

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Integrated Assessment of The Homes, Spaces and Places Plan – Regulation 18 Draft Plan

Non-Technical Summary

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This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Summary

This purpose of this report is to explain and summarise the Integrated Appraisal Report (IA) which identifies the potential sustainability impacts of implementing the Homes, Spaces, Places Plan (the 'Plan'). The IA has been produced by Ove Arup & Partners (Arup) on behalf of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (The Council). This summary is to explain the IA process undertaken to support the development of the Plan.

1.2 The Homes, Spaces and Places Plan

Homes, Spaces, and Places is the final of four parts of Tameside's Local Plan, and it is just one of the documents which will form the development plan for Tameside. The purpose of the Homes, Spaces and Places Plan, is to set the long-term vision and spatial strategy for the borough up to 2042, provide development management policies, designate and allocate land for various purposes, identify priority regeneration areas, maintain the protection of the borough's Green Belt, and support the delivery of infrastructure. The Plan includes a series of policies organised by seven themes, including People, Environment, Homes, Jobs, Travel, Places, and Centres, with the addition of the Spatial Framework policies.

These themes have been built around the Plan's objectives, which were assessed during the Compatibility Assessment portion of the IA of the Options and Preferences Plan (see the Integrated Assessment of The Homes, Spaces, and Places Plan – Options and Preferences Main Report, April 2025).

The Plan's objectives have since been updated; however, given that the changes are minor, a formal reassessment has not been undertaken, as the objectives remain the same in principle. The updated Plan objectives are as follows:

- **Homes:** To ensure sufficient new housing is provided against the PfE [Places for Everyone – Greater Manchester's Joint Development Plan] requirement, providing a range of suitable and affordable homes to meet residents' needs, making efficient use of land, buildings and previously developed sites.

- **Jobs:** To meet our employment needs and provide greater opportunities for residents, reversing a decline in job density, enabling all to share in the opportunities provided by economic growth.
- **Centres:** To support the regeneration of the borough's centres, to thrive, be vibrant and attractive and safe spaces where people choose to spend time, growing their resident population through new homes.
- **Travel:** To enable everyone to travel safely and conveniently, supporting the sustainable movement of people and goods, achieving the 'right mix' of transport modes, as set out within our Local Transport Plan, with 50% of trips made by public transport or by active travel by 2040.
- **Places:** To deliver development that promotes high quality design, protects, enhances and makes a positive contribution to the character, heritage and identity of Tameside and maintains protection of the Green Belt.
- **Environment:** To ensure that new development is energy efficient and responds positively to climate change, ecologically sensitive locations, avoids pollution and flood risk, protects resources and remediates land.
- **People:** To reduce inequalities, improve outcomes and ensure the provision or enhancement of services and infrastructure, including health, education and green infrastructure to support new and existing communities.

2. IA Methodology

2.1 Purpose and Scope of the IA

As part of the preparation of the Plan, the IA has been undertaken to promote sustainable development, health and equality issues and ensure that they are considered as the plan is being prepared. The IA helps to guide the development of the Plan, by testing the Plan at each stage, against an agreed list of objectives. These objectives focus on potential sustainability, health, social and economic impacts if the Plan was implemented.

At each stage the IA then suggests ways to improve the Plan. There is a series of national and European legislation that the IA process should meet. The list below highlights which assessments and requirements have been addressed through this approach:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA): this is mandatory under national legislation (section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): this is mandatory under European and national legislation (Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transpose the European Directive 2001/42/EC into English law)).
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA): this is a way of showing that the plans, policies and strategies proposed by the GM Authorities meet the Equality Act 2010.
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA): there is no statutory requirement to undertake HIA, however it has been included to add value and depth to the assessment process.

