

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council

Integrated Assessment of The Homes, Spaces, Places Plan – Regulation 19 Draft Plan

Non-Technical Summary

Reference: 289676-00

Final Issue | September 2026

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.

Job number 289676-00

Ove Arup & Partners Limited

6th Floor 3 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BN

United Kingdom

[arup.com](https://www.arup.com)

Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of this Summary	1
1.2	The Homes, Spaces and Places Plan	1
2.	IA Methodology	3
2.1	Purpose and Scope of the IA	3
2.2	IA Stages	3
2.3	IA Assessment Methodology	4
3.	Assessment Results	16
3.1	Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives	16
3.2	Assessment of Plan Policies	17
3.3	Assessment of Plan Allocations	20
4.	IA Conclusions	25
4.1	Summary	25
4.2	Next Steps	26

Tables

Table 1: IA Objectives	4
Table 2: IA Assessment Outcomes	15

Figures

Figure 1: IA Stages	4
---------------------	---

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 Tameside's Local Plan, complementing the Greater Manchester Places for Everyone Strategy. 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, support growth and vibrant town centres, improve travel and reduce congestion, 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 Pfab [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 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 the 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 and 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.

It is important to note that the Homes, Spaces and Places Plan only constitutes part of Tameside's planning context and must be considered alongside other relevant policy documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework, Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Development Plans.

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.

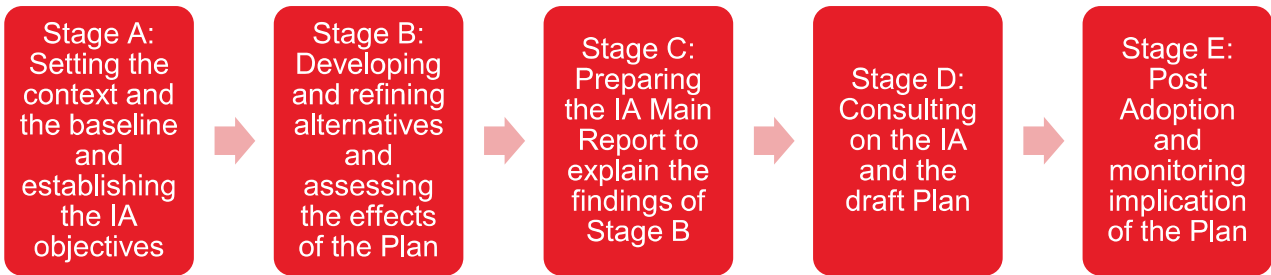
Further information on each of these assessments and their requirements can be found in the Main Report.

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

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

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

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

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

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	Will Homes, Spaces, Places: Protect, conserve and enhance new and existing European, nationally and locally designated wildlife and geological sites? Encourage enhancement and restoration of designated wildlife sites, habitats and species and protected and unique geological features? Support and enhance existing multifunctional green and blue infrastructure and / or contribute towards the creation of new multifunctional green and blue infrastructure? Ensure access to green and blue infrastructure providing opportunities for recreation, amenity and tranquillity? Support and safeguard local wider ecological networks including local wildlife-rich habitats?	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Human Health
12	Ensure communities, developments and infrastructure are resilient to the	Will Homes, Spaces, Places: Ensure that communities, existing and new developments and infrastructure systems within	Climatic Factors

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

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

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

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

This section provides a summary of the ISA, looking at the relevant components of the Plan including:

- The reasonable alternatives – provided by the CA and to align with SEA regulations, assessing alternatives allows the ISA to evaluate the effects of the preferred LTP approach as well as reasonable alternatives to this approach.
- The thematic policies – these cover a range of themes including safe; inclusive and affordable; zero emission; active; reliable and resilient; and integrated. The policies underwent an initial assessment in 2025 and were reassessed following LTP consultation feedback and LTP amendments in 2026.
- The infrastructure intervention types – these are broad categories under which the LTP will be implemented through a range of specific infrastructure interventions, to be developed in forthcoming Implementation Plans.

3.1 Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives

The Council has identified three reasonable alternatives for the Plan which would satisfy the (SEA) statutory requirements placed upon the plan where an SEA is required. The reasonable alternatives have been considered within the strategic planning context established through PfE. The assessment assumes that the PfE spatial strategy, growth patterns and infrastructure priorities would continue beyond 2039, as there is currently no adopted alternative strategic framework for the period from 2039 to 2042. The continuation of this approach is considered reasonable given the uncertainty beyond the PfE plan period and the intention for these matters to be reviewed through future strategic plan making across Greater Manchester.

