

Appendix B: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Baseline Information

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Key

Trend and Indicator Status	Description
↑	Improving trend
↔	No change to trend
↓	Declining trend
?	Unclear trend
Grey	Indicator status is unclear
Green	Indicator for the county is equal to or better than target or equivalent regional/national performance or historical trends demonstrate situation is getting better
Amber	Indicator for the county is below target or equivalent regional/national performance, or historical trends demonstrate situation is getting worse
Red	Indicator is significantly below target or equivalent regional/national performance, or historical trends demonstrate situation is getting significantly worse

Population

Table 1: Demographics

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Total Population	538,011	2,760,678	58,620,101	N/A	↑	Amber	The population of County Durham is increasing with a 4.9% increase between 2011 and 2024. This is a slower increase than the North East (6.3%) and England (10.4%).	ONS Mid 2024 durhaminsight
Children (0-15) as a % of the population	88,221 (16%)	478,725 (17%)	10,768,248 (18%)	N/A	↔	Amber	The population of 0–15-year-olds has remained fairly static with a small increase of 0.07% since 2011. Across England this group increased by 7.4%. 0-15 year olds in County Durham account for a smaller percentage of the population than in the North east and England.	ONS Mid 2024 Your Data - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics durhaminsight
Working aged people (16-64) as a % of the population	332,052 (62%)	1,706,169 (62%)	36,870,761 (63%)	N/A	↔	Amber	The working age population has only increased 0.07% since 2011. Across England this has increased by 7.3%.	ONS Mid 2024 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/asv2htm durhaminsight
Retired population (65+) as a % of the population	117,738 (22%)	575,784 (21%)	10,981,092 (19%)	N/A	↑	Amber	The 65+ population has increased 26.58% since 2011. This has increased across England by 27.8%. County Durham has a higher percentage of retirement age people than the North East and England.	ONS Mid 2024 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/asv2htm durhaminsight
Population Projection by 2032 (County Durham Overall)	559,573 (+6%)	2,812,000 (+5%)	60,760,000	N/A	↑	Green	County Durham's population is set to increase by 6% by 2032. This is marginally higher than the North East's predicted increase of 5%. This increase in population is mainly due to the increase in the 65+ and 85+ population. England's population is expected to increase 6%.	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight
Population Projection by	23,500 (-3%)	121,718	2,903,191	N/A	↓	Amber	The Early Years population is predicted to decrease by 3%. That is roughly a fall of 800 people by 2032. England's early years	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
2032 (Early Years 0-4)							population is predicted to fall by 5% (162,184). The North Easts population is set to fall by 11,086 people or 8%.	
Population Projection by 2032 (School Age 5-17)	69,700 (-7%)	387,307	8,009,417	N/A	↓	Amber	The school-age population is expected to fall by 7%. That is roughly a fall of 5300 people by 2032. The primary school aged population will equate for 5% of the county's population in 2032 (Previously 6%). The secondary school and sixth form aged population will equate for 7% of the county's population (Previously 8%).	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight
Population Projection by 2032 (Working Age 18-64)	329,100 (+4.6%)	1,664,855	37,064,194	N/A	↑	Green	The working age population is set to increase in County Durham by 4.6% although the working age population will account for 58.8% of the population as opposed to 59.6% in 2022. The UK's working age population is set to increase by 9.4% (4.1million) in the same period.	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight
Population Projection by 2032 (Older Years 65+)	137,200 (+20.7%)	576,290	10,869,110	N/A	↑	Amber	The over-65 population is set to increase drastically with County Durham expected to see an increase of 20.7%. The North East is expected to see an increase of 91,069 (19%). England is expected to see an increase of 1,664,203 (18%).	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight
Population Projection by 2032 (Older Years 85+)	18,400 (+36.5%)	91,469	1,963,491	N/A	↑	Amber	The over-85 age category is set to increase in County Durham by 36.5%, the North East is predicted to see an increase of 33% and England is expected to see an increase of 38%.	2022 ONS Population Projections durhaminsight
Population Density (per square Km)	237	313	426	N/A	↑	Green	As the population increases the population density will increase.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Where people live - % urban vs rural split (2021)	56% urban 44% rural	79% urban 21% rural	83.4% urban 16.6% rural	N/A	↑	Green	The English rural population increased 7% between 2011 and 2021 the same rate as the urban English population (excluding London).	NECA Transport Plan 1 - Population 01 05 2025.pdf

Table 2: Deprivation and Poverty

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Overall Deprivation Rank out of 153 upper tier local authorities nationally (1 st being the most deprived)	40 th (2025) 48 th (2019) 59 th (2015)	-	-	To reduce poverty.	↓	Red	The Index of Deprivation 2025 suggests an increase in relative deprivation. Without the Plan it is possible that this trend will continue to worsen due to a lack of cohesive, clear direction and aims, potentially resulting in sporadic, ad hoc development, which could worsen these issues rather than addressing them.	https://www.durhaminsight.info/index-of-deprivation/

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
% Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) Top 10% most deprived	17% (2025) 12% (2019) 11.1% (2015)	- 19.8% (2019) 17.1% (2015)	- 10% 32,844 in total	To reduce poverty. To have fewer people affected by poverty and deprivation. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty. (Council Plan 25-30)	↓	Red	56 LSOAs in County Durham in the top 10% most deprived is an increase of 17 from LSOAs from 2019. Most of these LSOAs were also in the top 10% in 2015, and as such their status has remained unchanged in 10 years. Overall, County Durham is in the top 40% most deprived upper tier authorities Across England. The 56 LSOAs (within top 10%) cover an area representing 15.3% of the county's population. Out of the 330 LSOAs in County Durham, 7 (2.1%) are ranked within the most deprived 1% nationally. This is an increase from 2015 where only 1 ranked in the top 1%. Trends overall indicate a reversal of the previous continuation of the steady improvements in relative deprivation, however some specific aspects of deprivation (the health and housing domains) have improved in relative deprivation. As such, whilst access to housing/services and health deprivation indicators have improved, income, employment education, crime and living environment deprivation indicators have worsened. The Council's Housing strategy outlines that poverty in the form of material deprivation is a persistent issue in our communities, and that to address this then the location of our housing must take into account easy access to health and social care, education, employment, transport and healthy food; as well as the viability and vitality of our communities, including those in rural areas. The Local Plan would be able to plan for the economy, job and education provision and a better environment. In addition to this, we would be able to plan for the location of housing so that it is in appropriate and sustainable locations, ensuring communities have access to everything that they need. Without the plan it is possible this trend will continue to worsen due to a lack of cohesive, clear direction and aims, potentially resulting sporadic, ad hoc development, which could worsen these issues rather than addressing them.	durhaminsight.info durhaminsight.info/index-of-deprivation
% LSOA Top 10% -20% most deprived (2019)	69 out of 324 = 21.3% (17.0% in 2015)	14.7% (14.2% in 2015)	20%	To reduce poverty. To have fewer people affected	↓	Red	Trend indicates a significant increase in the number of people within the top 10-20% most deprived in County Durham, while the percentage across the North East has only increased by 0.5%.	https://www.durhaminsight.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ID2019-LSOA-Scores-Ranks-and-Deciles-for-DI.xls durhaminsight.info/index-of-deprivation

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				by poverty and deprivation. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty. (Council Plan 25-30)				
Top 20% -30% most deprived	54.5% (2025) 15.4% (2019) 14.8% 2015	- 12.6% (2019) 2.1% (2015)	- 30% (2019)	To reduce poverty. To have fewer people affected by poverty and deprivation. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty. (Council Plan 25-30)	↓	Red	54.5% of County Durham (130 areas/330) are ranked in the top 30% most deprived areas in England. 52.2% of our population lives in these areas. In 2019, 7 of the North East Local Authorities were ranked in the 30% most deprived upper-tier authorities across England. All North East Authorities have experienced an increase in relative deprivation between 2015 and 2019. Trend indicates a significant increase in the number of people within the top 20-30% most deprived in County Durham.	https://www.durhaminsight.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ID2019-LSOA-Scores-Ranks-and-Deciles-for-DI.xls durhaminsight.info/index-of-deprivation
% LSOA not deprived (2019)	166 out of 324 = 51.3% (57.1% in 2015)	52.8% (56.7% in 2015)		To reduce poverty. To have fewer people affected by poverty and deprivation. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty. (Council Plan 25-30)	↓	Red	This trend indicates that more people were affected by deprivation in 2019 than in 2015, and that fewer people now fall into the 'not deprived' bracket in County Durham and across the North East. County Durham also has a slightly higher percentage of those affected by deprivation than the North East region.	https://www.durhaminsight.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ID2019-LSOA-Scores-Ranks-and-Deciles-for-DI.xls durhaminsight.info/index-of-deprivation

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Children in Relative Poverty (2023/24)	25,353 (28.8%)	28.4%	22.1%	To reduce poverty. 30.2% of children in our county are considered to be living in poverty, which although similar to national levels, is still too high.	↓	Red	In 22/23, the percentage of children living in relative poverty was 25.5% in County Durham, 26.8% in the North East and 21% in England. The trend indicates a significant increase in the number of children living in relative poverty across County Durham, the North East and nationwide in just one year. County Durham and the North East are also above national levels. Across the North East the number of children in relative poverty increased by 45%, while across England the figure increased by 41%. This suggests that the gap between County Durham/North East and England is widening County Durham is ranked 48 out of 151 upper tier local authorities in England.	durhaminsight.info/children-in-poverty
Children in Absolute Poverty (2023/24)	21,675 (24.7%)	24.4%	19.1%	To reduce poverty.	↓	Red	In 22/23, the percentage of children living in absolute poverty was 20.6% in County Durham, 21.8% in the North East and 19% in England. The trend indicates a significant increase in the number of children living in relative poverty across County Durham and the North East in just one year. The proportion of children in absolute poverty in County Durham and the North East remains above national levels. Across the North East the number of children in absolute poverty increased by 34%, while across England the figure increased by 31%, suggesting the gap between the north-east and England is widening. Warm and safe housing is particularly important in ensuring a health start in life, as well as a safe day-to-day environment. Housing which is in the right location and with access to facilities, transport links and education institutions, as well as affordable housing requirements, can be planned for within the Local Plan. Without a plan, it is likely the current trend will continue, and we will not be able to guarantee the provision of a comprehensive range of housing options, such as those for children, young people and their carers, including specialist accommodation and support.	durhaminsight.info/children-in-poverty
% of households in Fuel Poverty (2023)	11.4% (27,700 2023)	10.6%	11.4%	To provide warmer homes and lower energy bills, reducing fuel poverty across County Durham.	↑	Green	Latest Data estimated that 11.4% of households in County Durham were experiencing fuel poverty, which is a fall from the 15.5% in 2019, indicating the number of households in fuel poverty has decreased. 11.4% is higher than the average across the North East, but the same as the average nationwide (England).	durhaminsight.info/fuel-poverty

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				(County Durham Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2025) Prevent fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions in domestic households to ensure warm and safe houses (Housing Strategy 2025)			The Council's Housing Strategy states that we will maximise the opportunities available to address fuel poverty through combining advice schemes and heating improvements and targeting interventions at those most in need, whilst new houses will be designed in line with current energy efficiency standards. (Housing Strategy 2025) The Plan can support the continuation of this positive trend by securing the provision of new, energy efficient homes and supporting the installation of technologies which can help to reduce energy bills.	

Table 3: Employment

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Economic Inactivity Rate (16-64 population)	25.9% (2025) 23% (2024) 25.3% (2023) 26.6% (2022)	26% (2025) 25.4% (2024) 26% (2023) 25.6% (2022)	21.2% (2025) 21.2% (2024) 21.4% (2023) 21.2% (2022)	N/A	↔	Amber	County Durham below national average in employment and similar to the North East. Slight improvement but very little change in the inactivity rate over the past 4 years overall.	Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey - Economic Inactivity Rate
Economically Inactive Reasons % (2025)	Retired: 16,900 (20%) Student: 17,300 (20.5%) Looking after home or family: 13,700, (16.3%) Long-term sick: 26,800 (31.8%) Other: 7,000 (8.3%)	Retired: 26% Student: 23% Looking after home or family: 16.5% Long-term sick: 33.6% Other: 9.1%.	Retired: 12.4% Student: 27.3% Looking after home or family: 18.9% Long-term sick: 27.1% Other: 11.8%	N/A	↔	Amber	County Durham and the region have higher levels of people who are long term sick compared to England. In County Durham economic inactivity due to long term sickness has increased slightly from 26,631 people in 2021 to 26,800.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) County Durham Economic Overview V2 County Durham Report Builder for ArcGIS

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Hours worked %	Part time 15 hrs or less: 19,900, (9.0%) 16-30 hrs or less: 43,468, (19.6%), Full time 31-48 hrs: 137,147, (61.7%), 49+ hrs: 21,703, (9.8%),	Part time 15 hrs or less: 105,030, (9.2%), 16-30 hrs or less: 240,146, (21.1%), Full time 31-48 hrs: 687,220, (60.4%), 49+ hrs: 105,660, (9.3%),	Part time 15 hrs or less: 2,731,449, (10.3%) 16-30 hrs or less: 5,139,989, (19.5%) Full time 31-48 hrs: 15,608,863, (59.1%) 49+ hrs: 2,924,913, (11.1%)	N/A	↔	Grey	The different brackets for hours worked in County Durham do not significantly differ from the rest of the North East or England. County Durham has the highest percentage for people working 31-48 hours but has the lowest percentage for people working 15 hours or less compared to the rest of the North East and England.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Jobs (2023)	Total Local jobs: 188,899 Local jobs in the public sector: 38,823 (20.55%) Local jobs in the private sector: 150,075 (79.44%)	Total Local jobs: 1,129,471 Local jobs in the public sector: 257,509 (22.8%) Local jobs in the private sector: 871,962 (77.2%)	Total Local jobs: 28,247,891 Local jobs in the public sector: 4,830,686 (17.1%) Local jobs in the private sector: 23,417,205 (82.9%)	N/A	↔	Grey	While the percentage of jobs in the private sector is slightly higher in County Durham than in the North East in general, it is still slightly under the number of local private jobs in England overall. However, most jobs in County Durham are in the private sector (79.44%).	durhaminsight.economy (2023)
Summary of jobs in County Durham (2023)	Total number of jobs: 188,899 Total number of employees: 182,467 Total number of full time employees: 125,422 (68.7%) Total number of part time employees: 57,043 (31.3%)	Total number of jobs: 1,129,471 Total number of employees: 1,102,306 Total number of full-time employees: 753,488 (68%) Total number of part time	Total number of jobs: 28,247,891 Total number of employees: 27,496,358 Total number of full time employees: 19,016,247 (67.3%)	N/A	↔	Grey	There does not appear to be any significant difference between how many people work full time or part time in County Durham compared to the rest of the North East or in England. While County Durham has a slightly higher percentage of people working full time compared to the North East and the rest of England, it appears England in general has the smallest percentage of people who only work part-time.	durhaminsight.economy ONS BRES

