

Theme	Key messages / suggestions from the consultation
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region needs a workforce that is skilled, adaptable, and equipped for the challenges of the future. • Strengthen links between local colleges, universities, and businesses to address skills gaps, particularly in digital technology, green energy, construction, and advanced manufacturing. • Foster partnerships between educational institutions, large employers, and SMEs to create, co-funded training programmes, apprenticeships and employment and skills plans aligned with new developments. • Employers engaging with local training providers have indicated skills gaps in sectors such as Construction, Engineering, Health, Care, and Early Years, Automotive and Hospitality • There are challenges in retaining graduates due to the lack of a local higher education providers, requiring stronger partnerships with regional universities and skills hubs. • Address digital skills gaps for all age groups, particularly in disadvantaged communities. • Support for re-skilling and up-skilling through adult education programmes tailored to high-demand sectors. • Targeted training for high-demand sectors with programmes to support young people in rural or underserved areas and improve access to training and job opportunities. • Opportunity to improve transport connectivity for residents in rural areas to local training providers • Although data suggests skills levels are relatively high, it is important to recognise there are pockets of deprivation and inequalities do exist. It is important to provide targeted support to ensure that people are not left behind with limited opportunities to upskill.
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedling could position itself as an ideal location for businesses seeking proximity to Nottingham City while benefiting from a lower cost base. • Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) including community and social enterprises form the backbone of the local economy but face barriers to growth, including financial constraints and lack of modern office space. • Gedling lacks sufficient high grade office space to attract professional services companies, high value industries or larger employers. This inhibits growth of some sectors. • There is a need / opportunity to provide more space for start up businesses but there is also a need to provide move of space to avoid losing these businesses once they grow. • There is an opportunity to develop further industrial units to support demand for this type of space, building on the success of units at Calverton for example. • In order to attract more business investment, an inward investment strategy is required to put in place the appropriate infrastructure, support and promotion • Business support should focus on practical assistance, grants, and removing bureaucratic barriers to funding. • Encouraging business clusters in tech, green energy, and creative industries to drive higher-value job creation. • Collaboration with universities and major employers to create innovation hubs and business support networks.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedling is primarily a commuter borough, with most residents working outside the area. More local employment opportunities are needed. • The employment needs of key sectors in the economy need to be a priority. • High street retail and hospitality face recruitment challenges, requiring targeted skills development.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedling home to a lot of public service employment (local authorities, health service). It is important to ensure these sectors are able to recruit locally to provide opportunities for local residents. • Public transport limitations restrict access to job opportunities, particularly in rural areas. • Opportunities exist to attract remote workers by providing co-working and flexible office spaces in town centres. • Emphasis on inclusive recruitment, supporting early retirees and those with caring responsibilities to re-enter the workforce.
Net Zero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed sustainability in regeneration projects, ensuring buildings and developments adopt green principles. • Businesses will need support to change/adapt to upcoming statutory/legislative requirements around trade waste and recycling. The Gedling Local Development Plan will also seek a higher standard of sustainability. • Consider opportunities to enhance sustainability standards into GBC procurement • Promote businesses that integrate solar panels, sustainable heating systems, and green supply chains. • Support businesses working in the low carbon sector and support businesses to adopt net-zero policies through incentives and support programmes. Specific programmes for high street businesses can be developed. • Improve opportunities for active travel. Expand cycling infrastructure and consider an electric bike scheme. Improve accessibility through public and active travel, particularly in rural areas to reduce car dependency. • There is a unique opportunity to position Gedling's green credentials as part of its heritage and tourism initiatives. • Enhance eco-tourism by investing in trails, country parks, and environmentally friendly visitor facilities.
Housing and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will continue to be significant housing growth in the borough which will support economic growth • May be a requirement to create new local centres • Housing growth will generate CIL receipts to support regeneration • The borough is very constrained due to the Green Belt but will need to consider the allocation of employment land • Ensure infrastructure investment supports housing and employment growth in a coordinated manner. • Gedling's infrastructure improvements should prioritise transport, sustainable housing and related community and leisure facilities to provide sustainable communities • Weak east-west transport links limit access to employment hubs and opportunities for business expansion. • Leverage Gedling's location to serve as a link between Nottingham and wider regional opportunities could position Gedling as a hub for business, leisure, and culture within the East Midlands. • Increase digital infrastructure to ensure high-speed internet access for businesses and residents, enabling remote work and digital commerce. • Expand both digital infrastructure and transport links, specifically regarding the lack of east-west transport connections and the need for better connectivity to surrounding areas (Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark).

