



Planning Services

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Local Development Framework Core Strategy

Consultation April 2008

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1. Purpose of the Document

This document is the scoping report for the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Kirklees Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. The scoping report is the first stage of the SA process and is prepared for consultation with the four designated consultation bodies¹ and other parties who may be interested in sustainable development in Kirklees.

The scoping report has been prepared by a corporate working group, consisting of representatives from a variety of services, at Kirklees Metropolitan Council. Central government has published a guide to undertaking SA for Local Development Frameworks² and a practical guide for undertaking SEA³. Both have been considered in the preparation of this report.

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to:

- Identify environmental, social and economic objectives, targets, requirements and indicators contained in other relevant plans and programmes
- Provide baseline information on environmental, social and economic characteristics within Kirklees
- Consider key sustainability issues within Kirklees
- Set out an appropriate framework for the Sustainability Appraisal including objectives and indicators
- Indicate potential LDF Objectives

¹ Natural England, English Heritage, Environment Agency

² Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies & Local Development Documents (ODPM, November 2005)

³ Practical Guide to the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive (ODPM, September 2005)

2. Introduction

2.1 Local Development Framework

The LDF will replace the current statutory development plan for the area the Kirklees Unitary Development Plan. The LDF will primarily consist of Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). However there are three further documents which are incorporated in the process, the Local Development Scheme, setting out the project plan, the Statement of Community Involvement and the Annual Monitoring Report (figure 1).

A key requirement of the LDF is that it should deliver sustainable development. Both DPDs and SPDs are subject to SA in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Strategic Environmental Assessment under the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC.

The first DPD which the council will produce is a core strategy which provides a spatial vision for the area supported by a number of policies. This will be followed by a number of other DPDs and SPDs on issues such as Development & Open Space and Design and Conservation. Full details of the different parts of the LDF can be found in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) available on the council's website www.kirklees.gov.uk/planning

The core strategy will provide:

- a spatial vision for Kirklees and strategic objectives for realising the vision.
- a development strategy for the period until 2026 to provide the context for:
 - designating areas where particular policies will apply, either encouraging development to meet economic or social objectives or constraining development in the interests of environmental protection
 - allocating sites for specific uses (e.g. for housing) which will help to realise the spatial vision.
 - (Designations and allocations will be set out in subsequent LDF documents.)
- core policies to provide the context for more detailed policies and guidance to be included in other LDF documents. The core policies will support the implementation of the development strategy, some relating to designated areas and others applicable generally. They will broadly cover:
 - protection of local character and distinctiveness
 - location of development (setting out the factors which will determine appropriate locations for proposed development)

- major land uses – housing, business, commercial and community services, open space uses, minerals and waste
- transport
- efficient use of land and mixed use
- design and access
- environmental protection – flooding, noise, air quality, visual intrusion
- biodiversity
- energy conservation/renewable energy
- provision of developer contributions to secure necessary infrastructure improvements, e.g. in transport, education, open space
- The core strategy must also incorporate a monitoring and implementation framework showing how development and change will be measured and assessed against targets set.

2.2 Update on the Core Strategy

In early summer of 2006 the Council undertook a programme of consultation on the preferred options stage of the Core Strategy. After an assessment of this consultation in relation to subsequent advice published by the Planning Inspectorate on process and content standards in relation to meeting the “tests of soundness” it was concluded that there was a risk that the exercise was deficient and so could not be considered sound. It was therefore decided to classify the 2006 consultation exercise as being part of the issues and options process which precedes the preferred options stage (see LDS for more information⁴). The result is that this Scoping Report is being undertaken on the revised document of the new preferred options report.

⁴ Kirklees Local Development Scheme operational 24 September 2007

Figure1: LDF components



2.3 Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a term that has been commonly used since the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Its aim is to balance economic progress with social and environmental needs. A widely used definition was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”⁵

Sustainable development means meeting the four objectives at the same time, in the UK and the world as a whole:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- The prudent use of natural resources; and
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

These aims have been further refined in the UK Governments strategy for sustainable development - *Securing the Future*⁶ where a number of shared principles are described:

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly

2.4 What is Strategic Environmental Assessment?

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement for certain plans and programmes⁷ which was introduced by a European Directive⁸ in 2001. As its name suggests it is more focused on the environmental impacts of the plan (although it does also take account of economic and social impacts). The overall aim of the Directive is to: *“provide high-level protection of the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes”*.

SEA has a strategic focus and aims to anticipate the likely significant environmental effects (including cumulative environmental affects) of implementing a plan and its reasonable alternatives with a view to avoiding, reducing or offsetting any negative impacts.

2.5 What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Assessment (SA) is a requirement under Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and is required for Regional Spatial Strategies, Local Development Framework and Supplementary Planning Documents. It can be broadly defined as:

⁵ Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, ODPM, 2005.

⁶ Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy , March 2005

⁷ Defined under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

⁸ European Directive 2001/42/EC

“the formal, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental, social and economic effects of a policy, plan or programme or its alternatives, including the preparation of a written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision-making⁹”.

The process involves assessing the plan’s relationship with a defined set of sustainable development objectives. Economic, social and environmental needs are sometimes conflicting. The process of sustainability appraisal provides a mechanism to balance all these issues and identify how improvements or compromises can be made to agree on the most sustainable outcome.

When decision-makers need to make trade-offs between social, environmental and economic concerns the process of sustainability appraisal provides an evidence-based mechanism for this to be undertaken in a transparent and accountable manner. SA extends the concept of SEA to fully encompass economic and social concerns.

There are large areas of overlap with SEA but the focus is more on sustainability of all factors and not just the environment. More recently SA has become a requirement set by external funding providers. For example, organisations such as Yorkshire Forward are increasingly stipulating SA as a requirement for regeneration programme funding.

SA is potentially a hugely beneficial process - consequently there will be occasions where it is agreed corporately that there is merit in carrying out an assessment as part of plan or programme development, even though there is no legal or other requirement for the Council to do so. For example the Council’s Environment Policy states that we will “conduct sustainability appraisals on significant new policies and projects.”

2.6 Kirklees’ Approach to Sustainability Appraisal

The Government’s approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process which considers economic and social as well as environmental effects. In Kirklees a single corporate framework has been developed that combines SA and SEA into one overall appraisal method (referred to as “SA” for simplicity in the rest of this document). The following general principles have informed the development of this framework:

- The process should be used as a positive opportunity to properly address sustainable development and environmental issues during the plans making process, not as a ‘tick box exercise’ to meet external or legal requirements.

⁹ Adapted from a definition of ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment’ in *Strategic Environmental Assessment*, Therivel and others, Earthscan (1992)

- The framework should be flexible and adaptable so that it can be applied appropriately to the scale and specific requirements of the issue under consideration.
- There should be a corporate screening process to agree whether SA is required for new plans, programmes or strategies (or in some cases revisions to existing ones).
- The appraisal process outcomes for the plans, programmes or strategies should be monitored.
- The appraisal should be carried out from the outset of the plan making process.
- The appraisal process should be supported by access to a common evidence base of data.
- There should be a corporate role and approach to scoping assessments and carrying out appraisals.
- The appraisal process should be consistent with the Council's research and consultation standards.