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
		employees: 348,818 (31.6%)	Total number of part time employees: 8,480,109 (28.2%)					
Industry Type %	Agri, forestry and fishing: 2,329 (1.0%) Mining and quarrying: 810 (0.4%) Electricity, gas, steam, air conditioning: 1,837 (0.8%) Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation: 2,159 (1.0%) Construction: 20,087 (9%) Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles: 32,612 (14.75%) Transport and storage: 10,228 (4.6%) Accommodation and food service activities: 10,094 (4.5%)	Agri, forestry and fishing: 7,911 (0.7%) Mining and quarrying: 6,872 (0.6%) Electricity, gas, steam, air conditioning: 10,624 (0.9%) Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation: 8,227 (0.7%) Construction: 93,965 (8.3%) Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles: 167,491 (14.75%) Transport and storage: 52,919 (4.6%) Accommodation and food service activities: 58,883 (5.2%)	Agri, forestry and fishing: 211,867 (0.8%) Mining and quarrying: 40,130 (0.2%) Electricity, gas, steam, air conditioning: 152,142 (0.6%) Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation: 190,302 (0.7%) Construction: 2,288,550 (8.7%) Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles: 3,958,258 (15.0%) Transport and storage: 1,328,772 (5%) Accommodation and food service activities:	N/A	↔	Grey	While the majority of the industry type percentages do not significantly differ, it is highlighted that County Durham has a highest percentage (9%) of jobs that are in Public administration and defence; compulsory social security, compared to the North East (8.2%) and England as a whole (5.8%). The industry type Human health and social work appear to be the most dominant percentage amongst County Durham, North East and England, with Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles coming in second place. The least popular industry across all three tables appears to be Mining and quarrying, followed by Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation. Another finding is that for Professional, scientific and technical activities, whilst both County Durham and the North East have a smaller percentage than the rest of England (6.7%), County Durham has the smallest of the three (4%)	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	Information and communication Financial and insurance activities: 5,391 (2.4%) Real estate activities: 2,978 (1.3%) Professional, scientific and technical activities: 8,806 (4%) Administration and support service: 9,727 (4.4%) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 20,085 (9%) Education: 24,092 (10.8%) Human health and social work: 33,805 (15.2%) Other: 8,978 (4%)	Information and communication Financial and insurance activities: 37,336 (3.3%) Real estate activities: 16,311 (1.4%) Professional, scientific and technical activities: 52,339 (4.6%) Administration and support service: 54,031 (4.7%) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 93,596 (8.2%) Education: 112,487 (9.9%) Human health and social work: 193,438 (17%) Other: 45,992 (4%)	1,291,556 (4.9%) Information and communication Financial and insurance activities: 1,246,568 (4.7%) Real estate activities: 412,648 (1.6%) Professional, scientific and technical activities: 1,768,507 (6.7%) Administration and support service: 1,399,037 (5.3%) Public administration and defence; compulsory social security: 1,521,181 (5.8%) Education: 2,601,727 (9.9%) Human health and social work:					

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
			3,856,651 (14.6%) Other: 1,208,385 (4.6%)					
Occupation (all usual residents aged 16 years and over)	Managers, directors and senior officials: 22,537 (10.1%) Professional occupations: 37,179 (16.7%) Associate professional and technical occupations: 26,917 (12.1%) Administrative and secretarial occupations: 21,178 (9.5%) Skilled trades occupations: 26,099 (11.7%) Caring, leisure and other service occupations: 23,112 (10.4%) Sales and customer service occupations: 19,432 (8.7%) Process, plant and machine	Managers, directors and senior officials: 112,546 (9.9%) Professional occupations: 207,319 (18.2%) Associate professional and technical occupations: 138,466 (12.2%) Administrative and secretarial occupations: 111,276 (9.8%) Skilled trades occupations: 120,941 (10.6%) Caring, leisure and other service occupations: 120,123 (10.6%) Sales and customer service occupations: 107,476 (9.4%)	Managers, directors and senior officials: 3,403,916 (12.9%) Professional occupations: 5,356,549 (20.3%) Associate professional and technical occupations: 3,499,749 (13.3%) Administrative and secretarial occupations: 2,446,565 (9.3%) Skilled trades occupations: 2,683,139 (10.2%) Caring, leisure and other service occupations: 2,447,148 (9.3%) Sales and customer	N/A	↔	Amber	County Durham has a lower % of people employed as managers and directors and professional occupations than the national average with employment in professional occupations also being lower than the north east. County Durham has a higher level of Process, plant and machine operatives (9%) than the north (8.3%) and 6.9% for England.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	operatives: 20,568 (9.3%) Elementary occupations: 25,193 (11.3%)	Process, plant and machine operatives: 93,930 (8.3%) Elementary occupations: 125,979 (11.1%)	service occupations: 1,972,553 (7.5%) Process, plant and machine operatives: 1,832,666 (6.9%) Elementary occupations: 2,762,829 (10.5%)					
Gross Value Added (GVA) per Head (2022)	£20,173	£23,521	£33,976	N/A	↑	Red	Whilst improving, County Durham's GVA per head is significantly smaller than England and smaller than the North East in general.	durhaminsight.economy
Total Median Annual Pay	£27,577 (2024) £26,200 (2023) £25,018 (2022)	£28,153 (2024) £26,449 (2023) £25,017 (2022)	£31,875 (2024) £29,828 (2023) £28,040 (2022)	N/A	↑	Red	Whilst improving, average annual wages are £576 less than the region and significantly less than the country with a difference of £4,298 per year. In 2022, the gap between local and national wages was £3,022 which indicates that the gap is widening.	durhaminsight.economy
% Enterprises by Employment Size (2024)	Micro (0-9):12,785 (88.3%) Small (10-49):1,405 (9.7%) Medium (50 – 249):245 (1.7%) Large (250+): 45 (0.3%)	Micro (0-9): 63,060 (87.4%) Small (10-49): 7,460 (10.3%) Medium (50 – 249): 1270 (1.8%) Large (250+): 370, (0.5%)	Micro (09): 2,113,555 (89.2%) Small (10-49): 206,875 (8.7%) Medium (50 – 249):37,925 (1.6%) Large (250+): 9,995 (0.4%)	N/A	↔	Grey	No significant differences.	durhaminsight.economy
Business Growth (2023)	Enterprises Total: 14,580 Births of new enterprises: 1,625	N/A	N/A	N/A	↑	Amber	The overall number of enterprises in the County has grown by 790 from 13,790 in 2017 to 14,580 in 2023. Between 2017 and 2022 the birth of new enterprises has exceeded deaths. However, in 2023 the exact number of new businesses born in 2023 was the same as number of businesses that died. This may be indicative of a difficult economic climate for business start ups to operate in e.g. cost of living crisis, higher labour costs etc.	durhaminsight.economy

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	Deaths of new enterprises: 1,625							

Table 4: Education and Skills

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Highest level of qualification % of all usual residents aged 16 years and over	No qualifications: 20.9% Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 9.5% Level 2 qualifications: 14.2% Apprenticeship: 6.2% Level 3 qualifications: 19.9% Level 4 qualifications or above: 26.7% Other qualifications: 2.4%	No qualifications: 20.3% Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 9.6% Level 2 qualifications: 13.8% Apprenticeship: 6.6% Level 3 qualifications: 18.6% Level 4 qualifications or above: 28.6% Other qualifications: 2.5%	No qualifications: 18.1% Level 1 and entry level qualifications: 9.7% Level 2 qualifications: 13.3% Apprenticeship: 5.3% Level 3 qualifications: 16.9% Level 4 qualifications or above: 33.9% Other qualifications: 2.8%	Raise educational attainment for all (draft Council Plan 2025-29).	↑	Grey	Whilst qualification levels in County Durham remain below the average for England and the region the overall trend is qualification levels in the county have increased since the 2001 and 2011 census. The Plan can support this positive trend by securing the provision and expansion of educational establishments and seeking to ensure developments provide social value through local training and employment opportunities. Without the Plan school place planning may be more reactive to new housing developments which could result in a shortage of provision and impacts on educational attainment.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
% of pupils achieving 5 or more in English and Maths General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSEs) Key	40.6%	42.1%	46.2%	Raise educational attainment for all (draft Council Plan 2025-29).	↓	Amber	The percentage of pupils achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE KS4 falls below both the regional and national average. The rate has also reduced since 2021/22 (45.2%) and 2022/23 (41.1%). This could be attributed to a range of factors including disadvantage and the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.	durhaminsight.info/children-young-people

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Stage (KS) 4 (2024)							Whilst educational attainment is impacted by factors outside of the scope of the Plan, the Plan has a role in ensuring sufficient school places to meet the needs of the new population including Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision and addressing disadvantage for example by securing affordable housing and supporting economic growth. Without the Plan school place planning may be more reactive to new housing developments which could result in a shortage of provision and impacts on educational attainment.	
% of A Level students achieving at least AAB grades, of which at least two are in facilitating subjects (2024)	19.6%	15.7%	19.7%	Raise educational attainment for all (draft Council Plan 2025-29).	↑	Green	The percentage of A Level students achieving at least AAB grades, of which at least two are in facilitating subjects, declined in 2023 but has subsequently increased. The rate is broadly in line with the national average and above the regional average. Whilst educational attainment is impacted by factors outside of the scope of the Plan, the Plan has a role in ensuring sufficient school places to meet the needs of the new population including SEN provision and addressing disadvantage for example by securing affordable housing and supporting economic growth. Without the Plan school place planning may be more reactive to new housing developments which could result in a shortage of provision and impacts on educational attainment.	durhaminsight.info/children-young-people
% Pupils SEN Support and % Change from previous year (2023/24)	% SEN Support: 15.4% SEN Support % Change from last year: +5.3% SEN Support % change from 5 years ago: +33.3%	% SEN Support: 14.6% SEN Support % Change from last year: +4.9% SEN Support % change from 5 years ago: +16.9%	% SEN Support: 13.6% SEN Support % Change from last year: +4.5% SEN Support % change from 5 years ago: +16.6%	N/A	↓	Amber	15.4% of school aged young people have a recognised SEN, that's around 11,730 learners. The rate is increasing, with 33.3% more young people identified as having SEN than 5 years ago, far more than regional or national comparisons which rose by 16.9% and 16.6% (2023/24). The Plan has a role in ensuring sufficient school places to meet the needs of the new population including SEN provision. Without the Plan school place planning including SEN provision may be more reactive to new housing developments which could result in a shortage of provision and impacts on educational attainment.	durhaminsight.info/send
Proportion of 16-17 year olds Not in Education,	5.4%	5.8%	5.4%	Support young people and adults to move into education,	↓	Green	The proportion of NEETs in the county has decreased steadily since 2020 and is now below the regional average.	durhaminsight.info/children-young-people

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Employment or Training (NEET) or whose activity is not known (2023/24)				training, employment and self-employment, prioritising those with the greatest need (draft Council Plan 2025-29).			The Plan can support the continuation of this positive trend by securing the provision and expansion of educational establishments and seeking to ensure developments provide social value through local training and employment opportunities. Without the Plan school place planning may be more reactive to new housing developments which could result in a shortage of provision and impacts on educational attainment. The opportunity to secure local labour a clauses from major development may also not be capitalised on.	

Table 5: Crime and Safety

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Total Crimes (2023)	55,014	296,114	8.4million	N/A	↓	Red	County Durham has an increasing crime rate and a crime rate that is higher than the national average. This could be attributed to the socio-economic challenges within the county, including unemployment and low incomes. Improving the prosperity for residents may contribute to reducing crime.	durhaminsight.info/crime Crime In England & Wales 2023 (ONS) England Crime Crime Stats & Graphs
Crime Rate per 1,000 population (2023)	103 crimes per 1000 people	110 crimes per 1000 people	88 crimes per 1000 people	N/A	↓	Red	County Durham has an increasing crime rate and a crime rate that is higher than the national average. This could be attributed to the socio-economic challenges within the county, including unemployment and low incomes. Improving the prosperity for residents may contribute to reducing crime.	durhaminsight.info/crime Crime in England & Wales 2023 (ONS) England Crime Crime Stats & Graphs
Types Crime Rate per 1,000 population (2023)	Violent crimes: 41.17 per 1000 people Anti-social behaviour: 24.8 per 1000 people Criminal damage and arson: 14.4 per	Violent crimes: 41.47 per 1000 people Anti-social behaviour: 23.2 per 1000 people Criminal damage and arson: 12,1 per	Violent crimes: 32.78 per 1000 people Anti-social behaviour: 13.31 per 1000 people Criminal damage and arson: 6.1 per 1000 population	N/A	↓	Red	County Durham has an increasing crime rate and a crime rate that is higher than the national average. In the case of ASB and criminal damage and arson it is higher than both the national and regional average. This could be attributed to the socio-economic challenges within the county, including unemployment and low incomes. Improving the prosperity for residents may contribute to reducing crime.	durhaminsight.info/crime Crime in England and Wales 2023 (ONS) North East England Crime Crime Stats & Graphs

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	1000 population Shoplifting: 12.5 per 1000 population Public order: 8.5 per 1000 population	1000 population Shoplifting: 12.7 per 1000 population Public order: 8.7 per 1000 population	Shoplifting: 7.16 per 1000 population Public order: 5.9 per 1000 population					
No children (aged 0-15) killed or seriously injured road casualties (3 year average) 2021-23	18 0.34 per 1000 children	30 0.31 per 1000 children	1800 0.24 per 1000 children	N/A	↑	Green	The figures for the local, regional and national figures all show an improving trend with KSIs reducing, however County Durham has a higher figure compared with national and regional figures. These overall reductions can be put down to road safety education, infrastructure improvements, enforcement and legislation and improved vehicle safety technology. The Plan can seek to provide policies that encourage further infrastructure improvements to further reduce KSIs.	Department for Transport ginform.local.gov.uk durhaminsight.info/crime

Health

Table 6: Health and Wellbeing

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Male Life expectancy at birth (2021-2023)	77.4	77.4	79.1	Improve life expectancy and reduce the gap within County Durham and between County Durham and England. (JLHWS)	↓	Red	Male Life Expectancy at birth in County Durham (2021-23): - has increased by 0.3 years since 2020-22 - Is 1.7 years lower than in England, similar to North East. - Statistically significantly lower than England - has decreased by 0.4 years between 2010-12 and 2021-23. - in males the gap in life expectancy at birth in 2021-23 between County Durham and England was 1.7 years. This has increased by 0.0 years since 2020-22. Deprivation Gap - The life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived deciles in County Durham is 10.2 years for males. In England the gap is 10.5 years.	durhaminsight.info/life-expectancy

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							the gap between the least and most deprived deciles in County Durham has increased by 2.6 years for males (2011/13: 7.6 years & 2021 –23: 10.2 years). Improving the building blocks of health such as transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs though planning and well-designed places is likely to contribute towards increasing life expectancy.	
Female Life expectancy at birth (2021-2023)	80.9	81.4	83.1	Improve life expectancy and reduce the gap within County Durham and between County Durham and the North East, and England. (JLHWS)	↓	Red	Female Life Expectancy at birth in County Durham (2021-23): - has increased by 0.5 years since 2020-22 - Statistically significantly lower than the North East and England. - has decreased by 0.5 years between 2010-12 and 2021-23. - In females the gap in life expectancy at birth, in 2021-23 between County Durham and England was 2.1 years. This has decreased by 0.3 years since 2020-22. Deprivation Gap: - The gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived deciles is 8.8 years for females. In England the gap is 8.3 years. - The gap between the least and most deprived deciles in County Durham has increased by 1.4 years for females (2011/13: 7.4 years & 2021-23: 8.8 years). Improving the building blocks of health such as transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs though planning and well-designed places is likely to contribute towards increasing life expectancy.	durhaminsight.info/life-expectancy
Male Healthy life expectancy at birth (2021-2023)	56.5	56.9	61.5	Improve healthy life expectancy and reduce the gap within County Durham and between County Durham and England (JLHWS)	↔	Red	Male Healthy Life Expectancy at birth in County Durham (2021-23): - Healthy life expectancy at birth in County Durham for males was significantly lower than England and has shown no significant change over time. - The absolute gap between healthy life expectancy and life expectancy in County Durham (ie the number of years in poor health) was 20.9 years for males. - Between 2016-18 and 2021-23 the absolute gap in male healthy life expectancy at birth between County Durham and England increased by 1.1 years. Improving the wider determinants of health such as transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs though planning and well-	durhaminsight.info/life-expectancy

