

Barnsley Local Plan

Extracts from Local Plan Publication Sustainability Appraisal 2016 (SD4)

- 1.0 This document aims to draw together the relevant extracts of the SA that deal with appraisal of options, including spatial options considered through appraisal of policy LG2, and how the housing and employment site selection methodologies have been considered against SA objectives.
- 2.0 It is considered that the SA process for the local plan has followed the proper process for considering alternatives. This was achieved by creating a SA Framework defined by 18 SA Objectives and a series of 'decision-making criteria'.
- 3.0 The 18 SA Objectives and decision-making criteria were grouped via four topic themes (maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment; social progress which recognises the needs of everyone; prudent use of natural resources; and effective protection of the environment).
- 4.0 These were used to consider a series of alternative policy approaches, via a process which began in February 2014 with the production of the SA Scoping Report, and proceeded through to June 2016 and the production of the SA Report (Publication Version). This process was an iterative one, and informed the development of the local plan.
- 5.0 Sites in locations across the borough have been considered through the Council's Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (2016), and the Site Selection Methodology. Sites have been appraised against a range of site-specific criteria (e.g. flood risk, accessibility, ground conditions, drainage etc), with conclusions reached as to whether they represent opportunities to realise sustainable development. Those where the site assessments have shown that sustainable development is possible have been considered for allocation as part of the local-plan making process.
- 6.0 The SA process, in considering alternative spatial distribution options, has shown that the approach taken in Policy LG2 is justified and reasonable. The Council notes that the Inspector, in her Preliminary Findings Letter notes that: *"The spatial strategy appropriately identifies Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns as the focus for development. This is justified based on the assessment of alternatives within the SA and having regard to the need to promote sustainable patterns of development in accordance with the principles set out in the NPPF."*
- 7.0 The SA is a part of the local plan-making process, and is a quality assurance method to ensure that the local plan represents a reasonable and justified strategy when considered against alternatives.
- 8.0 It is not for the SA to appraise every site that emerges through the evidence base. The Council has used an appropriate evidence base, namely the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (2016), and the Housing and Employment Site Selection Methodologies, to consider and appraise the relevant merits of sites that have been forthcoming. Those sites that have been shown to be capable of delivering sustainable development, set against a range of site-based assessment have then featured in the Council's decision-making on which sites should progress to be 'allocations' in the local plan.

- 9.0 The relationship between the Site Selection Methodology process and the SA has been set out in Appendix C (Table 12 and Table 13) of the SA Report (June 2016). This underlines how the Council has taken an iterative approach, and taken account of the evidence in refining the local plan, and ensuring that the choices are appraised as part of the SA.
- 10.0 The SA process considers alternatives and appraises whether policy options are reasonable when judged against agreed SA objectives. The SA has utilised the information forthcoming from the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (2016) and the Site Selection Methodology, but the SA by itself is not the decision-making tool.
- 11.0 The SA therefore focuses on understanding what the plan-level mitigation and policy options need to be in order to present a sound, robust, justified local plan, rather than being used as a site selection tool. Therefore the SA and the Site Selection Methodology processes are linked, but are not the same.
- 12.0 The following pages contain relevant extracts from the Sustainability Appraisal.

Extracts from SA dealing with assessment of policy LG2 in respect of spatial options

Extract from table 17 page 59

Policy	Policy Options	Change to policy since draft?	Previous SA stated	Change to SA findings?
LG2 – The Location of Growth	LG2A – Policy support as described in policy document	Forecast for jobs from 17,500 to 33,000. Employment land requirement from 306ha to 309ha. References to the Goldthorpe site removed.	The proposed LG2a carries forward the settlement hierarchy that was adopted in the Core Strategy which was subject to SA and was found sound. The policy considered to offer the best options for a mix of sites in terms of scale and location. The general principles remain that development is being distributed following a structured hierarchy in order to make the best use of existing infrastructure where possible. LG2b is limited as it would make it difficult to take a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure due to dispersion of developments. Yet LG2c would cause environmental damage to receptors on green belt land and whilst provides a central development hub to attract investment, it is not centrally located and could be inhibited by the poor local connectivity.	None
	LG2B - Dispersal across the Borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns			None
	LG2C - New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.			None

Extract from Appendix D Assessment of policy options against SA objectives

SA Objective	LG2a Policy support as described in document.	LG2b Dispersal across the borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns	LG2c New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.	Comparison, mitigation and enhancement measures
1.	N/A			N/A
2. To retain and enhance local strengths and qualities that are attractive to visitors and investors	<p>Permanent. Direct. LT. ++</p> <p>This approach to the location of development is advocated to encourage development in specific locations to ensure the spatial strategy for the borough is achieved. This will allow Urban Barnsley to accommodate significantly more growth than any individual Principal Town to accord with its place in the settlement hierarchy, which will attract investment and visitors.</p>	<p>Unknown?</p> <p>This approach encourages a mix of sites in terms of size and location. Yet the pepper pot dispersal approach would make it problematic to coordinate a wider region effort regarding infrastructure. As such this could reduce the appeal of such areas. Yet similarly the active investment into local development could attract investment and given the option could yield either</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. LT. +/-?</p> <p>May enable a more co-ordinated approach to be taken to infrastructure provision than smaller scale sites. Yet The historical settlement pattern of Barnsley has led to a dispersed pattern of small towns and villages, traditionally self-contained with poor connectivity. As such whilst a centrally located green belt development allows a central development point it</p>	<p>Policy option LG2a carries forward the settlement hierarchy that was adopted in the Core Strategy which was subject to SA and was found sound. It would allow development and attract investment to established regions of priority and allow filtration of such investment strategically through the settlement hierarchy. The alternative options have limitations and thus potentially unknown impacts although</p>

