MANIFESTO

JESSIE JOE JACOBS

**LABOUR CANDIDATE FOR TEES VALLEY METRO MAYOR**

**TAGLINE: THIS IS OUR FUTURE**

**FOREWORD**

My name is Jessie Joe Jacobs. I am a Teessider, charity founder, campaigner, regeneration leader and I am proud to call the Tees Valley my home. We have incredible people, communities that have each other’s back, a proud history of industry that has transformed the world and a creative brilliance that is known throughout the UK, from music to media, technology to art. We have so much potential and opportunity, but now it’s time to move boldly into the future, with the backing, vision and courage we need to get there.

For too long we have been trapped in the past, left behind from underinvestment in public transport, public service cuts and a rolling back of people’s rights and powers. This has caused wide-scale poverty, lack of opportunity and deep-rooted inequalities which means your future is too often decided by the postcode you live in or the street you grew up in. We must tackle this head on, if we are to secure the future we need.

Having spent years delivering change at a local and national level, I know change is possible. I have developed projects, organisations and services that have lifted people out of poverty, improved health and well-being, created new businesses and reduced unemployment. I have travelled the globe investigating the key ingredients for places to thrive, from Athens to Bangladesh, Belfast to Brixton. I have met with those pioneering a better way and now I want to bring all that learning and all that experience to the Tees, to create a better future for all our people. To provide the leadership we need to become all that we have the potential to be.

I will ensure that this region is the best place to grow up, get on and grow old in. A place where all our young people have the opportunities to live a good life and where no one in our communities is left behind. I will bring the leadership we need to ensure a better future for all.

I take this responsibility seriously. I understand the absolutely monumental task of taking on the three biggest issues of all our lifetimes:

* To rebuild after the devastating global pandemic.
* To address the spiralling out of control inequalities, locally, nationally and internationally.
* To stop the large scale irreversible damage caused by the climate crisis.
* To be leading in this moment means I have the future of all of us and the planet on my shoulders but I am excited and ready for the challenge.

I have an ambitious plan to build a thriving economy from the bottom up: investing in local business and industries old and new to deliver jobs for decades to come.

This will take courage to change course, make the best of all our strengths and seize opportunities for everyone. This will mean taking on the same people in positions of power who stand in the way of change.

I will offer the unifying leadership it will need to get us there. I have achieved a lot in my lifetime, created and run schemes that created jobs and got thousands of people into work and training, started and led award-winning charities, led and created local, regional and national policy and campaigns. But my greatest ambition is to lead the Tees Valley and give our people the future they deserve. To give people hope.

I have three main things I will commit to

1. Jobs Jobs Jobs – We will create the thousands of jobs this area needs
2. People People People – Backing our people to get on and succeed
3. Places Places Places - Creating places people love to live and to visit

And across everything I do, we will ensure no one is left behind, we protect the vulnerable and the planet.

The possibilities for this region have never been so clear. The opportunities are many and the responsibility for so many future generations now rests on our shoulders. The opportunity to bring about real, transformative change is too great, timing too crucial, possibilities too important and the need too great, to get this wrong.

To miss the moment would be unforgivable. The future of this region could be so different but it will take a real visionary and courageous leader to do that and to take us there. To try things that have never been done before.

Jobs Jobs Jobs - We will create the thousands of jobs this area needs

Tees Valley has a chance to be home to industries new and old that will provide good, sustainable jobs for generations.

Our industrial strengths are significant, yet at the same time we have growing levels of poverty and inequality, and these jobs do not provide enough opportunities for meaningful, well-paid employment for everyone. The economic output (GDP) of our region is the lowest in England – nine times lower than central London i – and comparable to parts of Poland and Turkey ii. Our employment rate is also the lowest in England iii. There are only seven jobs for every ten people of working age who live in our region iv.

Yet we are currently ploughing all our money into the same few schemes, doing the same things again and again and expecting different results. We must diversify and grow our own businesses and economies from the bottom up and we must invest in our people to give them the skills they need for the jobs of the future.

My plan is rooted in a belief that we grow from the bottom up, backing our businesses to succeed with an ambitious plan to transform our region to create jobs now and into the future. It also builds on our assets and strengths, from the vast amounts of industrial land to the beautiful coast, the innovation of our tech sector and the pioneering role women are playing in our region.