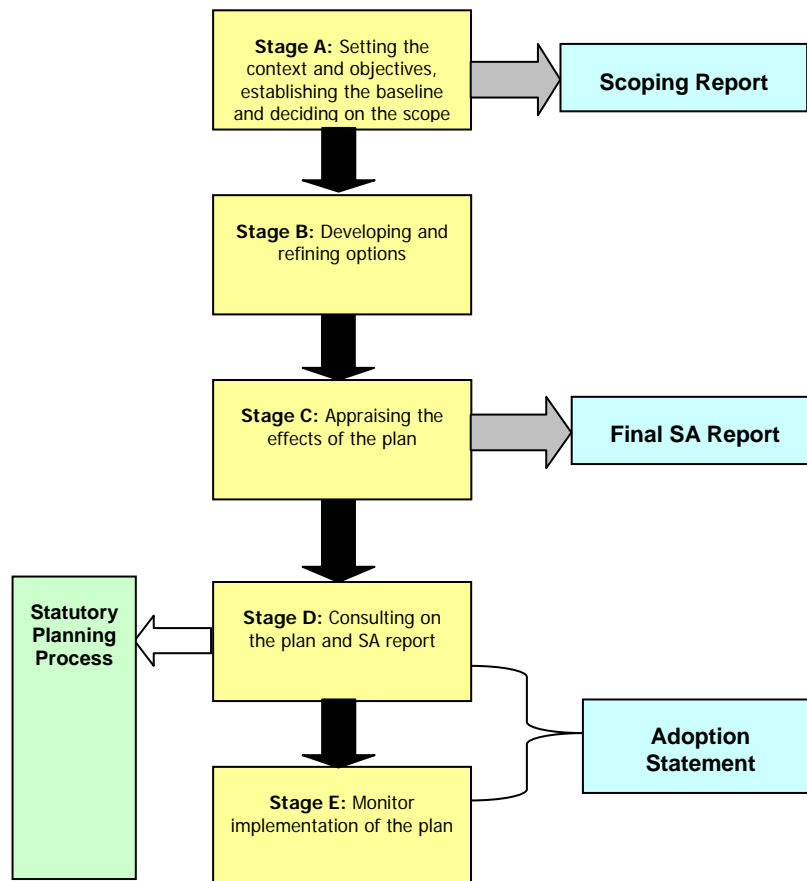
SA is an iterative, ongoing process, which seeks to improve the sustainability performance of the plan or programme and is an integral part of the plan-making process. Starting the appraisal early in the plan-making process means it can contribute to the ongoing refinement of the developing plan or programme.

2.7 Sustainability Appraisal Stages

The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. SA has to be an integral part of plan making and should not be seen as separate activity. For SA to be effective it:

- should be an important element of every stage of the plan preparation process;
- is required to be iterative, thereby contributing to the ongoing refinement of the developing plan or programme;
- needs to be subject to public or stakeholder consultation at key stages in the plan preparation process, with the response to consultation then used to inform the next stage of plan preparation;
- should make it clear why policy and proposal options have been chosen
- should reflect global, national, regional and local concerns.

SA involves five stages and the preparation of two key reports. Figure 2 highlights how the process will work.

Figure 2: The Approach to SA and the key reports required

This scoping report refers to Stage A only. This stage can be expanded into six steps, which are highlighted within government guidance. These steps are reflected in the remainder of this document.

Figure 3: Steps of Stage A

- **A1:** Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives
- **A2:** Collecting baseline information
- **A3:** Identifying sustainability issues
- **A4:** Developing the SA framework
- **A5:** Testing the plan objectives against the SA Framework
- **A6:** Consulting on the scope of the SA

3. Stage A1 – Context

3.1 Introduction

The LDF is set within the context of other policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives (PPPSIs). These PPPSIs may influence the content of the LDF and vice-versa. It is therefore important that the relationships between the PPPSIs and LDF are identified so that potential inconsistencies and constraints can be addressed.

3.2 Review of PPPSIs

A wide range of PPPSIs were reviewed as part of this process. The purpose of this review was to:

- Identify social, environmental or economic objectives that should be reflected in the LDF;
- Identify any factors that might influence the preparation of the LDF;
- Consider whether the policies in other plans or programmes might lead to cumulative effects when combined with the strategies and proposals of the LDF; and
- Highlight any incompatibilities between PPPSIs.

To ensure the review was conducted in a coherent and systematic manner each PPPSI was reviewed using a standard pro-forma, see figure 4. The completed pro-formas for each relevant PPPSI indicated in table 1.

When collating the PPPSIs to be assessed it is important to note that;

- The context will be dynamic because other relevant PPPSIs will emerge which will need consideration through the assessment process.
- PPPSIs are usually located in a hierarchy ranging from international to local level.
- Whilst the list of PPPSIs is extensive it is not, and never can be, fully exhaustive. The context review seeks to identify those PPPSIs which are key to the LDF process.

Table 1: PPPSIs Reviewed

| Plans Programmes Policies Strategies and Initiatives |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EUROPEAN UNION |
| European Sustainable Development Strategy (Renewed 2006) |
| European Spatial Development Perspective (May 1999) |
| European Biodiversity Strategy (Feb 1998) |
| European Birds Directive (1979) |
| Taking sustainable use of resources forward: A Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (2005) |
| European Water Framework Directive (Dec 2000) |
| European Nitrates Directive |
| European Habitats Directive |
| European Air Quality Directive (Sep 1996) |
| European Sixth Environmental Action Programme (Jan 2001) |
| NATIONAL |
| Securing the Future -The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) |
| Making Space for Water (March 2005) |
| Sustainable Communities – Building the Future (Feb 2003) |
| Sustainable Communities – Homes for All (Jan 2005) |
| Sustainable Communities – People, Places and Prosperity (Jan 2005) |
| National Road Safety Strategy- Tomorrows Roads Safer for Everyone (March 2000) |
| A New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal: National Strategy Action Plan (Jan 2001) |
| Working with the Grain of Nature: Biodiversity Strategy for England (Oct 2002) |
| Urban White Paper: Our towns and cities – the future (2000) |
| Walking and Cycling Action Plan (July 2004) |
| DTLR Circular 04/2001, Control Of Development Affecting Trunk Roads and Agreements with Developer’s Under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 (2001) |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White Paper: Planning for a Sustainable Future (May 2007) | |
| Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable – Housing Green Paper (July 2007) | |
| Draft Climate Change Bill (March 2007) | |
| Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (March 2007) | |
| PLANNING POLICY | |
| PPS1 | Delivering Sustainable Development (Feb 2005) |
| PPS 1 | Supplement: Planning and Climate Change (Dec 2007) |
| PPG2 | Green Belt (1999) |
| PPS3 | Housing (Nov 2006) |
| PPG4 | Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992) |
| PPS6 | Planning for Town Centres (May 2005) |
| PPS7 | Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) |
| PPG8 | Telecommunications (August 2001) |
| PPS9 | Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (Aug 2005) |
| PPS10 | Planning and Sustainable Waste Management (July 2005) |
| PPS11 | Regional Spatial Strategies (2004) |
| PPS12 | Local Development Frameworks - including the companion guide (2004) |
| PPG13 | Transport (2001) |
| PPG14 | Development on unstable land (1990) |
| PPG15 | Planning and the historic environment (1994) |
| PPG16 | Archaeology and Planning (1990) |
| PPG17 | Planning for open space, sport and recreation - including the companion guide (1991 & 2002) |
| PPS22 | Renewable energy - including the companion guide |
| PPS23 | Planning and Pollution Control (2004) |
| PPG24 | Planning and noise (1994) |
| PPS25 | Development and Flood risk (Dec 2006) |
| REGIONAL | |