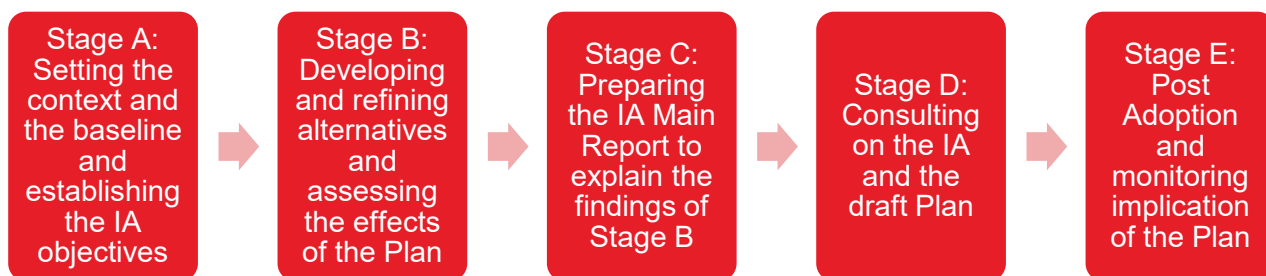
Further information on each of these assessments and their requirements can be found in the Main Report.

2.2 IA Stages

The IA is a five-stage process, with multiple rounds of assessment as the Plan is developed. This stage of the IA process has been to assess the emerging Plan objectives, reasonable alternatives and policies against the IA objectives. The assessment has taken part of Stage B and this Non-Technical Summary and Main Report form part of Stage C, with the Plan's consultation forming part of Stage D. The structure of the IA is based on

best practice guidance. The IA process is outlined in Figure 1 and described in more detail within the Main Report.

Figure 1: IA Stages



Further information on the IA stages can be found in the Main Report.

2.3 IA Assessment Methodology

To undertake the IA stages above, the IA uses an ‘assessment framework’ against which to challenge and test the emerging Plan.

The IA Framework is made up of a series of 18 IA objectives and assessment criteria. They have been developed specifically for the Plan. The IA Framework is used to identify the likely social, economic and environmental effects of the Plan, recommend ways of avoiding or reducing any negative impacts, but importantly, also recommending ways to further enhance the policy.

Stage A, described in Figure 1, results in an IA Scoping Report, which sits alongside the IA. The Scoping Report essentially scopes out the IA, looking at current and future social, economic and environmental characteristics of Tameside and its key issues to create this bespoke framework. This has already been consulted on and published in 2023 and 2024. The IA Objectives are shown in Table 1. The Scoping Report and Main Report shows the Objectives with their assessment criteria.

Table 1: IA Objectives

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
1	Provide a sustainable supply of housing land including for an appropriate mix of	Will Homes, Spaces, Places: Ensure an appropriate quantity of housing land to meet Tameside’s	Population

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
	<p>sizes, types, tenures in locations to meet housing need, and to support economic growth</p> <p>objectively assessed need for market housing?</p> <p>Ensure an appropriate quantity of housing land to meet Tameside's objectively assessed need for affordable housing?</p> <p>Ensure an appropriate mix of types, tenures and sizes of properties in relation to the respective levels of local demand?</p> <p>Ensure housing land is well-connected with employment land, centres and green space or co-located where appropriate?</p> <p>Support improvements in the energy efficiency and resilience of the housing stock?</p> <p>Ensure an appropriate quantity of pitches/plots to meet Tameside's Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People's assessed needs?</p>	
2	<p>Provide a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation</p> <p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Meet current and future demand for employment land for Tameside?</p> <p>Support education and training to provide a suitable labour force for future growth?</p>	Population

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
		<p>Provide sufficient employment land in locations that are well-connected and well-served by infrastructure?</p> <p>Support the diversification of Tameside’s local economy?</p> <p>Support the enhancement of the vitality and viability of Tameside’s town centres?</p>	
3	<p>Ensure that there is sufficient coverage and capacity of transport and utilities to support growth and development</p>	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Ensure that the transport network can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development?</p> <p>Improve transport connectivity?</p> <p>Ensure that utilities / digital infrastructure can support and enable the anticipated scale and spatial distribution of development?</p> <p>Support the transition to active and sustainable modes of transport?</p> <p>Support the delivery of a safe transport network which minimises the impact on the local environment and public health?</p> <p>Support both the existing network and creation of new cycling and walking routes?</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p> <p>Air</p>

