

Kirklees



Local Development Framework

Core Strategy: Sustainability Appraisal Report

Non Technical Summary

June 2006



Kirklees



INTRODUCTION

This report provides a non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is a strategic document which forms part of the new plan for Kirklees, the Local Development Framework (LDF). The full SA Report and Preferred Options of the Core Strategy are available on the Council website at www.kirklees.gov.uk/ldf. For further details refer to consultation and next steps section of this document.

The role of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to assess how the key principles of sustainable development are being incorporated into the planning process. Broadly speaking these key principles can be broken down into three categories; Social, Environmental and Economic. Sustainable development is about improving the quality of life for present and future generations whilst at the same time respecting the limits of the environment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – an environmental ‘test’ - is required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – a sustainability ‘test’ of the LDF is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Government guidance suggests that the SEA Directive should be incorporated into a wider SA process which considers economic and social as well as environmental effects. In Kirklees a single corporate framework has been agreed that combines SA and SEA into one overall appraisal method (referred to as “SA” for simplicity in the rest of this document).

SA involves;

1. compiling information about the social, environmental, economic and policy context in which the Preferred Options are being developed
2. assessing the Preferred Options at various stages of their development and suggesting possible ways of making them more sustainable
3. consulting on the different stages of the emerging issues and options and the accompanying appraisal reports
4. taking the appraisal reports and consultation findings into account in decision making and providing information on how this has been done; and
5. monitoring the impacts of implementing the LDF



WHAT IS THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

The LDF sets out how we will use land and buildings to meet the changing demands for homes and jobs, and also to provide other important services such as transport, shops and leisure facilities. Today, the most pressing demand on land is for new homes. This means that there is a need for more housing, and the government expects us to find space for around 22,000 new homes in the district by 2021.

The Core Strategy is the first part of the LDF and is a strategic document which will indicate how homes, jobs and other services will be distributed throughout Kirklees, however it is important to note it will not indicate sites for development. This will be dealt with in later parts of the LDF.

The Preferred Options for the Core Strategy set out five different options which would accommodate these new homes. For each option, we have considered the impact on transport and jobs, and the need for open spaces, leisure and shopping facilities. The SA report tests each of these options and provides guidance on how sustainable each option is. There has been testing at several stages of development of the Core Strategy to ensure it is sustainable and environmentally sound. The tests were carried out by a core group of officers from a variety of Kirklees Council services supported by the SEA Co-ordinator.

THE CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS

The five spatial options are set out below. The options are shown over two time periods: April 2004 - March 2016 and April 2016 - March 2021. This shows any change in the type of land used over time - for example, some options may only allow building on green belt land after March 2016.

OPTION A

This option concentrates new homes on land in built-up areas. As far as possible, brownfield sites would be used first, followed by greenfield land. Due to the large amount of brownfield land in the urban areas of north Kirklees, about half of all new homes would be provided in that part of the district, with around a third in Huddersfield.

OPTION B

Unlike option A, this option would not normally allow building on greenfield land within towns, leaving open spaces untouched. Instead, building would take place on the



outskirts of our towns, up to, but not including the green belt.

This option produces a similar distribution of new housing to option A, with about half of all new homes in north Kirklees, and around a third in Huddersfield.

OPTION C

This option concentrates new homes in and around Huddersfield. This would support the growth of Huddersfield as the district's main hub for investment, jobs and shopping.

Until 2016, building would take place on available land in and on the edge of built-up areas. After 2016, a substantial amount of new homes would need to be built on green belt around Huddersfield. This option would see around two-thirds of new homes in Huddersfield, with the remainder on brownfield land elsewhere in the district.

OPTION D

This option concentrates building in north Kirklees. This would take advantage of the proximity of north Kirklees to Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Huddersfield which offer a wide range of employment and shopping and leisure opportunities.

Up to 2016, building would take place on available land in and on the edge of built-up areas in north Kirklees. After 2016, a substantial amount of building would take place on green belt land in north Kirklees. This option would see almost three-quarters of all new homes provided in north Kirklees, with the remainder on brownfield land elsewhere in the district.