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Green Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedling’s parks, nature reserves, and country parks are significant assets that should be leveraged for eco-tourism and community well-being. • Further investment in green infrastructure, including enhanced trails, walking and cycling infrastructure, and visitor facilities. Community safety and perception of safety are important considerations here. • Better promotion of Gedling’s natural landscapes, and underutilised assets such as Netherfield Lagoons, to highlight biodiversity and attract visitors to add to the green tourism potential for the area. • Integration of green space planning with sustainable housing developments to enhance quality of life. • Expanding tree planting and environmental conservation efforts to reinforce Gedling’s green credentials. • Gedling’s parks, green spaces and commitment to sustainability can be cornerstone of its ambition • The maintenance and management requirements of green spaces is significant and needs consideration within any proposals to expand / enhance provision.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transport can help position Gedling has a hub for business, leisure and culture in the East Midlands • Whilst relatively well connected to Nottingham city, connectivity within the borough, particularly to and from rural areas is much more restricted. It is important to understand how communities look to and use different town and local centres to ensure connectivity is improved effectively and efficiently. • Similarly links between other districts and boroughs are weaker which limits access to employment opportunities • It is important to look at key employment areas / areas with potential for employment growth and consider accessibility to these locations from across the district. • If extended, the Nottingham tram could improve connectivity further. • The lack of park-and-ride facilities increases car dependency, contributing to congestion. • A bus-based park and ride facility is proposed to ease congestion between Arnold and Nottingham city centre • The Robin Hood Line presents an opportunity for improved rail connectivity but requires investment. • Increasing opportunities for active travel is seen as a priority • Cycling infrastructure is inconsistent and should be expanded, particularly along key employment corridors. • Coordination with neighbouring areas and participation in regional initiatives will be critical, particularly collaboration on cross-border initiatives, such as transport infrastructure. • Greater engagement with Nottinghamshire County Council to advocate for better bus, rail, and active travel solutions.
Visitor economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gedling lacks a strong standalone identity as a visitor destination but has potential due to its rich heritage, green spaces, and proximity to Nottingham. • With its mix of urban centres, green spaces and heritage, Gedling can celebrate both urban development and environmental sustainability • Opportunity to be seen as an eco tourism destination by investing in trails, country parks and environmentally friendly visitor facilities • Develop attractions such as a heritage centre at Gedling Country Park, immersive experiences around industrial heritage, cultural facilities and eco-tourism initiatives. • Addressing the lack of visitor amenities such as accommodation, dining, and entertainment options to encourage longer stays.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnerships with regional tourism bodies and attractions to integrate Gedling into wider visitor campaigns. • A cohesive marketing strategy is needed to position Gedling as part of a broader Nottinghamshire visitor offer. • Any growth of the sector needs to consider sustainability and be considerate to local communities in locations that have not necessarily been promoted as visitor destinations previously. • The role of the community sector in managing assets that can attract visitors should be recognised.
Heritage and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage tourism opportunities exist around Gedling’s mining history, historic buildings, and links to national figures such as Lord Byron and Robin Hood. • There is some good leisure and cultural provision including some of the borough’s leisure centres and Bonington Theatre • There is a lot of heritage related activity taking place but there are opportunities for better awareness through promotion • The diversity of the borough provides a range of ‘identifies’ or ‘offers’ which can be promoted rather than relying on the identify of place alone. • Heritage assets are underutilised and lack investment compared to other areas, limiting their impact on tourism and community identity. • A coordinated approach is needed to connect heritage sites through trails, digital storytelling, and interactive visitor experiences. • There is a strong emphasis on supporting community-led heritage projects with initiatives like heritage volunteering, education, and intergenerational engagement being key areas discussed. • Rural landscapes, green spaces and cultural heritage make the area attractive for professionals seeking a balanced lifestyle • Investment in leisure facilities, including the proposed Carlton Leisure and Community Wellbeing Centre, the modernisation of Arnold Leisure Centre and the development of new cultural spaces. • Huge opportunity to use the new Carlton Community and Leisure Centre development as a flagship project from which to drive economic growth: • The Community and Voluntary sector are the foundation for much of the leisure activity delivered in Gedling.
Town and village centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the survival of local businesses and creating vibrant town and local centres is a priority • High streets must transition from traditional retail hubs to experience and service-oriented spaces and increased residential uses. • Town centres need revitalisation, focusing on independent retail, hospitality, and mixed-use developments including cultural and leisure offers and residential use to reduce vacancy rates. • Linked to this, activity needs to help build a sense of community around Gedling’s Town Centres. • There is a need to improve shopper and retailer confidence by tackling perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour, by reviewing lighting in town centres, and by tackling ‘voids’/dark spaces. • Addressing public perception issues, including antisocial behaviour and the lack of a vibrant night-time economy. • Exploring initiatives such as high street rental auctions to bring vacant units back into use and address vacancy rates in town centres, especially in Arnold should be a consideration.

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	<p>This idea is already being tested in other areas like Bassetlaw and could offer a solution to the vacancy issues in Gedling's high streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public realm improvements, pedestrianisation, better integration of green spaces and enhanced sense of arrival to enhance town centre appeal and make the area more attractive• Hosting pop up shops, regular events and cultural activities to increase footfall and community engagement in town centres.