

## **MATTER 7 - RETAIL NEEDS AND DELIVERY**

**Issue - Does the Plan set out a positively prepared strategy for the delivery of retail development, which is justified, effective and consistent with national policy?**

**Policy PLP 13 (section A only), 17, 18**

### **Questions**

- 1 We question Kirklees' commitment and understanding of the changes that are happening to retail and small town centres. We are active partners involved with a Government funded project being run by Manchester Metropolitan University and the Institute of Place Management. Despite many attempts made over the years Kirklees Council has not been inclined to work with us to learn from others and promote town centre vibrancy and vitality.
  - 2 A key factor is the imperative of having people working close to town centres during the day. If employment is located away from shops and services, people will not use them.
  - 3 We cannot overstate the importance of the Conservation Area to Holmfirth and Honley town centres. Care of the historic features and preservation of the feel of the places are vital features of their attractiveness. Another factor key to preserving the vitality and vibrancy of the centre. The impact of traffic volumes must also be included.
- e) *Is the list of defined centres and their role and function, as set out in Policy PLP 13 (section A), appropriately framed and justified? Is the hierarchy consistent with the role of Huddersfield and Dewsbury as outlined in Policies PLP 17 and 18?*
- 1 Kirklees may define Holmfirth as a town centre but it has done very little over the years to help to sustain it. Indeed many of the few vacant properties in the town centre belong to the Council.
- f) *What additional Local Centres are anticipated to be delivered over the Plan period?*
- 1 None.