**My jobs strategy will focus on five areas**

* **Creating jobs in the climate economy**
* **Creating jobs in the digital and tech sector**
* **Creating jobs in the ‘local’ economy**
* **Creating jobs in the culture and tourism industry**
* **Growing the social economy**

## Creating Jobs in the Climate Industry

Our climate is changing for the worse and across the globe action is ramping up to reverse the drastic impact it is having on our planet.

As both a coastal and riverbank region, we in the Tees Valley have a particular stake in doing all that we can to stop irreversible damage to our environment.

Leading the way on climate action would not only help to secure the future for our children and grandchildren, it would deliver direct – and much needed – economic benefits for the Tees Valley today.

My climate strategy would ensure the Tees Valley plays a leading role in taking on the climate crisis at the same time as creating jobs, cutting household bills and greening our area.

The Government know we need much more radical action to reach our Carbon reduction targets and reverse the catastrophic damage that is happening to the environment. Big changes will need to be made in the way we live, get around, heat our homes and power our businesses.

Big changes mean big projects which will include converting every home and building in the UK to zero carbon, building wind farms and developing solar farms, increasing plant-based food production and improving public transport. All of this will need an army of new workers and new businesses to meet the demand.

GREEN FUTURES:

We will seek to train up 10,000 people within climate industry skills through:

* Creating fully funded apprenticeships in the renewables industry.
* Providing financial support by way of loans and grants to train up thousands of people in the climate jobs of the future.
* The development of a training hub for climate jobs, from installing EV charging points to solar panel installation, giving people the training they need to take up the climate jobs of the future.
* Providing business investment for renewable and green climate projects, businesses and initiatives.
* Linking to colleges and schools to champion and be an ambassador for Green jobs of the future.

GREEN INVESTMENT

We will lobby Government to create a billion pound North East Green Infrastructure Fund to support Green Hydrogen & Renewables Investment in North East – hydrogen will power cars, trains and homes in the future but it must be hydrogen that is produced cleanly.

The fund will support wind turbine production, wind and solar farm expansion, mass retro fitting of public buildings and a rapid roll out and expansion of EV charging points. We will deliver the infrastructure requirements of an expanded carbon capture usage and storage cluster, working closely with local industry experts. We will develop innovative new hydrogen-based technologies that have significant global commercial potential, and back clean Steel research, development and production.

**Net Zero Industrial Park:**

I will emphatically champion our area’s expansive low-carbon sector with a Green Industrial park and fund for Net-Zero business investment and infrastructure.

The Net-Zero industrial park will offer land and investment to green industries and will sit at the heart of my climate economy strategy.

Over four years, the Fund will put resources behind workable projects, pilots and innovation.

The former SSI site and port area will become home to wind turbine, hydrogen, battery production, and a publicly owned solar farm.

**Re-use Tees Valley:**

I will develop a £2million fund to incentivise reuse and recycling across the Tees Valley.

I will seek to support projects such as Hartlepool Food Network, which reduces food wastage and provides food for social activities, ensuring similar schemes are supported and scaled up across our five boroughs.

Work with food suppliers, businesses, communities and charities to cut waste by incentivising Re-use of valuable resources destined for landfill. From furniture to food, we will see a shift away from consume and dispose to create and reuse.

The Re-use fund will create a catalyst for reuse projects to start up.

Deliver technologies that will enable us to recycle and reuse products on an industrial scale.

**‘Buy Local, Buy Social’ Jobs**

We must ensure that money created here, stays here. Local businesses are more likely to support other local businesses and this creates a cycle that keeps a community’s money within the community. This also creates more local jobs so there is even more money in the local community and more can be spent at local businesses. The cycle just keeps on going!

By making a small change in people’s shopping habits, encouraging the commissioning of both local and social businesses, we would see a significant higher social return on our investments and would be a genuine boost to the local economy.

**Entrepreneurs Fund:**

I will join Labour’s national call to create a £1billion Investment fund to support new business start up. Entrepreneurs are our risk takers and innovators. Some have lost everything through the Covid-19 crisis. We must give them and new entrepreneurs the backing via a flexible business fund to be spent on starting new businesses.

Good Business Hub: We will grow the Tees Valley’s social and community economy, empowering businesses, individuals and communities to turn their entrepreneurial ideas into sustainable business plans for social and economic benefit. Backed up with £3million in grants and finance, the Hub will provide financial support and match funding for training, expert advice.