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
4	Reduce levels of deprivation and disparity	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Reduce the proportion of people living in deprivation?</p> <p>Support reductions in poverty (including child and fuel poverty), deprivation and disparity across the domains of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation?</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>
5	Promote equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Foster good relations between different people?</p> <p>Ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities/infrastructure for all?</p> <p>Ensure no discrimination based on 'protected characteristics', as defined in the Equality Act 2010?</p> <p>Ensure that the needs of different areas, (namely urban, suburban, urban fringe and rural) are equally addressed?</p> <p>Create a sense of belonging, community cohesion and wellbeing for all members of the Tameside community?</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>
6	Support improved health and wellbeing of the population and	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Support healthier, active lifestyles, proactive and preventative care</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
	<p>reduce health inequalities</p> <p>and support improvements in determinants of health?</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities within Tameside and with the rest of England?</p> <p>Increase the quantity and quality of active environments, open spaces, green and blue infrastructure?</p> <p>Promote access to green and blue infrastructure, public open space, leisure and recreational facilities?</p> <p>Promote community safety and design which discourages crime?</p>	
7	<p>Ensure access to and provision of appropriate social infrastructure</p> <p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Ensure people are adequately served by key healthcare facilities and community well-being assets, regardless of socio-economic status?</p> <p>Ensure sufficient access to educational facilities for all children and working age adults?</p> <p>Promote access to and provision of appropriate community social infrastructure including playgrounds and sports facilities?</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>
8	<p>Support improved educational</p> <p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Human Health</p>

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)	
	attainment and skill levels for all	<p>Improve education levels of children in the area, regardless of their background?</p> <p>Improve education and skill levels of the population of working age the area, regardless of their background?</p>	
9	Promote sustainable modes of transport	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel and promote efficient patterns of movement?</p> <p>Promote a safe and sustainable public transport network that reduces reliance on private motor vehicles?</p> <p>Support the use of sustainable and active modes of transport?</p>	<p>Population</p> <p>Material Assets</p> <p>Human Health</p>
10	Improve air quality	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Improve air quality within Tameside, specifically within designated sites, Greater Manchester Combined Authority Air Quality Management Area, and other biodiversity assets?</p> <p>Minimise emissions and particulates from harmful pollutants when delivering new developments?</p>	<p>Air</p> <p>Human Health</p>

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
		Locates development not within existing areas of poor air quality?	
11	Conserve and enhance biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure and geodiversity assets	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places: Protect, conserve and enhance new and existing European, nationally and locally designated wildlife and geological sites?</p> <p>Encourage enhancement and restoration of designated wildlife sites, habitats and species and protected and unique geological features?</p> <p>Support and enhance existing multifunctional green and blue infrastructure and / or contribute towards the creation of new multifunctional green and blue infrastructure?</p> <p>Ensure access to green and blue infrastructure providing opportunities for recreation, amenity and tranquillity?</p> <p>Support and safeguard local wider ecological networks including local wildlife-rich habitats?</p>	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Human Health
12	Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places: Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems within</p>	Climatic Factors

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
	<p>effects of expected climate change</p> <p>Tameside are resilient to the predicted effects of climate change?</p> <p>Support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy technology?</p> <p>Encourage the restoration and enhancement of peatlands?</p> <p>Support the delivery of nature-based solutions to climate change?</p>	
13	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding to people and property</p> <p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Restrict development in areas of high flood risk or a greater risk of flooding?</p> <p>Ensure adequate measures are in place to manage existing and residual flood risk from all sources?</p> <p>Ensure that development does not increase flood risk due to increased run-off rates?</p> <p>Ensure development is appropriately future proof to accommodate future levels of flood risk including from climate change?</p> <p>Deliver sustainable drainage systems and promote flood</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p>