SA Objective	LG2a Policy support as described in document.	LG2b Dispersal across the borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns	LG2c New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.	Comparison, mitigation and enhancement measures
		effects it cannot be said which is likely.	is likely that it would be poorly connected to wider region which could deter investment. Hence the impact should be positive by attracting investment but such organisations may be put off by isolated locality.	LG2c is predicted to be positive it cannot be assured to attract investment. Hence LG2a is most likely to provide the greatest benefits.
3. To promote economic activity growth and regeneration including high value and growth	Permanent. Direct. LT. ++ This approach to the location of development is advocated to encourage development in specific locations to ensure the spatial strategy for the borough is achieved. This will allow Urban Barnsley to accommodate significantly more growth than any individual Principal Town to accord with its place in the settlement hierarchy, which will attract investment and visitors. Policy adoption would also actively target priority sectors to create jobs around including Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Visitor Economy, Logistics and Business Services.	Permanent. Direct. LT. +/? The pepper pot dispersal approach would make it problematic to coordinate a wider region effort regarding infrastructure and regeneration. It would be unlikely that a dispersed approach would yield high value economic activity as there would not a centrally located business region. However this is somewhat unknown as general development of the region may attract investment.	Neutral. 0. May enable a more co-ordinated approach to be taken to infrastructure provision which could aid the creation of one centrally located region of economic activity. This in turn could attract investment and growth yet the location of the sites is on the periphery of the wider region and would struggle to have viability for economic growth.	Adoption of LG2a seeks to locate development within or at the edge of the main settlements in order to strengthen their viability and provide investment opportunities that may further improve connectivity within and outside the borough. Similarly the option has identified key areas to target for local economic growth. This is not the case for LG2c . However, there is some potential for economic growth and regeneration associated with LG2b . However because this would be dispersed the magnitude of any effects would be limited.
4.	N/A			N/A

SA Objective	LG2a Policy support as described in document.	LG2b Dispersal across the borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns	LG2c New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.	Comparison, mitigation and enhancement measures
5. To enable all sections of the community to access services, facilities and opportunities and provide travel choice	<p>Permanent. Direct. LT. ++</p> <p>By using the existing settlement hierarchy development would be located close to existing centres where services and facilities are likely to already be present. This type of distribution would also be better suited to take advantage of existing transport connections, including sustainable modes of transport.</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. LT. +/?</p> <p>Dispersal of development might result in some development occurring close to existing facilities and services and might also provide access to more sustainable modes of transport. However, there is less certain about the extent and magnitude of the effects and as a result an uncertain effect is predicted.</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. - /?</p> <p>Development within the green belt could create a major new community where people have to travel, especially by private car, to access services and facilities because it might be isolated from these services. Even if these facilities were to be provided as part of a major greenbelt development there could also be a lag before there was a critical mass of development to support the provision of and access to these services.</p>	<p>LG2a performs the best of all three options because it is the option most likely to result in development that is close to existing services, facilities and infrastructure.</p>
6. and 7.	N/A			N/A
8. To provide access to employment opportunities for all sectors of society ensuring that everyone who wants to work has the opportunity to secure appropriate paid employment.	<p>Permanent. Direct. ST/LT. ++</p> <p>Policy adoption would actively encourage the redevelopment and promotion of the settlement hierarchy. The active approach would create jobs not only through initial construction but as the policy seeks to target priority sectors to create jobs around including Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Visitor Economy, Logistics and Business</p>	<p>Temporary. Direct. ST. +/?</p> <p>Policy adoption of a dispersed development plan would initially create jobs as services would be required to complete the plans. However the long term benefits may not be assured for job creation as the wider dispersed approach would make it difficult to take a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure which could</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. ST/LT ?</p> <p>May enable a more co-ordinated approach to be taken to infrastructure provision than smaller scale sites. Resultantly it would a central site albeit one outside the town centre that is equipped to attract investment. In the short-term the construction activities</p>	<p>Policy LG2b could potentially only yield short term temporary benefits as the dispersed approach would not allow the creation of an integrated network that companies would want to utilise. Option LG2c could be subjected to limited by the dispersed settlement pattern of Barnsley with poor connectivity to the wider</p>