OPTION E

This option concentrates new homes in south Kirklees to reduce development pressure in the already heavily developed areas of Kirklees. New housing would be concentrated in the Denby Dale, Skelmanthorpe and Clayton West area, where new homes and jobs could be provided together in a location where good transport links can be provided to Huddersfield, Wakefield and Barnsley. Housing would be provided on available land in and around the built-up areas in south Kirklees, but there would also need to be a substantial amount of building on green belt in the Dearne Valley area. This option would see almost two thirds of new homes in south Kirklees, with the remainder on brownfield land elsewhere in the district.

THE SA PROCESS

1. SCOPING

The first part of the SA process was to collect information on Kirklees. This is called the scoping stage. This stage looked at over 60 other plans and programmes to see how they would effect the Core Strategy. This included looking at national and regional guidance and legislation upon a range of issues such as energy and housing, as well as looking at other strategies within Kirklees, such as the Community Strategy. In addition information was collected about Kirklees's environment, economy and social issues. The aim of the scoping stage was to identify key sustainability issues for Kirklees. The issues identified were;

- Social inequalities – social exclusion, lack of affordable housing, income levels, job creation, fear of crime;
- Transport – high proportion of people using their car to travel to work, poor public transport in rural areas;
- Climate Change – the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and adapt to the impacts of change;
- Biodiversity;
- Diversification in rural areas;
- Leisure and recreation – protect, enhance and develop new opportunities across the District;
- Heritage – preserve and protect existing and designated monuments, parks and gardens; and
- Resource efficiency

2. ASSESSMENT

A key aspect of SA is the formulation of a set of sustainability objectives against which a plans performance can be measured. These objectives have been prepared in response to national, regional and local sustainability issues. The Core Strategy Preferred Options have been assessed at several stages using the objectives in Table 1 .

Table 1 – SA Objectives

1. Ensure location and type of employment opportunities increases availability of jobs for local people
2. An economy better capable of growth and achieving higher productivity levels through increasing investment, innovation and entrepreneurship
3. Ensure education and training opportunities and facilities are available to all
4. People can access the health and social care they need at a time and place which is appropriate and convenient
5. More people leading healthier lifestyles
6. Make our communities safer by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime
7. To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and delivery of services
8. Protect and enhance new and existing Culture, Leisure & Recreation facilities and encourage their usage
9. All people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs
10. Create an effective and safe transport network which maximises access to key services, employment opportunities and amenities
11. Maximise the use of previously developed land
12. Protect and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, landscape, historic parks and gardens, and other culturally important features and areas, and their settings
13. Maximise opportunities to increase bio-diversity and protect and enhance habitats and areas of value to wildlife
14. Reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution
15. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions from the major emitters including buildings, industry, transport and agriculture
16. Prevent inappropriate development in high flood risk areas and ensure development does not contribute to increased flood for existing property and people
17. Increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste close to source
18. Increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use

Cross Cutting Objectives

- i **Social inclusion and equity** across all sectors:
- ii A **partnership** and **participative** approach
- iii Geographic adaptation to the needs of **rural and urban** communities
- iv Creativity, innovation and the appropriate use of **technology**

Table 2: Summary of Assessment of the Preferred Options

Core Strategy Options	SA Framework																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	-	?/-	?	+	++	+	++	-	+/-	--	+/-	-	+/-	+/-
B	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+/-	-	?/-	?	-	++	+	++	--	+/-	--	+/-	--	+/-	+/-
C	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/+	?	+	++	+	++	-	+	--	+/-	-	+/-	+/-
D	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/+	?	++	++	+	++	-	+	--	+/-	--	+	+/-
E	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/-	?	+	++	+	++	-	-	--	-	--	+	+/-
	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/+	?	+	++	+	++	-	-	--	-	--	+	+/-
	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/+	?	+	++	+	++	-	-	--	-	--	+	+/-
	2006- 2016 After	2016	+	+	+	?/+	?	+	++	+	++	-	-	--	-	--	+	+/-

Key

++	Positive impact	-	Minor negative
+	Minor positive impact	--	Negative impact
+/-	Positive/ negative depending upon implementation	?	No relationship/unsure

Production of the Core Strategy Preferred Options has involved the development and appraisal of a strategic vision and objectives, spatial options and a set of Core Policies.