| |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regional Spatial Strategy: The Yorkshire and Humber Plan (Draft for Public Consultation, 2005) |
| The Yorkshire and Humber Plan: The draft revised Regional Spatial Strategy incorporating the Secretary of States proposed changes for public consultation 2007 |
| Regional Sustainable Development Framework-update 2003-2005 |
| Regional Housing Strategy (Adopted 2003) |
| Regional Housing Strategy 2005 – 2021 (May 2005) |
| Regional Economic Strategy (2002) |
| Regional Waste Strategy (2003) |
| Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2005) |
| Creating Sustainable Communities in Yorkshire and Humber (Feb 2004) |
| Northern Way Growth Strategy (2004) |
| Advancing Together – Towards a Sustainable Region (2003) |
| Regional Environmental Enhancement Strategy (Sep 2003) |
| Regional Cultural Strategy (2001-2010) |
| Regional Framework for Health (2004) |
| Regional Forestry Framework (2005) |
| Climate Change: Action Plan for Yorkshire and the Humber (2005) |
| Rural Evidence Base (Yorkshire and Humber) (2006) |
| WEST YORKSHIRE |
| West Yorkshire Provisional Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11 |
| West Yorkshire Housing Market Renewal Strategy |
| Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2005) |
| Leeds City Region Development Plan (Nov 2006) |
| LOCAL AUTHORITY |
| Community Strategy 2006-2008: Vision of a Future Kirklees |
| Kirklees Vision 2012: A Blueprint for Our Future (2002) |
| Kirklees Council Vision (2003) |
| Kirklees Transport Vision 2025 (2005) |
| KMC Visitor Strategy (2004) |

| |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KMC Housing Strategy (2004) |
| Kirklees Unitary Development Plan (1999) |
| Draft Kirklees Countryside recreation Strategy |
| Kirklees Partnership (LSP) Vision |
| Kirklees Prospectus for Investment (May 2006) |
| Kirklees Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (March 2003) |
| Kirklees Biodiversity Action Plan (March 2002) |
| Kirklees Energy Strategy – 2005-2020 |
| Kirklees Environment Statement (Dec 2004) |
| Countryside/Recreation Strategy |
| Kirklees 2025 Environment Vision (2006) |
| Kirklees Local Area Agreement (2006) |
| Kirklees Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation (June 2006) |
| Kirklees Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2005/06 |
| Kirklees Council Performance Plan 2007/08 |

Figure 4: PPPSI Standard Pro-Forma

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Document Name : | |
| Date Of Publication | |
| Level: | INTERNATIONAL / NATIONAL / REGIONAL / LOCAL |
| Status : | STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY |
| Brief Overview: | |
| Relevance to / Implications for LDF: | |
| Specific Targets / Requirements / Indicators: | |
| Environmental Protection Objectives: (If international/EU/national): | |
| Conflicts between objectives/requirements: | |

3.3 Key Effects Identified

The review of the PPPSIs highlighted a number of key social, environmental and economic issues. These issues have been considered against what the Core Strategy could deliver. The key effects which have a direct influence on the preparation of the Core Strategy are noted in Table 2.

Table 2: Key Effects Identified from PPPSI Review

| Key Issues from PPPSIs |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Economic Issues |
| Supporting a variety of employment opportunities and encouraging business growth and innovation. |
| Social Issues |
| Promote vibrant communities with good accessibility to services and employment. |
| Promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe & crime free. |
| Providing a mixture of housing types providing affordable housing where required. |
| Environmental Issues |
| Reduce resource use through reducing waste, promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies. |
| Mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and taking account of the effects such as flooding through the location of development. |
| Providing a choice of transport modes to access key services and facilities with a focus on reducing traffic congestion. |
| Bring forward sufficient and suitable land in appropriate locations to meet needs |
| The need to protect and enhance designated sites (natural and built heritage). |

4. Stage A2 – Baseline Information

4.1 Introduction

The collection of baseline information is a key element of the SA process and a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. The collection of baseline information enables key sustainability issues to be highlighted and provides a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of plans and strategies.

The aim of collecting baseline information is to assemble sufficient data on the current and future state of the area so that the effects of the LDF can be adequately predicted and monitored. To ensure this occurs each of the SA objectives (see appendix 1) is supported by comprehensive baseline information.

The collection of baseline data could continue indefinitely and therefore its content must be based on pragmatism and practicality. In collecting baseline data, 'gaps' in data coverage are also inevitably encountered. The guidance suggests that where baseline information is unavailable or unsatisfactory, councils should consider how they could improve it for use in the assessment of future plans.

Because of the above issues the baseline information will be in a continued state of flux as there will be opportunities for the data to be updated throughout the appraisal process as new issues emerge. The council will reconsider the baseline information at regular intervals to ensure it remains up to date and reacts to emerging issues.

4.2 Indicators

To gain a full description of the authority, indicators need to be collected and monitored over time in order to reveal trends. There should be enough data collected per indicator to enable the trends to be determined, their direction in relation to getting better or worse, how far the current situation is from established or predicted target, and whether any identified problems are reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary.

A new single set of 198 national indicators for English local authorities and local authority partnerships which are part of the new performance framework for local government will be confirmed in March 2008. As from the 1st April 2008, the indicators will be monitored by the local authority and performance against each of the indicators will be published annually by the Audit Commission. The indicators that will be used to monitor the sustainability appraisal objectives will be chosen from the new single set of national indicators and will be based upon the relevance of the data to the measurement of the defined objective.

Where considered appropriate and necessary additional indicators will be used.

4.3 Picture of Kirklees

To gain a preliminary picture of the sustainability issues within Kirklees a number of key areas have been examined. (see Appendix 2 for data sources.) These are set out below.

4.3.1 Administrative context

Kirklees Council covers an area of 40,860 hectares and is set on the western edge of the Yorkshire and Humber Region. The authority is diverse comprising of urban conurbations in the north and west, containing the majority of the population, and large areas of green belt within the south, parts of the authority are also within the Peak District National Park. Kirklees contains 126 settlements divided into 23 wards, with 59 designated conservation areas.

The road and rail network provides good links to the surrounding cities of Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield, with wider reaching connections provided via the M62 and the M1.

Figure 5: Location of Kirklees and surrounding area.



4.3.2 Population¹

The resident population of the Kirklees in the 2001 census was 388,567 people, of which 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female. This compared with a resident population in Yorkshire and the

Humber of 4,964,833 people, of whom 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female. In the twenty years between 1982 and 2002 the population of Kirklees grew by 3.2%, compared with an increase of 1.5% for Yorkshire and Humber region. It is predicted there will be population growth of 6.3% from 2006 to 2017 resulting in a population of 423,200. During this period the percentage split between age groups will see a slight reduction the population aged 15 to 44 with a slight increase in population numbers aged 45 to 75+.

