

Sustainability Appraisal Summary  
– Core Strategy &  
Development Control Policies  
Preferred Options Reports



# Local Development Framework Preferred Options

Sustainability Appraisal Summary  
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## Information

This Core Strategy Preferred Options Report, the Development Control Policies DPD Preferred Options Report and their accompanying Sustainability Report are available to view and download on the Council's web-site at: [www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf). Copies are also available to view at main libraries and Council offices and can be obtained free of charge from the above address or by ringing (01924) 306495. If you would like to talk to a planning officer working on the LDF about any aspect of this document please contact the Spatial Policy Group on (01924) 306616 / 306620 / 306417.

**If you would like an extract or summary of this document on cassette, in large type, in Braille or any other format, please call the Access to Services Implementation Group on (01924) 306764.**

دیکھو سنو

اگر آپ کو اس لیفلٹ کی کاپی آڈیو کیسٹ، بڑی  
لکھائی، بریل یا کسی اور زبان میں اس کا ترجمہ  
چاہیے تو ہمیں اس نمبر پر فون کریں:

01924 306764

## 1 Background

- 1.0.1** The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the emerging development plan for Wakefield. LDFs are the new form of plan controlling the way in which land is used, introduced by the Government's planning reforms. The LDF, once adopted, will replace the adopted Wakefield District Unitary Development Plan 1st Alteration, and will guide new development in the District for the period up to 2021. This report relates to the Core Strategy and Development Control Policy Local Development Documents (LDDs) which form part of the LDF.
- 1.0.2** A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) have been carried out on these LDDs in order to meet the requirements of new planning legislation<sup>(1)</sup> and regulations<sup>(2)</sup>. The combined SEA and SA process is subsequently referred to as SA only. The main purpose of SA is to see whether implementation of the plan that is being assessed is likely to have any significant environmental, social or economic effects. If significant negative effects are identified, recommendations are made as to how these can be avoided, offset or reduced. Recommendations are also made on how to enhance beneficial effects. A programme to monitor significant effects is also required.
- 1.0.3** This document forms the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the SA Report and provides a summary, in non-technical language, of the principal findings of the SA. The SA has been undertaken on behalf of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council by Waterman Environmental and the Centre for Sustainability at TRL Ltd.

### 1.1 The LDF Objectives

#### 1.1.1 The objectives of the LDF are as follows:

1. To ensure that all new development, activities and uses of land adhere to and promote the principles of sustainable development and enhance the quality of life for District residents.
2. To meet the needs of the District by building on its strengths and the opportunities provided through good links with the wider Leeds City Region, enabling it to play a prominent role in the creation of sustainable communities, in line with the strategy and policy framework provided by the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire & the Humber.
3. To locate development where it will provide the opportunity for people to satisfy their day-to-day needs for employment, shopping, education, leisure, health and other services locally or in places which minimise the need to travel and are accessible safely and conveniently by non-car modes of travel – walking, cycling, public transport. This will be achieved by:
  - a. concentrating most new development within urban areas, with major developments located in the largest settlements;
  - b. focusing development activity in Wakefield City and other town centres, taking advantage of existing services and high levels of accessibility;
  - c. allowing small scale development in local service centres, villages and rural areas which meets identified local needs or maintains the viability of local services.
4. To make it easier to travel around the District and the wider Leeds City Region and to access local services and amenities using sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling,

1 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

2 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

- public transport), by increasing transport choice and improving public transport accessibility.
5. To provide sufficient good quality housing of the appropriate sizes, types, tenures and affordability to meet the identified needs of the District, in line with the housing requirement of RSS, by promoting efficient use and improvement of the existing housing stock and providing new housing in sustainable locations.
  6. To create attractive, successful and accessible city and town centres by encouraging development which provides a range of services and activities which are appropriate to the function and size of the centre.
  7. To support the growth of a dynamic local economy which increases prosperity for all sections of the community by:
    - a. encouraging investment and enterprise in the District and the development of clusters of economic activity;
    - b. building on the competitive advantages enjoyed by the District;
    - c. the urban renaissance of Wakefield City;
    - d. reconnecting the Coalfield Communities in the South East;
    - e. the urban renaissance of the Five Towns;
    - f. encouraging the diversification of the rural economy.
  8. To provide a range of high quality, accessible cultural, recreational and leisure opportunities across the District to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.
  9. To protect and enhance the historic heritage, character and identity of the individual settlements of the District by:
    - a. ensuring that the scale and location of development in each settlement is in keeping with its size, form and character;
    - b. ensuring that the buildings and open spaces which create character are protected, maintained and enhanced;
    - c. ensuring high quality, sustainable, design in all new development;
    - d. retaining the Green Belt to make a clear distinction between town and country.
  10. To ensure that the District's natural environment, including wildlife habitats and landscape character, is conserved and protected and that new development identifies, protects and enhances important assets.
  11. To promote and maintain a clean, attractive and safe environment by reducing waste, avoiding pollution, ensuring efficient use of resources and promoting high quality design in all new development.