SA Objective	LG2a Policy support as described in document.	LG2b Dispersal across the borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns	LG2c New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.	Comparison, mitigation and enhancement measures
	Services and it is believed the policy could yield 17,500 jobs through investment attraction and sustaining the new developments. The policy also offers a structured plan to target certain regions to ensure the sustainable growth of jobs in areas most likely to succeed,	deter investors and the associated employment opportunities. Yet within the short term jobs would be created.	would create jobs and the potential to attract investment would aid employment creation. However the peripheral location of the policy could also deter investors and not yield as many jobs as an urban site proposal and as a result the overall effect is uncertain.	region due to its green belt location. Therefore LG2a which seeks to locate development within or at the edge of the main settlements in order to strengthen their viability and provide investment opportunities which could yield the highest employment opportunities.
9. and 10.	N/A			N/A
11. To use land efficiently by bringing vacant land back into use and retaining the openness of the countryside	<p>Permanent. Direct. ST/LT. +/-</p> <p>This option could allow developments to grow within the already existing urban setting. As such this would drive brownfield redevelopments and retain the openness of the countryside. The option utilises the settlement hierarchy in order to place developments in the suitable location to flourish with existing infrastructure contributing where possible. This would occur though adoption and as such could result in the prioritisation of development on existing brownfield sites or direction of</p>	<p>Unknown?</p> <p>Dispersing the development and regeneration across the borough would have an uncertain effect. This is because brownfield remediation could be a part of the proposals yet similarly green infrastructure and green belts could be compromised. As such the impacts cannot be assessed..</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. ST/LT. - -</p> <p>Policy adoption would not encourage the use of brownfield sites nor would it retain countryside openness, as it would actively construct upon green belt land.</p>	Option LG2c would result in a significant adverse effect. Similarly the unknown locations of developments within the LG2b adoption means that it is unlikely it would meet the requirements of the objective. However due to the unknown locations that could be used for developments. Adoption of LG2a would drive brownfield redevelopments and retain the openness of the countryside by utilising the already existing framework if the settlement hierarchy in order to create sustainability.

SA Objective	LG2a Policy support as described in document.	LG2b Dispersal across the borough, not focussed around Urban Barnsley and the Principal Towns	LG2c New settlement in Green Belt to meet housing and employment needs.	Comparison, mitigation and enhancement measures
	development away from the most versatile agricultural land. Therefore adoption of this Policy could indirectly support the use of land efficiently and the need to bring vacant land back into use.			
12. to 14.	N/A			N/A
15. To conserve and enhance the borough's natural habitats, and wildlife and green infrastructure	<p>Neutral. 0.</p> <p>Adoption of policy LG2a would yield neutral effects as the utilisation of the settlement hierarchy would target urban environments for regeneration. As such green infrastructure will not be impacted locally yet it would not be enhanced, thus a status quo.</p>	<p>Unknown?</p> <p>Dispersing the development and regeneration across the borough could have unknown implications upon. Brownfield remediation could be a part of the proposals yet similarly green infrastructure and green belts could be compromised. As a result the magnitude of the effect is uncertain because the actual nature of the effects would be site specific.</p>	<p>Permanent. Direct. ST/LT. - /?</p> <p>This option would not retain countryside openness, as it would actively construct upon green belt land. Thus it would negatively impact green infrastructure. However, the magnitude of the effect is uncertain because the actual nature of the effects would be site specific.</p>	Adoption of any policy is unlikely to yield a positive impact regarding Objective 15 . Policy LG2c can be instantly ruled out due to its proposal to build on green belt land. The best option would be adoption of LG2a as it would allow the status quo to ensue.
16. to 18.	N/A			N/A

Overall comparison of the options.	<p>The proposed LG2a carries forward the settlement hierarchy that was adopted in the Core Strategy which was subject to SA and was found sound. The policy considered to offer the best options for a mix of sites in terms of scale and location. The general principles remain that development is being distributed following a structured hierarchy in order to make the best use of existing infrastructure where possible. LG2b is limited as it would make it difficult to take a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure due to dispersion of developments. Yet LG2c would cause environmental damage to receptors on green belt land and whilst provides a central development hub to attract investment, it is not centrally located and could be inhibited by the poor local connectivity. Whilst no site allocations are proposed in the villages, policy LG2 does provide flexibility for development to take place where necessary for viability reasons or to meet local needs. Such development in the villages might enable delivery of the affordable housing targets. However, this will need to be balanced against other sustainability objectives and environmental impacts. The local plan also supports the development of neighbourhood plans through which local communities may propose development.</p>
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Extracts of SA relating to Housing and Employment Site Selection (Appendix C of the SA Publication Version 2016)

Please note that the scoring shown in the SA of the housing and site selection tables below is incorrect. This will be corrected in the final version of the SA.

Appendix C Housing and Employment Land Site Selection

Housing Site Selection Methodology

A robust Housing Site Selection Methodology has been produced to identify housing sites for allocation through the Local Plan. A Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment has been carried out which excluded sites that met any of the following criteria:

- site lies in Flood Zone 3b;
- site contains part of scheduled or nationally important monuments;
- site lies within any of the designated nature conservation sites¹ identified in Saved Policy GS18 of the UDP;
- site lies on route of safeguarded former railway lines;
- site lies within area with extant permission for mineral extraction;
- site is highly unlikely to be available during the 15 year period of the study; and
- site is highly unlikely to be achievable during the 15 year study period.

The sites are then to be assessed using the Housing Site Selection Methodology. This will be a mixture of desk and site based work. Sites of under 0.4ha have not been considered for allocation. Each site will gain a score, the higher the more appropriate the site is for housing. The Objectively Assessed Housing Number for Barnsley and the spatial distribution across the Borough have not yet been confirmed. Following their confirmation the scores from the Housing Site Selection Methodology will be used to inform the site allocations to be proposed in the Plan. Table 12 below provides a summary of the relationship between the SA Objectives and the Housing Site Selection Methodology Criteria.

The use of this site selection criteria means that the potential sustainability effects of each potential site allocation have been assessed using the same standard set of criteria. This will allow the sites to be selected on a comparative basis. The assessment will allow the sites to be prioritized in terms of their overall score so that the sites that are less likely to result in a significant effect and provide benefits will be selected as the preferred sites to meet the objectively assessed need across the Borough.