The 2001 average age of the Kirklees population was 37.6 years. This compared to an England and Wales average of 38.6 years. In mid-2003, 17.1% of the resident population in Kirklees were of retirement age (65 and over for males or 60 and over for females) compared with 18.5 per cent in England and Wales.

Kirklees has a population density of 9.5 persons per hectare. This has increased from the 1991 Census (9.1 persons per hectare). Overall the population density of Kirklees is higher than the England and Wales average (3.4 persons per hectare) and below the West Yorkshire average (10.2 persons per hectare).

As at 2004, it is estimated that 85% of the Kirklees population are white with black and minority ethnic (BME) communities accounting for approximately 14% of the population.

4.3.3 Housing²

Regional Planning Guidance identifies a target of 1310 housing completions per annum for the Kirklees district. Housing completions over the district have averaged 1297 from April 2001 to Mar 2007. Completions between 2007 and 2016 will need to average 1364 per annum to achieve the regional requirement.

Kirklees has experienced dramatic increases in house prices during the last five years, the average of £140,692 as reported by the land registry in September 2007 is above the £138,705 for West Yorkshire, however, it remains below the average of £148,350 for the Yorkshire and Humber region.

There is an identified need for affordable housing provision within the District. This is because average earnings are lower than the national and regional average. The main identified needs are for households on low incomes requiring social rented housing and for provision within rural communities where house prices are highest.

The 2006 Local Housing Assessment reveals an annual shortfall of 1,473 in the number of affordable homes needed within Kirklees.

The housing stock requires widespread investment. There are 7,684 unfit properties and 7,800 homes in poor repair in the private sector.

The Council stock requires £262 million over the next 5 years to achieve a decent standard.

4.3.4 Employment & Economic Activity³

The number of economically active Kirklees residents has risen by 3000 since the last census in 1991 to 184,500. This is a rise of almost 2%. However, the population aged 16 to 74 has risen by almost 3.3% to 277,600, leading to a reduction in the percentage of economically active residents from 67.5% in 1991 to 66.5% in 2001. The 2001 figure for Kirklees is above that of the region and on a par with the figure for England and Wales.

However there are clear gender differences. The number of economically active men has fallen since the last census, from 103,900 to 101,100 in 2001, 78.7% to 74.1%, but this is still above the England and Wales average. The number of economically active women has increased from 77,500 in 1991 to 83,400. This equates to a current economic activity rate of 59.1%, an increase of 2.5% on 1991 but still below the England and Wales rate of 59.5%.

Explanations for the falling numbers of economically active men include increased early retirement, higher levels of long-term sickness and disability and decline in the number of manufacturing jobs. It has been suggested that the increase in economically active women is due to the decreased likelihood of women staying at home for long periods looking after children.

The Kirklees economic development bulletin, June 2007 highlights an increase of 7.7% in jobs in the district between 1998 and 2005. The level of increase in the number of jobs was lower than in Yorkshire and Humberside and Great Britain. Part of the reason may be the industry mix of Kirklees. Employment in Kirklees is significantly more dependent than most on an insecure manufacturing sector than other areas of Great Britain. Between 1998 and 2005, the district suffered a net loss of 10,750 jobs in manufacturing (25% of the sector's workforce). As at 2005, approximately 21% of the district's workforce works in the sector, well above the 14% at regional level and 11% at national level. Off setting this decline, the district's service sector grew by 21,350 more jobs over the same period.

The unemployment rate in Kirklees has increased from 2.0% to 2.5% during the period June 2005 to June 2007. It remains lower than the regional figure of 2.6% but is higher than the rate for Great Britain at 2.3%.

4.3.5 Education, Skills and Training⁴

In the academic year 2005/2006, 52.8% of all 15 year old pupils attained at least 5 GCSEs graded A* to C, this compares with a national figure of 58.5%. Whilst the figure for the district is lower than

the national figure there have been improvements made in the last five years. Younger pupils have also made improvements in key stage three assessments and are on a par with the region.

2001 statistics highlight the proportion of adults who have attained qualification levels equivalent to NVQ level 4 is slightly above the regional average but poorer than the national average. Kirklees has a slightly lower percentage of people aged 16 – 74 with no qualifications (32.88%) than the Yorkshire & Humber region (33.15%) but is above the 28.85% recorded for England.

4.3.6 Environment, Biodiversity and Natural Resources⁵

The landscape of the District is distinctive and ranges in the West from the high wind swept moors of the South Pennines, through the central plateau that dips down towards the east and which is incised by river valleys to produce characteristic steep gritstone edges, whilst to the north the land is described by a large number of individual settlements separated by tracts of agricultural pasture lands. Despite a population of approximately 400,000 people there is little coalescence of settlements primarily due to the physical landscape.

The south western parts of District's upper moorland form 10% of the Peak District National Park with much of the remainder being within the much larger South Pennine Heritage Area. Furthermore these moorlands provide a range of habitats and contain a number of species that have ecological significance of European importance and form part of the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation and the Special Protection Area.

In addition to the Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area, the District contains 5 further Sites of Special Scientific Interest (4872.5 ha) and 22 Sites of Scientific Interest (577.3 ha) these are County-wide ecologically important sites. In addition there are 45 Sites of Wildlife Significance (410 ha) and 84 Biodiversity Action Plan sites (679.6 ha) The Council has itself designated 9 Local Nature Reserves, the majority of which are within or very close to settlements within the District.

Compared to the national average of 12% Kirklees has about 6% of its land area devoted to tree cover. Most of these tend to be to the south of Huddersfield Town Centre stretching out through the Holme and Dearne Valleys.

Most agricultural activity within the District relates to cattle and sheep rearing with some milk production and intensive poultry rearing. There is no significant arable production. As a result the agricultural landscape is one of intensive grassland within fields that contain few natural field boundaries. It is a deteriorating landscape particularly around the edges of most of the settlements. Farm buildings are being converted into dwellings, horse grazing is increasing, and management

is declining with some fields just being abandoned as agricultural incomes continue to decline.

The historic association with coal mining particularly in the eastern parts of the District has left few relics of association. The only mineral activities are four clay and shale quarries, two small sand and gravel quarries in the Calder Valley near to Mirfield and Dewsbury and two large and seven small or medium sized stone quarries. One of the larger stone quarries has a national reputation for dimension building stone and flags. The extent of stone extraction was historically much more extensive as is evident by the wide distribution of now abandoned quarries most of which are overgrown.

Currently, the council is responsible for 240,000 tons of waste each year of which 75% is household rubbish. The Government recycling target for the authority is to recycle or compost at least 21% of household waste by 2007/08. In 2005/06, approximately 16% of household waste was recycled and 5% composted. The majority of the non-recycled material is disposed by incineration with a heat to power plant incorporated into the system. The council landfilled 35% of its municipal waste in 2005/06. Most landfilled, municipal waste is exported out of Kirklees.

As of 2005, approximately 90% of Kirklees residents have access to the green bin scheme with mixed dry recyclables being collected from the kerbside on a monthly basis. The Council currently provides a kerbside collection of glass to approximately 45,000 households on a monthly / 4-weekly cycle. There is an ongoing publicity campaign to increase awareness of the need to reduce household waste and increase recycling which incorporates environmental education in schools.