* Made in Tees Valley: We have thousands of local producers right here in the Tees Valley, making and designing everything from fashion wear to chocolate, gin to bath bombs. The Made in Tees Valley scheme supports these local producers, farmers and small traders, whether new or existing with:
* Made in Tees Valley brand marketing campaign to put our producers on the national map.
* Made in Tees Valley Food and Producers Festival.
* A £1million grant fund and access to support and loan finance for start up and scale up of these businesses.
* To develop an online market place as an alternative to Amazon and Etsy to match producers with consumers.

**Local Wealth Building:** As Mayor I’ll encourage local public services such as councils, hospitals and universities to join this framework, and encourage large private sector firms to join a ‘Keep it local’ campaign. We will work with employers to ensure they prioritise local small businesses and local employment when buying their supplies and services. Rather than spend the region’s money with large corporations headquartered outside of the region, we can create local contracts and see money spent locally.

**‘Buy Local’ campaign:** I will champion a buy local campaign, and investigate the development of a Tees pound to be spent in local, independent businesses, keeping more money in the local economy and helping sustain a vibrant and diverse small business offer.

Jobs in digital and tech

Our economy has been changing rapidly and technology has been at the heart of that change. Tech can be highly profitable and at the same time a force for social good, if we ensure the right business model. Future jobs and business growth are coming increasingly through the tech sector. We are a region with a strong industrial background. We can marry the two and be pioneers in digital solutions within our industrial sector. Through this we can create up to 10,000 new jobs in digital and tech over the next ten years.

**Tech Futures**

We will promote the Tees Valley’s rich digital economy and support the development of space, start up support and finance to boost our digital and tech economy. We will also work from a primary school level to drive up the number of children and young people choosing tech as a career.

**Tech Valley - £20 million investment**

We will invest £20 million in the Tees Valley’s rich digital economy and support the development of space, start-up support and growth to boost our digital and tech industry.

**Innovation Challenge**

Sadiq Khan’s inspiring project, the Civic Innovation Challenge, has promoted innovative research to find solutions to electric vehicle charging, affordable housing, dementia, loneliness, physical activity and financial inclusion. In the same vein I will begin a Tees Valley-wide challenge for businesses to find tech solutions to our local challenges.

**Public Sharing Platforms**

Where appropriate ‘sharing platforms’ can be the intellectual property of local government or of subsidiary ventures. As Mayor I will also look to develop publicly-owned technology, to develop apps that enable new services such as car-pooling, food delivery, cultural events, community group directories and much more.

**Get on-line**

Peopleand business must be on-line to compete in a modern market. I will provide support and training to enable people and businesses to get online. This will have the added benefit of reducing social isolation, allowing elderly people to live independently for a greater time, at the same time as improving the competitiveness of an organisation.

**CULTURE AND TOURISM JOBS**

The River Tees and Tees Valley coast and countryside has got to be one of the UK’s best kept secrets. From Roseberry Topping to South Gare, the headland in Hartlepool to Wynyard Planetarium, this area is brimming with tourist attractions and brilliant things to see and do.

I will be an ambassador for this region and we will see people visit this area from across the globe. Through a clear and effective tourism strategy, developing new ideas and new businesses and improving the tourism and cultural infrastructure, we will create an offer to rival any other in the UK.

**I LOVE TEES:**

We will create an investment fund and innovation fund for developing tourist and leisure businesses, alongside ensuring we have the infrastructure to meet demand, which means better transport links and accommodation.

Providing grants to commercial and community businesses in the tourism sector that have innovative plans for growth and expansion.

Scaling up efforts to market the Tees Valley to the rest of the country and world, and creating a joined up brand for the whole region.

Exploring the potential to introduce an I love Tees Pass, which would connect passholders to a curated selection of small and local businesses.

**Included in Culture Tees Valley:**

Secure inward investment in our culture and leisure assets and opportunities. Big culture investments in strategic projects are important for attracting visitors and creating leisure opportunities for local people. Yet the Tees Valley falls significantly behind the rest of the country in terms in inward investment which is why I will work with the major funding bodies – Arts Council England, the Lottery and DCMS and other philanthropic and investment organisations – to secure more resources for the Tees Valley. I will ensure every town has a world class quality tourism attraction.

**Tees Talent:**

A Tees Valley Creative fund to provide sustainable funding for our region’s grassroots creatives. I want the cultural and creative spirit of our region to thrive, to enrich people’s lives and cultivate a shared sense of community. My fund would help to deliver this by supporting: artists, writers, musicians and comedians with an easy access grant to support their creative careers.