If any of the policies and/or sites that are brought forward as potentially preferred sites and policies but are also likely to result in a significant effect, relevant mitigation measures will be identified. The aim of these mitigation measures will be to avoid the effects or reduce them to such a level that they no longer result in a significant effect. This could include the introduction of new policies, amendments to proposed policies in the Local Plan or policies and interventions set out in other plans or policies.

¹ These are as follows: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Natural Heritage Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodlands, Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Sites.

Table 12: Relationship between Housing Site Selection Methodology and SA Objectives

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Transport		
Availability of Rail and Bus	<p>Red site - (not in 800m from railway station or 400m from a bus stop) - 0 point</p> <p>Amber site (site is partly 800m from railway station or 400m from a bus stop out) - 3 points</p> <p>Green Site (site is 800m from a railway station or 400m from a bus stop: 5 points</p>	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access Public Transport. If a site is well located to access public transport this will support this objective.
Potential for the site to accessed by public transport in the future	<p>The site gets one point per ability to meet these criteria:</p> <p>Site within 2km of existing station (shuttle bus): 1 point</p> <p>Site 1km from existing bus route (potential for amended route): 1 point</p> <p>Site within 800m of railway line (potential for new railway station): 1 point</p>	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access Public Transport. If a site has the potential to be accessed by public transport in the future this will support this objective.
Proximity to strategic highway network	<p>Site is within 0.8km of strategic road network: 5 points</p> <p>Site is over 0.8 1.6km from strategic road network: 3 points</p> <p>Site is over 1.6km from strategic road network: 0 point</p>	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section to access services and facilities. If a site is well positioned to the strategic highway network this will support this objective.
Proximity to Services		
Proximity of key services	<p>Sites has all essential facilities plus five other services within 800 m: 5 points</p> <p>Sites has all essential facilities within 800 m: 3 points</p> <p>Site has two or less essential facilities (800m): 0 point</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section to access services and facilities. If a site is well located to key services this will support this objective.</p> <p>SA objective (SP8) community seeks to value and nature a sense of community. If a site is well located to key services this will support this objective by creating opportunities for communities to come together</p> <p>SA objective (SP6) education and skills seeks to assist people in gaining skills. If a site is well to primary and secondary schools this will support this objective.</p>

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Proximity to Town Centres	0.8km of a town, district of local centre: 5 points Site is less than 0.8km - 1.6km of a town, district of local centre: 3 point Site is over 1.6km from a town, district of local centre: 0 points	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section to access services and facilities. If a site is well located to town, district or local centres this will support this objective. SA objective (SP8) community seeks to value and nature a sense of community. If a site is well located to key services this will support this objective by creating opportunities for communities to come together in town, district or local centres.
Efficient Use of Land		
Soil Quality	Loss of grade 1 or 2 agricultural land: 0 points Loss of grade 3 - 5 agricultural land: 3 points No loss of agricultural land: 5 points	SA objective (NR11) land and soil seeks to safeguard the best agricultural land. The housing site selection methodology scores non-agricultural land more favourably.
Land Type	Greenfield: 0 point A mix of PDL and Greenfield: 3 points PDL: 5 points	SA objective (NR11) land and soil seeks to bring vacant and brownfield land back in to use. The housing site selection methodology scores brownfield sites more positively.
Relationship to existing urban area	site is significantly detached from existing settlement area: 0 point site is bordered by at least one side by existing housing/settlement area: 3 point site is completely within existing housing/settlement area: 5 point	SA Objective (EP16) built environment seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment and (EP7) landscape character seeks to conserve and enhance the natural landscape. If a site is within the built environment it would score higher than a detached site.
Environment		
Is the site identified as Green Space on the Green Space Register	Yes: Flag to Green Space Officer to confirm if there is adequate GS in this location. If site is required to be retained for Green Space then it scores 0 points. If the site is not required to be retained for green space it scores 3 points the site scores 0 points. No: 3 points	SA objective (SP8) community seeks to value and nature a sense of community. Adequate green space and access to green space will support this objective. SA objective (SP7) Health, Safety and Security seeks to improve health. Adequate green space and access to green space will support this objective.

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Landscape Character	<p>Significant adverse visual impact on landscape (i.e. difficult to mitigate): 0 point</p> <p>insignificant or moderate impact on landscape (i.e. some impact but can be mitigated by design measures including layout, massing and landscape planting or adverse impact minimal): 3 points</p> <p>No significant adverse visual impact on landscape (i.e. urban site which cannot be seen from the countryside) or positive impact (i.e. in some cases development may provide an opportunity for a beneficial impact by improving a derelict site visible from landscape or removing a harsh / visually intrusive edge between settlement and countryside): 5 points</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP16) built environment seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment and (EP15) landscape character seeks to conserve and enhance the natural landscape. The housing site methodology considers the impact on landscape character in the Borough and scores the site accordingly.</p>
Impact on Conservation Areas	<p>Site is within conservation area: 0 points</p> <p>Site is adjacent to (within 20m): 3 point</p> <p>Site not within 20m of conservation area: 5 point.</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP17) cultural and historic heritage seeks to maintain and enhance cultural heritage and historic environment. If a site is located within or near a conservation area it scores lower than a site that isn't.</p>
Impact of Listed Buildings	<p>Site within 100m of a listed building: 0 point</p> <p>Site not within 100m of a listed buildings: 3 point</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP17) cultural and historic heritage seeks to maintain and enhance cultural heritage and historic environment. If a site is located near a listed building it scores lower than a site that isn't.</p>
Impact on Registered Park and Gardens	<p>Site within 500m of a registered park and garden: 0 point</p> <p>Site not within 500m of a registered park and garden: 3 point</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP17) cultural and historic heritage seeks to maintain and enhance cultural heritage and historic environment. If a site is located near a registered park and garden it scores lower than a site that isn't.</p>