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
		<p>defences that reduces Tameside's vulnerability to flooding?</p> <p>Promote the use of nature-based solutions to manage flood risks?</p>	
14	Protect and improve the quality and availability of water resources	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Encourage compliance with the Water Framework Directive?</p> <p>Promote management practices that will protect water features from pollution?</p> <p>Avoid consuming greater volumes of water resources than are available to maintain a healthy environment?</p> <p>Ensure that new water/waste water management infrastructure is delivered to support new development?</p> <p>Minimise the risk of pollution arising from new development?</p> <p>Encourage water efficiency and promote the use of water recycling systems?</p>	<p>Water</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p>
15	Increase energy efficiency, encourage low carbon energy generation (including heat) and	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Encourage energy demand reductions and energy efficiency in new development?</p>	Climatic Factors

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)	
	<p>reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Encourage development that incorporates energy generation to achieve carbon emission reductions?</p> <p>Promote a proactive reduction in direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions emitted within Tameside?</p> <p>Promote the use of renewable and low carbon energy schemes?</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Conserve and/or enhance landscape, townscape, heritage assets and their setting and the character of Tameside?</p>	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Improve landscape quality and the character of open spaces and the public realm?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting?</p> <p>Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness including the setting of the Peak District National Park?</p> <p>Promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape?</p> <p>Protect or enhance the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets?</p>	<p>Landscape</p> <p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Ensure that land resources are</p>	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p>	<p>Soil</p>

Number	IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
	<p>allocated and used in an efficient and sustainable manner to meet the housing and employment needs of GM, whilst reducing land contamination</p>	<p>Support the development of previously developed land and other sustainable locations?</p> <p>Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land / soil resources from inappropriate development?</p> <p>Protect soils of high environmental value in both a general and local context?</p> <p>Encourage the redevelopment of derelict land, properties, buildings and infrastructure, returning them to appropriate uses?</p> <p>Support reductions in land contamination through the remediation and reuse of previously developed land?</p> <p>Encourage the protection of peat?</p>	Material Assets
18	<p>Promote sustainable consumption of resources and support the implementation of the waste hierarchy</p>	<p>Will Homes, Spaces, Places:</p> <p>Support the sustainable use of physical resources?</p> <p>Safeguard existing supply of natural resources?</p> <p>Promote movement up the waste hierarchy?</p> <p>Promote reduced waste generation rates?</p>	Material Assets

Number IA Objective	Assessment Criteria	SEA Directive Topic(s)
	Encourage recycling and composting of waste and avoid landfill?	

The Plan has been assessed against these IA objectives to understand their effects on these matters. We've assessed the Plan's objectives, policies and reasonable alternatives against each IA objective to understand the potential effects it may have if implemented. This is scored by using the assessment outcomes shown in Table 2. These are described in greater detail in the Main Report. The types of effects are also considered over the short-, medium- and long-term, temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, scale of effect, cumulative and synergistic effects.

Table 2: IA Assessment Outcomes

Score	Assessment Description
++	Very positive effect
+	Positive effect
?	Uncertain
-	Negative effect
--	Very negative effect
O	Neutral/no effect

Combined symbols are sometimes used in the assessment (e.g. '+/ ?' or '- / ?'). Where this occurs, it is because there is a strong likelihood of positive/negative effects, but that there is insufficient information to achieve certainty at this stage. Alternatively, there may be a combination of positive or negative effects, depending on how the option under consideration is eventually delivered.

Further information on the IA methodology can be found in the Main Report.

3. Assessment Results

3.1 Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives

The Council has identified reasonable alternatives which would satisfy the (SEA) statutory requirements placed upon the plan where an SEA is required. The assessment of these reasonable alternatives was carried out by evaluating the performance of each against the IA Framework. To assess the reasonable alternatives against the IA Objectives, a series of assumptions were developed by the Council, based on what are considered likely outcomes from each of the reasonable alternatives. The reasonable alternatives and associated assumptions are summarised in the main report.

The IA of the reasonable alternatives shows that while all three alternatives have beneficial impacts against key IA Objectives, the Neighbourhood Balance approach (Alternative 3) is the most effective overall. It aligns well with the overarching HSP objectives of providing a range of housing, enabling economic growth, and reducing congestion. It promotes sustainable transport modes, enhances economic prosperity, and promotes a reduction in deprivation.