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							designed places is likely to contribute towards increasing healthy life expectancy.	
Female Healthy life expectancy at birth (2021-2023)	56.8	57.5	61.9	Improve healthy life expectancy and reduce the gap within County Durham and between County Durham and England (JLHWS)	↔	Red	Female Healthy Life Expectancy at birth in County Durham (2021-23): - Healthy life expectancy at birth in County Durham for females was significantly lower than England and has shown no significant change over time. - The absolute gap between healthy life expectancy and life expectancy in County Durham (i.e. the number of years in poor health) was 24.1 years for women. - Between 2016-18 and 2021-23 the absolute gap in female healthy life expectancy at birth between County Durham and England increased by 0.8 years. Improving the wider determinants of health such as transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs through planning and well-designed places is likely to contribute towards increasing healthy life expectancy.	durhaminsight.info/life-expectancy
Number of residents who reported they were in Very Good Health	224,293 (43%)	1,180,035 (44.6%)	27,390,829 (48.5%)	Increase the number of residents who reported they were in very good health/	↑	Red	There was slight increase in the number of residents in County Durham who reported they were in very good health between the 2011 census (42.4%) and the 2021 census. The percentage of residents who reported they were in very good health in County Durham is significantly lower than those reported in the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Number of residents who reported they were in Good Health	176,980 (33.9%)	885,603 (33.5%)	19,040,735 (33.7%)	Increase the number of residents who reported they were in good health	↑	Green	There was an increase in the number of residents in County Durham who reported they were in good health between the 2011 census (33.4%) and the 2021 census. The percentage of residents who reported they were in good health in County Durham is higher than the percentages reported in the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Number of residents who reported they were in Fair Health	81,624 (15.6%)	395,694 (14.9%)	7,147,346 (12.7%)	Increase/maintain the number of residents who reported they were in fair health	?	Green	There was a decrease in the number of residents in County Durham who reported they were in fair health between the 2011 census (16.1%) and the 2021 census. The percentage of residents who reported they were in fair health in County Durham is higher than the percentages reported in the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Number of residents who reported they were in Bad Health	30,167 (5.8%)	143,103 (5.4%)	2,248,255 (4.0%)	Decrease the number of residents who reported they were in bad health	↑	Red	There was a decrease in the number of residents in County Durham who reported they were in bad health between the 2011 census (6.3%) and the 2021 census. The percentage of residents who reported they were in bad health in County Durham is higher than the percentages reported in the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Number of residents who reported they were in Very Bad Health	9,004 (1.7%)	42,579 (1.6%)	2,248,255 (4.0%)	Decrease the number of residents who reported they were in very bad health	↑	Amber	There was a slight decrease in the number of residents in County Durham who reported they were in very bad health between the 2011 census (1.8%) and the 2021 census. The percentage of residents who reported they were in very bad health in County Durham is higher than the percentage reported in the North East but is lower than the percentage reported in England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Long term health problem or disability – Day to Day activities limited a lot	55,992 (10.7%)	261,962 (9.9%)	4,140,357 (7.3%)		↑	Amber	There was a decrease in the reported number of those with a long-term health problem or disability where day to day activities are limited a lot between the 2011 census (12.3%) and the 2021 census. The percentage reported is higher than the percentage reported in the north east and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to supporting those with long term health problems or disability.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Long term health problem or disability – Day to Day activities limited a little	63,798 (12.2%)	305,342 (11.5%)	5,634,153 (10.0%)		?	Grey	There was an increase in the reported number of those with a long term health problem or disability where day to day activities are limited a little between the 2011 census (11.4%). Unclear trend as an increase in those with a long term health problem or disability where day to day activities are limited a little could be a positive trend where day to day activities have improved from limited a lot or declining trend where day to day activities have worsened from being not limited. The percentage reported is higher than the percentage reported for the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to supporting those with long term health problems or disability.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
Has long term physical or mental health condition but day to day activities are not limited	37,748 (7.2%)	187,886 (7.1%)	3,856,029 (6.8%)		?	Grey	This variable is new for the 2021 census and there is no comparability with the 2011 census. The percentage reported is higher than the percentage reported for the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to supporting those with long term physical and mental health conditions.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
No long term physical or mental health conditions	364,530 (69.8%)	1,891,823 (71.5%)	42,859,509 (75.9%)		?	Amber	This variable is new for the 2021 census and there is no comparability with the 2011 census. The percentage reported is lower than the percentage reported for the North East and England. Well-designed places including good transport, housing, education, access to healthy food, social regeneration, education, leisure provision and jobs may contribute to improving health outcomes.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis) durhaminsight.info/census/
% Overweight and obesity among children (2023/24)	Reception: 26.7% classified as living with overweight (including obesity) 11.8% classified as living with obesity (including severe obesity) Year 6: 37.8% classified as living with overweight (including obesity) 24.3% classified as living with obesity (including severe obesity)	Reception: 24.7% classified as living with overweight (including obesity). 10.8% classified as living with obesity (including severe obesity) Year 6: 38.6% classified as living with overweight (including obesity). 24.5% classified as living with obesity (including severe obesity)	Reception: 22.1% classified as living with overweight (including obesity). 9.6% classified as living with obesity (including severe obesity) Year 6: 35.8% classified as living with overweight (including obesity).	Increase the number of children who are a healthy weight (Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy)	↓	Red	Over the last 5 years, the proportion of reception children in County Durham living with obesity has increased by 12.2%. Over the same time period England has decreased by –0.4% and the North East has increased by 0.2%. Over the last 5 years the proportion of year 6 children in County Durham living with obesity has increased by 8.8%. Over the same time period England has increased by 9.3% and the North East has increased by 7.7%. Overweight including obesity prevalence is twice as high amongst children in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived areas for both reception and year 6 year groups. Improving the local environment through local planning policies so that our residents are able to make more healthy food choices and be more active may help to reduce the number of children who are classified as living with overweight and obesity.	durhaminsight.info/healthy-weight
% Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in adults	34.4% (2023/24)	32.5%	26.5%	Reduction in the proportion of adults who are	↓	Red	Over the last 5 years obesity prevalence in adults in county Durham has increased by 16.6%. Over the same time period England has increased by 12.8% and the North East has increased by 14.8%.	durhaminsight.info/healthy-weight

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				overweight and obese (JLHWS)			In 2023/24 obesity prevalence in adults in County Durham was ranked 17/153 amongst all local authorities in England (rank 1 being the highest for obesity prevalence in adults). Improving the local environment through local planning policies so that our residents are able to make more healthy food choices and be more active may help to reduce the number of children who are classified as living with overweight and obesity.	
% of physically active children and young people	45.6% (2022/23) - (No data available for 2023/24)	48.4% (22/23)	47.0% (22/23)	Increase in the number of physically active children, young people and adults (JLHWS)	↑	Amber	The percentage of physically active young people is statistically less than that in the North East and England. The percentage has increased from 43.6 in 2017/18 to 45.6 in 2022/23. Improving the design of places and spaces, through policies in the local plan, which provide opportunities for everyone to increase their physical activity is likely to have a positive impact on activity levels. This includes options for children's play, active transport, co-location of facilities/walkable neighbourhoods and multifunctional open spaces.	durhaminsight.info/healthy-weight
% of physically active adults	61.6% (2023/24)	61.9%	63.7%	Increase in the number of physically active children, young people and adults (JLHWS)	↑	Amber	The percentage of physically active adults is statistically similar to the North East and England. The percentage has increased from 59.9 in 2018/19 to 61.6 in 2023/24. Improving the design of places and spaces, through policies in the local plan, which provide opportunities for everyone to increase their physical activity is likely to have a positive impact on activity levels. This includes options for children's play, active transport, co-location of facilities/walkable neighbourhoods and multifunctional open spaces.	durhaminsight.info/healthy-weight

Biodiversity

Table 7: Biodiversity

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
% Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in favourable condition (2022)	Favourable: 12% (2019) 15% (2022) Unfavourable: 88% (2019) 85% (2022)	-	Favourable: 38% (2022) 35% (2024) Unfavourable: 62% (2022) 65% (2024)	Government commitment: 75% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2042	↔	Red	There are 88 SSSIs in County Durham With 35% of the UK's SSSI's in a favourable condition, the UK is not on track to meet its commitment to restore 75% of SSSIs to favourable condition by 2042. Although slight improvements at a local level have occurred, the condition data shows that County Durham's SSSI were in a poorer state than is evidenced nationally in 2022 and are likely to be in a poorer state in 2024 too. Planning permission is unlikely to be granted for development that damages SSSIs. SSSI Impact Risk Zones –	Natural England: Designated Sites View database – please note that technical difficulties were experienced when attempting to access the most recent 2024 data extent and condition of protected areas

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							for LPAs to determine likely impacts on SSSIs and when to consult Natural England	
Woodland as a % of area (2019)	8.58%	6% (average)	10%	Increase tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050	↑	Amber	County Durham's woodland coverage is below the national % but above the regional %. Woodland planting in the county has increased and the Council has led planting of one million trees and 200 miles of hedgerow in the last 20 years. An increase in planting is likely to continue in the county due to grant availability and funding through agri-environment schemes for example. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy may also help to steer the planting of trees in the County when released, increasing confidence amongst landowners of suitable areas. There will always be areas of the county where tree planting is inadvisable though, such as areas of deep peat to the west of the county	ONS: woodland coverage

Landscapes

Table 8: Landscapes

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Changes in landscape and waterscape character North Pennines National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape Change (2015-2019)	Overall trend: Mainly little change and some improving	Overall trend: Mainly little change and some improving	Mainly Improving: 15.09% Some improving: 44.65% Mixed and mainly little change: 6.29 Some declining: 30.19% Mainly declining: 3.77%	The Outcome Indicator Framework for the 25 Year Environment Plan includes Goal 10: Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.	↔	Green	This National Character Area (NCA) is at the northern end of the Pennine ridge. It has a distinct identity, with its remote upland moorlands divided by quiet dales. It has some of the highest and most exposed moorland summits in England. There are few settlements, creating a strong sense of remoteness. The landscape displays slow landscape change and cultural continuity. The area's internationally significant geology has resulted in mining and quarrying activities in the past, leaving behind minerals that may cause watercourse contamination, particularly during severe storm events caused by climate change. Additionally, drier summers may cause the drying of the characteristic mosaic of moorlands habitat, altering the carbon storage capacity of peaty soils. The following Super Landscape Objectives (SLO) for the North Pennines have a poor or unknown status but a strongly improving change trend: • SLO3 – Improve the ecological condition of rivers and canals as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance.	north-pennines landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							• SLO9 - Improve the overall condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their contribution to landscape character and quality. • SLO23 – Reduce and manage conifer plantations for landscape and biodiversity benefits. Restructure and carefully enhance, where appropriate, the broadleaved element of woodland cover. The following SLOs have a poor status with little change to this trend: • SLO25 - Reduce grazing pressure where appropriate to enhance characteristic upland habitats and protect historic features. • SLO31 - Improve the ecological condition of lakes, ponds, fens and other waterbodies as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance.	
Changes in landscape and waterscape character Tyne and Wear Lowlands National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape Change (2015-2019)	Overall trend: Mixed Change	Overall trend: Mixed Change	As above	As above	↓	Amber	Tyne and Wear Lowlands National Character Area (NCA) is an area of gently undulating or rolling land, incised by the valleys of the major rivers and their tributaries. It is densely populated and heavily influenced by urban settlement, industry and infrastructure. Between settlements there are wide stretches of agricultural land. Previous industry left its mark on the landscape with impacts on water quality, although restoration in recent years has led to improved habitat and recreation opportunity. Changes in rainfall patterns may lead to urban flooding and agricultural soil erosion, and engineered flood defences may further fragment semi-natural habitats. Whilst the overall trend for the NCA is given as ‘Mixed Change’ there are more declining trends identified against the Super Landscape Objectives than improving. Improving objectives also have an unknown provisional status, whereas more declining objectives have a poor status. Strongly improving objectives are: • SLO7 - Improve access to and through landscapes with cycle paths and long distance footpaths, to increase recreational	tyne and wear lowlands landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							and educational opportunities for engagement with the natural environment - SLO15 - Increase opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape and waterscapes, enhancing the network of public spaces, open green space and parks. - SLO17 - Improve the quality of and extent of green corridors within the peri-urban landscape, increasing areas of publicly accessible green spaces. Declining trends have been identified against the following objectives: - SLO1 - Conserve and enhance landscapes for their tranquillity and dark skies particularly where they are under pressure from the potential impacts of development and associated infrastructure. - SLO3 - Improve the ecological condition of rivers and canals as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance (Strongly Declining) - SLO6 - Conserve and enhance the field boundary features and patterns that characterise our varied landscapes. - SLO31 - Improve the ecological condition of lakes, ponds, fens and other waterbodies as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance	
Changes in landscape and waterscape character Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape	Overall trend: Mixed change, mainly declining	Overall trend: Mixed change, mainly declining	As above	As above	↓	Red	The Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau comprises open agricultural landscape, and its valued coastline is at risk of coastal erosion due to sea level rise and heavy rainfall. Drier summers may result in drought stress for semi-natural habitats and agricultural crops. Additionally, the locally important sources of water like the Magnesian Limestone aquifer and River Wear are subject to additional pressures from increased water abstraction. The following SLOs have an unknown status but a strongly improving trend: SLO7 - Improve access to and through landscapes with cycle paths and long	magnesian limestone plateau landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Change (2015-2019)							distance footpaths, to increase recreational and educational opportunities for engagement with the natural environment. - SLO9 - Improve the overall condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their contribution to landscape character and quality. The following SLOs have been classified as declining: - SLO1 - Conserve and enhance landscapes for their tranquillity and dark skies particularly where they are under pressure from the potential impacts of development and associated infrastructure. - SLO6 - Conserve and enhance the field boundary features and patterns that characterise our varied landscapes The following SLOS have been classified as strongly declining: - SLO3 - Improve the ecological condition of rivers and canals as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance. - SLO32 - Protect and conserve the varied coastal geologic features for their distinctive character and natural beauty, which support important and niche habitats.	
Changes in landscape and waterscape character Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape Change (2015-2019)	Overall Trend: Mixed change, mainly declining	Overall Trend: Mixed change, mainly declining	As above	As above	↓	Red	The Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe, a rolling upland landscape of broad, open ridges and valleys, is subject to numerous changes to its landscape including from housing and renewable energy development pressures. Varied rainfall and droughts may result in the deterioration of the water quality of River Derwent and Wear and may impact peaty soils and their carbon capacity. Climate change may result in greater fragmentation of semi-natural habitats, although recent restoration schemes seek to improve wildlife and ecosystem services and may alter the composition of existing habitats. The following SLOs have been classified as strongly improving: SLO9 - Improve the overall condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their contribution to landscape character and quality.	coalfield pennine fringe landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							- SLO24 - Connect existing broadleaved woodlands and enhance woodland cover, increasing extent of habitat connectivity where appropriate. The following SLOs have been classified as Improving: - SLO23 - Reduce and manage conifer plantations for landscape and biodiversity benefits. Restructure and carefully enhance, where appropriate, the broadleaved element of woodland cover. The following SLOS have been classified as declining: - SLO1 - Conserve and enhance landscapes for their tranquillity and dark skies particularly where they are under pressure from the potential impacts of development and associated infrastructure. - SLO5 - Ensure that agri-environment schemes are contributing positively to landscape and waterscape character. The following SLOS have been classified as strongly declining: - SLO3 – Improve the ecological condition of rivers and canals as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance. - SLO6 - Conserve and enhance the field boundary features and patterns that characterise our varied landscapes.	
Changes in landscape and waterscape character Pennine Dales Fringe National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape Change (2015-2019)	Overall trend: Mixed change, mainly improving	Overall trend: Mixed change, mainly improving	As above	As above	↑	Green	The Pennine Dales Fringe comprises upland moorland fringes and plateaux dissected by numerous river valleys, and changing climactic conditions may result in habitat stress and longer growing seasons for crops. Frequent and extreme rainfall may result in bankside erosion of agricultural soil and of important rivers like the Ure, Swale, Nidd and Wharfe along with increased flood risk for settlements. Climate change may increase pressure for renewable energy developments in the area. The following SLOs have been classified as strongly improving: SLO4 - Conserve and enhance our heritage assets for their physical and cultural	pennine dales fringe landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							contribution to landscape/waterscape character and quality. - SLO23 - Reduce and manage conifer plantations for landscape and biodiversity benefits. Restructure and carefully enhance, where appropriate, the broadleaved element of woodland cover. - SLO25 - Reduce grazing pressure where appropriate to enhance characteristic upland habitats and protect historic features The following SLOs have been classified as improving: - SLO3 - Improve the ecological condition of rivers and canals as important landscape features including habitats, connectivity and cultural significance. - SLO24 - Connect existing broadleaved woodlands and enhance woodland cover, increasing extent of habitat connectivity where appropriate. The following SLOs have been classified as declining: - SLO1 - Conserve and enhance landscapes for their tranquillity and dark skies particularly where they are under pressure from the potential impacts of development and associated infrastructure. - SLO5 - Ensure that agri-environment schemes are contributing positively to landscape and waterscape character. - SLO12 - Seek to conserve, enhance and increase characteristic broadleaved woodland through appropriate management. The following SLOs have been classified as strongly declining: - SLO6 - Conserve and enhance the field boundary features and patterns that characterise our varied landscapes.	
Changes in landscape and waterscape character	Overall trend: mixed change, mainly declining	Overall trend: mixed change, mainly declining	As above	As above	↓	Red	The Tees Lowlands, a contrasting low-lying open plain with rural areas to the south and west and large urban areas around Tees Estuary, is subject to ongoing pressures from flood risk and housing development. The rising sea levels in the area may cause a coastal pinch effect, which could put pressure on internationally designated intertidal	tees lowlands landscape change