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Impact of Ecology / Biodiversity	Site is considered to offer high ecology / biodiversity value: 0 points Site has some ecology value / biodiversity but this could be mitigated: 3 point Site has limited ecology/ biodiversity value: 5 points	SA Objective (EP6) biodiversity seeks to conserve and enhance natural habitats. The impact on ecology is considered within the site selection methodology, supporting the objective.
Impact on WFD status or/potential	Would allocation degrade or obstruct a waterbody (as identified in the Humber River Basin Management Plan)? 0 points Would it be possible, through design, for an allocation to avoid a significant effect on a water body? 1 point ; Would the allocation completely avoid an impact on a waterbody? 2 points	SA Objective (NR10) water seeks to improve the quality of the borough's rivers and groundwater reduce flood risk. The site selection methodology focuses development away from locations where development might adverse affect the status of waterbodies and cause them not to comply with the
Flood Risk	Site within Flood Zone 3a: excluded at beginning of assessment. Site within Flood Zone 2: 0 point Site within Flood Zone 1: 3 point	SA Objective (NR10) water seeks to reduce flood risk. The site selection methodology focuses development away from areas of flood risk
AQMA	Site within or 200m of AQMA: 0 point Site 200m to 800m from AQMA: 3 point Site not within 800m of AQMA: 5 points	SA objective (SP8) community seeks to value and nature a sense of community. The quality of environment, including air quality impact on delivering community. SA objective (SP7) Health, Safety and Security seeks to improve health. The quality of environment, including air quality impact health and wellbeing of residents. The methodology seeks to focus development away from existing

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
		AQMAs.
Physical Problems of Limitations		
Access Infrastructure	Extensive new access infrastructure required: 0 point Some new access infrastructure required: 3 points Extensive new access infrastructure not required: 0 Point	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section to access services and facilities. If a site is already has a suitable access point it scores higher in the assessment.
Drainage infrastructure	Extensive new drainage infrastructure required: 0 point Some new access infrastructure required: 3 points Extensive new drainage infrastructure not required: 5 Point	SA Objective (NR10) water seeks to reduce flood risk. The site selection methodology considers if on site drainage is required.
Ground condition	Treatment/remediation not expected to be required on majority of site: 0 point Treatment/remediation expected to be required on part of the site: 3 point PDL: 5 point	No directly relevant SA objectives.
Geo-cavities	Site within area likely to contain geological constraints of mining cavities: 0 point Site not within area likely to contain geological constraints or mining cavities: 3 point	No directly relevant SA objectives.
Bad neighbours	Major bad neighbour constraints which are difficult to remedy/overcome: 0 point Bad neighbour constraints, but potential for mitigation: 3 point No bad neighbour constraints: 5 point	SA objective (SP8) community seeks to value and nature a sense of community. The quality of environment, including bad neighbours will impact on community feel. SA objective (SP7) Health, Safety and Security seeks to improve health. The quality of environment, including bad neighbour uses impact health and wellbeing of residents. The methodology seeks to focus development away bad neighbour sites.

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Physical constraints/permanent features	<p>Assessment of constraints such as steep slopes, permanent features, etc which would seriously affect the site's developability.</p> <p>Major constraints which are difficult to remedy/overcome and which affect a large part of the site: 0 point</p> <p>Constraints exist but potential for mitigation and/or constraints affect some of the site: 3 point</p> <p>no constraints: 5 point</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity. The focus on sites that are deliverable and have limited constraints will support investment and delivery of housing sites that are attractive to the market in Barnsley. This has the potential to attract new residents to the Borough.</p>
Freedom from availability constraints	<p>Score as follows on basis of site visits and other known information:</p> <p>Site known to be in complex/multiple ownership: 0 points</p> <p>no information, but thought likely to be in private and/or multiple ownership.: 3 point</p> <p>held by developer/willing owner/public sector: 5 point</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity. The focus on sites that are deliverable and have limited constraints will support investment and delivery of housing sites that are attractive to the market in Barnsley. This has the potential to attract new residents to the Borough.</p>
Achievability		
Market/cost/delivery	<p>Score as follows on basis of site visits and other known information:</p> <p>very poor or poor marketability and/or viability (assumed exceptional costs): 0 point</p> <p>moderate marketability and/or viability: 2 point</p> <p>good marketability and/or viability: 3 points</p> <p>very good marketability and/or viability: 4 points</p> <p>excellent marketability and/or viability (no known exceptional costs): 5 points</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity. The focus on sites that are deliverable and have limited constraints will support investment and delivery of housing sites that are attractive to the market in Barnsley. This has the potential to attract new residents to the Borough.</p>