**Festival of Teesside:**

 Rotating across our five boroughs, the Festival of Teesside would feature local culture creators and tradespersons over a weekend summer event. Local venues would be invited to host stages and exhibitions. Entry would be low-cost if not free, and local experts would be at the centre of the planning. And in 2025, we will have Tees Wide Railway Centenary celebration to rival no other.

People People People – Backing our people to get on

It is not the buildings and roads or even the coasts and countryside that make the Tees Valley special. It is the people.

We value hard work and we look out for each other. We believe that when people are given the opportunities to succeed, we’ll all benefit. And when people fall through the cracks, we all pay the price.

The Conservative approach through a decade of cuts to our vital services, has taken the lifelines away for many people, making it harder for young people to get a decent start in life and harder for many to get the skills they need to do what they want to do in life.

Our approach believes in the potential of the people of the Tees Valley and I will use the Mayoralty to create more opportunities for everyone to train, learn and get the support they need to get on.

**Get on Scheme:**

I will introduce a ‘Get on Scheme’ to empower people to reach their full potential through education, finance, training and business start-up support.

The ‘Get on Scheme’ I am proposing will:

Be a universal service to empower people who are in- and out-of-work to get the skills and support they need whether that’s starting a business, training to become a delivery driver or getting help with childcare so they can have time to develop their business.

The scheme will be run via a virtual platform accessible online, managed by the Combined Authority with access points in local libraries, high streets and community spaces.

It will provide both finance and support to people who want to get on.

**Vocations - Employment and Skills Support Hub**

I will lobby the UK Government to devolve full control over employment and skills spending to the Combined Authority in order to have a one stop shop for employment and skills support. This will enable us to:

Address existing and future skills gaps across key sectors of the local economy.

Develop new methods for delivering education, including online and on-the-job training.

Provide a one stop shop for employment and learning support and signposting, simplifying the complicated landscape

Provide flexible financial support for travel, learning equipment and other practical resources and training that enable someone to get on.

**Good Jobs Charter**

I will drive up the pay and conditions of those in work through a Good Jobs Charter. It will recognise those employers who exemplify good, socially responsible business, and provide support to others looking for Charter recognition.

Although the specifics of the Charter will be developed in partnership with employers, employees and trade unions, my aim for the Charter is to champion good workplace practices, good employers and good businesses.

The Charter will be part of my deal with employers. Those that have a socially responsible footprint in local communities will get all the help I can make available.

**Women to the Front**

As one of the UK’s first female Metro Mayors, I will be committed to ensuring women and girls achieve. I count myself as an ordinary Teesside lass but alongside a team of passionate and committed women, we have achieved extraordinary things. That’s why I want to inspire other women to achieve big things for themselves.

**My five priorities for women include:**

* ‘Get on Scheme’ for women: flexible funding and support scheme targeted at women to start a new business or take up a new vocation, particularly where there are skills gaps such as STEM. Financial support will be as simple and flexible as buying equipment and materials to paying for childcare.
* Launch Tees Valley ‘Level Up’ Campaign: promoting traditionally male jobs to women and working with local businesses to provide scholarships and incentives to women who chose these careers.
* Set up Tech Mums Teesside: a programme to encourage women to get into tech and upskill women into the digital workplace. We have a big skills gap in tech in the Tees Valley and many of these jobs would and could be filled by women who get the right training and support.
* Women in the Workplace: promote good working practices that help women fill their full potential in the workplace via the Good Work Charter which will encourage flexible working arrangements that support parents’ childcare responsibilities, fair pay policies that close the gender pay gap, and gender balance in senior roles and management boards
* A Women’s Assembly: set up an equalities board that scrutinises the work of the combined authority and shapes the economic strategy for the region, setting goals and targets for women’s levelling up and ensures we have a strategy of jobs for women.
* Our Carers, Our Heroes

During the Covid Crisis, many people went above and beyond, to stand with our communities during the crisis. Many were the unseen heroes such as the army of unpaid carers, the NHS, retail workers and the social care workers.

I want to celebrate and reward those heroes, giving them the recognition they deserve through:

A Mayor’s Awards celebration event to recognise their invaluable hard work.

Creation of the Local Heroes Card, a discount and rewards card for all key workers and unpaid carers.

My backing for carer-friendly policies through the Good Work Charter.