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Tees Lowlands National Character Area (NCA)– Landscape Change (2015-2019)							habitats and may lead to the loss of mudflats, salt marsh, and sand dunes. Ongoing industrial development around the Tees Estuary may put pressure on brownfield sites and threaten newly developing grasslands and scrub habitats. The following SLOs have been classified as strongly improving: - SLO7 - Improve access to and through landscapes with cycle paths and long distance footpaths, to increase recreational and educational opportunities for engagement with the natural environment. The following SLOs have been classified as declining: - SLO1 - Conserve and enhance landscapes for their tranquillity and dark skies particularly where they are under pressure from the potential impacts of development and associated infrastructure. - SLO6 - Conserve and enhance the field boundary features and patterns that characterise our varied landscapes. - SLO21 - Manage arable land to benefit landscape character and biodiversity, by maintaining soil health and minimising erosion and run off through enhancement of biodiverse hedgerows, linear scrub and buffer strips. The following SLOs have been classified as strongly declining: - SLO9 - Improve the overall condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their contribution to landscape character and quality	

Soil

Table 9: Soil

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Volume of potentially contaminated sites	7,000 sites identified in the Contaminated Land Strategy (September 2015). 6227 potentially contaminated sites currently identified on GIS. Only one site is understood to be on Durham Contaminated Land register – Bessemer Park, Spennymoor. This site has been remediated and is ready for use	Not available	Not available	None	?	Amber	High but likely decreasing number of potentially contaminated sites due to County Durham's industrial past and remediation efforts. The Contaminated Land Strategy is currently being reviewed. The Council may or may not need to prepare a plan policy to address contaminated land. We will not know this until the Government republish the National Planning Policy Framework document, update the Planning Practice Guide, and consult on a new National Development Management Policies document. This consultation is expected to occur later this year. It is understood that in the future Local Plans should not duplicate policies should not duplicate policies set out in the new National Development Management Policies Document. The Council's existing policy is Policy 32. See also relevant NPPF paragraphs 125, 187, 196 and 197. Trend with or without Plan, unknown.	DCC Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3820/Contaminated-land DCC - Environmental Protection Team
Proportion of Agricultural Land in each Classification (Grade 1 – Grade 5)	There is no Grade 1 land in County Durham and less than 2% of the County is classified as Grade 2. Approximately 38% of the County is classified as Grade 3 but it is not currently possible to differentiate the amount of grade 3a and grade 3b land as a comprehensive	Not available	Not available	None	unknown	Grey	The Council's existing policy (Policy 14) seeks to protect best and most versatile agricultural land which is land classified as Grade 1 (excellent quality agricultural land), Grade 2 (very good quality agricultural land) and sub-Grade 3a (good quality agricultural land). Grades 3b (moderate quality agricultural land), 4 (poor quality agricultural land) and 5 (very poor-quality agricultural land) are not classified as best and most versatile agricultural land. Trend, with or without plan, it is expected that some best and most versatile agricultural land will be lost either permanently or for a temporary period.	Natural England https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/5d2477d8d04b41d4bbc9a8742f858f4d_0/explore?location=52.529972%2C-1.477739%2C8.61 Please note the actual extent of BMV agricultural land is not accurately known.

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	survey of grade 3 land is not available.							
% new housing built on previously developed land	No data We keep a brownfield land register which lists sites which are considered potentially suitable for housing, or housing-led, development	Not Available	Not Available	None	Unknown	Grey	The new Plan needs to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Key NPPF paragraphs outlined below. The Plan must set out a strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously developed or 'brownfield' land (NPPF paragraph 124) and give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs (NPPF paragraph 125). But greenfield allocations will be required within the Plan. See also NPPF paragraph 147 which relates to changing green belt boundaries first 'a) makes as much use as possible of suitable brownfield sites and underutilised land'; and NPPF paragraph 165 and the vacant buildings credit. Trend with or without plan, County Durham is a rural county. There will be some opportunities for previously developed land to be used for new development. However, greenfield allocations will be required within the new County Durham Plan (CDP).	Data is not currently collected.

Water

Table 10: Water

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Ground Water Quality (2019)	County Durham has four groundwater operational catchments within the wider Northumbria river basin district. These are: Skerne Magnesian Limestone (Poor overall status) Poor Quantitative status	-	Status of groundwaters in England (2019) 44% at good status 55% not at good status.	The Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims to protect and improve the water environment by requiring all surface and groundwater bodies to achieve "good ecological and chemical	↔	Red	0% of the groundwater catchments that relate to County Durham's achieve good status, although the quantitative status (the balance between groundwater abstraction and its natural replenishment, ensuring that withdrawals are sustainable and do not exceed recharge) is good in all but the Skerne Magnesian Limestone catchment Groundwater quality within the Skerne Magnesian Limestone remains at poor status due to saline intrusion impacts at the coast near Hartlepool and also remains at risk from nitrate contamination and sulphate rich mine water. Measures are being developed to reduce risk of saline intrusion and	Outcome Indicator Framework: water Catchment planning River Basin District

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	- Poor Chemical Status - Saline or other intrusion by Industry and the Water Industry is given as the primary reason for not achieving good status - Not expected to reach Good status until 2040 Wear Magnesian Limestone (Poor Overall status) - Good Quantitative Status - Poor Chemical Status - Poor nutrient and livestock management attributed to agriculture and rural management are the reasons for not achieving good - Expected to reach good status overall by 2027 but with low confidence Wear Carboniferous Limestone and Coal			status". Targets include preventing the deterioration of water bodies, reducing pollution from priority substances, promoting sustainable water use, and mitigating floods and droughts. While the original 2015 deadline was extended, Member States, including England, are working to meet these targets by 2027 or 2030. Relevant target(s) in the 25 Year Environment Plan: Reaching or exceeding objectives for rivers, lakes, coastal and ground waters that are specially protected, whether for			understand the sources and pathways of nitrate. It is expected to take 20-30 years for the aquifer to recover from historic saline impacts. A 40 year management plan has been developed and agreed by the Environment Agency, the Coal Authority and Anglian Water to mitigate the impacts of mine water to this drinking water supply. The Wear Carboniferous Limestone and Coal Measures groundwater bodies is designated as a drinking water protected area and is used throughout the catchment for small, local, private water supplies. The legacy of coal and metal mining is causing the poor status of this groundwater body. Despite measures to mitigate the effects of the groundwater impact on surface waters, this groundwater body will continue to fail due to widespread pollution. It is technically infeasible to clean up polluted groundwater at such a scale and hence has been given an alternative objective. It is only one of two groundwater bodies in England with an alternative objective. The Tees Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit groundwater body lies beneath the upper Tees catchment to the west of Gainford and is designated as a drinking water protected area. This groundwater fails to achieve good status due to metal mine discharges impacting the Harwood and Hudeshope Becks and Eggleston Burn catchments in Upper Teesdale. This groundwater is also at risk from nitrate contamination.	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	Measures (Poor overall status) • Good quantitative status • Poor chemical status • Pollution from abandoned mines is the reason for not achieving good status • Not expected to reach good status – technically infeasible, no known technical solution available Tees Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit • Good quantitative status • Poor chemical status • Pollution from abandoned mines is the reason for not achieving good status			biodiversity or drinking water as per our River Basin Management Plans Restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term Reversing the loss of marine biodiversity and, where practicable, restoring it.				
Surface Water Quality (2019)	Parts of the Tees, Wear and Tyne catchments are within County Durham:	-	16% of surface water bodies met all the relevant criteria for good ecological	As above	↑	Amber	The Wear Catchment lags behind the national average in terms of % of water bodies at good ecological status. A low proportion overall achieve good ecological status in County Durham and 0 achieve good chemical status. Achieving good	Outcome Indicator Framework: water Catchment planning River Basin District Catchment Partnerships Northumbria

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	The Tees Catchment within County Durham includes the operational catchments of Tees Upper, Tees Middle and Skerne • 54 water bodies in total • 11 (20%) good ecological status • 0 good chemical status • Reasons for not achieving good include physical modification by the water industry and agricultural sector and pollution from agriculture and rural land management • Low confidence that good ecological status will be achieved by 2027 • Good chemical status expected by 2063 The Wear Catchment within County Durham includes 6 operational catchments (Browney, Gaunless, Seaham Peterlee Coast, Wear Lower and Estuary, Wear Middle, Wear Upper)		status of the WFD Regulations in 2019				chemical status is also a long way off, cited as being achieved by 2063. The work of the Tyne, Wear and Tees Catchment Partnerships and delivery of priority actions, should however, help to bring about co-ordinated improvements across the catchments. Tees Catchment Partnership Current challenges identified include: • Pollution from agriculture and rural areas - Sediment loss, land drainage, lack of buffer strips, waste disposal to land, poor infrastructure, farmed flood plain • Physical modifications - Land drainage and flood protection of agricultural land, barriers to fish migration • Pollution from waste water - Phosphorous and nitrogen nutrient load from industrial activity, waste water treatment works, combined sewer outfalls, misconnections Future predicted challenges include: • Pollution from agriculture and rural areas – high sediment loading in river due to need for better soil management • Physical modifications - River flow, water quality and fish passage compromised and in parts restricted by modifications installed for historic industrial purposes or agriculture • Pollution from waste water - Improvement needed in infrastructure for waste water treatment for both domestic and industrial sources Wear Catchment Partnership Current challenges identified include: • Physical modifications - Poor channel morphology fragments habitats negatively affects flow patterns, invertebrates, fish and wider biodiversity • Invasive non-native species - Displaces native species, creates erosion, reduces water quality, biodiversity and public access with wider economic impacts	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	64 water bodies in total 6 (9%) good ecological status 0 good chemical status - Pollution from waste water attributed to the water industry is the main reason why good status has not been achieved - Low confidence that good ecological status will be achieved by 2027 - Good chemical status expected by 2063 The Tyne catchment within County Durham includes the Derwent Tyne operational catchment 11 water bodies in total 2 (18%) good ecological status 0 good chemical status - Main reason for not achieving good is attributed to physical modifications						- Changes to the natural flow and water levels - High intensity rainfall and hard urban landscapes demand extensive natural flood management and urban drainage systems Future predicted challenges include: - Pollution from agriculture and rural areas - The fragmented nature of the agricultural sector and ineffective enforcement makes large scale mitigation more difficult than pollution from the highly regulated water industry - Pollution from towns, cities and transport - Hardening of the urban landscape, direct drainage to watercourses, without intercepts, from buildings and highways and a failure to adequately address misconnections - Physical modifications - The cost of removing or mitigating channel modifications, particularly in the urban context with the complexity of contaminated land and buried utilities creates barriers	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	by the water industry - Low confidence that good ecological status will be achieved by 2027 - Good chemical status expected by 2063							
Bathing water quality (2024)	Bathing water profile for Seaham Hall Beach: - Good (2021) - Good (2022) - Sufficient (2023) - Good (2024) - In 2024, 21 pollution risk warnings were issued for this bathing water Bathing water profile for Seaham Beach: - Excellent (2021) - Good (2022) - Good (2023) - Good (2024) - In 2024 15 pollution risk warnings were issued for this bathing water Bathing water profile for Crimdon: - Good (2021) - Excellent (2022) - Good (2023) - Excellent (2024)	-	In 2024: 92% (413 waters) met at least the minimum standard 64% (289 waters) met the Excellent standard 8% (37 waters) were classified as poor)	The Bathing Water Regulations 2013 – to ensure that by the end of the bathing season in 2015 all bathing waters are classified at least as ‘sufficient.’ From 2015 there are new, tighter standards.	↔	Green	Designated bathing waters in England have tough water quality targets to achieve. Concentrations of Escherichia coli (EC) and Intestinal enterococci (IE) are used to classify a bathing water. Bathing waters are classified as poor, sufficient, good or excellent based on 4 years of samples from each site. These bacteria can come from many sources including sewage, agricultural livestock, wildlife, birds and road drainage. County Durham’s bathing waters are classified as either good or excellent, although higher pollution risk warnings were issued for Seaham Hall Beach in 2024 than the other beaches. Seaham Beaches: Crude sewage discharges in the Seaham area were intercepted and connected to a long sea outfall to the south of the town in the early 1990's. Improvements were also made to the inland sewerage network to improve combined sewer overflows (CSO) discharging to streams that may have been impacting on the beaches. A sewage treatment works was built in 2000 to comply with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. There are no emergency or storm outfalls discharging directly onto the bathing beaches but a number of outfalls discharge to local streams and can temporarily affect bathing water quality after heavy rainfall. The Environment Agency worked with the water company to investigate the performance of their sewage network in the area.	Swimfo: find a bathing water