Criteria Topic	Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Step Change	<p>Site unlikely to be able to be attractive location for high-quality, low-density or medium to high density housing: 0 points</p> <p>Site can accommodate high quality, medium to high density housing in a location likely to be moderately attractive to the market: 2 point</p> <p>Site can accommodate high quality, low-density housing in a location likely to be moderately attractive to the market: 3 points</p> <p>Site can accommodate high quality, medium to high density housing in a location likely to be highly attractive to the market: 4 points</p> <p>Site can accommodate high quality, low-density housing in a location likely to be highly attractive to the market: 5 points</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity. The focus on sites that are deliverable and have limited constraints will support investment and delivery of housing sites that are attractive to the market in Barnsley. This has the potential to attract new residents to the Borough.</p>

Employment Site Selection Methodology

A robust Employment Site Selection Methodology has been produced to identify employment sites for allocation through the Local Plan. This was a mixture of desk and site based work. Sites of under 0.4ha have not been considered for allocation. Each site will gain a score, the higher the more appropriate the site is for employment. The Objectively Assessed Employment Need for Barnsley and the spatial distribution across the Borough have not yet been confirmed. Following their confirmation the scores from the Employment Site Selection Methodology will be used to confirm the site allocations. Table 13 below provides a summary of the relationship between the SA Objectives and the Employment Site Selection Methodology Criteria.

The use of this site selection criteria means that the potential sustainability effects of each potential site allocation have been assessed using the same standard set of criteria. This will allow the sites to be selected on a comparative basis. The assessment will allow the sites to be prioritised in terms of their overall score so that the sites that are less likely to result in a significant effect and provide benefits will be selected as the preferred sites to meet the objectively assessed need across the Borough.

If any of the policies and/or sites that are brought forward as potentially preferred sites and policies but are also likely to result in a significant effect, relevant mitigation measures will be identified. The aim of these mitigation measures will be to avoid the effects or reduce them to such a level that they no longer result in a significant effect. This could include the introduction of new policies, amendments to proposed policies in the Local Plan or policies and interventions set out in other plans or policies.

Table 13: Relationship between Employment Site Selection Methodology and SA Objectives

Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
Meeting Employment Needs		
Potential to meet local employment needs	<p>Site within an area of above average deprivation : high (scores 3)</p> <p>Sites within an area of similar to average deprivation: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Sites within area of below average deprivation: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity.</p> <p>SA Objective (SP8) Community seeks to nurture a sense of community.</p> <p>This site selection criteria seek to focus employment sites in locations of deprivation, supporting all the three identified SA objectives by bringing employment opportunities into deprived areas.</p>
	<p>Site has high potential to supply local jobs to areas of higher than average employment need: high (scores 3)</p> <p>Site has potential to supply local jobs to an area of average employment need or would have a limited impact in meeting local needs: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Site has potential to supply local jobs in area of lower than average employment need: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity.</p> <p>SA Objective (SP8) community seeks to nurture a sense of community.</p> <p>This site selection criteria seek to focus employment sites in area of high unemployment with consideration of the number of new jobs the site could deliver. This supports all the three identified SA objectives by bringing employment opportunities into deprived areas.</p>
Potential to meet wider employment needs	<p>Site has potential to create jobs to meet the long term employment needs and stimulate further investment: High (scores 3)</p> <p>Site has potential to provide a limited contribution towards long terms employment needs and for stimulating further investment or expansion land for existing firms: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Site would not make a significant contribution towards long term economic growth in the Borough: Low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity.</p> <p>This site selection criteria seek to meet long term employment needs and allocate sites that have the potential to attract inward investment.</p>
	<p>Potential for site to provide for high value businesses / or large site that can be developed for a mix of employment uses: High (score 3)</p> <p>Site has some potential to provide for</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities.</p> <p>SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity.</p>

Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
	<p>high value businesses / or large site that can be developed for a mix of employment uses: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Site has limited potential to provide for high value businesses: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>This site selection criteria seek to meet long term employment needs and allocate sites that have the potential to attract inward investment in high value sectors.</p>
Accessibility		
Accessibility for employees	<p>Existing access to the site by rail Site is within 800m of a Railway station: high (scores 3) Site is within 1500m of a railway station : medium (scores 2) Site is not within walking distance of a railway station: Low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment sites using public transport. The site selection criteria seek to focus development to sites that can be accessed by public transport.</p>
	<p>Existing access to the site by bus Site is within high frequency bus corridor: high (scores 3) Site is within bus corridor with medium service frequency: medium (scores 2) Not within a bus corridor or limited service frequency: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment sites using public transport. The site selection criteria seek to focus development to sites that can be accessed by public transport.</p>
	<p>Existing access to the site cycling and/or walking Site is within walking distance of large centres of population and/or served by dedicated cycle links Site is within walking/cycling distance to smaller high (scores 3) population centres/significant physical obstacle to walking: medium (scores 2) Site has limited or no potential for walking and cycling from population centres: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment sites using public transport. The site selection criteria seek to focus development to sites that can be accessed by cycling and walking.</p>
	<p>Potential for public transport improvements Committed public transport improvements within transport corridor: high (scores 3) Potential for public transport improvements under investigation : medium (scores 2) No identified opportunities and none under investigation: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment sites using public transport. The site selection criteria seek to consider if the allocation of a site has the potential to deliver public transport improvements.</p>