Table 2 indicates the sustainability appraisal of the five spatial options A-E. The assessment of the options was done by comparing them against the eighteen SA objectives.

Table 3 indicates a summary of how the Core Policies performed against the eighteen SA objectives. A full list of Core Policies can be found within the full SA report, available on the council website at www.kirklees.gov.uk/ldf.

Table 3: Summary of assessment of Core policies by SA objective

SA Objective	Overall effect of Core Strategy Policies
1. Ensure location and type of employment opportunities increases availability of jobs for local people	+ Consistent focus on providing employment opportunities to local needs. This is through providing adequate provision, promoting a diverse economy, promoting innovation and providing employment in accessible locations. However air quality, contaminated land and greenbelt policies will create some restriction.
2. An economy better capable of growth and achieving higher productivity levels through increasing investment, innovation and entrepreneurship	+ Encourages investment through regeneration, accessibility of development opportunities and promotion of new technologies, such as renewables. However air quality, contaminated land and greenbelt policies will create some restriction.
3. Ensure education and training opportunities and facilities are available to all	+ Generally positive particularly in terms of accessibility and provision of new facilities. However this is not a main focus of the Core Strategy.
4. People can access the health and social care they need at a time and place which is appropriate and convenient	+ Generally positive policy in terms of provision of new facilities and accessibility. However this is not a main focus of the Core Strategy.
5. More people leading healthier lifestyles	+ Consistently positive focus promotes healthier lifestyles through walking, cycling, sport and recreation. In addition aims to reduce pollution and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
6. Make our communities safer by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime	+ Generally positive by encouraging new services and better design. However this is not a main focus of Core Strategy and will be looked at in greater detail in other DPD's.

Table 3 continued

7. To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and delivery of services	<p>+</p> <p>The Core Strategy actively promotes engagement on decisions with some groups and protects/ enhances provision of community facilities. However references to empowerment are limited.</p>
8. Protect and enhance new and existing Culture, Leisure & Recreation facilities and encourage their usage	<p>++</p> <p>Consistently positive focus to provide and enhance new Culture, Leisure and Recreation facilities and activities.</p>
9. All people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs	<p>+</p> <p>Positive focus on the providing the right amount of housing. It also tackles issues of affordability, housing mix, regeneration and energy efficiency. However greenbelt policy will restrict availability in some areas.</p>
10. Create an effective and safe transport network which maximises access to key services, employment opportunities and amenities	<p>++</p> <p>Consistently positive focus to provide a good transport network. This is through providing for a range of sustainable transport methods including walking, cycling and public transport. In addition accessibility of key services and employment is consistent throughout the policies as are the needs to reduce travel distances and congestion.</p>
11. Maximise the use of previously developed land	<p>+/-</p> <p>There is a lot of uncertainty throughout the policies and much will dependent upon implementation of the policies and the spatial option chosen.</p>
12. Protect and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation areas, landscape, historic parks and gardens, and other culturally important features and areas, and their settings	<p>+</p> <p>Generally positive focus through the policies on preserving the historic and landscape character of the area. However there are likely to be conflicts with policies which encourage renewable energy technologies.</p>
13. Maximise opportunities to increase bio-diversity and protect and enhance habitats and areas of value to wildlife	<p>+</p> <p>Generally positive focus by integration of biodiversity and habitat creation into policies on open space, design and access water management and flood control. However there are uncertainties regarding mineral extraction and re-use of contaminated land.</p>
14. Reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution	<p>++</p> <p>The policies aim to reduce pollution through encouraging walking, cycling, public transport use, renewable energy development, recycling of contaminated and reductions in noise. However uncertainties remain with regard to the effect of housing and employment provision and their impact will be dependent upon the implementation of these policies.</p>