Working to achieve a £10 minimum wage for all key workers.

Giving carers (paid and unpaid) priority access to social housing and affordable homes schemes.

**Our Voice**

I will introduce ‘Our Voice’, a Tees Valley Citizen Assembly to hand control and power to local people.

I firmly believe that no one person has a monopoly on good ideas, and that better policies and programmes will emerge if we involve local people who know their area best.

In a bid to further democratise the Combined Authority and give more control to local communities in decision-making, I will establish – for the first time – an official Tees Valley Citizen Assembly. The Tees Valley Citizen Assembly will offer a platform for local people to put forward their views and ideas on how their community should be governed.

Places Places Places - A Tees Valley Where People Love to Live

Most of us love the place we are from, and I know this can be an amazing place to live and play. I want to see our high streets bustling and people flocking to our brilliant tourist attractions, holidaying on our coast, enjoying our countryside and taking in what the Tees Valley has to offer.

We must have a transport system that gets people to where they need to go. Affordable homes in Teesside’s high streets are the heart-beat of our town and communities. Some have survived the plague, civil war and the blitz and bounced back stronger. Now they face another huge challenge as they come to terms with a post-pandemic crisis that could leave them looking like ghost towns with rows and rows of empty shops.

We need shops but I want to see new life given to empty spaces, from boxing clubs, to knitting and natter cafes, from local producers to florists; ideas like this will bring new life to empty buildings.

We must focus on bringing in more vibrant, growing independent businesses and community ventures to take our town centres in a new direction, alongside opening up buildings for residential and leisure.

## Transport

Teesside needs a coherent transport system so people can get to work, to the shops and to leisure and cultural facilities quickly and cheaply. We need so much more than an airport and a few flights to Alicante. What will make the biggest difference to this area is a well-designed transport network with more buses, trains and cycle routes. This will also help us to reduce our region’s carbon emissions. It is a win-win-win: for people, for the economy and for the climate.

**That’s why public transport would be one of my big priorities as Mayor.**

**Tees Travel**

I will develop a joined up public transport strategy called Tees Travel to improve and increase the number of buses, cycle routes and rail journeys. Transport for people not profit.

* My priorities for a new Tees Valley service would be to introduce:
* Double the number of cycle routes and ensure they are linked to other transport hubs, with where necessary bike stores.
* A route map informed by the journeys local people need for work, study, leisure and their caring responsibilities. It will ensure no community is left disconnected.
* A simple, Universal Ticket that allows passengers to use the same ticket across different legs of their bus route.
* Affordable fares, potentially including price caps.
* A ‘Google Maps’ style intelligence to calculate your best public transport route, and real time information on bus, train and Metro locations so you’re not waiting at the stop wondering when the next one’s coming.
* Tees Travel will be managed on a commercial basis and will largely pay for itself. It will need some upfront investment, but it will be worth it. Better connecting people, businesses and tourists puts more money into the local economy.

## Housing

Our local councils have done a good job at building new homes. In the last three years, they have delivered twice as many homes as was expected of them by the UK Government. At the same time, we do not have enough good quality affordable homes to buy or rent.

The independent Northern Housing Consortium v have observed that “improvement and maintenance of stock in the private sector is one of the greatest challenges facing Tees Valley” due to “housing market failure, poor quality housing, fuel poverty, and the high incidence of empty homes”.

**Good Rent programme**

We must drive up standards of our rental housing stock. We have some brilliant landlords and social housing organisations in this region who provide good quality homes. Sadly, there are a small but prolific few who fail to provide decent homes or a decent service to their tenants, which is a disservice to those who do.

**This is why I will:**

* Support a Good Rent Portal, which the public will be able to use to find rented properties that have been awarded the Good Rent Certificate.
* Instigate a Good Rent Certificate, which will be awarded to individual properties that pass a series of quality standards checks.
* Immediately convene local authority housing leaders to develop a shared, coordinated joint response to the issues in the private rented sector.
* The Combined Authority will support local authorities to take action to enforce standards across the sector.
* Investigate a Tees-wide landlord licencing scheme to be rolled out across the Tees Valley to deal with rogue landlords.

**Low Carbon Homes**

I will take steps to bring down household energy bills to put pounds in people’s pockets and cut our region’s carbon footprint.

While my Tees Net-Zero Fund will aim to ensure that as much of our electricity as possible comes from renewable sources, we can also take steps now to reduce the demand for electricity in our homes.