The Urban Max alternative had a weak alignment against the IA Objectives, with a negative impact against nine of the eighteen objectives. This is primarily due to there being no reference to infrastructure to support growth, as well as no reference to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Alternative 2, or the Decentralisation/Suburbanisation alternative, also had a weak alignment against the IA Objectives, with a negative impact against nine of the eighteen objectives. Similarly, this was due to a lack of reference to supporting infrastructure and climate change adaptation and mitigation. It also received an uncertain score against IA Objective 2, which focuses on economic growth, as it references using existing land supply for employment growth, but aims to redistribute housing growth to the edges of the urban area to reflect trends in online retailing; this could have a cumulative impact on town centres and retail districts.

Across all alternatives, it will be key to ensure any adverse effects are reduced and beneficial effects are enhanced as appropriate through the carefully considered and identified mitigation measures. It is not the purpose of the IA to decide which alternative should be pursued. This is the responsibility of Tameside Council who have considered the preferred, most appropriate strategy to be taken forward.

3.2 Assessment of Plan Policies

The proposed thematic policies for the Plan have been assessed in relation to the 18 objectives outlined in the IA framework. In several instances, where policies have a weaker alignment against certain objectives, this is due to the criteria being primarily addressed by a different Thematic Policy Chapter. It should be noted that the Plan must be considered as a whole, and it is recognised that it is not desirable or practicable to have all objectives covered by every policy.

The proposed thematic policies for the Plan have been assessed in relation to the 18 objectives outlined in the IA framework. In several instances, where policies have a weaker alignment against certain objectives, this is due to the criteria being primarily addressed by a different Thematic Policy Chapter. It should be noted that the Plan must be considered as a whole, in addition to the wider planning context which includes the policies within Places for Everyone and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Development Plans, and it is recognised that it is not desirable or practicable to have all objectives covered by every policy. The relationship between these plans is set out in Policy HSP S1.

The assessment findings identified a number of strengths in the thematic policies when assessed against the IA objectives. In particular, the policies scored well in terms of providing a sustainable supply of housing land. Notable strengths include the Spatial policies' focus on housing land provision, Centres policies encouraging high-density and reuse of vacant space, Travel policies enabling connectivity, and Places policies embedding design and energy efficiency. However, Policy HSP C1 could support residential diversification in centres and Policy HSP C3 could link upper-floor residential uses to housing needs. Other key enhancements include embedding renewable and low carbon technologies directly into housing developments; improving connectivity between housing and employment land and ensuring energy efficiency requirements are consistently incorporated into residential development.

Policies also scored positively against the objective for providing a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation. Overall, the policies demonstrate strong contributions to town centre regeneration, diversification of the local economy, and improved connectivity, with clear positives in Spatial policies (HSP SP2A–SP2L) ensuring housing land but needing stronger alignment with education and training provision. Centres policies also support high street renewal and Jobs policies

support employment land and diversification, though HSP J2 and HSP J3 should better address connectivity and ancillary facilities. Travel policies (HSP T1–T7) scored positively for enabling access to employment land, and Places policies (HSP PL3, PL5–PL8, PL10–PL13) strengthen town centre vitality, with HSP PL2, HSP PL6 and HSP PL8 further supporting diversification through change of use, heritage reuse and mixed-use development. Key enhancements recommended include referencing education and training in Spatial policies, explicitly linking employment land in Centres policies, highlighting renewable energy's economic benefits in HSP E1, and ensuring Jobs policies incorporate connectivity and ancillary facilities to maximise employment development opportunities.

The policies also aligned well with Objective 11, which aims to conserve and enhance biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and geodiversity assets. The 'Environment' Thematic Policy Chapter strongly aligned due to its focus on protecting biodiversity and nature conservation sites. 'People' and 'Places' policies also scored positively, emphasising green spaces and enhancing landscapes. Key recommendations include promoting access to Historic Parks and Gardens, adding mitigation measures for road developments (HSP T2), extending environmental protection requirements to more developments, explicitly referencing designated sites and habitats, highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits of natural environments, and strengthening restoration measures for the Peak District National Park. These enhancements would ensure stronger integration of biodiversity, green infrastructure, and ecosystem services across all policy areas.