Table 3 continued

15. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions from the major emitters including buildings, industry, transport and agriculture	<p>++</p> <p>The policies aim to reduce greenhouse gases through encouraging walking, cycling, public transport use, reducing travel distances, energy efficiency and renewable energy development. However uncertainties remain with regard to the effect of housing and employment provision and their impact will be dependent upon the implementation of these policies.</p>
16. Prevent inappropriate development in high flood risk areas and ensure development does not contribute to increased flood for existing property and people	<p>+/-</p> <p>Only the flood control policy actually tackles the issue of flood risk in any clear way. The policies indicate a lot of uncertainty and the impact will be dependent upon their implementation particularly with regard to housing and employment provision.</p>
17. Increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste close to source	<p>+</p> <p>Generally positive however the Core Strategy does tackle waste in any great detail. There will be conflict with the mineral extraction policy.</p>
18. Increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use	<p>+</p> <p>Consistently positive emphasis upon energy, water and resource efficiency throughout policies concerning transport, design and access and energy. However no emphasis within housing, employment or community facilities policies.</p>

Significant Effects and Mitigation

As part of the process of developing the appraisal of the Preferred Options it is necessary to consider any mitigation measures that may be used to offset the negative effects or dis-benefits of the five spatial choices.

Table 2 indicates the significant negative impacts for each of the five options, whilst not consistent across all options the main impacts are;

- **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.

- **Long term lack of sites to develop culture and recreation facilities;**

Urban concentration may lead to increased usage of current facilities such as swimming pools, sports fields, cinemas etc and 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.

- **Impact on listed buildings and conservation areas due to development in urban areas;**

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.

- **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.

- **Increased air, water, land and noise pollution;**

Concentration of development within urban areas would increase air pollution levels where they are already at their worst, such as along the A62 corridor and in and around the main town centres. There would also be increases in street lighting creating light pollution and undoubted increases in noise within the urban areas. These problems are likely to increase over time.

- **Increased congestion within urban areas;**

Focusing development in existing urban areas will minimise distance of travel, which may lead to greater use of public transport and walking cycling. However it is also likely to increase congestion within urban areas particularly on certain routes such as the A62 and M62 junctions.

- **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 will add to the potential for flood risk.

In addition to these negative impacts it is important to note all of the options will have significant positive impacts upon certain issues, particularly ensuring that the location and type of employment increases availability of jobs for local people and all people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs.



CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

This document is being sent to the four statutory consultees as outlined in the Government guidance as well as other individuals and organisations who have expressed and interest in sustainability issues throughout the LDF process.

The non-technical summary and information about how to get hold of the full report will be made publicly available as part of the consultation on the Preferred Options which starts on the 12th June and finishes 21st July. You can download the full SA Report from www.kirklees.gov.uk/ldf. In addition this document will be made available at the following council offices;

Civic Centre III, Huddersfield
Cleckheaton Town Hall
Birstall Information Point
Batley Town Hall
Heckmondwike Cash and Information Point
Dewsbury Town Hall
Mirfield Cash and Information Point
Skelmanthorpe Council Offices
Holmfirth Cash and Information Point
Meltham Town Hall
Marsden Information Point

For further copies of the non technical summary or for copies of the full SA report please contact;

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Locations of Local Development Framework Documents for Public Viewing

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Cleckheaton Town Hall
Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 3RH
Tel: 01274 335030</p> <p>2 Birstall Information Point
Market Street, Birstall, WF17 9EN
Tel: 01924 326227</p> <p>3 Batley Town Hall
Market Place, Batley, WF17 5DA
Tel: 01924 326050</p> <p>4 Heckmondwike Cash and Information Point
Oldfield Lane, Heckmondwike, WF16 0JH
Tel: 01924 325620</p> <p>5 Dewsbury Town Hall
1 Town Hall Way, Dewsbury, WF12 8DG
Tel: 01924 324516</p> <p>6 Mirfield Cash and Information Point
Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, WF14 8BA
Tel: 01924 326500</p> <p>7 Planning Services
P.O. Box B93, Civic Centre III,
Huddersfield
Tel: 01484 221627</p> | <p>8 Skelmanthorpe Council Offices
24 Commercial Road, Skelmanthorpe,
HD8 9DA
Tel: 01484 222953</p> <p>9 Holmfirth Cash and Information Point
Huddersfield Road, HD9 3JP
Tel: 01484 222420</p> <p>10 Meltham Town Hall
Huddersfield Road, Meltham, HD9 4AG
Tel: 01484 222624</p> <p>11 Marsden Information Point
20 - 26 Peel Street, Marsden, HD7 6BW
Tel: 01484 845595</p> |
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