This means:

Creating a housing strategy that ensures new homes will be built with low to zero carbon emissions and have less environmental impact than in the past.

Helping people to ‘switch and save’ by moving onto socially responsible, renewables-based energy tariffs.

Seeking devolution of the green homes grant scheme to enable people to insulate homes, replace boilers and deliver energy efficiency schemes.

Community, Social and Ethical Housing

I will look to repurpose land in and around town centres to spur on the development of accessible, low cost housing suitable for both individuals and families.

To do so, I’ll demand greater powers and funding from central government to deliver our local ambitions and ensure land developed through brownfield funding will be earmarked for developments of social, ethical and affordable builds.

I will create an investment fund for the purchasing of land and buildings for social, community and ethical housing.

## Love The High Street

Our high streets were once vibrant centres of activity in our five boroughs. While some much needed investment has been put into them, the spirit of our high street is not the same. We need to bring them into the twenty first century and give them the love they need.

Empty Spaces Innovation Fund: to help breathe life back into our town centres. Where I see vacant shop units, I see opportunities for local communities to create and own shared spaces for socially useful activities: boxing clubs, cafes and community hubs. And by increasing footfall, we will support the existing base of high street traders.

My High Street Empty Spaces Fund will fund socially useful and commercial activities on our high streets and in our town centres, making use of currently unoccupied buildings and spaces.

High Street Task Force: I will take other additional steps to empower communities to turn around their high streets such as a buildings register and creation of a High Street Task Force.

Love Your Neighbourhood

We don’t just need more houses, we need more sustainable communities and homes, where green space is designed in, along with active transport – walking and cycling – to local services and workplaces.

**Green Spaces**

Biodiversity must be a priority to any Mayor if they want to be part of the solution to the climate crisis. It will be my priority to improve green spaces that offer a home to the wildlife of our region and provide healthy outdoor community spaces for all to enjoy.

I also plan to work with environmental experts to earmark sites for reforestation with a vision to create a continuous Tees Forest habitat in the Tees Valley. This will not only provide valuable spaces for wildlife but also create uplifting walks for the community to enjoy.

**Neighbourhood Voice**

The community must have a strong say in the planning of new developments and the use of community spaces. We must address power balance between developers and communities to ensure we create homes and neighbourhoods not just housing estates and developments. I will support the development of community voice networks to give real power and voices to communities.

**Community Assets Fund:**

I will launch a fund and scheme to offer support to those looking to take on a community asset.

For many, a community asset is essential to community life. They include parks, libraries, cinemas and other cultural spaces, swimming pools, nurseries or pubs. They are often used for the well-being or social interest of the local community. Too many of them are being lost, either standing empty or being sold off to developers.

Love Hospitality

My aim for the Tees Valley is to have a vibrant hospitality and night-time offer, an industry that has been really hurt through the Covid-19 crisis.

There is no one single measure that will be right for all businesses, so being flexible to accommodate each business’s needs will be vital.

We will introduce a hospitality and night-time economy advisor whose role will include:

* Promoting and being a voice for the sector, whilst giving the sector a seat at the table and a voice within the combined authority.
* Managing a sector-led funding scheme for businesses to be more effective and profitable.
* Networking events for businesses to share tips and best practice.
* Pairing hospitality businesses with leading business figures from other sectors to provide mentoring and coaching support.

i. Eurostat, 2018. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/regions/data/database. Tees Valley and Durham Gross Domestic Product per capita (in Purchasing Power Standards): 20,900, compared to 186,900 for Inner London West (City of London, Westminster, Kensington, Camden, Wandsworth and Fulham).

ii. Eurostat, 2018. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/regions/data/database. Tees Valley and Durham Gross Domestic Product per capita (in Purchasing Power Standards) as a percentage of the EU average: 69%, compared to 70% in Makroregion Poludniowy (Poland); 70% in Poland as a whole; 70% in Tekirdag (Turkey); and 70% in Bursa Eskişehir (Turkey).

iii. NOMIS, 2019. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/1925185563/subreports/ea\_compared/report.aspx?allInGB=&pivot=2&&sort=2&ascending=

iv. NOMIS, 2019. Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/1925185563/subreports/ea\_compared/report.aspx?allInGB=&pivot=2&&sort=2&ascending=

v. Northern Housing Consortium, 2019. Available at: https://www.northern-consortium.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Tees-valley-report-24.01.19-combined.pdf