	<p>Potential for reducing net out commuting</p> <p>Site would supply local jobs within an area of significant net out commuting: high (scores 3)</p> <p>Site has potential to supply local jobs within an area of lower out commuting/or may not lead to a net</p>	<p>SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>SA objective (SP4) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment. The site selection criteria seek to prioritise sites that may reduce the number of people</p>
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Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
	overall decrease in commuting: medium (scores 2) Site could increase net in commuting into the Borough: low (scores 1)	commuting out of the Borough to access job opportunities. This will support the SA objectives.
Accessibility for business needs	Proximity to the motorway network Site is in close proximity and/or has good access to an M1 or A1 junction: high (scores 3) Site is in reasonable proximity and/or has reasonable access to an M1 or A1 junction: medium (scores 2) Site is in poor proximity and/or has poor access to an M1 or A1 junction: low (scores 1)	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment. The site selection criteria seek to focus development on sites that are easily accessible, with consideration of business needs.
	Proximity to the principal road network Site has direct access to a high quality principal road network: high (scores 3) Site has no direct access to, but is in close proximity to principal road network: medium (scores 2) Site has limited or difficult access to the principal road network: low (scores 1)	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment. The site selection criteria seeks to focus development on sites that are easily accessible, with consideration of business needs.
	Potential for road transport improvements Committed UDP/ LTP road scheme with provisional funding: high (scores 3) Road improvement scheme under investigation: medium (scores 2) No committed schemes or improvements under investigation: low (scores 1)	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment. The site selection criteria seeks to consider if the allocation of a site has the potential to deliver road transport improvements.
	Potential for use of rail infrastructure Rail freight access already provided: high (scores 3) Potential for rail freight access under investigation or been safeguarded medium (scores 2) No potential for rail freight access: low (scores 1)	SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment sites using public transport. The site selection criteria seek to consider if the allocation of a site has the potential to deliver rail transport improvements.
Deliverability		
Market strength	Existing market interest in site Identified market interest for the site: high (scores 3) Number of serious enquiries into availability received: medium (scores 2) No identified market interest and limited or no inquiries: low (scores 1)	SA Objective (EG1) employment seeks to maintain and enhance employment opportunities in the Borough. SA Objective (EG2) wealth creation seeks to retain and enhance local qualities. SA objective (EG3) local economy seeks to promote economic activity.
	Existing market interest in location of the site	The deliverability site selection criteria seek to identify employment sites that are

Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
	<p>Site is located within an area that is already attractive to the market: high (scores 3)</p> <p>Site is within an area with reasonable market interest or potential for future interest with further development/intervention : medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Site is within an area of limited or no market interest: low (scores 1)</p>	<p>attractive to the market to meet local business needs and attract inward investment. The aim of this is to create jobs in Barnsley to support the local economy and create wealth.</p>
	<p>Market competition from nearby sites Limited employment site provision within surrounding area: high (scores 3)</p> <p>Some competition but different market sector/ land supply limits competition: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Significant competition from similar nearby employment sites or competing centres: low (scores 1)</p>	
	<p>Is the site considered to be viable / deliverable in current market conditions (based on viability testing)?</p> <p>Yes: high (scores 3)</p> <p>Further investigation or cautious consideration before allocation: medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Not viable: low (scores 1)</p>	
Potential uses	<p>Potential for development in B1 market sector High potential for B1 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location high (scores 3)</p> <p>Medium potential for B1 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Poor potential for B1 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location: low (scores 1)</p>	
	<p>Potential for development in B2 market sector</p> <p>High potential for B2 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location high (scores 3)</p> <p>Medium potential for B2 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location medium (scores 2)</p> <p>Poor potential for B2 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location low (scores 1)</p>	

Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
	<p>Potential for development in B8 market sector High potential for B8 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location high (scores 3) Medium potential for B8 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location medium (scores 2) Poor potential for B8 end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location low (scores 1)</p>	
	<p>Potential for Non B Class Uses/ Mixed Use High potential for Non B class end uses/ Mixed Use in terms of market attractiveness and location:high (scores 3) Medium potential for Non B class end uses/ Mixed Use end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location medium (scores 2) Poor potential for Non B class end uses/ Mixed Use end uses in terms of market attractiveness and location low (scores 1)</p>	
<p>Availability and constraints</p>	<p>Level of site preparation required Site preparation works completed: high (scores 3) Site preparation works underway or committed medium (scores 2) Full site preparation works are still required low (scores 1)</p>	
	<p>Site Access Major Highway works required low (scores 1) Some highway works required medium (scores 2) Minimal highway works required: high (scores 3)</p>	
	<p>Approximate site preparation costs Site preparation costs not a constraint to development potential: high (scores 3) Site preparation costs could limit development potential but could be overcome by scale of development or other intervention medium (scores 2) Site preparation costs significant limitation to development potential low (scores 1)</p>	
	<p>Potential land ownership</p>	