There was also a strong alignment with Objective 16, which focuses on conserving and/or enhancing landscape, townscape, heritage assets and their setting and the character of Tameside. Policies show generally positive alignment with strengthening centres, villages, heritage, and landscapes, with highlights including Spatial, People, and Places policies supporting local heritage and environment, and Centres policies (HSP C3, C6, C8) enhancing character, public realm, and outdoor spaces.

The assessment findings also identify areas of weakness or uncertainty within the Thematic Policy Chapters. Policies had a weaker compatibility with regard to reducing the risk of flooding to people and property, due to insufficient references to flood risk management. The 'Environment' and 'Places' chapter showed mixed scores, with some positive alignment for managing flood risk but weaker alignment in terms of restricting

development in high-risk areas and using nature-based solutions. The 'Homes', 'Jobs', and 'Travel' chapters also lacked flood risk mitigation and adaptation considerations, and it is recommended that they include measures for protecting new developments. Key enhancements include specifying surface water runoff requirements, protecting transport infrastructure, restricting development in flood-prone areas, and including flood risk adaptation in new developments.

There was also a weak alignment against Objective 15 (Increase energy efficiency, encourage low carbon energy generation (including heat) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions). Spatial policies S2I–S2L, most Centres policies, Jobs policies (HSP E1, E2), Homes policies H4 and H5, and Places policies HSP PL11 and PL12 all lack clear requirements for energy efficiency or low-carbon measures. Key enhancements recommended include requiring energy demand reduction and efficiency in all new developments, promoting sustainable freight and low-carbon delivery, integrating active travel mitigation into transport policies, and ensuring advertising, signage, and waterside developments adopt energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies.

The mitigation and enhancement recommendations outlined will further strengthen the Plan and future projects in the plan area, and therefore the plan as a whole. It is noted that there are interrelationships between the IA objectives, particularly where the thematic policies are concerned. These have been drawn out in the summaries and recommendations where relevant.

3.3 Assessment of Plan Allocations

The Plan has 30 housing allocations and 20 employment allocations. The assessment was carried out using a bespoke IA methodology tailored to site-specific issues, ensuring alignment with the wider Places for Everyone framework. While thematic policies address broader strategic topics, site allocations focus on localised matters, meaning some IA objectives were less relevant and scored neutrally. Appendix A.2.2 provides detailed tables with scores, explanations, and mitigation measures for each site.

Clear synergies were identified between allocations and IA objectives, particularly in supporting housing provision, employment opportunities, sustainable transport, biodiversity and green infrastructure, and heritage protection. Commitments were made to work with existing features and sensitive receptors such as cultural heritage, ecology, and landscape. However, certain strategic aims, like tackling health inequalities, were noted as

more appropriately addressed through thematic policies rather than site-specific allocations.

The allocation assessments highlight generally neutral or positive scores for housing and employment sites, but several key mitigation themes emerge. Recommendations include ensuring affordable housing and energy efficiency in new developments, alongside feasibility studies for transport and utilities to manage increased demand.

Effects on deprivation and disparity are uncertain, with benefits needing to be specifically targeted at deprived areas to maximise long-term gains. Equality and health objectives scored mixed, with risks linked to loss of open space, poor active travel links, and sites within COMAH zones, requiring health and safety measures.

Social infrastructure and education provision scored variably, depending on proximity to facilities. Sustainable transport scored well where sites were near stations or centres, but improvements may be needed to avoid pressure on networks.

Air quality benefits were noted from sustainable access, with mitigation focusing on reducing private car trips and incorporating green infrastructure and EV incentives. Biodiversity and green/blue infrastructure scored poorly where sites were near sensitive designations, requiring avoidance or strong mitigation. Flood risk resilience was weak in higher-risk zones, with no consideration of climate impacts like heatwaves, prompting recommendations for cooling design. Energy efficiency was rarely referenced, heritage and landscape receptors scored negatively where affected, and greenfield sites raised concerns about loss of open space, with encouragement to prioritise brownfield development.

Finally, all allocations require sustainable construction and waste/recycling facilities as standard mitigation.