4.3.7 Climate Change and Energy Efficiency⁶

Climate change is a serious and vital local, national and international issue that the Council is already committed to taking action on through the Friends of the Earth Climate Resolution and Corporate Commitment. The council recognises that Climate Change will impact upon the citizens and businesses of Kirklees and the Council is taking action to address this through implementing various measures. Government targets place requirements upon the Council to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The energy white paper set out a 60% reduction in emissions by 2050. The key objectives of the Council's 2025 Environment Vision are to, reduce greenhouse gases, raise the environmental standards of buildings and develop a green network. This includes reducing carbon dioxide emissions by greater than 30% by 2020 from a 2005 baseline. The 2005 DEFRA baseline figures for district emissions are domestic 988 kt CO², industrial and commerce 1249 kt CO² and transport 585 kt CO² (total 2821 kt CO²)

Over the last 17 years Kirklees Council has undertaken many actions to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from its own buildings and those in the district, while also carrying out measures to tackle fuel poverty. There is considerable potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improvements in the energy efficiency of housing stock. During the 1990's Kirklees identified that affordable warmth was one of the primary objectives of its tenants, and with limited resources funded an Energy Unit to develop policies and target investment to reduce the effects of climate change and fuel poverty within the domestic sector.

To continue the work and embed the message of the need to provide thermal comfort and alleviate fuel poverty, Kirklees Council have embarked on a coordinated approach to address the problems of cold damp homes. In partnership with the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre, Kirklees Council has undertaken schemes such as Keep Warm and Warm Homes Kirklees to improve energy efficiency in homes. During 2005/06, 3,998 households received energy efficiency improvements. During the period 2007 to 2009, a warm zone initiative is being implemented which will contact all homes in district to offer energy efficiency advice, low cost improvements and grant aided measures alongside other services such as benefit entitlement checks.

All council buildings use renewable energy supplied via the national grid and since 1990, a 30% reduction on carbon dioxide emissions has been achieved. The council is currently working towards reducing emissions by a further 30% by 2020. All the energy used for powering street lights and signs is provided by 100% combined heat and power (CHP).

The increased use of renewable technologies for energy production is actively supported by Kirklees Council. However, it is recognised the use of such technologies can have an impact upon our landscape and biodiversity. Wind technology in particular is often subject to criticisms related to the siting of turbines. The renewable installations that have taken place within our district have been at the domestic or small scale. These can be sensitively designed and located to fit in with the landscape and vernacular architecture of our district. The Council and a private developer have worked together to install Photovoltaics (PVs) at the grade II listed Titanic Mill in Linthwaite, Huddersfield. A number of renewable energy projects have been completed in 2006 including the installation of 2 6kW wind turbines, 48 m² solar thermal panels and 220 solar electricity panels on the council's Civic III building, two 15 Kw wind turbines at the Deighton Centre and the installation of solar electricity panels and solar thermal systems on 31 new houses and a new building containing 32 flats as part of the Primrose solar village initiative.

4.3.8 Air and Water⁷

The Environment Act 1995 introduced the National Air Quality Strategy and the requirement for local authorities to determine if statutory air quality objectives (AQOs) are likely to be exceeded. All local authorities now report to DEFRA on an annual basis, and have the obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas and develop action plans for improvement of air quality if objectives are likely to be exceeded.

Air quality in Kirklees is generally good. The industrial contribution to air pollution has declined. The pollution derived from road traffic gives rise to areas where statutory limits may be exceeded if traffic increases. There is a balance between improved engine performance resulting in reduced exhaust emissions and an increase in vehicle numbers on the road.

Areas that are deemed to be at risk of exceeding AQOs have been identified in Kirklees' annual reports to DEFRA and in the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan. These are the A62 corridor, the M62 corridor, the Huddersfield central area and the Dewsbury area (including Ravensthorpe and Mirfield). Kirklees' air pollution monitoring network focuses on these areas.

The water quality of the district is generally good with most of the sampled water courses being of medium to high quality. However it does vary across the district and a continued effort is required to ensure water quality is either improved or maintained. Areas of poor water quality include Spen Beck and Low Moor Beck.

The risk of flooding within the district has been determined through the production of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which has identified areas of potential flood risk, particularly around the rivers Colne and Calder.

4.3.9 Traffic, Transport and Accessibility⁸

The 2001 census indicates that 70% of households in Kirklees have access to one or more cars compared to 73.2% in England and Wales, which is an increase of 7.5% on the 1991 census figure. The number of households with two or more cars in Kirklees equates to 26.9% compared to 29.4% in England & Wales.

The 2001 census highlights that in Kirklees, 66.5% of all people employed aged between 16 – 74 travel to and from work by car/van either as a driver or passenger. There has been an increase of 12.5% in the number of drivers between 1991 and 2001. People using public transport equates to 12.1 %.

Given the nature of the settlement pattern of Kirklees it is not surprising there are a number of small settlements in the west and south which

have only very limited direct access to facilities such as post offices, food shops and doctors surgeries. However nearly all such settlements have a primary school within them and most have an hourly daytime bus service to surrounding towns where such facilities exist.

4.3.10 Health⁹

The 2001 census demonstrates the general health of people in the district follows the national average and is slightly better than regional averages. The percentage of the population describing their health as good was 67.7% within Kirklees compared to 68.6% nationally. The death rate in Kirklees as indicated by the Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) was 109 in 2003 compared with a United Kingdom average of 100.

Disability living allowance claimants in Kirklees as of August 2006 totalled 20,880 representing 5.2% of the population with 61% being under 60 years of age. This compares with 63% in England. The number of claimants in the district has increased by 12% since 2002. In February 2007, the number of attendance allowance claimants was 9,060 with 15.6% aged 65 or over in comparison to 17.7% for Great Britain. Incapacity benefit /severe disablement allowance claimants accounted for 4.5% of the districts population. Of those, 87% are aged between 16 and 59. The number of claimants has reduced by 2.4% since August 2001.

4.3.11 Culture, Sport and Leisure¹⁰

Within Kirklees, there are 33 parks which include facilities such as children's play spaces, tennis courts, bowling greens and sports pitches. In addition these types of facility also exist outside the formal park environment. Generally there is a reasonable distribution throughout Kirklees, but there is the inevitable concentration in the larger towns where there are also examples of further specialist resources. In addition there are three purpose-built sports halls and further facilities within secondary schools that are available for public use.

The majority of purpose built commercial leisure and cultural facilities are contained within the main towns, particularly Huddersfield. To broaden the resource availability, Council owned buildings (particularly town halls) do provide a range of concerts and events. A greater range of facilities are available in the neighbouring cities.

It is estimated that 6.4m day visitors (6.7% of the Yorkshire total) and 1.9m overnight visitors (5.2 of the Yorkshire total) generates £285m (7.0%) of tourism expenditure. The majority of the visitors are concentrated in parts of Kirklees that have television or literary association i.e. within the Pennine fringe (Holme and Colne Valleys), Oakwell and Gomersal. The Kirklees Tourism and Visitor strategy 2004 – 2008 sets out a target of a 5% increase in staying visitors equating to

an extra 32,000 trips, or 100,000 bed nights. In terms of day visits the target increase of 5% equates to an extra 320,000 trips.