Criteria Topic	Employment Site Assessment Criteria	Relationship to SA Objectives
	<p>constraints</p> <p>Limited or no land ownership constraints: high (scores 3) Potential to overcome land ownership issues through negotiation or intervention medium (scores 2) Land ownership issues significant constraint to development low (scores 1)</p>	
Location		
Location	<p>Location within settlement</p> <p>Site is within the urban area: high (scores 3) Site has potential to form an extension to the urban area medium (scores 2) Site is outside the urban area low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (SP5) accessibility seeks to enable all section of community to access services, including employment. SA Objective (SP8) Community seeks to nurture a sense of community. The site selection criteria seek to focus development within settlements to allow the sites to be accessed and support the community.</p>
Land re-use	<p>previously developed land: high (scores 3) green field: medium (scores 2) Green Belt low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA objective (NR11) land and soil seeks to bring vacant and brownfield land back in to use. The employment site selection methodology scores brownfield sites more positively.</p>
Environment		
Environmental Impacts	<p>Landscape constraints</p> <p>Limited or no landscape impact: high (scores 3) Impact could be mitigated through intervention: medium (scores 2) Significant landscape impact low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP16) built environment seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of the built environment and (EP15) landscape character seeks to conserve and enhance the natural landscape The employment site methodology considers the impact on landscape character in the Borough and scores the site accordingly.</p>
	<p>Other environmental constraints</p> <p>Limited or no environmental impact: high (scores 3) Potential environmental impact but could be overcome through mitigation: medium (scores 2) Significant environmental impact low (scores 1)</p>	<p>SA Objective (EP14) biodiversity seeks to conserve and enhance natural habitats. The impact on ecology is considered within the site selection methodology, supporting the objective. SA Objective (NR10) water seeks to reduce flood risk. The site selection methodology focuses development away from areas of flood risk areas.</p>
Amenity		
Compatibility with surrounding land uses	<p>Limited impact on surrounding sensitive land use: high (scores 3) Moderate impact on surrounding sensitive land uses: medium (scores 2) Significant impact on surrounding sensitive: land uses low (scores 1)</p>	<p>Objective (SP8) Community seeks to nurture a sense of community. Objective (SP7) Health, safety and security seeks to improve health and disparities. This criteria seeks to focus employment sites away from sensitive uses to avoid negative impacts on the community.</p>

Extract from SA on how issues and options in general have been derived (pages 10 and 11 of Local Plan SA Publication version 2016 SD4)

4 APPRAISAL OF ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Introduction

4.1 A fundamental part of the plan preparation process was the identification and assessment of options. A SA of the Local Plan options was required in order to arrive at a preferred option, and to comply with the requirements of the European SEA Directive. This iteration of the SA report describes the results from the SA which has included a comparative assessment of different policy approaches and land use allocations

4.2 The SA assessed, in broad terms, the likely significant effects of the plan options against the objectives of the assessment framework, as set out in Section 7 of this report. It fulfilled the requirements of Stage B of the SA process. The findings of the appraisal (including how it has informed the development of issues and options) are reported in the SA for the Local Plan. It has also set out the options and outlined the reasons for selecting or eliminating them.

How issues and options were identified and assessed

4.3 The issues and options for the Local Plan were derived from various sources, during the early stages of the SA work i.e. the scoping stage. This included the an extensive policy and baseline data review (set out in Sections 5 and 6 of this report), and the following:

- **Growing Barnsley's Economy (2012 – 2033): An Economic Strategy for the Borough and the Proposed Five Year Economic Investment Plan**

This document sets out strategy for the growth of the economy in Barnsley, which include a commitment to develop a vibrant town centre; create the conditions for economic growth; economic renewal of Goldthorpe and the wider Dearne; create more jobs and businesses; to reduce worklessness and to strengthen the visitor economy.

- **Remaking Barnsley (Strategic Development Framework 2003-2023)**

This long-term regeneration framework was produced in 2003 by Will Alsop Associates as part of Yorkshire Forward's Urban Renaissance programme. It sets out a broad vision for the borough and a more detailed approach for the town centre. The vision aims to develop Barnsley into a '*twenty first century market town*'.

- **Community Strategy for Barnsley, 2011-15**

The vision of the former Community Strategy was for Barnsley to be "*a successful, uniquely distinctive 21st century market town at the centre of a Borough that offers prosperity and a high quality of life for all.*" The Community Strategy included the following priorities: Growing a 21st century economy; Growing a 21st century relationship between citizens, voluntary/community sector and public sector agencies; A low carbon future and Digital Barnsley.

- **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2013)**

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 2016 for Barnsley was published earlier this year. The strategy sets out a vision for Barnsley which states 'Barnsley residents, throughout the Borough, lead healthy, safe and fulfilling lives, able to identify, direct and manage their individual health and wellbeing needs, support their families and communities and live healthy and independent lifestyle'. The JSNA undertakes a series of

needs assessments for the categories of 'People and Place', 'Starting Well and Developing Well', 'Living Well and Working Well' and 'Ageing Well'.

- **Barnsley Core Strategy Policies**

The currently adopted Core Strategy formed the basis for many of the policies in the draft Local Plan which included things such as supporting measures for sustainable modes of transport and a "green sprint" style project.

- **Local Plan Evidence Base**

To support the development of and selection of preferred policies we have been collating an evidence base which, for example, includes information on viability of different affordable housing targets for new developments and the objectively assessed need for future housing development.

4.4 These documents are available to download from Barnsley MBC's web site: www.barnsley.gov.uk. The process of developing options involved extensive consultation with members of the public, local stakeholders and statutory consultees. These options ranged from broad strategic and spatial options (i.e. showing different levels of growth) through to detailed policy options.

4.5 In some cases no reasonable alternatives were available to undertake a comparative assessment. Where this was the case we have assessed a 'no policy' measure option. This assumes that the Core Strategy is not adopted and instead only the relevant planning policy are the requirements of the NPPF.