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

3.2.1 2025 Conclusions

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.

3.2.2 2026 Conclusions

The revised thematic policies for the Plan have been reassessed against the same 18 IA objectives set out in the IA Framework. Improved scores have been recorded across all Thematic Policy Chapters when compared with the 2025 assessment results. Where policies retain weaker alignment with particular objectives, this is generally because the relevant criteria are primarily addressed through another Thematic Policy Chapter. The Plan should always be considered as a whole and within the wider planning context, including the policies contained within Places for Everyone and the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Joint Minerals Development Plans. It is therefore recognised that it would neither be desirable nor practicable for every policy to address all IA objectives. Where policies have received neutral or negative scores against IA objectives, this does not necessarily indicate that the issue has been overlooked within the Plan. In many cases, potential adverse effects are balanced by other policies, site allocations or higher-tier planning documents.

Overall, the policies have been revised to provide greater emphasis and more detail on development standards and how new development can contribute to the achievement of the IA objectives, particularly in relation to enhancing local character and protecting heritage significance. Policies have also been strengthened by highlighting the benefits provided by open space and the transition to low-carbon energy generation. In addition, there is a clearer emphasis on improving connectivity to services, facilities and opportunities, particularly through the integration of the transport network.

Two new policies have been introduced within the 'Environment' and 'Jobs' Thematic Policy Chapters respectively. Both received a mix of neutral and positive scores. New Policy HSP E4 focuses on nature recovery and demonstrates particularly strong alignment

with Objective 11 which relates to the protection and enhancement of designated sites, habitats and ecological networks, as well as supporting nature-based solutions to climate change under Objective 12. New Policy HSP J5 focuses on the provision of skills, training, apprenticeships and local labour agreements. It demonstrates strong alignment with all criteria relating to improving education and training to support the future labour force and reducing deprivation.

Compared with the 2025 assessment, policies across a range of Thematic Policy Chapters have received significantly improved scores, moving to positive or very positive effects, particularly in relation to promoting economic growth and town centre vitality under Objective 2, and improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities under Objective 6. Most Thematic Policy Chapters have also received improved scores in relation to ensuring that transport and utilities infrastructure supports growth and encouraging the reuse of previously developed land. In addition, the 'Spatial' Thematic Policy Chapter has been substantially revised to strengthen its alignment with reducing deprivation, ensuring access to social infrastructure and enhancing ecological networks. Policies within the 'Places' Thematic Policy Chapter have also received significantly improved scores in relation to strengthening local character and distinctiveness.

There are some instances where scores have become more negative compared with the previous iteration. These include changes from neutral to negative effects for a number of policies within the 'Spatial' Chapter in relation to ensuring an appropriate mix of housing types. Policy HSP J2 also records a more negative assessment in relation to ensuring equal access, due to the absence of explicit reference to wheeling alongside walking and cycling provision, and it has therefore been recommended to include this in the policy wording.

Mitigation measures recommended through the previous iteration of the IA have been particularly well addressed within the 'Environment' Policy Chapter. However, approximately half of the other previously identified mitigation measures remain as residual effects in this iteration. Common areas requiring further improvement include consideration of flood risk and air quality management, together with the incorporation of climate change resilience into new development.

The residual enhancement and mitigation recommendations set out in Section 4.4.2 of the Main Report provide opportunities to further strengthen the Plan and the sustainability performance of future development and projects within the Plan area, which would

improve the performance of 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

3.3.1 2025 Conclusions

The Plan has 30 housing allocations, 19 employment allocations, and 1 mixed use allocation. 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 in 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.

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.

3.3.2 2026 Conclusions

Following public consultation and amendments, the updated site allocations, of which there are 28 housing and 20 employment allocations, have been reassessed against the same 18 IA objectives. Overall, the scoring for most of the site allocations remained the same. This reflects the fact that the Plan must be read as a whole, and it is not desirable or practicable to have all objectives covered by every site allocation.

The review of the updated site allocations found that most changes since the 2025 assessment were minor, primarily involving boundary amendments to align with Land Registry parcels or planning application boundaries. These adjustments did not affect the relationship between the allocations and the IA Framework, so the majority of assessment scores remained unchanged.