4.3.12 Crime and Security¹¹

In the 12 month period, April 2005 to March 2006 the average crime levels for Kirklees were slightly above those recorded for England and Wales.

The Kirklees Safer Communities Partnership identifies that fear of crime has a significant impact on people's quality of life, however, it must be noted that fear of crime is not necessarily linked to an individuals likelihood to become a victim of crime. Kirklees residents identify crime and disorder issues as one of the key factors impacting on their quality of life and consider it has got worse over the past 3 years.

5. Stage A3 - Key Sustainability Issues

5.1 Introduction

The identification of key sustainability issues facing Kirklees provides an opportunity to define issues for the LDF and to develop sustainable plan objectives and options for resolving these. Because of the scope of SA it is necessary to identify social, economic and environmental issues affecting the district.

5.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The key sustainability issues for Kirklees have been identified through the assessment of the PPPSIs and the preliminary baseline data for the district. As the baseline data is refined and gathered it is possible that other issues may emerge, therefore the key issues will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Table 3: Key Sustainability Issues for Kirklees

| Issues | Description | How can the LDF address this? |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Economic | | |
| Business growth and employment | The district is identified as one of the most deprived 50 districts in England for both income and employment. In addition current economic growth and job creation is not keeping pace with national or regional rates. | The LDF may look to protect employment land from other development pressures and aim to provide areas for a mixture of employment types. |
| Diversification in rural areas | Agriculture is in decline across the district and there is little evidence of diversification. | The LDF may seek to promote alternative economic activity in rural areas to diversify, whilst not damaging, the essential nature and environment of the area. |
| Social | | |
| Housing Provision | There is significant underperformance in terms of housing provision in the main urban areas within Kirklees | Ensure there are sufficient sites available to develop new houses which are attractive to the market. |
| | There is a need for affordable housing due to the fact average earnings are below regional and national averages. This need is greatest within rural communities and for social rented housing. | Provide additional opportunities for development by the council and RSLs and by securing affordable housing in private sector developments. |
| | There is a large proportion of properties which are either unfit or in a poor state of repair across the district. | Identify regeneration areas and secure council and private investment. |
| Rural Accessibility | Many rural areas suffer from a lack of facilities creating problems of accessibility. | Locate new development in locations which are accessible for all to jobs and services. |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sport and Recreation | The opportunities for sport and recreation within the district are low when compared to the population. | Safeguard existing stock and provide additional opportunities for new sport and recreation development |
| Fear of Crime | Whilst crime rates are lower than the regional average the fear of crime often fuelled by anti-social behaviour is seen as a problem. | Mainly a problem with younger people. The LDF will need to plan for the provision of better facilities for young people |
| Environmental | | |
| Biodiversity | Kirklees has sites of European, national, regional and local ecological significance. The national and international concerns over declining biodiversity are reflected locally. Tree cover within the district is low particularly in Huddersfield and North Kirklees. | The LDF should seek to protect and enhance important sites and reduce the impact of new developments on habitats and woodlands. |
| Heritage | Kirklees has 59 designated conservation areas and the greatest number of listed buildings of any authority in the north of England. | Good planning and design is an essential in maintaining the character of an area. It is important the LDF preserves and enhances its historic heritage through careful planning. |
| Transport | A high proportion of people travel to and from work by car which partially reflects limited public transport provision within rural parts of the district. | Reducing the need to travel by car will be a key challenge for the LDF. Making use of demand management and promoting development patterns that reduce the need to travel and securing improvements to public transport to provide a genuine alternative to private car use will need to be addressed. |
| Climate Change Impacts | The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out within Kirklees has highlighted many areas which are liable to flooding. The effects of climate change may increase the incidence of flooding within the district. The consequences of transport are also significant. | The LDF may seek to protect areas of high flood risk from development and ensure developments take account and adapt to the possibilities of the impacts of climate change such as flooding. In terms of transport issues see above. |
| Resource Efficiency | The authority needs to respond to the international and national pressures for increased recycling and reduced energy demand (improved thermal efficiency) and the use of renewable resources. | The LDF should encourage well designed developments which make efficient use of natural resources and encourage energy efficiency in order to adapt/mitigate against the effects of climate change. |

5.3 Key effects from the previous consultation

The previous consultation on the preferred options stage of the Core Strategy (see paragraph 2.2) highlighted a number of positive and negative effects of the proposed options. Whilst these options now form part of the issues and options process preceding the preferred options it is important to take account of the previously identified key effects when preparing the preferred options. The preferred options should seek to, where appropriate, replicate these positive effects and

where possible avoid the negatives. Table 4 highlights the key positive and negative effects of the previous option testing.

Table 4: Key positive and negative effects identified from the previous preferred options consultation

| KEY EFFECTS IDENTIFIED PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION JUNE 2006 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KEY POSITIVE EFFECTS |
| <p>Ensure location and type of employment opportunities increases availability of jobs for local people. Existing employment sites in and around the urban area were protected for all options. Having housing located in these areas will ensure an increased availability of jobs for local people.</p> <p>Urban concentration: Some options sought to focus development in existing urban areas they had the following positive effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist the economy via greater concentration of the labour market and investment through regeneration. - A large proportion of the population would have good access to education and training facilities located close to existing urban areas. - A large proportion of the population would have good access to health and social care facilities located close to existing urban areas. - The location of housing in existing urban areas should ensure they are near services and employment opportunities and are more likely to promote walking and cycling and offer opportunities for linking into existing green networks. <p>Ensure education, training opportunities and facilities are available to all. At the strategic level schools within the urban areas are forecast to have the greatest number of surplus places. Therefore existing schools in these locations are more likely to have the capacity to accommodate further housing growth.</p> <p>All people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs. All options provided housing to meet a range of housing needs.</p> <p>Maximise the use of previously developed land. All options will ensure re-use of a certain percentage of previously developed land. Confining development to the existing urban areas would ensure development of such sites, particularly in the short term.</p> |

KEY NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Ensuring healthier life styles:

The pressures of urban concentration will lead to development upon Greenfield sites which are currently used for informal recreation leading to a decrease in the amount of recreation opportunities per head of the population over time.

Urban Concentration:

Some options sought to focus development in existing urban areas they had the following negative effects:

- Urban concentration may lead to increased usage of current cultural and recreational facilities such as swimming pools, sports fields, cinemas etc with possible problems in the longer term for additional provision. Due to the estimated likely increase for housing there may well be a lack of sites to develop such provision.
- Concentration of development within urban areas will inevitably impact upon the listed buildings and conservation areas within Kirklees. Kirklees has 59 designated conservation areas and the greatest number of listed buildings of any authority in the north of England. In addition the authority has 22 scheduled monuments and 5 historic parks and gardens.
- Focusing development in existing urban areas will minimise distance of travel, which may lead to greater use of public transport and walking and cycling. However it is also likely to increase congestion within urban areas particularly on certain routes such as the A62 and the M62 junctions.