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	In 2024, 12 pollution risk warnings were issued for this bathing water						This investigation reported in 2012 and an improvement scheme was implemented in 2015 to construct storage tanks at Dalton Park and increase capacity in the sewer network. This reduced the occurrence of spills, which minimised pollution entering the Dalton Dene and reaching the bathing water. The capacity of the sewer network will need to be taken into account if housing is allocated in the area. Heavy rain falling on pavements and roads often flows into surface water drains or highway drains, ending up in local rivers and ultimately the sea. The quality of bathing water may be adversely affected as a result of such events. Consideration should be given to any increase in hardstanding in the area as a result of the Plan and the use of SuDS Crimdon Beach: Sewage from coastal villages to the north, which previously discharged through a number of short sea outfalls was intercepted in the early 1990s and taken to a long sea outfall at Horden, which was designed to improve bathing water quality. In 2000, a sewage treatment works was added to this system. The resulting discharge is thought not to affect bathing water quality at Crimdon. There are no storm overflows discharging to Crimdon beach but there are some on the sewerage system to the north. These were designed to ensure that bathing water quality at Crimdon is protected. Following a number of failures of bathing water standards in 2002 an investigation was undertaken and the source identified as an overflowing sewage pumping station at a nearby caravan site. This was rectified and water quality has been satisfactory every year since.	
Supply Demand Balance Index (SDBI)	Northumbrian Water: achieved target or better	As for County Durham	100% achieved target or better	25 Year Environment Plan: Boosting the long-term	↔	Green	In 2023/2024, all 9 water and sewerage companies in England were assessed to have an SDBI score of 100 and were considered to be operating on or better than target. This is an	F3: Disruption or unwanted impacts caused by drought nwg/wrmp

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
status by water company (2023/24)				resilience of our homes businesses and infrastructure Ensuring interruptions to water supplies are minimised during prolonged dry weather and drought			improvement since the 2022/2023 financial year where one company, South West Water, achieved a score of 86 and was considered to be performing significantly below the target as defined by the Water Resources Management Plan. The Council will need to produce a Water Cycle Study to determine if new water infrastructure is required to support new development. County Durham is part of the Kielder Water Resource Zone. Kielder Reservoir is the largest man-made reservoir in the UK and is used for collecting and storing water. When there hasn't been enough rain, water is released from Kielder into the Rivers Tyne, Derwent, Wear and Tees. In eastern parts of County Durham river water can be supplemented with groundwater from the Magnesian Limestone aquifer (currently at good quantitative status). However, climate change modelling undertaken by Northumbrian Water, using the UK Climate Projections shows that reservoirs in the Kielder WRZ are sensitive to climate change and that with less rain in the summer, we should expect to see our reservoirs reduce to lower levels before they refill again over the winter. However, with action taken to reduce leakage and water usage, water supply is assessed as secure for at least the next 25 years. Based on longer-term forecasts, the North East has enough water to last until 2080.	
Water Consumption (litres per person, per day)	Northumbrian Water Operating Area: 151.8l/p/d (2024-25) 152.5 (2023-24) 153.8 (2022-23) 157.8 (2021-22)	Northumbrian Water Operating Area: 151.8l/p/d (2024-25)	137 (England and Wales)	The primary UK water consumption target is set by England's Environment	↑	Amber	Northumbrian Water have plans to achieve their targets, but they will be influenced by development. Longer term planned development will be easier to accommodate.	https://www.nwg.co.uk/globalassets/sharepoint-documents/nwg_pr19_interactive_v2.pdf (pg 109)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	165.7 (2020-21)			Act 2021, which aims to reduce public water supply use per person by 20% by 2037-38, using the 2019-20 baseline. This goal is projected to reach a national average of 122 litres per person per day by the target date, with a long-term aim to reach 110 litres per person per day by 2050				Annual tracker: https://www.nwg.co.uk/open-data/ latest table, tab 3F, row 19. Column L Also https://www.discoverwater.co.uk/amount-we-use
leakage	Northumbrian Water Operating Area: 171.8MI/day (2024-5) 170.8 (2023-24) 174.4 (2022-23) 189 (2021-22) 206 (2020-21) 202.7 (2017-18)	Northumbrian Water Operating Area: 171.8MI/day (2024-5)	2,690 MI/day	Northumbrian Water have committed to reducing leakage by 55% from a 2017-18 baseline by 2050. The national target is a 50% reduction.	↑	Amber	Leakage performance has been improving over the past 5 years. However, to date leakage has only reduced by 15% from the 2017/18 baseline.	Northumbrian Water Final Water Resources Management Plan https://www.nwg.co.uk/open-data/ latest table, tab 3F, row 18. Column L

Air

Table 11: Air

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Air Quality	An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in Durham City on the 9 th	-	There are approximately 660 active Air Quality	The Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) established legally	↑	Amber	In County Durham, the main pollutant of concern is Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ²), with the primary source being from road vehicle exhaust emissions. Durham County Council (DCC) have declared an air quality	2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report Air Quality Action Plan 2025-2030

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	May 2011 due to exceedance of air quality objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide. For this pollutant, the annual mean concentration must not exceed 40 µg/m³ Level of Exceedance • 56.4 (2011) • 42.5 (2024)		Management Areas (AQMA) across the UK	binding concentration limits and objectives for key air pollutants in the UK to protect human health and the environment. The regulations, which transposed EU directives into UK law, define specific pollutant levels (including PM10, SO2, NO2, and ozone) and require monitoring, assessment, and the creation of Air Quality Plans to address areas that exceed these standards The Environment Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 introduces additional targets relating to PM2.5. In particular, a target for the annual mean PM2.5 concentration to be no more than 10 µg/m3 by the end of 2040 was introduced			management area (AQMA) due to monitored exceedances of the annual mean NO2 objective. This is located in Durham City, An improvement in air quality has been observed at all 45 sites in the County monitored between 2019 and 2023, discounting 2020 which saw widespread reductions in annual mean NO² concentrations compared with 2019 due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently an increase was seen in 2021. Concentrations in 2023 were mostly below those recorded in 2022, and in all cases were below those recorded in 2019. The average year-on-year reduction in annual mean NO² concentration is 0.9 µg/m³ at background sites, 1.5 µg/m3 at roadside sites outside the AQMA, and 1.8 µg/m³ at roadside sites within the AQMA. For Durham City AQMA, a computer model has determined that the main contributors to poor air quality are diesel cars, LGVs, and buses (on specific roads), although petrol cars were also determined to be a significant contributor to particulate concentrations. Whilst air quality is improving, there are still locations that exceed, or are close to exceeding, the annual mean NO² objective within the AQMA. Air quality is expected to improve in County Durham with the implementation of the 2025 Air Quality Action Plan, phase out of petrol and diesel cars and the introduction of the EUs Euro 7 emissions standards from 2026. Whilst the UK will not automatically adopt the Euro 7 standard, domestic standards are likely to align as manufacturers generally prefer to produce vehicles to a single set of standards for the European market.	

Climate

Table 12: Climate

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Per Capita Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	6.8 (2005) 6 (2010) 4.8 (2015) 3.8 (2020) 3.4 (2023)	7.9 (2005) 6.8 (2010) 5.3 (2015) 4.1 (2020) 3.7 (2023)	7.2 (2005) 6.4 (2010) 4.9 (2015) 3.7 (2020) 3.3 (2023)	The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The Act also requires the setting of legally binding 'carbon budgets' to act as stepping stones toward the 2050 target. We are currently in the 4th Carbon Budget period (2023-2027) which sets a budget of 1,950 MtCO₂e and represents a 52% reduction below 1990 levels.	↑	Green	County Durham's per capita emissions have halved over the last 18 years and are below the regional average, although slightly above the national average. It is anticipated that carbon emissions will continue to decrease as the grid decarbonises further in line with the Government's targets of greening the grid (clean power sector by 2035, with a 2030 'Clean Power' target for at least 95% of power to come from clean sources) and phase out of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. However, the rate of decrease locally may slow and lag further behind the national and potentially regional performance if efforts to decarbonise the county are not sustained.	DESNZ greenhouse gas emissions 2005-2023
% Reduction Greenhouse Gas	- 28% (2005) - 35% (2010) - 48% (2015) - 59% (2020) - 61% (2023)	-67% 2005-2023	-46% (UK) 2005-2023	As above	↑	Green	In 2023, greenhouse gas emissions totalled 1,811.9 kt CO₂e in County Durham, representing a 61% reduction from a 1990 baseline. Performance outstrips the UK and is 9% ahead of the national 52% reduction requirement by 2027 established in the 4th carbon budget. County Durham with the North East region has experienced the largest percentage reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over the years, in part due to industrial closures. In County Durham, transport emissions (36% of total) followed by domestic emissions (35% of total) make up the greater share of County Durham's carbon footprint. It is anticipated that carbon emissions will continue to decrease as the grid decarbonises further in line with the Government's targets of greening the grid	DESNZ greenhouse gas emissions 2005-2023 DCC Energy Management and Sustainability

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							(clean power sector by 2035, with a 2030 'Clean Power' target for at least 95% of power to come from clean sources) and phase out of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. However, the rate of decrease locally may slow and lag further behind the regional performance if efforts to decarbonise the county are not sustained.	
Number of properties in areas at risk of flooding by source (England)	Data not yet available	-	Rivers and Seas (high or medium risk) 872k: 2018/19 820k: 2023/24 Surface water (all risk) 1.68M: 2018/19 1.79M: 2023/24	25 Year Environment Plan: Boosting the long-term resilience of our homes businesses and infrastructure	↓	Amber	The final year of data, 2023/2024, has the highest number of properties at risk from all sources of flooding with 819,900 at a medium or high risk, and 1,786,700 at a low or very low risk from rivers and the sea, with 3,218,900 properties at risk from surface waters across all levels of risk. The Council will need to produce a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to support the plan. This will analyse all potential sources of flooding in County Durham, considering climate change and future impacts. The 2018 SFRA identified that the chief sources of fluvial flood risk in the study area originate from the River Tees, River Wear and River Derwent. Due to the naturally high coastal elevations in the area and the presence of tidal flood defences, the risk of tidal flooding is considered to be low. Surface water flood risk across the County is relatively wide-spread, although the majority of flows are primarily confined to the low lying fluvial corridors associated with the River Tees and River Wear. It is anticipated that climate change will cause more frequent and intense rainfall which will increase river flooding in both rural and urban catchments, raise groundwater levels and cause more surface water run-off increasing localised flooding. This can also result in other associated failures and damage such as land slips and erosion.	F1: Disruption or unwanted impacts from flooding or coastal erosion SFRA 2018 Met Office Local Authority Climate Service
Supply Demand Balance Index (SDBI) status by water	Northumbrian Water: achieved target or better	As for County Durham	100% achieved target or better	25 Year Environment Plan: Boosting the long-term resilience of our homes	↔	Green	In 2023/2024, all 9 water and sewerage companies in England were assessed to have an SDBI score of 100 and were considered to be operating on or better than target. This is an improvement since the 2022/2023 financial year where one company,	F3: Disruption or unwanted impacts caused by drought nwg/wrmp

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
company (2023/24)				businesses and infrastructure Ensuring interruptions to water supplies are minimised during prolonged dry weather and drought			South West Water, achieved a score of 86 and was considered to be performing significantly below the target as defined by the Water Resources Management Plan. The Council will need to produce a Water Cycle Study to determine if new water infrastructure is required to support new development. County Durham is part of the Kielder Water Resource Zone. Kielder Reservoir is the largest man-made reservoir in the UK and is used for collecting and storing water. When there hasn't been enough rain, water is released from Kielder into the Rivers Tyne, Derwent, Wear and Tees. In eastern parts of County Durham river water can be supplemented with groundwater from the Magnesian Limestone aquifer (currently at good quantitative status). However, climate change modelling undertaken by Northumbrian Water, using the UK Climate Projections shows that reservoirs in the Kielder WRZ are sensitive to climate change and that with less rain in the summer, we should expect to see our reservoirs reduce to lower levels before they refill again over the winter. However, with action taken to reduce leakage and water usage, water supply is assessed as secure for at least the next 25 years. Based on longer-term forecasts, the North East has enough water to last until 2080.	

Material Assets (Natural Resources)

Table 13: Energy

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Domestic energy consumption (electricity)	694 Gigawatt hours (GWh) total (2023) 677GWh (2022) 739 GWh (2021)	3,521GWh 2,802kWh avg	8,323GWh 3,333kWh avg		↑	Green	With the exception due to the lockdown for covid, domestic electricity consumption has generally been decreasing in recent years. Durham's households are using slightly less electric than the	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	783 GWh (2020) 743 (2019) 2,793 Kilowatt hours (kWh) avg per meter (2023) 2,736 kWh (2022) 3,000kWh (2021) 3,206 kWh (2020) 3,062kWh (2019)						region and significantly less than the England average. The reduction in usage since 2022 could in part be attributable to increasing prices as a result of Russia invading Ukraine. This trend may be reversed in future years as houses adopt more heat pumps, but this should be accompanied by a decrease in gas consumption. Additional Electric Vehicle (EV) charging at home may also impact figures. National and local policies supporting on-site renewables can mitigate any increases. High quality homes can reduce heating (and cooling) demand.	authority-electricity-consumption-statistics
Domestic energy consumption (gas)	2,724 GWh total (2023) 2,635 GWh (2022) 3,069 GWh (2021) 3,232 GWh (2020) 3,144GWh (2019) 11,657kWh average use per meter (2023) 11,329 kWh (2022) 13,264 kWh (2021) 14,062 kWh(2020) 13,780 kWh (2019)	13,392 GWh total 11,504 kWh avg (2023)	243,746 GWh total 11,436kWh avg (2023)	Reducing fossil fuel heating is critical to achieving the national government's carbon targets.	↑	Amber	With the exception due to lockdown for covid, domestic gas consumption has generally been decreasing in recent years. Compared with the region and England, Durham households are using more gas. The reduction in usage since 2022 could in part be attributable to increasing prices as a result of Russia invading Ukraine. Reducing the demand for gas is critical to the Government's carbon reduction targets. This trend should continue as the Government encourages the switch to heat pumps powered by electricity. Homes use about 4 times more gas than electricity and electricity can be decarbonised so this transition should be encouraged. National and local plans concerning property design quality, and location can influence demand. The Local Plan can directly support heat networks in suitable locations.	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-and-local-authority-gas-consumption-statistics
Percentage of dwellings with Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band 'C' or above	47 (2022)	48	47	The Government has a target that all fuel-poor homes should be at least band C by 2030 and an aspiration for as many as possible homes across the country to be at	?	Green	EPCs ratings are directly related to the energy efficiency of the property. Policies encouraging this will improve the score. There can be opportunities in both new build sites and retrofit of existing properties requiring planning permission. More efficient homes are usually cheaper to run improving the quality of life of residents. Higher EPCs will impact on other trackers such as energy consumption	Energy efficiency of Housing, England and Wales, country and region - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) Table 1f for NE and Eng. 2022 Data taken from: http://www.domesticenergymap.uk/

