



Kirklees Council
Early Engagement Questionnaire Analysis

April 2014

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kirklees Local Plan early engagement period was held between the 7th April and 30th May 2014. The Early Engagement Period provided the opportunity for people send in their view about what should be in the Local Plan, feeding into its vision and strategic objectives.
- 1.2 As part of this process a questionnaire was sent to over 6,000 people on the Local Plan contact list either by post or email informing them of the Council's intention to produce a Local Plan and asking for their views. Adverts were placed in the local press about the early engagement period along with being publicised on the Council's Twitter page. The questionnaire was also available to download or print from the Kirklees Local Plan website, and copies were available to take away in the following locations:

Civic Centre 3 Reception (side entrance), Huddersfield (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)	Heckmondwike Library and Information Centre
Batley Town Hall	Holmfirth Library and Information Centre
Batley Library	Marsden Library and Information Centre
Birstall Library and Information Centre	Meltham Library and Information Centre
Cleckheaton Town Hall	Mirfield Library and Information Centre
Dewsbury Town Hall	Skelmanthorpe Library and Information Centre
Dewsbury Library	

- 1.3 The early engagement questionnaire (Appendix 1) was broken down into four topic areas for people to submit their comments. The first three being; Economic, Social and Environmental, based on the central themes of the National Planning Policy Framework. The fourth theme provided the opportunity for people to identify further topic areas or issues to be included in the Local Plan.

2. Responses and Analysis

- 2.1 The responses to the early engagement period included 263 questionnaires and 25 responses not using the questionnaire. The 288 responses were received from; individuals, local groups and organisations, developers, planning consultants and other organisations.
- 2.2 The comments in the responses have been placed into topic areas so they can be considered and fed into the vision and strategic objectives of the Local Plan. Table 1 lists the different topic areas ordered by the number of comments received.

Table 1: Early Engagement Response Table

Position	Topic Area	No of Resp.
1	<i>Protect the green belt</i>	168
2	<i>Infrastructure: roads / traffic</i>	159
3	<i>Infrastructure: schools / education facilities</i>	110
4	<i>Use brownfield before greenfield</i>	107
5	<i>Protect / enhance: environment / biodiversity / wildlife</i>	81
=6	<i>Infrastructure: doctors / health facilities</i>	57
=6	<i>Infrastructure: green infrastructure / open spaces / sports facilities / cycling</i>	57
7	<i>Consider / protect: heritage / local character</i>	47
8	<i>Infrastructure: community services / culture & leisure facilities</i>	38
9	<i>Support local economy / employment</i>	36
=10	<i>Consider flood risk / drainage</i>	30
=10	<i>Reuse empty buildings</i>	30
11	<i>Promote town centres / regeneration</i>	28
12	<i>Promote health & well being</i>	27
=13	<i>Consider infrastructure: general</i>	25
=13	<i>Consider low carbon agenda / climate change</i>	25
=14	<i>Infrastructure: public transport / rail / busses</i>	23
=14	<i>Meet objectively assessed needs for growth</i>	23
=15	<i>Consider cross boundary impacts / duty to cooperate</i>	22
=15	<i>Promote / protect: farming / agricultural land</i>	22
16	<i>Infrastructure: public rights of way / footpaths</i>	20
=17	<i>Provide affordable housing</i>	18
=17	<i>Consider landscape impact</i>	18
18	<i>Promote high quality design</i>	17
19	<i>Provide more housing</i>	16
20	<i>Conduct green belt review / change boundary</i>	15
21	<i>Promote tourism</i>	13
21	<i>Promote rural areas / rural economy</i>	13
22	<i>Promote sustainable development</i>	12
=23	<i>Provide housing mix</i>	11
=23	<i>Promote renewable energy</i>	11

24	<i>Provide housing for older people / accessible homes</i>	10
25	<i>Provide housing for young people</i>	8
26	<i>Consider financial benefits of growth / developer contributions</i>	7
27	<i>Consider negative impacts of wind turbines</i>	6
=28	<i>Consider viability / deliverability of development</i>	5
=28	<i>Safeguard areas for mineral extraction</i>	5
=29	<i>Improve broadband / rural broadband</i>	3
=29	<i>Conduct sustainability appraisal</i>	3

- 2.3 Table 2 lists the same topic areas ordered by the number of comments received and allocates them to one of four topic areas based around the main themes of the questionnaire. It is recognised that there is a degree of discretion in this analysis, as some topic areas could fit into a number of themes. There has been a judgement made around the definition of the different themes in the National Planning Policy Framework. This analysis will not prevent the different topic areas being considered more holistically to feed into the vision and strategic objectives of the Local Plan.

Table 2: Early Engagement Response Themes Table

Position	Themes			
	Economic	Social	Environmental	Other
1			Protect the green belt	
2	Infrastructure: roads / traffic			
3		Infrastructure: schools / education facilities		
4			Use brownfield before greenfield	
5			Protect / enhance: environment / biodiversity / wildlife	
=6		Infrastructure: doctors / health facilities		
=6			Infrastructure: green infrastructure / open spaces / sports facilities / cycling	
7			Consider / protect: heritage / local character	
8		Infrastructure: community services / culture & leisure facilities		
9	Support local economy / employment			
=10			Consider flood risk / drainage	
=10		Reuse empty buildings		
11	Promote town centres / regeneration			
12		Promote health & well being		
=13		Consider infrastructure: general		
=13			Consider low carbon agenda / climate change	
=14		Infrastructure: public transport / rail / busses		
=14		Meet objectively assessed needs for growth		
=15				Consider cross boundary impacts / duty to cooperate
=15			Promote / protect: farming / agricultural land	
16			Infrastructure: public rights of way / footpaths	
=17		Provide affordable housing		
=17			Consider landscape impact	
18		Promote high quality design		
19		Provide more housing		
20				Conduct green belt review / change boundary
=21	Promote tourism			
=21	Promote rural areas / economy			

22			Promote sustainable development	
=23		Provide housing mix		
=23			Promote renewable energy	
24		Provide housing for older people / accessible homes		
25		Provide housing for young people		
26	Consider financial benefits of growth / developer contributions			
27			Consider negative impacts of wind turbines	
=28	Consider viability / deliverability of development			
=28	Safeguard areas for mineral extraction			
=29	Improve broadband / rural broadband			
=29				Conduct sustainability appraisal

3. Next steps

- 3.1 The early engagement responses highlighted in this report are being considered alongside the feedback from the early engagement workshop and other Council priorities including those within the Economic Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This information will then be used to draft the Local Plan's vision and strategic objectives.