Impact on biodiversity:

Development of both greenfield and brownfield sites will lead to a reduction in the opportunities for wildlife to migrate across the urban area and for habitats to be created and enhanced.

Development in flood risk areas:

The main urban areas in Kirklees are intersected by rivers which have areas of flood risk along their length. Pressure on land within the urban area is likely to require some areas of flood risk to be developed. In addition the loss of Greenfield sites to development may add to the potential of flood risk.

6. Stage A4 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1 Introduction

The SA framework provides a method of describing, analysing and comparing the effects of the LDF Core Strategy against aspirational objectives for sustainable development.

The SA objectives are distinct from those of the Core Strategy although there will be some inevitable overlap between the two. The Core Strategy objectives will usually focus upon how outcomes will be achieved through inputs, whilst the SA objectives will focus on the performance of the outcomes.

6.2 Methodology

All English regions have now agreed Regional Sustainable Development Frameworks (RSDFs), which represent high-level visions for sustainable development required by the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. The RSDF sets out the aims for sustainable development so that they can be integrated with other regional and local strategies, a combined focus that is designed to ensure a consistent approach.

The sustainability objectives have been corporately agreed for Kirklees. By modifying the Yorkshire and Humber RSDF, we have come up with a series of clear objectives which reflect specific priorities and the needs of the Kirklees District. The SA process has been developing alongside the LDF in Kirklees Planning Service since 2004. So far there have been a number of sustainability appraisal documents:

- The LDF Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2005)
- The LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report (June 2006)
- Supplementary Planning Document Developer Contributions Transport (Leeds Road, Huddersfield) Scoping Report (November 2005)
- Supplementary Planning Document Developer Contributions Transport (Leeds Road, Huddersfield) Sustainability Appraisal Report (January 2006)

In light of experience in undertaking sustainability appraisal and as advocated by the guidance¹⁰ it was considered appropriate to review

¹⁰ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (Para 3.2.14 and Appendix 9)

the sustainability appraisal objectives for use with the LDF. The objectives were revised as a result of:

- Consultation comments received
- LDF SA experience to date, and
- Other local authority practice

The review was intended to overcome difficulties with interpretation, inconsistencies when determining effects, overlapping themes and consistently unrelated objectives that provide no test of the LDF. The revised objectives are included in *Appendix 1*, they include additional explanation and build on the range of issues identified and supported during previous consultations. It is considered that the objectives provide a sound test of the principles of sustainable development whilst providing a robust impartial test of the development plan document.

The Core Strategy has taken these into consideration before producing its own objectives. We have also included a series of cross-cutting indicators which should be taken into account throughout the development of the Core Strategy.

6.3 Assessment of SA Objectives

It is important to assess SA objectives against each other to identify areas of compatibility, inconsistency and uncertainties. Once the SA objectives for the core strategy have been agreed the following matrix will be used to undertake this assessment.

Table 5: Example SA Objectives Compatibility Assessment table

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Sustainability Appraisal objectives | 1 | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | X | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | ✓ | ? | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | X | ✓ | X | ? | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | ✓ | ✓ | ? | X | ? | ✓ | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | o | o | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| | 9 | ✓ | X | ? | ? | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | ✓ | X | X | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X | X | X | | | | | | |
| | 11 | o | ✓ | o | o | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | o | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| | 12 | ✓ | o | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? | X | | | | |
| | 13 | o | ? | ? | ✓ | ✓ | X | ? | o | ? | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | 14 | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X | o | ✓ | ? | X | o | ✓ | o | ? | ✓ | | |
| | 15 | o | ? | ✓ | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | X | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 16 | ✓ | X | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ? | X | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ? | ✓ | X | ✓ |
| | 17 | o | ? | ? | ? | ✓ | o | ✓ | o | ✓ | ? | ✓ | ? | o | ? | ? | ✓ |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Sustainability Appraisal objectives | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Key

- ✓ compatible
- X incompatible
- ? uncertain
- o no link/insignificant

Table 6: Example of Identification of Possible Issues with Objectives

| Objectives | Relationship | Concerns highlighted |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 and 1 | X | Potential exists for conflict between demand for housing land and pressure to avoid floodplain development |
| 14 and 1 | ? | The potential impact of climate change on human health is uncertain and could include positive or negative aspects. |

6.4 Core Strategy Vision and Objectives

The Core Strategy's role is to set the long term spatial vision and strategic objectives for Kirklees, such objectives need to be clear, realistic and deliverable. It was essential the Core Strategy drew upon any relevant strategies of the local authority and also helped to deliver their aims and objectives. Strategies such as the Community Strategy, Local Area Agreements (LAA) and the Kirklees Environment Policy, have been highly influential in shaping the Kirklees Core Strategy objectives and also ensure they remain in conformity with, and help to deliver, the corporate goals for the district.

The Core Strategy is in the early stages of preparation. It is envisaged that the LDF will contribute to sustainable development by:

- making suitable land available for development in line with economic, social and environmental objectives to improve people's quality of life
- contributing to sustainable economic development;
- protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities;
- ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design, and the efficient use of resources; and
- ensuring that development supports existing communities and contributes to the creation of safe, sustainable, liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.

A preliminary draft set of Core Strategy objectives are:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

To promote growth in sustainable locations and where sustainability can be improved.

By locating new housing where there is or will be good accessibility to jobs and services, encouraging the provision of jobs and services in places with good or improving accessibility and maximising the use of land, especially brownfield, in these locations.

HOUSING SUITED TO NEEDS

To accommodate housing needs where they arise.

By securing the provision of high quality sustainable homes, built, as far as possible, in places where people wish to live, and of size, type, tenure and affordability that match needs.

A STRONG ECONOMY

To ensure that established and new businesses can operate successfully, especially sectors with good local growth prospects and those providing the types of jobs needed in the locality.

By providing sufficient opportunities for employment growth requirements and skills needs to be met, taking account of the needs of businesses.

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

To reduce the need to travel, journey lengths and the proportion of travel by private car.

By concentrating development in and around town centres and in corridors with good public transport and by strengthening a network of safe pedestrian and cycle routes connecting homes, shops, schools, parks, health centres, bus stops and rail stations.

SERVICES PROVIDED WHERE PEOPLE WANT THEM

To provide a range of services and facilities in convenient locations that help to satisfy community needs and aspirations.

By safeguarding local facilities such as schools, shops, health centres, community halls and open spaces, as well as promoting new easily accessible services in areas of need.

BETTER OPEN SPACES

To provide and enhance usable open spaces which meet community needs for sport and recreation.

By protecting and improving the quality and accessibility of open spaces which meet needs, or have potential to meet needs, and by identifying new areas which will satisfy gaps in provision, where possible linking spaces to contribute to a green network.

WELL DESIGNED BUILDINGS AND SPACES

To secure the provision of safe and well designed buildings and spaces.

By ensuring that developments are laid out to minimise traffic hazards, potential for crime and disturbance to occupiers and achieve high standards of visual amenity.

LOCAL DISTINCTIVENESS

To promote the retention and improvement of the visual character of Kirklees.

By protecting and enhancing the historical, architectural and natural landscape characteristics of the district, including views of historical importance.

BETTER NATURE CONSERVATION

To secure and enhance the nature conservation resources which are characteristic of Kirklees.