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				least band C by 2035.				
Domestic energy consumption (thousands of tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe))	325 (2023) 318 (2022) 363 (2021) 380 (2020) 369 (2019) Per household (tonnes of oil) 1.384 (2023) 1.546 (2022) 1.601 (2021) 1.676 (2020) 1.627 (2019)	1,562 (2023)	30,683 (2023)		↑	Grey	Overall energy consumption has been on a generally downwards trend with a large drop to 2022, but a slight rebound in 2023. Trend is likely to be a balance between -additional demand from new builds -houses switching to more efficient heating -home EV charging -on site renewables There is significant national pressures and increasingly stricter building standards to manage this. Trend can be accelerated through County Durham Plan (CDP) policies	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2023 Household numbers taken from renewables energy database
Commercial, Industrial and other energy consumption (thousands of tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe))	246 (2023) 252 (2022) 257 (2021) 245 (2020) 253 (2019)	1,616	33,199		?	Grey	Trend shows fluctuating demand over recent 5 years. Difficult to interpret as pattern could be influenced by a number of factors (no/type of business, energy efficiency/economic activity). Policies in the CDP can affect the type, location and operation of businesses and quality of new sites/developments.	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2023
Transport energy consumption (thousands of tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe))	312 (2023) 314 (2022) 299 (2021) 269 (2020) 335 (2019)	1,444	33,238		?	Grey	Transport energy consumption dipped in 2020 due to Covid, but have been increasing since. They are still below pre-covid levels. Transport patterns can be significantly influenced by the CDP in settlement design and supporting ULEV infrastructure. Sustainable transport options can be encouraged through location choice for major domestic and commercial/industrial activity.	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2023 Does not include electric vehicles. Additional breakdown of fuels available on Durham Insight. Durham insight
Generation: Total Annual Renewable Energy Generation (MWh)	487,978 (2023) 493,032 (2022) 431,150 (2021) 509,232 (2020) 498,243 (2019)	(2023)2,714,456 (2022)2,946,185 (2021)4,673,284 (2020)5,125,580	(2023)44,753,902 (2022)43,489,713 (2021)43,179,311 (2020)54,997,160	Clean Power for the UK by 2030. 43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind and 45-47 GW of solar power	↔	Amber	The majority of Durham's generation comes from wind, biomass and solar so renewable generation in Durham will fluctuate depending on weather. Regionally there appears to be a significant drop in plant biomass generation between 2021 and 2022. National policy and Network operator goals are likely to result	Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK LA dataset. Use filters for NE/England statistics Target info from https://engage.northernpowergrid.com/sites/default/files/event-

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
		(2019)4,583,083	(2019)42,242,608	(installed capacity). By 2030 Great Britain will generate enough clean power to meet our total annual electricity demand, backed up by unabated gas supply to be used only when essential. Northern Powergrid are analysing the impact of the Clean Power 2030 targets and what it means in their area. At the draft stage, by 2030 there will need to be an increase in solar capacity of 4.4GW and 1.9GW of onshore wind and storage however some of these are already in the connections process.			in increased generation. The NPPF and Local Plans can support development and ensure successful integration by supporting the right development in the right place. Increasing renewable generation is likely to be accompanied by demand for storage and distribution systems, the location of which can be influenced by local policies. NPPF 161: The planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050; support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. NPPF 165: To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts); b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. NPPF: Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas. NPPF 168 When determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments and their associated infrastructure, local planning authorities should: a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future; b) recognise that small-scale and community-led projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; c) in the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site.	materials/Major%20connections%20customer%20webinar%2011-02-2025%20-%20SLIDES.pdf
Photovoltaics	(2023)55,846 (2022)53,031 (2021)47,398	(2023)252,489	(2023)12,137,538		↑	Green	12% increase in generation in 4 years with a number of large systems to potentially come on line since 2023. Regional and National capacity has increased by 15% and 12%	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	(2020)49,535 (2019)49,819	(2022)226,943 (2021)208,958 (2020)217,206 (2019)219,775	(2022)11,461,148 (2021)10,378,361 (2020)10,850,024 (2019)10,752,519				respectively. Changes to new build domestic standards and the Government's Clean Power 2030 target will increase generation in future years.	
Onshore Wind	(2023)268,199 (2022)278,714 (2021)214,130 (2020)303,880 (2019)281,232	(2023)1,057,990 (2022)1,119,408 (2021)939,985 (2020)1,257,852 (2019)1,138,724	(2023)6,801,660 (2022)6,772,809 (2021)6,252,108 (2020)8,188,552 (2019)6,996,522		↔	Grey	Generation fluctuates over time with weather but broadly flat. Regional and National trends follow similar patterns. Older systems are approaching the opportunity to replace with newer more efficient systems. Recent change in Government and national policies may open up more opportunities for wind generation. Northern Powergrid analysis will help determine if there is greater demand for wind power in the area. CDP can help ensure that any developments are located in suitable locations.	
Hydro	(2023) 4,561 (2022) 4,857 (2021)4,680 (2020)5,398 (2019)5,269	(2023)30,981 (2022)22,319 (2021)26,920 (2020)31,525 (2019)23,632	(2023)112,594 (2022)102,298 (2021)101,242 (2020)120,407 (2019)106,228		↔	Grey	High level surveys carried out in 2010 indicate that there could be sites on the River Wear with potential, but there has been limited development, with the city centre site being the one taken forward.	
Anaerobic Digestion	(2023) 34,257 (2022) 29,575 (2021)31,373 (2020)28,044 (2019)28,353	(2023)102,435 (2022)95,723 (2021)98,705 (2020)91,021 (2019)91,542	(2023)1,816,112 (2022)1,725,257 (2021)1,647,159 (2020)1,465,127 (2019)1,445,343		↑	Green	May increase due to changes in waste collection arrangements requiring food waste processing. AD is a viable treatment process. The local plan can influence the siting of these facilities, but the majority may be decided before the next plan is approved as the collections for domestic properties starts in 2026.	
Offshore Wind	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021)0 (2020)0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0	(2023)8,120,489 (2022)7,879,740		↔	Grey	The Durham Coast currently has no sites and much of the coastline has protected status potentially limiting cable runs to substations	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	(2019)0	(2019) 0	(2021)6,681,223 (2020)11,675,972 (2019)7,303,883					
Wave/Tidal	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0		↔	Grey	County Durham's coastal area does not have the extreme tidal ranges seen in places like the Severn Estuary, which are necessary for efficient tidal power generation.	
Sewage Gas	(2023) 923 (2022) 941 (2021) 1,036 (2020)1,053 (2019)1,060	(2023)923 (2022)941 (2021)1,036 (2020)1,053 (2019)1,060	(2023)156,209 (2022)132,280 (2021)78,756 (2020)83,404 (2019)65,023		↓	Grey	Northumbrian Water are actively developing projects in the region to increase the amount of power generated from sewage. Facilities will be located at water treatment sites.	
Landfill Gas	(2023) 16,585 (2022) 17,604 (2021) 19,813 (2020)21,671 (2019)22,637	(2023)72,070 (2022)76,059 (2021)81,094 (2020)89,825 (2019)94,071	(2023)1,525,638 (2022)1,487,864 (2021)1,580,697 (2020)1,662,805 (2019)1,772,433		↓	Grey	Likely to decrease over time as sites are closed/capped and gas decreases over time. Prospects for new energy generation from landfill gas are very limited, this is because existing landfill sites where a resource was present have already been exploited or the gas flared and prospect for new non-hazardous landfill sites where a new resource can be exploited are also very limited. There have been no new non-hazardous landfill sites in County Durham for over thirty years and no new proposals since the early 2000s. This has been as a consequence of waste legislation and targets which required the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and a move away from disposal of non-hazardous waste in landfill, together with the use of waste management solutions higher up the waste hierarchy. The majority of residual non-hazardous waste from County Durham and within the North East is now incinerated with energy recovery at the Teesside Energy from Waste Plant operated by Suez Recycling Recovery UK Ltd in Stockton on Tees. Post 2030 it is expected to that residual non-hazardous waste from County Durham will be incinerated with energy recovery at a new facility in Redcar and Cleveland.	
Municipal Solid Waste	(2023) 0 (2022) 0	(2023)210,240	(2023)466,028		↔	Grey	The current proposal for much of County Durham's waste is to process it on Teesside.	

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	(2021) 0 (2020)0 (2019)0	(2022)0 (2021)0 (2020) 206,946 (2019) 0	(2022)0 (2021) 8,834 (2020) 222,529 (2019) 51,859				A clinical and hazardous waste incinerator at Newton Aycliffe was approved on the 5 December 2022 following appeal to the Secretary of State. It is therefore unlikely that there will be additional demand for facilities in the area.	
Animal Biomass	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020)0 (2019)0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0		↔	Grey		
Plant Biomass	(2023)107,606 (2022)108,310 (2021)112,721 (2020)99,651 (2019)109,873	(2023)987,328 (2022)1,404,793 (2021)3,316,586 (2020)3,230,152 (2019)3,014,279	(2023)13,617,633 (2022)13,928,317 (2021)16,450,931 (2020)20,728,340 (2019)13,748,798		↔	Grey	No known significant proposals. Region has seen a significant decrease after 2021	
Cofiring	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020)0 (2019)0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2022) 0 (2021) 0 (2020) 0 (2019) 0		↔	Grey		
Capacity: Annual Renewable Energy Capacity (MWh) by Technology	(2023) 243.6 (2021) 231.1 (2019) 229.7	(2023)1,621.8 (2021)1,567.7 (2019) 1,556.8	(2023)35,373.5 (2021)31,646.8 (2019) 29,744.5	Clean Power for the UK by 2030. 43-50 GW of offshore wind, 27-29 GW of onshore wind and 45-47 GW of solar power (installed capacity). By 2030 Great Britain will generate enough clean power to meet our total annual electricity demand, backed	↑	Green	Durham currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 244 MW, with onshore wind remaining the largest contributor. Solar photovoltaics are showing strong growth and other sources like hydro, anaerobic digestion, landfill gas, and plant biomass maintain steady levels. Wind capacity has been static for a number of years resulting from National policies, however that could change. A number of larger solar farms are currently in the planning system and could increase capacity beyond the figures here. Increasing renewable capacity is likely to be accompanied by demand for storage and distribution systems, the location of which can be influenced by local policies. For individual technologies, please see text under generation trends above	Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK Target info from NPG presentation

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				up by unabated gas supply to be used only when essential. Northern Powergrid are analysing the impact of the Clean Power 2030 targets and what it means in their area. At the draft stage, by 2030 there will need to be an increase in solar capacity of 4.4GW and 1.9GW of onshore wind and storage however some of these are already in the connections process.				
Photovoltaics	(2023) 69 (2021) 56.8 (2019) 55.5	(2023) 300.3 (2021) 252.9 (2019) 244.5	(2023)13,975.7 (2021)11,856.6 (2019) 11,489.4		↑	Green		
Onshore Wind	(2023) 135.7 (2021) 135.4 (2019) 135.4	(2023) 481.4 (2021) 481.4 (2019) 483.3	(2023)3,093.5 (2021)3,077.3 (2019) 3,064.1		↔	Grey		
Hydro	(2023) 1.3 (2021) 1.3 (2019) 1.3	(2023) 8.2 (2021) 8.2 (2019) 8.2	(2023) 43.4 (2021)43.4 (2019) 43.8		↔	Grey		

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Anaerobic Digestion	(2023) 5.3 (2021) 5.3 (2019) 5.3	(2023) 29.5 (2021) 29.5 (2019)27.5	(2023) 466.4 (2021) 451.9 (2019)393.9		↔	Grey		
Offshore Wind	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 102 (2021) 102 (2019) 106.3	(2023)11,037.7 (2021)9,585.7 (2019)8,264.0		↔	Grey		
Wave/Tidal	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2021) 0.1 (2019)0.1		↔	Grey		
Sewage Gas	(2023) 0.3 (2021) 0.3 (2019) 0.3	(2023) 11.5 (2021) 11.5 (2019) 11.5	(2023) 246.8 (2021) 236.0 (2019)226.4		↔	Grey		
Landfill Gas	(2023) 13.9 (2021) 13.9 (2019) 13.9	(2023) 46 (2021) 46 (2019) 45	(2023) 877.3 (2021) 873.4 (2019) 873.4		↔	Grey		
Municipal Solid Waste	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 115 (2021) 110 (2019) 109.2	(2023)1,408.6 (2021)1,310.3 (2019) 1,189.4		↔	Grey		
Animal Biomass	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 116.8 (2021) 116.8 (2019) 116.8		↔	Grey		
Plant Biomass	(2023) 18.1 (2021) 18.1 (2019) 18.1	(2023) 528.1 (2021) 526.4 (2019) 521.5	(2023)4,107.2 (2021) 4,095.2 (2019) 4,083.3		↔	Grey		
Cofiring	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0	(2023) 0 (2021) 0 (2019) 0		↔	Grey		

Table 14: Minerals

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Crushed rock reserves	89,401,103 tonnes (31.12.23)	173,323,000 tonnes (31.12.23)	3,323,490,000 tonnes (31.12.23)	1) Current rate of crushed provision is set in the County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Sales and Reserves) and is known as Annual Provision Rate). This is currently 2,967,000 tonnes per annum. This is based on the last ten years sales average 2014 to 2023 and is used to forecast demand over the Plan Period. A new Annual Provision Rate will be set in the County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2024 Sales and Reserves) (LAA 2024). 2) Maintain a minimum ten-year crushed rock landbank at all times.	↓	Amber	Key Messages: County Durham is a regionally important producer of crushed rock aggregate. County Durham's quarries produced 3,009,979 tonnes of crushed rock aggregate in 2023, which was equivalent to 56.9% of all northeast crushed rock sales in 2023. The crushed rock landbank was 30.1 years at the end of 2023. In quantitative terms a landbank of this size is healthy but consideration is needed to be given to the distribution of these reserves between active and inactive sites, by resource type i.e. magnesian limestone, carboniferous limestone and dolerite, and across individual sites. Durham County Council (DCC) is required to maintain a steady and adequate supply of crushed rock aggregate, to maintain productive capacity to meet the annual provision rate. Without a steady and adequate supply of aggregates we cannot meet society's needs for construction materials. It is expected that further reserves will be required over the CDP review period, to meet forecast need, to maintain a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, to maintain productive capacity (both in overall terms and on a resource basis) and to maintain a minimum ten-year crushed rock landbank at all times. Allocations need to be made within the new CDP. Plan policies will need to be prepared to enable both allocated and unallocated site to be granted planning permission. The Council will also continue to need to ensure that other parts of the North East also seek to maintain a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by making provision in their Local	County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Sales and Reserves). North East Aggregates Working Party Annual Report for 2023. Collation of the 2023 National Aggregates Survey

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							Plans, grant planning permissions and safeguard aggregate resources and sites for the importation of crushed rock. Trend without Plan, reserves and landbanks will fall. The adopted CDP was prepared using a 2016 base year. In 2016 crushed rock reserves were 131,389,000 tonnes which was equivalent to a crushed rock landbank of 46.8 years, this compares unfavourably to the position at the end of 2023. If we do not prepare a new Plan, we will not be able to provide certainty to industry for operational decisions. Certainty is needed given long lead in times for quarrying. Adverse/negative trend without a new Plan.	
Sand and gravel reserves	3,866,900 (31.12.23)	17,567,0003 (31.12.23)	423,713,000 (31.12.23)	1) Current rate of sand and gravel provision is set in the County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Sales and Reserves) and is known as Annual Provision Rate). This is currently 522,000 tonnes per annum. This is based on the last three-year sales average (2021 to 2023). A new Annual Provision Rate will be set in the County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2024 Sales and Reserves) (LAA 2024). 2) Maintain a minimum seven-year sand and gravel landbank at all times.	↓	Red	Key Messages: County Durham is a regionally important producer of sand and gravel. County Durham's sand and gravel quarries produced 460,200 tonnes of sand and gravel in 2023, which was equivalent to 53.1% of all northeast land won sand and gravel sales. The sand and gravel landbank at the end of 2023 was 7.4 years. This is a key indicator that there is pressing need for further reserves to be granted planning permission. DCC is required to maintain a steady and adequate supply of sand and gravel aggregate, to seek to maintain productive capacity to meet annual provision rate. Without a steady and adequate supply of aggregates we cannot meet society's needs for construction materials. It is expected that further reserves will be required to meet demand over the Plan period, to maintain a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, to maintain productive capacity and to maintain a minimum seven-year landbank at all times. Allocations will be required over and above those already allocated by the Council in the County Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Document (July 2024). Plan policies will need to be prepared to enable both allocated	County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Reserves and Sales). North East Aggregates Working Party Annual Report for 2023 Collation of the 2023 National Aggregates Survey