4. IA Conclusions

4.1 Summary

This report summarises the process and the findings of the IA of the Plan's reasonable alternatives, thematic policies, and allocations. The preparation of the IA has strengthened the sustainability of the Plan.

The IA of the reasonable alternatives shows that while all three alternatives have beneficial impacts against key IA Objectives, the Neighbourhood Balance approach (Alternative 3) is the most effective overall. It aligns well with the overarching HSP objectives of providing a range of housing, enabling economic growth, and reducing congestion. It promotes sustainable transport modes, enhances economic prosperity, and promotes a reduction in deprivation.

The IA of the thematic policies identified a number of strengths. In particular, the policies scored well in terms providing a sustainable supply of housing land; providing a sustainable supply of employment land to ensure sustainable economic growth and job creation; conserving and enhancing biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure and geodiversity assets; and conserving landscape, townscape, heritage assets and their setting and the character of Tameside; all which support the overarching objectives of the Plan. However, the assessment findings also identify areas of weakness or uncertainty within the Thematic Policy Chapters in terms of increasing energy efficiency, encouraging low carbon energy generation (including heat) and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing the risk of flooding to people and property.

In some instances, where policies have a weaker alignment against certain objectives, this is primarily due to criteria being addressed through a different Thematic Policy Chapter. It should be noted that the Plan must be considered as a whole, alongside the wider planning context including Places for Everyone and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Development Plans, and it is recognised that it is not desirable or practicable to have all objectives covered by every policy. The relationship between these plans is set out in Policy HSP S1. Key mitigation and enhancement recommendations have been outlined under the IA objectives in the Main Report, highlighting opportunities to further strengthen the Plan and future projects in the plan area, and therefore the plan as a whole.

Following the consultation of the Plan, consultee comments will be considered and where appropriate, changes made to the IA. This will be shown in an addendum to the Main Report. After this, the Plan will be developed further with a further round of assessment undertaken as part of the IA process to support the Plan's development. The assessment outputs from this will also be shared as part of a future consultation on the Local Plan.

For further information on suggested enhancement or mitigation, see the full assessment tables in the appendix of the IA Main Report.

The assessment of housing and employment site allocations in Tameside was carried out using a bespoke IA methodology tailored to site-specific issues, ensuring alignment with the wider Places for Everyone framework. While thematic policies address broader strategic topics, site allocations focus on localised matters, meaning some IA objectives were less relevant and scored neutrally. The Main Report provides detailed tables with scores, explanations, and mitigation measures for each site.

Clear synergies were identified between allocations and IA objectives, particularly in supporting housing provision, employment opportunities, sustainable transport, biodiversity and green infrastructure, and heritage protection. Commitments were made to work with existing features and sensitive receptors such as cultural heritage, ecology, and landscape. However, certain strategic aims, like tackling health inequalities, were noted as more appropriately addressed through thematic policies rather than site-specific allocations.

4.2 Next Steps

The Plan will be consulted on from December 19th 2025 to February 13th 2026. During this time, the IA will be available to view on the Council webpage and in local libraries.

Additionally, everyone on the planning policy database will be notified via emails, letters and drop-in events will be held within each of the nine neighbourhoods. Comments on the IA can be made through a survey against the following question: "Do you consider that the Integrated Appraisal has adequately assessed the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed policies and allocations within the Plan? Are there any sections of the IA that require further explanation or clarification?".

Following the consultation of the Plan, consultee comments will be considered and where appropriate, changes made to the IA. This will be shown in an addendum to this Report. After this, the Plan will be developed further, with the result being the Regulation 19 Full

Draft Plan. A further round of assessment will be undertaken on the Regulation 19 Plan as part of the IA process to support the Plan's development. The assessment outputs from this will also be shared as part of a future consultation on the Local Plan.

As part of the IA process, monitoring of the Plan will be completed, in accordance with the SEA Directive and Regulation 17 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The directive requires the person by whom the plan or programme was prepared to monitor with a view to identifying, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects, and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. This will be completed later in the IA process with the monitoring arrangements set out in a Post-Adoption Statement once the Plan is adopted.