

Sustainability Appraisal Comment from Middleton St George Parish Council, Councillor Colin Pease

In general the framework of the document is reasonable if it is to be adhered to. It would certainly be a major change from the way planning and development is being conducted at the moment. The current population and housing figures equate to 2.26 people per household. That doesn't seem excessive or indicate a major problem. The estimates for 2016 are exactly that, an estimate. If housing is to be increased at 540/year as indicated in the IPPS then the average per household will drop to 2.16 per household. What review system is to be put in place if these estimates prove to be inaccurate? In areas where education, and therefore most likely income, is low, this historically impacts on health and poor living standards. It is not clear how the Local Plan will address these issues. Surely this is down to national employment and educational policies.

Transport. Access to the A1 Northbound from the south and east of the area is poor. Could it not be planned to connect the A66 to the A1 Northbound? Also, the volume of traffic on the A66 at peak times is causing bottlenecks, particularly at the Morton Park roundabout. How about a flyover for traffic staying on the A66 transiting between Teesside and the A1? The future of the airport is uncertain and cannot be considered a long term viable option. Perhaps opportunities for the development of light industry could be considered. Any housing development should be accompanied by appropriate infrastructure to support residents. If, as stated, 87% of the local population live in urban areas then surely that is where the majority of development should be focussed. Ideally to also clean up brown field sites, rejuvenate deprived areas and provide the majority of affordable homes. Regarding addressing local issues, for this to work local Parish Councils should be consulted and involved in the planning process to ensure development and the accompanying infrastructure are proportional to the area's and residents' needs.