards for WFD and Natura 2000 sites. Government and agencies (Environment Agency) to carry out feasibility studies and designs for flood storage areas for environmental benefits. <p>Managing pollution from waste water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government considers the impact on water quality in their preparation of spatial plans, decisions on spatial planning, development management, new buildings and infrastructure. <p>Managing pollution from towns, cities and transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government uses planning conditions, legal agreements and enforcement powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to prevent or stop pollution from developments, roads and other infrastructure. Local government makes sure that new developments address potential pollution problems by using sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water. Local government uses powers under the Building Act 1984 to rectify misconnected waste water pipe work, and statutory nuisance powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to stop water pollution from unauthorised operations such as transient car wash operations. Local government considers urban diffuse pollution pressures when developing spatial plans, determining planning applications and designing and constructing local council owned buildings, infrastructure and grounds. These should incorporate sustainable drainage schemes and water efficiency measures where practical and affordable. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local government incorporates green and blue infrastructure into regeneration schemes where possible. Local government and industry, manufacturing and other business reduce the impact of pesticides by using Amenity Assured registered weed control contractors under the Voluntary Initiative. Local government works with industry, manufacturing and other business (Local Enterprise Partnerships), and non-governmental organisations (catchment partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships) to develop joint improvement programmes. <p>Changes to natural flow and levels of water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sectors take up or encourage water efficiency measures, including water industry work on metering, leakage, audits, providing water efficient products, promoting water efficiency and education. Local government sets out local plan policies requiring new homes to meet the tighter water efficiency standard of 110 litres per person per day as described in Part G of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010. Local government commissions water cycle studies to inform spatial planning decisions around local water resources. 		
Environment Agency	<p>In response to Appendix 2 Baseline Information – page 52</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) needs to be considered throughout plan development. In order to conserve, maintain and enhance the Richmondshire District's water resources, proposals should:</p> <p>a) Do not result in the deterioration of water bodies and which conserve and enhance the following:</p> <p>I. The natural geomorphology of water courses;</p> <p>II. The water quality; and</p>	Comments noted and additions made	New section added to incorporate these indicators within water quality

	<p>III. The ecological value of the water environment, including watercourse corridors.</p> <p>b) Implement positive progress towards achieving “good” status or higher under the WFD in Richmondshire’s ground water and surface water bodies, with any new development being able to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That there is no deterioration in the status of any surface or ground water body; ii. That it does not compromise the ability of any surface or ground water body to achieve its WFD status objectives; iii. That any proposed developments also meet wider environmental duties; and iv. That where possible, indicate how the proposed development contributes to the delivery of WFD objectives (set out in the RBMP). <p>c) Manage water demand and improve water efficiency through appropriate water conservation techniques and good practice adaptation to assist climate resilience (for example grey-water recycling and rainwater harvesting); and</p> <p>d) Dispose of surface water appropriately and improve water quality through the incorporation of SuDS.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>1. The WFD establishes a legislative framework for the protection of surface waters (including rivers, lakes and coastal waters) and ground waters. The WFD is transposed into law in England and Wales by The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</p> <p>The overall aims and objectives of the WFD are to:</p>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of surface water bodies, ground water bodies and their ecosystems; • ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution; • reduce pollution of water, especially by priority substances and certain other pollutants, as set out in the list of chemicals for Water Framework Directive assessments; • contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts; • achieve at least good surface water status for all surface water bodies and good chemical status in ground water bodies or good ecological potential in the case of artificial or heavily modified water bodies; and • promote sustainable water use. <p>2. Richmondshire’s water resources are a crucial part of the district’s environment which provide important wildlife habitats and encourage biodiversity, provide opportunities for recreation and form an important element to alleviate flood risk.</p> <p>3. Many of Richmondshire’s watercourses have been physically changed over time for example by land drainage, culverting or being run through artificial channels, which can reduce their amenity value and harm their ecology.</p> <p>4. Opportunities to re-naturalise watercourses should be supported, for example by removing existing artificial engineering works. Any new physical changes to watercourses in the district should be avoided unless there are compelling grounds for doing so and all alternative options have been considered.</p> <p>5. When considering new development, local councils will aim to ensure best practice is followed regarding foul and surface water drainage; by following the hierarchy and guidance set out within Planning Policy Guidance and NPPF; and the storage of oils, paints and chemicals which could cause water pollution.</p> <p>6. Developer contributions from new development can help to enhance watercourses in the district and their value as an amenity to the local community.</p>		
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<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Baseline WFD information</p> <p>The Catchment Data Explorer helps you explore and download information about the water environment. It supports and builds upon the data in the river basin management plans.</p> <p>The key water quality issues in this area, or failing elements under WFD, are listed below. There are a large number of waterbodies that are failing with 116 out of 204 waterbodies (57% - this includes groundwater and lake waterbodies) having an objective that requires improvement from their current status.</p> <p>The top failing elements (with number of waterbodies in which they fail) are:</p> <p>Element Number of waterbodies in which they fail</p> <p>Dissolved oxygen 21</p> <p>Fish 21</p> <p>Macrophytes and Phytobenthos 15</p> <p>Phosphate 12</p> <p>Mitigation Measures Assessment* 10</p> <p>Invertebrates 8</p> <p>Zinc 6</p> <p>Cadmium (and its compounds) 6</p> <p>Lead (and its compounds) 5</p> <p><i>*Note: Mitigation Measures Assessment is associated with physical modification</i></p>	<p>Comments noted and additions made</p>	<p>Baseline data added to water quality indicators</p>
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	<p>The top reasons for failure/deterioration (with number of reasons) are:</p> <p>Sewage discharge (continuous) 27</p> <p>Poor nutrient management 23</p> <p>Poor soil management 23</p> <p>Abandoned mine 22</p> <p>Barriers - ecological discontinuity 18</p> <p>Any indicators/targets should include the need for all waterbodies to reach Good Ecological Potential under the WFD.</p>		
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>In response to Appendix 3 Sustainability objectives, Appraisal Prompts and Monitoring Indicators – page 61</p> <p>It is positive to see, under the Water SEA Directive Topic/Sustainability Topic indicators, that the WFD Objectives for Ecological Status are considered as potential monitoring indicators. As per the comments above, there are failures in water quality elements in a number of water bodies across the district, and therefore we welcome the classification of these water bodies being considered as an indicator for the ambition 'To protect and enhance water quality'.</p> <p>However, the topic objective should ensure it captures both water quality and water resources. The objective could be amended to 'To protect and enhance water quality and water availability' to cover these two areas which are both considered within the monitoring indicators column.</p>	<p>Comments noted and amendments made</p>	<p>Addition of water availability to water objective</p>

<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Sewerage capacity</p> <p>As Richmondshire District spans across parts of predominantly rural upland areas, wastewater treatment is likely to be located in urban areas. Sewage works may also be of small size, serving only a small population equivalent (PE). Any large developments could quickly use up any capacity at the existing STWs, potentially leading to water quality impacts. It is strongly recommended Yorkshire Water (or Northumbrian Water where applicable) are consulted on proposals as they can advise where existing capacity is.</p> <p>New development should be in accordance with the drainage hierarchy (into the ground (infiltration); to a surface water body; to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system; to a combined sewer.), in order to manage surface water, particularly in areas where there are capacity pressures in the sewer network and at sewage treatment works.</p>	<p>Comments noted and will be taken in to account through the preparation of policies and identification of allocations</p>	<p>None</p>
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