Two housing allocations (HSP S2F Allocation 4: Two Trees Lane and HSP S2L Allocation 7: Stalybridge Cricket Club) were removed from the Plan because the sites were no longer available for development. Three allocations received revised scores where boundary changes altered their potential environmental or accessibility impacts. HSP S2H Allocation 1 (Bow Street) received lower scores for health and wellbeing and green infrastructure because the revised boundary includes areas of trees that could be affected by development. HSP S2I Allocation 1 (Victoria Street) received improved scores after woodland and protected green infrastructure were excluded from the site, reducing impacts on biodiversity, open space and landscape features. HSP SPI Allocation 6 (Flowery Field Station) received higher transport-related scores due to improved access and connectivity resulting from additional access points.

Overall, while site allocations contribute towards achieving wider objectives, strategic matters, such as addressing health inequalities across Tameside, are considered more appropriately through thematic planning policies rather than site-specific assessments.

As most allocation scores remained unchanged, the mitigation and enhancement measures identified in the 2025 assessment continue to apply.

Appendix A.2.2 in the Main Report provides detailed tables with scores, explanations, and mitigation measures for each site.

4. IA Conclusions

4.1 Summary

This report summarises the process and the findings of the IA of the Regulation 19 Plan's thematic policies, site allocations and reasonable alternatives. 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.

When considering the updated Plan, the scoring for the draft policies has improved, although some remained neutral or showed weaker alignment with the IA objectives. In particular, the policies received improved scores to positive or very positive in terms of promoting economic growth and town centre vitality, as well as supporting local health and wellbeing. Additionally, the 'Spatial' Thematic Policy Chapter has been largely updated to have a stronger alignment with reducing deprivation, ensuring access to social infrastructure, and enhancing the ecological network.

The reassessment findings continue to identify areas of weakness and/or uncertainty within the thematic policy chapters, where suggested mitigation and enhancement from the previous assessment were not incorporated in the HSP by the Council. across reducing flood risk, air quality management, and climate change resilience. Residual mitigation and enhancement recommendations have therefore been outlined under the IA objectives below, highlighting opportunities to further strengthen the Plan and future schemes to be implemented in the plan area, and therefore the Plan as a whole.

As previously noted, due to the topic-specific nature of many of the thematic policies, some IA objectives are not directly relevant to every policy. The assessment should therefore be considered in the context of the Local Plan as a whole and the wider planning framework, including Places for Everyone and the Joint Minerals and Waste Plans. Whilst all IA objectives are important, not every policy or allocation is expected to contribute

positively to every objective, with the overall sustainability performance of the Plan arising from the combined effects of its policies and site allocations.

Where policies have received neutral or negative scores against IA objectives, this does not necessarily indicate that the issue has been overlooked within the Plan. In many cases, potential adverse effects are balanced by other policies, site allocations or higher-tier planning documents. However, negative scores have been retained where the policy itself could still contribute to an adverse effect. This ensures that the assessment transparently reflects the likely effects of individual policies, even where mitigation is provided elsewhere in the planning framework.

The reassessment 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 reassessment tables with updated scores, explanations, and residual mitigation measures for each site.

Two housing allocations were removed from the Plan, including HSP S2F Allocation 4 (Two Trees Lane) and HSP S2L Allocation 7 (Stalybridge Cricket Club). Most remaining site allocations received minor amendments to their boundaries to align with Land Registry parcels or planning application red line boundaries. This did not impact synergies with the IA framework and therefore assessment scores have remained the same, with the exception of three site allocations; HSP S2H Allocation 1 (Bow Street), HSP S2I Allocation 1 (Victoria Street), and HSP SPI Allocation 6 (Flowery Field Station), which received updated scores.

For further information on suggested enhancement or mitigation, see the full assessment tables in Appendix A.2.2 of the IA Main Report.

4.2 Next Steps

The Plan will be consulted on from 1st of October to 13th of November 2026. From this date, the IA will be available to view on the Council's dedicated HSP webpage and in the borough's local libraries. All interested parties will be invited to review the Integrated Assessment and provide comments on its findings, methodology and conclusions. This includes through an online survey on the Council's HSP webpage and social media (Instagram and Facebook) and there will also be an opportunity to respond with comments via email, letter or printed form.

Comments on the IA can be made by answering the following question: “Do you have any comments on the Integrated Appraisal, and do you consider that it has adequately assessed the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives? If no, please explain and identify any evidence that supports your view.”

Following this final round of public consultation, consultee comments will be considered and where appropriate, changes made to the IA. This will be shown in an addendum to this Report. Comments received will be reviewed by the Council and submitted alongside the HSP Publication Plan and supporting evidence to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Planning Inspector will consider the Plan’s legal compliance and soundness, including the supporting assessment work. Following examination and modifications, the Plan may be formally adopted by the Council as part of Tameside’s development 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.