By protecting habitats and, where possible, securing their enhancement and ensuring that developments incorporate features which will encourage wildlife.

BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT

To reduce the exposure of developed areas to flood risk.

By ensuring development takes place in areas of lowest flood risk, incorporating mitigation where necessary, both on site and downstream, to reduce impacts on existing properties to acceptable levels during times of flooding.

PRUDENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

To ensure finite natural resources are used sparingly and effectively, and to promote the remediation of contaminated land.

By promoting prudent and sensitive mineral extraction and appropriate renewable energy generation in suitable locations, facilitating efficient waste management and the effective management of contaminants.

6.5 Appraisal of Core Strategy Objectives

In accordance with government guidance the draft objectives of the Core Strategy need to be tested against the SA objectives to determine areas of compatibility, inconsistency and uncertainty. Testing the objectives in this way assists in the refinement of the Core Strategy objectives as well as identifying possible alternative options.

The outcomes of this assessment will be summarised and will include acknowledged incompatibilities or areas of uncertainty. If there are areas of conflict between objectives the priorities will be determined by the Council and recorded explicitly in the SA final report.

At this stage in the LDF preparation process, the objectives for individual LDDs are not yet available for testing. Once these objectives have been formulated the compatibility testing advocated in the guidance will be undertaken using the matrix set out in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Example of SA Appraisal Matrix

| | | Plan/Programme Objective | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
| Sustainability Appraisal Objectives | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | |
| | 3 | | | | | ? | ? | | | ✓ | | | | X | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | 6 | X | X | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 8 | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 9 | | ✓ | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | 10 | | ✓ | | ? | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | 11 | | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | ? | | | |
| | 12 | | ✓ | | ? | ✓ | | X | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | X | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | 14 | | | | | ✓ | | X | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | 15 | | | | | ✓ | | X | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | 16 | ✓ | ✓ | X | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | 17 | ✓ | ✓ | X | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| | | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
| ✓ | Potentially Consistent | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | Potentially inconsistent dependant upon implementation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ? | No relationship/unsure | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Appendix 1 – Kirklees Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

| Objectives | Explanation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ensure location and type of employment opportunities increases availability of jobs for local people | Location to be considered in relation to population with some emphasis directed to areas of known deprivation. Types of employment acknowledge the role of Kirklees in the Region and the skills and qualities that exist and can be built upon. |
| 2. An economy better capable of growth through increasing investment, innovation and entrepreneurship | Reflects the indirect effect of spatial planning on setting the appropriate levels of growth in employment to meet estimated needs. Takes into account Council's priorities to support and implement Regional Economic Strategy and similar action programmes |
| 3. Ensure education facilities are available to all | This will need to encompass issues of location relative to investment programmes for new or improved education facilities expected to provide opportunities for all ages and at all times. |
| 4. People can access the health and social care they need at a time and place which is appropriate and convenient | Primary Care Trusts', Hospital Trusts' and Council's programmes and priorities as major providers linked to location and access |
| 5. Retain and enhance access to local services | Role of settlement hierarchy (generalised use note it crosses into other topic themes e.g. education) and areas for new residential development relate to accessibility of basic facilities such as convenience shops, post offices, hairdresser, public house and places of worship. The assessment needs to avoid duplication of items referenced in objectives 4, 7 and 9. |
| 6. Make our communities safer by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime | Indirect effects of spatial planning Future Development Plan Documents can link this more to design. |
| 7. Protect and enhance existing and support new Culture, Leisure & Recreation facilities and encourage their usage | Utilises range of strategies such as that for open space, green corridors, playing pitches and indoor facilities. Need to link to tourism programme and countryside recreation strategy. Needs to avoid any potential duplication with 13. |
| 8. All people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs | Incorporate Council housing improvement programmes, regeneration programmes and policies for affordable housing. Link but not duplicate consideration of energy policies in respect of housing |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9. Secure an effective and safe transport network which maximises access to key services, employment opportunities and amenities | Use to be made of Local Transport Plan, opportunities to consider functional definition of accessibility, Council priorities for less dependency on car usage, and provision of additional walking and cycling routes, car parking and travel plan needs, including discussions with METRO over public transport opportunities. |
| 10. Secure the efficient and prudent use of land | Ensure no conflicts or duplications with objectives 11 and 17, role of brownfield v greenfield, conflicts with loss/retention of greenbelt and role of settlement hierarchy, sense of place re open space requirements. The objective seeks to ensure the Council is maximising appropriate use of land. |
| 11. Protect and enhance the character of Kirklees | This links to objective 10 and 12, concerns with landscape character, conservation areas, townscape, open countryside including topography, geology and tree cover/loss, town centre and settlement roles. Care required to avoid duplication, especially with 12 and over-emphasis on certain elements of the mix. Development of renewables may be a consideration |
| 12. Preserve and enhance the historic environment | The objective focuses on the cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and overlap with objective 11 needs to be avoided. |
| 13. Maximise opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity | Care is needed not to concentrate on protection measures for sites such as Local Nature Reserve or SSSIs. Look to design opportunities linked to open space, green ways and brownfield development |
| 14. Reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution | This will include part of issues of renewables, traffic generation, and urban design, Location of development to major adverse environmental sources. It is important to emphasise that greenhouse gases are covered by this objective encompassing emissions from major emitters including; buildings, transport and agriculture. Avoid double counting is important especially with objectives 9 and 16. |
| 15. Prevent inappropriate new development in high flood risk areas and ensure development does not contribute to increased flood for existing property and people | Very specific, use of SFRA, knowledge of flooding from other sources, river catchment scale of consideration constraints on some regeneration schemes and opportunities/limitation for brown field use. |
| 16. Increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste close to source | Not easy to determine at Core Strategy level. |

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| <p>17. Increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use</p> | <p>Efficiency in buildings will be encompassed by the objective. Design issues promotion of renewables. Links to objectives 8, 9, 10, 14 and 16. Need to avoid duplication and double counting.</p> |
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Appendix 2 – Picture of Kirklees Data Sources

1. **Population** - Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2002/2004, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
2. **Housing** – Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07, Land Registry, Kirklees Housing Strategy 2004 -07.
3. **Employment & Economic Activity** - Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2002, Kirklees Economic Development Bulletin June 2007, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
4. **Education, Skills and Training** – Office of National Statistics, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
5. **Environment, Biodiversity and Natural Resources** - Kirklees Waste Management Strategy 2004, Progress Report on Local Air Quality 2005, Environment Agency, UDP Addendum Nov 2007, Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report 2006/07
6. **Climate Change and Energy Efficiency** – CPA Corporate Self assessment Big Picture Fact Sheets (Fuel Poverty G1, Renewable Energy G4, Energy Management G8), EMAS Annual Report 2006/07
7. **Air and Water** – Local Air Quality Progress Report 2005, Environment Agency
8. **Traffic, Transport and Accessibility** - Office of National Statistics, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
9. **Health** - Office of National Statistics, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
10. **Culture, Sport and Leisure** - Open space strategy draft 2007, Tourism & Visitor Strategy 2004 -2008, Kirklees Fact Sheets 2007.
11. **Crime and Security** - Home Office, Kirklees Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit 04