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							and unallocated site to be granted planning permission. The Council will also continue to need to ensure that other parts of the North East also seek to maintain a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by making provision in their Local Plans, grant planning permissions and safeguard aggregate resources and sites for the importation of marine won sand and gravel. Trend without Plan, reserves and landbanks will fall. The adopted CDP was prepared using a 2016 base year. In 2016 sand and gravel reserves were 7,610,000 tonnes which was equivalent to a sand and gravel landbank of 26.7 years, this compares unfavourably to the position at the end of 2023. If we do not prepare a new Plan, we will not be able to provide certainty to industry for operational decisions. Certainty is needed given long lead in times for quarrying. Adverse/negative trend without a new Plan.	
Permian Magnesian Limestone: permitted reserves remaining	Not available	Not available	Not available	No Target	↓	Amber	County Durham has ten magnesian limestone quarries, six of which are active and a number of dormant quarries. It is expected that a steady and adequate supply of magnesian limestone aggregate should be able to be maintained over the Plan period to 2035. Beyond 2035 the steady and adequate supply of magnesian limestone aggregate will be in part dependent upon the continuing availability and the working of existing reserves including those contained within sites which are either inactive and/or require new schemes of working and restoration through their periodic review. Notwithstanding the working of these reserves, it is expected that further reserves will be required to need to be granted planning permission to meet need and maintain productive capacity over the CDP review period. Trend without Plan, reserves and crushed rock landbank will fall. DCC will not be able to provide certainty to industry for operational decisions.	County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Reserves and Sales)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							Certainty is needed given long lead in times for quarrying. Adverse/negative trend without a new Plan.	
Carboniferous Limestone: permitted reserves remaining	Not available	Not available	Not available	No Target	↓	Amber	County Durham has four carboniferous limestone quarries, three of which are active and several dormant planning permissions. It is now expected that further reserves will be required to be granted planning permission to meet need and maintain productive capacity over the CDP review period. Trend without Plan, reserves and the overall crushed rock landbank will fall. DCC will not be able to provide certainty to industry for operational planning decisions. Certainty is needed given long lead in times for quarrying. Adverse/negative trend without a new Plan.	County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Reserves and Sales)
Dolerite: permitted reserves remaining	Not available	Not available	Not available	No target	↓	Amber	County Durham only has one dolerite quarry. Based on an understanding of the overall extent of crushed rock reserves which are sizeable compared to annual sales, it is expected that further reserves of dolerite may be required to meet need towards the very end of the CDP review period (assuming it runs to 2045). However, whether future need can be met is uncertain due to the location of the dolerite resource within County Durham within the County's National Landscape Area (The North Pennines National Landscape), and with most of the resource lying within Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. An important consideration is that reserves and resources of dolerite lie within other parts of the North East. Trend without Plan, reserves and the overall crushed rock landbank will fall. DCC will not be able to provide certainty to industry for operational planning decisions. Certainty is needed given long lead in times for quarrying. Adverse/negative trend without a new Plan.	County Durham Local Aggregate Assessment (2023 Reserves and Sales)

Table 15: Waste

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Total Volume of Waste Received	775,356 tonnes (Waste origin in 2023 - County Durham only) 820,393 (2022) 656,786 (2021) 764,334 (2020) 818,768 (2019) 780,731 (2016)	9,232,854.55 (Waste origin 2023 – North East England Only)	224.6 million tonnes	Non applicable to all waste arisings. Some Government targets apply to specific waste streams. The UK Government has several longer-term targets and ambitions: in the '25 Year Environment Plan' i.e. Primary goal in the 25 Year Environment Plan Minimising waste; work towards zero avoidable waste by 2050; Work towards zero avoidable plastic waste by 2042; work towards zero food waste to landfill by 2030. The Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations 2023 set a statutory target to ensure that the total mass of all residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) arising in England for 2042 does not exceed 287kg per person. This is the equivalent of a 50% reduction from 2019 levels.) The	↔	Green	Trends: The volume of waste received (of all types including inert/construction and demolition waste, household commercial and industrial waste and hazardous waste reported by this indicator is for waste with a recorded origin of County Durham with comparable figures for the North East and England also provided. The base year of the CDP was 2016 when 780,731 tonnes and with a recorded origin of County Durham was received. Over the last five years (2019 to 2023) volumes have remained similar with 818,768 tonnes in 2019, 764,334 tonnes in 2020, 656,786 tonnes in 2021, 820,393 tonnes in 2022 and 775,356 tonnes in 2023. There has therefore been little change since the CDP base year of 2016. The new CDP will only address strategic waste planning matters. It will not address policy content already set down in the adopted County Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Document (July 2024). Key messages: We need a new Plan so that we can understand what new waste management facilities we need and where they should be located. Subject to suitable sites being submitted the new Plan can also allocate sites for new waste management facilities. The new Plan will also provide the policy basis to enable the Council to determine planning applications. The Councils new Waste Needs Assessment will help us to quantify need for new waste management facilities. Need will be a particularly important consideration for residual waste treatment and disposal. We need to seek to plan to move the management of waste up the established waste hierarchy – but not all waste can be prevented, reused or recycled. Some waste will need to be managed in ways which recover value from waste by turning waste into a product, for example through a process known as Pyrolysis a syngas can be produced or via Energy from Waste (EfW) to recover energy (electricity and/or heat). There are also value-added opportunities with EfW i.e. to provide	Waste Data Interrogator for 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2016. County Durham Waste Technical Paper (May 2023)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				Government also has an ambition to achieve a 65% municipal recycling rate by 2035. The direction for the Plan will be set by a new Waste Needs Assessment currently being prepared and due to be finalised in November 2025.			the base energy load for a heat network. Amongst many relevant matters the National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) is also clear that we must plan for waste disposal which is the lowest tier of the waste hierarchy. The northeast has a very integrated, generally market led, waste market – waste naturally arises and is sometimes managed in an adjacent or more distant waste planning authority area. The proximity principle should only apply to Municipal Solid Waste. Waste arises in many locations and is almost exclusively moved by road in County Durham, by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), road transport is expected to decarbonise in line with published Department of Transport timescales including by the introduction of ultra-low emission and zero carbon vehicles. County Durham has a limited rail network for moving waste. There are clear trends of declining inert and non-hazardous land fill void space across County Durham and the Northeast. These reductions in residual waste disposal capacity must be planned for. There is also currently a lack of capacity for major residual waste treatment capacity in the northeast. This situation may be solved partially by a new Energy from Waste (EfW) plant in Redcar and Cleveland being procured by a consortium of Councils in the northeast including DCC. This new facility could add 450,000 tonnes of residual treatment capacity into the northeast waste market by 2030/2031. Without Plan: No strategic waste policies and therefore no clarity on need for new waste management facilities, the locations which could be potentially suitable for new waste management facilities and policies to safeguard existing waste management sites. County Durham’s need for waste management facilities may not be adequately met, and waste may be transported longer distances.	
Volume of waste received at waste management facilities - waste origin	2,081,553	11,875,820	n/a	See above	↔	Green	Trends in waste received: The base year of the CDP was 2016 when 1,529,720 tonnes of waste (waste origin all Waste Producing Authorities (WPAs)) was received. Over the last five years (2019 to 2023) volumes have remained similar with 1,862,536 tonnes in 2019, 2,004,892 tonnes in 2020, 2,016,152 tonnes in 2021, 2,175,355 tonnes in 2022 and 2,081,553 tonnes in 2023.	Waste Data Interrogator for 2023.

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
all Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) 2023							There has therefore been little change since 2020 but an increase since the CDP base year of 2016. A similar trend has also occurred at a North East level with approximately 12 million tonnes to 12.6 million tonnes being received annually between 2019 and 2022 before falling slightly in 2023. Key messages and Without Plan: See above.	
Total Household Waste (tonnes)	229,179 (2023/24) (571 kg per person) 227,232 (2022/23) 245,246 (2021/22)	-	21,717 (thousand tonnes) 2023/24 (377kg per person) 21,466 (2022/23) 23,120 (2021/22)	See above	↑	Amber	Between 2021/22 and 2023/24 the amount of household waste collected in County Durham has reduced by 16,018 tonnes (6.5%). In the same time period, household waste collected nationally has reduced by 1,403 thousand tonnes 6%. County Durham's rate of reduction is slightly higher than the national level. However, County Durham exhibits a much higher per capita volume of waste.	Local authority collected waste management - annual results - GOV.UK
% of household waste reused, recycled and composted	36.7% (2023/24) 37.1% (2022/23) 38.1% (2021/22) 37.30% (2020/21) 41.2% (2019/20) 42.3% (2018/19)	31.4%	44% (2023/24) 43.3% (2022/23) 44.1% (2021/22) 43.9% (2020/21) 45.5% (2019/20) 45.1% (2018/19)	See above	↓	Amber	Trends: This figure relates only to the fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) which is reused, recycled or composted. Recent performance peaked at 42.3% in 2018/19, with 41.2% in 2019/20. The percentage of MSW which is reused, recycled or composted fell in 2020/21 which was the first Covid year and has yet to recover to pre-Covid levels. This is understood to be changing patterns of behaviour and patterns of working. The recent trends in this indicator for County Durham is comparable with the national assessment of change published by DEFRA (indicator J3: Municipal waste recycling rates) which indicated that from 2018/2019 to 2023/2024, a decrease (deterioration) was observed for waste from households recycling rate. A decrease of 1.1% was observed nationally compared to 5.6% locally. Nonetheless County Durham has the highest percentage rate of household waste reused, recycled and composted in the North East. Key messages: We need to seek to plan to move the management of waste up the established waste hierarchy – but not all household	Local authority collected waste management - annual results - GOV.UK DCC Strategic Waste.

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							waste can be reused, recycled or composted. The Plan must provide a permissive policy framework to ensure that County Durham's residents and businesses needs for, and access to, a network of waste management facilities can be maintained. This network includes the Council's existing Household Waste Recycling Centres, Household Waste Transfer Stations and Composting Sites. Additional waste management facilities may be required including to manage waste resulting from the Government's Simpler Recycling Reforms i.e. for food waste. However, the Plan cannot influence the actions of individuals to re-use, recycle or compost waste. Without Plan: No strategic waste policies and therefore no clarity on need for new waste management facilities, the locations which could be potentially suitable for new waste management facilities and policies to safeguard existing waste management sites. County Durham's need for waste management facilities may not be adequately met, and waste met, and waste may be transported longer distances.	
% of household waste landfilled	5.8%	6.3%	5.5%	Less than 10%	↓	Green	Trends: The quantity of household waste collected or received at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in County Durham which is subsequently landfilled in non-hazardous landfills has fallen from a recent historical high of 10.6% in 2020/21, which was the first Covid year, to 5.8% in 2023/24. For comparison in 2019/20 only 2.2% of household waste was landfilled. Nonetheless, County Durham has the lower percentage level of household waste landfilled than the North East as a whole and this rate is only marginally higher than the figure for England. Key messages: A key issue for the emerging Waste Needs Assessment is the need for residual waste treatment and disposal. County Durham now only has one non-hazardous landfill site remaining and void space is declining. Remaining non-hazardous landfill void space is currently concentrated in the Tees Valley. The Council is currently reliant on an existing merchant EfW plant in the Tees Valley for residual treatment. The National Planning Policy for Waste is clear that adequate provision must be made for waste disposal. Without Plan:	Local authority collected waste management - annual results - GOV.UK DCC Strategic Waste.

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							A policy for non-hazardous landfill is set down in the County Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocations Document (July 2024).	

Material Assets (Built Environment / Infrastructure)

Table 16: Housing

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Total number of dwellings (2024)	252,630	1,274,096	25,617,413	N/A	↑	Green	- Total dwellings continue the same trend of increasing year on year across England, NE and County Durham. - This trend will continue.	Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-housing-data
Total number of vacant dwellings (2024)	9,023	42,617	719,470	N/A	↓	Amber	- Number of vacant properties in Co. Durham has fallen slightly since last year but is still at its highest since 2019. - Number of vacant properties in the North East has risen since last year following the same trend as the past 5 years. - Vacant properties in England continue to increase each year.	MHCLG https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-housing-data
Net additional homes provided (2024)	1,295 (23/24) 1,753 (24/25)	7,937	221,071	1,308 (County Durham Plan) (2,011 in October)	↓	Green	- Net additions in 2024 in Co. Durham were notably lower than previous years, where the target has been exceeded each year over the past 5 years. - Northeast figures were also down in 2024 from previous years. - Net additions in England were also lower than the last 2 years. - Figures for 2025 for County Durham are 1,753 which accounts for the lower figure last year. This is the highest level of completions that have been delivered in the last 9 years. - Future trends expected to continue in line with past delivery (average 1,500 net dwellings per year) without the plan which will allocate and make provision for the new target of 2,011 dwellings per year).	MHCLG https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-housing-data
Affordable homes delivered (2025)	388	2,616	62,289	836 (County Durham Plan identified need)	↓	Red	- County Durham affordable housing delivery was down this year from 433 to 388. - Affordable delivery has decreased on average over the past 5 years, mainly due to tighter Homes England funding requirements. This is expected to increase again in future with new Affordable Homes (AH) programme. - The new CDP will provide new AH targets and include policies to help to reach this on new developments. - Affordable housing delivery in the county remains significantly below the identified need of 836 homes per year. This is because	DCC Annual Monitoring Report/ MHCLG

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
							realistically the need is too high to deliver viably (64% of the current overall housing requirement). National and regional delivery has increased over the past 5 years.	
Affordability ratio (2024)	4.6	5.0	7.7	N/A	↑	Green	- This data shows that housing in County Durham and the North East is significantly more affordable than the national average. - Nationally the ratio has decreased since last year. - Since last year County Durham improved affordability, homes became slightly more affordable relative to earning, and the same trend occurred in the region.	durhaminsight.info/housing
Household Composition	1 person household : 79,529 (33%) Single family household : 146,599 (62.4%) Other household types: 8,633 (3.7%)	1 person household: 395,924 (33.7%) Single family household: 731,124 (62.2%) Other household types: 48,635 (4.1%)	1 person household: 7,052,229 (30.1%) Single family household: 14,762,923 (63%) Other household types: 1,620,934 (6.9%)	N/A	↑	Green	The household composition in County Durham as a % of total houses is equivalent to regional and national trends.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Projected average household size by (2042)	2.24	2.19	2.28	N/A	↑	Green	- The North East consistently has one of the lowest household sizes among English regions. - The figure for County Durham reflects a gradual decline in household size, consistent with national and regional trends.	ONS Household projections in England (2022 based)
Projected numbers of households by (2042)	258,000	1,350,000	26,900,000	N/A	↑	Green	The % increases projected in County Durham are similar across the region and nationally.	ONS Household projections in England (2022 based)
Tenure – owns outright	81,046 (34.5%)	382,035 (32.5%)	7,624,693 (32.5%)	N/A	?	Green	The households who own their home outright in County Durham as a % of total houses is equivalent to regional and national trends.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Tenure – owns with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	66,467 (28.3%)	331,745 (28.2%)	6,980,323 (29.8%)	N/A	?	Green	The households who own their home with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership in County Durham as a % of total houses is equivalent to regional and national trends.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Tenure – social rented	46,858 (20%)	258,134 (22%)	4,005,663 (17.1%)	N/A	?	Grey	The households in social rented in County Durham as a % of total houses is equivalent to regional, but slightly higher than national.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Tenure – private rented or lives rent free	40,393 (17.2%)	203,765 (17.3%)	4,825,406 (20.6%)	N/A	?	Grey	The households in private rented/ rent free in County Durham as a % of total houses is equivalent to regional, but slightly lower than national.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type - detached	48,799 20.8%	207,943 17.7%	5,368,859 22.9%	N/A	↑	Grey	The % of detached houses are broadly similar, locally, regionally and nationally. The North East has a slightly lower proportion than County Durham and England.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type – semi - detached	89,775 38.2%	470,849 40%	7,378,304 31.5%	N/A	?	Grey	The % of semi-detached houses follow a similar trend in that there is a higher proportion of these than any other house type in County Durham, North East and England. The % are similar across the 3 areas, with the North East having a slightly higher proportion.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type - terraced	83,017 35.4%	326,543 27.8%	5,381,432 23%	N/A	?	Grey	County Durham has a much higher proportion of terraced housing than regional and national figures.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type – flats or tenement	9,623 4.1%	133,229 11.3	3,999,771 17.1%	N/A	?	Grey	County Durham has a much lower proportion of flats than regional and national figures.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type – converted or shared house	1,373 0.6%	24,511 2.1%	821,153 3.5%	N/A	?	Grey	County Durham has a much lower proportion of converted or shared houses than regional and national figures.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type –part of another converted building	684 0.3%	4,982 0.4%	188,705 0.8%	N/A	?	Grey	The % of accommodation which is part of another converted building is similar across the county, region and country, being less than 1% of total stock.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type – in a commercial building	1,104 0.5%	6,299 0.5%	197,967 0.8%	N/A	?	Grey	The % of accommodation which is in a commercial building is similar across the county, region and country, being less than 1% of total stock.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Accommodation type – caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	386 0.2%	1,414 0.1%	99,894 0.4%	N/A	?	Grey	The % of accommodation which is a caravan or other mobile or temporary structure is similar across the county, region and country, being less than 1% of total stock.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)

Table 17: Transport and Connectivity

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Travel to work % (all usual residents aged 16 years + in employment)	Work mainly at or from home (53,014 / 23.9%) Underground, metro, light rail, tram (98 / 0%) Train (730 / 0.3%) Bus, minibuss or coach (7,478 / 3.4%) Taxi (1,414 / 0.6%) Motorcycle, scooter or moped (585 / 0.3%) Driving a car or van 127,527 / 57.4%) Passenger in a car or van (11,802 / 5.3%) Bicycle (1,602 / 0.7%) On foot (15,713 / 7.1%)	Work mainly at or from home (282,172 / 24.8%) Underground, metro, light rail, tram (10,649 / 0.9%) Train (6531 / 0.6%) Bus, minibuss or coach (54,868 / 4.8%) Taxi (11,873 / 1%) Motorcycle, scooter or moped (2762 / 0.2%) Driving a car or van (592,874 / 52.1%) Passenger in a car or van (57,668 / 5.1%) Bicycle (16,089 / 1.4%) On foot (88,091 / 7.7%) Other method of travel to work (14,476 / 1.3%)	Work mainly at or from home (8m / 31.5%) Underground, metro, light rail, tram (504,716 / 1.9%) Train (517,902 / 2%) Bus, minibuss or coach (1.2m / 4.3%) Taxi (192,884 / 0.7%) Motorcycle, scooter or moped (124,207 / 0.5%) Driving a car or van (11,751,945 / 44.5%) Passenger in a car or van (1m / 3.9%) Bicycle (554,215 / 2.1%) On foot (2m / 7.6%) Other method of travel to	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/667ace3fc7f64e234208ffb5/ate-travel-sustainable-development.pdf The second walking and cycling investment strategy (CWIS2) sets out objectives to boost overall levels of walking, wheeling and cycling across England, with the aim that 50% of all journeys in towns and cities should be by active modes by 2030. Active Travel England's (ATE) Framework Document also requires the agency to facilitate an increase in active travel to enable the 50% target to be met NPPF Chapter 9, Para 109 (e):	↓	Amber	There is a high percentage of people working from home, shared with driving a private vehicle to travel to work when required at the working location. This is reflected nationally and illustrates the car-centric lifestyle that dominates most people's lives. The use of rail is low in the county which reflects the lack of widespread rail infrastructure, compared to the national availability, and even regional. More people travel sustainably outside of County Durham. This is likely to continue without greater access to sustainable modes of travel in the county. The Local Plan must therefore prioritise and promote use of sustainable modes of transport to meet national targets and usage, and to also reflect NPPF requirements for a vision-led transport approach.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	Other method of travel to work (2,252 / 1%)		work (274,171 / 1%)	identifying and pursuing opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use.				
% Car or van availability	No cars or vans in household (56,658 / 24.1%) 1 car or van in household (99,248 / 42.3%) 2 cars or vans in household (59,963 / 25.5%) 3 or more cars or vans in household (18,892 / 8%)	No cars or vans in household (324,661 / 27.6%) 1 car or van in household (493,735 / 42%) 2 cars or vans in household (277,248 / 23.6%) 3 or more cars or vans in household (80,036 / 6.8%)	No cars or vans in household (5m / 23.5%) 1 car or van in household 9m / 41.3%) 2 cars or vans in household (6m / 26%) 3 or more cars or vans in household (2m / 9%)	N/A	↑	Green	County Durham predominantly in line with national figures in terms of car/van ownership, though those households without such private vehicles is higher than the national figure but lower than the regional percentage. This exacerbates transport related social exclusion. It must be noted that this figure of no cars or vans per household has declined since 2011 by 3 percentage points. A vision-led transport approach to the Local Plan, in complying with the NPPF, will help prevent transport related social exclusion and enable those who do not own a private car to access local services and facilities, by prioritising and promoting alternative modes of travelling.	2021 Census Area Profile (nomis)
Vehicle miles travelled in County Durham (2024)	2.81bn	13bn	256bn	N/A	↑	Amber	Department for Transport data shows that the number of miles travelled on roads in County Durham overall has been steadily increasing. In 2024, 2.81 billion miles were travelled (all motor vehicles), surpassing 2019 pre-covid levels. Cars and taxis travelled 2.1 billion miles and are still slightly below what they were before covid.	https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/local-authorities/92
Registered Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV's) in County Durham	Total: 4320 Privately Owned: 3260 Company Owned: 1060.	N/A	N/A	No new petrol or diesel cars will be sold after 2030. All new cars and vans will need to be 100% zero emissions by 2035.	↑	Green	Increasing number of ULEV's per population. Trend likely to continue as the UK phases out sale of new petrol and diesel cars. New homes and buildings are also currently required to have EV charging points installed.	local-authority-data-electric-vehicles-and-charging-points
ULEV's per 100,000 population	617	555	827	No new petrol or diesel cars will be sold after	↑	Green	Increasing number of ULEV's per population. Trend likely to continue as the UK phases out sale of new petrol and diesel	local-authority-data-electric-vehicles-and-charging-points

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				2030. All new cars and vans will need to be 100% zero emissions by 2035			cars. New homes and buildings are also currently required to have EV charging points installed.	
EV ChargePoint availability per 100,000 people	All chargers: 59 Rapid (or above) chargers: 18	All chargers: 72 Rapid (or above) chargers: 15.6	All chargers: 96 Rapid (or above) chargers: 18.5	New homes and buildings are also currently required to have EV charging points installed under Part S of the building regulations. Parking and Accessibility Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) requires a minimum of one ChargePoint per bedroom in a residential dwelling. https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/how-we-work/transport/zero-emission-vehicle-strategy DCC Chargepoint Delivery Plan - Action 2 - Develop a network of public chargepoints To achieve public	↓	Red	The trend will ultimately increase with the overall increase in the sale of electric vehicles, though County Durham is below the regional and national average in terms of the number of all chargers and rapid (or above) chargers.	local-authority-data-electric-vehicles-and-charging-points

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
				confidence in the goal of EV chargepoint provision across the county, the Council and its partners will: Ensure that the current Council network is upgraded and then maintained efficiently thereafter; and Facilitate the delivery of chargepoints across rural areas and within close proximity to terraced housing and major employment sites around the county. Priority for new provision will be given to town and larger village centres and retail and employment destinations where there are no existing alternatives.				
Road Transport Fuel Consumption	601,449 Kilo tonnes oil equivalent (ktoe)	1424.3 ktoe	39,938.8 ktoe	N/A	N/A	Red	County Durham significantly higher than the region. This could be down to a lack of sustainable alternatives for transport which causes a high reliance on cars/lorries/high-polluting vehicles, as well as the vast landscape of the County with roads as the main method of connectivity.	durhaminsight.info/vehicles
Bus Passenger	9.7m	62m	1,009m	N/A	N/A	Red	Journeys made by bus are lower in County Durham compared to the region and nationally. Without a local plan encouraging	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/bus-statistics-

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
journeys (millions) 2024							travel by bus (under vision-led/sustainable transport approach) this pattern may continue where County Durham falls behind. There also needs to be more regional investment in the bus network to facilitate this change and increase patronage.	data-tables#local-bus-passenger-journeys-bus01
Public Rights of Way	2,200 miles (3500km)	N/A	N/A	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).	N/A	Grey	The fourth Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP4) illustrates the importance of maintaining and protecting public right of ways in the county. A number of these Public Rights of Way (PROW) are cross-boundary routes. CROW 2000: An Act to make new provision for public access to the countryside; to amend the law relating to public rights of way; to enable traffic regulation orders to be made for the purpose of conserving an area's natural beauty; to make provision with respect to the driving of mechanically propelled vehicles elsewhere than on roads; to amend the law relating to nature conservation and the protection of wildlife; to make further provision with respect to areas of outstanding natural beauty; and for connected purposes.	https://www.durham.gov.uk/prow
Commuter flows / levels of self-containment	37% of all County Durham residents work in a different local authority. Meaning that 63% both live and work within the county.	In particular, once home workers have been excluded, workers in professional occupations are more likely to cross a local authority boundary for work.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grey	Cross-boundary commuting is common in County Durham and across the region, with people travelling in and out of the region. (North East Combined Authority data - now known as North East Mayoral Strategic Authority) (analysis of 2011 census data undertaken by Jacobs) Durham City has the largest working population of all settlements in County Durham and is also the highest attractor of work trips in the County, with 22% of all intra-County trips having the City as their destination. It also has the highest percentage of cross boundary trips with 25% of all cross boundary trips into the County being into Durham City. Together these equate to over 36000 trips terminating in Durham City, over twice as many as the next highest attractor Peterlee, which attracts fewer than 15000 trips, and over three times as many as 11000 terminating in Newton Aycliffe. With regards to out-commuting trips Durham City generates less than 8% of the total for the County, with under 14500 journeys having Durham City as their origin. Whilst this is the highest percentage of the total out-commuting trips for any of the settlements, Chester-Le-Street, Seaham and Consett all produce a higher volume of cross boundary movements.	https://evidencehub.northeast-ca.gov.uk/report/commuting-patterns-in-the-north-east https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/45665/County-Durham-Travel-Patterns/pdf/CountyDurhamTravelPatterns.pdf?m=1730977505163#:~:text=3.4.,preference%20again%20being%20Durham%20City.&text=3.5.,volume%20of%20cross%20boundary%20movements

Cultural Heritage

Table 18: Cultural Heritage

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
Heritage at Risk Register – listed buildings	2025 17 in total 18% Grade I, 59% Grade II*, 23% Grade II 0 added or removed 2024 17 in total 18% Grade I, 65% Grade II*, 18% Grade II 1 Grade II* added 1 Grade II* removed positive reasons 2020 22 in total 23% Grade I, 13% Grade II*, 18% Grade II 0 added or removed 2015 19 in total 31.5% Grade I, 58% Grade II*, 10.5% Grade II 0 added 1 Grade I removed positive reasons	-	4,891 entries in 2024 UK. 124 historic buildings and places were saved	The primary target is to reduce the number of heritage assets on the Heritage at Risk Register by improving their condition through advice, partnerships, and grants.	↑	Green	There are over 3,000 listed buildings in County Durham. Slight improvement in the number of listed buildings at risk across County Durham since 2015. The highest proportion are categorised as Grade II* in each year reviewed. Church buildings, followed by country houses and then farm buildings appear to comprise the greater proportion of listed building types at risk. It is assumed that further removals from the at risk register will occur as actions and strategies that have been agreed are implemented. 23 heritage assets in County Durham have been assigned one of the following priority categories in the Heritage at Risk 2025 Entries spreadsheet: •B – Action / strategy agreed but not yet implemented (where trend is declining or unknown) •D – Slow decay; solution agreed but not yet implemented •E – Under repair or in fair to good repair, but no user identified; or under threat of vacancy with no obvious new owner •F – Action implemented / strategy underway/scheme in progress	annual heritage at risk registers and maps
Heritage at Risk Register – Conservation Area	2025 5 in total (0 added or removed) 2024	-	As above	As above	↑	Green	There are 93 conservation areas in County Durham and a Low number at Risk overall. Numbers have decreased since 2015 overall but have increased slightly since 2020. Less than half (36%) have a Conservation Management Plan in place.	annual heritage at risk registers and maps

Indicator	County Durham	North East	England	Target	Trend	Indicator Status	Key Messages and Likely Future Trend without the Plan	Data Source
	5 in total (0 added or removed) 2020 2 in total (0 added or removed) 2015 10 in total (1 added, 0 removed)						Only 1 Conservation Area (Bishop Auckland) has been identified as improving significantly. The others have been attributed a trend of no significant change.	
Heritage at Risk Register – Scheduled Monument	2025 23 in total 4 removed 2024 27 in total 1 removed 2020 25 in total (0 added or removed) 2015 30 in total (1 added, 0 removed)	-	As above	As above	↑	Green	There are 292 scheduled monuments in County Durham, of which 8% were at risk in 2025. There are a greater number of scheduled monuments on the at risk register than other heritage types in the county but numbers have decreased slightly since 2015. The four scheduled monuments removed in 2025 related to County Durham’s railway heritage. It is assumed that further removals from the at risk register will occur as solutions that have been agreed are implemented.	annual heritage at risk registers and maps
Heritage at Risk Register– Registered Park and Garden	2025 1 in total (0 added or removed) 2024 1 in total (0 added or removed) 2020 1 in total (0 added or removed) 2015 1 in total (0 added or removed)	-	As above	As above	↔	Amber	There are 18 Registered Parks and Garden within or partially within County Durham. Only 1 is listed on the At Risk Register and has been so since 2015. This is Grade II* Croxdale Hall, Croxdale and Hett Registered Park and Garden. The trend for this heritage asset has been identified as declining since 2015 and is described as follows: A late 18th century walled garden accompanying a country house, set in parkland of early to mid 18th century origin. The walled garden and lakes were designed by Lewis Kennedy. Croxdale Hall has been the seat of the Salvin family since the 15th century. Maintenance of the gardens has reduced in recent years and the water bodies are in poor and deteriorating condition. The notable 'cranked' walls flanking the orangery are in an advanced state of decay. Historic England has carried out recent research into the significance of the walled garden.	annual heritage at risk registers and maps