## 2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

2.0.1 The SA process used in Wakefield is summarised in Figure 1 below. The assessment to date, has comprised three stages as follows:

- Determining the key issues upon which the SA should focus and setting and agreeing sustainability objectives, a process known as ‘Scoping’;
- Appraisal of the Core Strategy and Development Control policy options, referred to as the ‘Initial SA’; and
- Appraisal of the preferred options chosen, referred to as the ‘SA’.

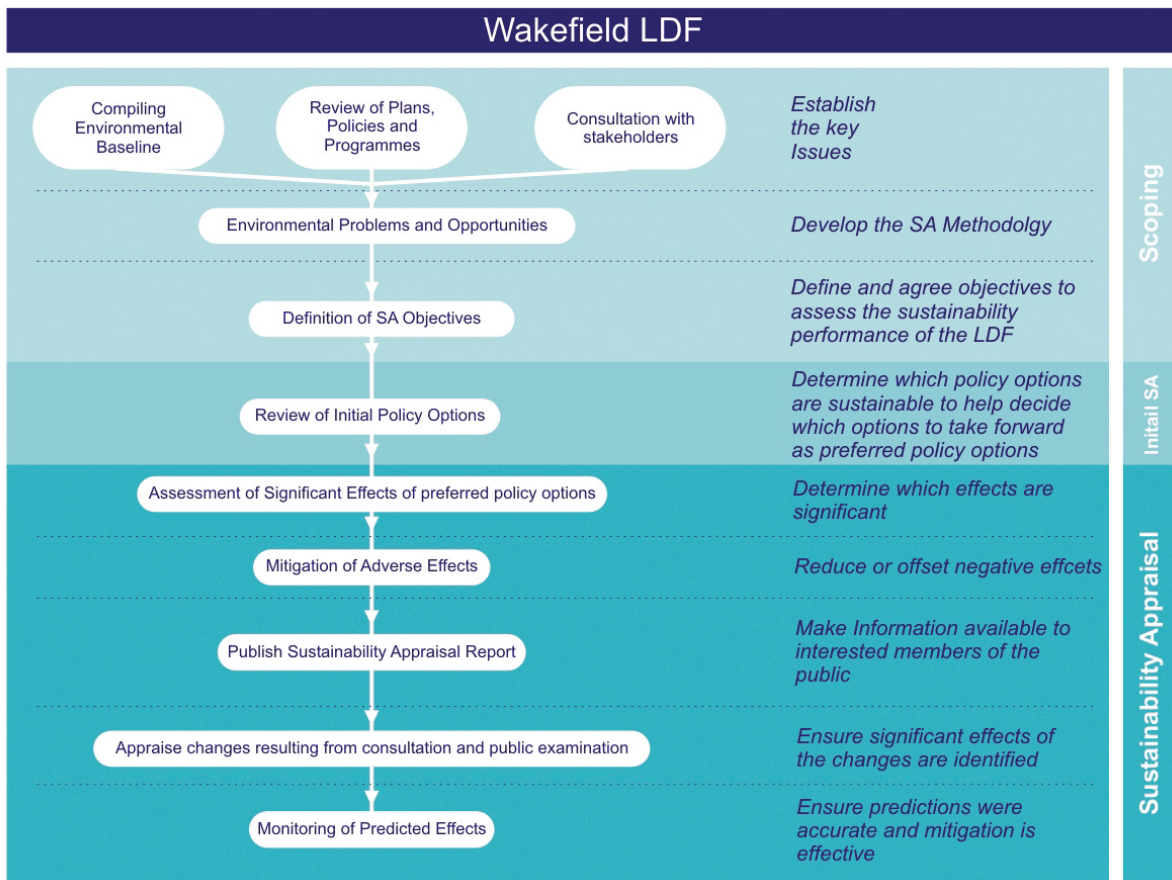


Figure 1 Summary of the SA Process

### 2.1 Scoping

2.1.1 The aim of the scoping stage is to determine the key environmental, social and economic issues arising in the district and the framework for assessing the plans. The SEA Regulations require that the following topics are investigated in order to determine whether the introduction of the policies will have significant effects on these topic areas:

- Population
- Human health
- Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Cultural heritage

- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Landscape
- And the interrelationship between these factors

**2.1.2** In addition to these “SEA topics”, other social and economic factors are also taken into account. After documenting the sustainability characteristics of the area, and identifying any trends (i.e. is the situation getting better or worse?), other planning documents and policies were reviewed to see how these would influence the SA and the LDF. From the outputs of these two initial stages, the key environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities that relate to the area, and on which the assessment should focus, were established. These issues are described below.

### **Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline**

**2.1.3** Key sustainability issues have been identified from the review of planning documentation, information on the existing sustainability characteristics of the District and following discussions with WMDC. These are described below.

### ***Economic Issues***

**2.1.4** High unemployment exists in some areas of the District, particularly in the south east and north east of the District and parts of the city of Wakefield, due to the decline in traditional industries. Many new jobs are temporary, part time and lower paid. Good quality job opportunities need to be provided in all areas of the District to reduce the levels of hardship experienced by some people.

**2.1.5** Economic growth in the District is below the national average. Investment and new business activities in the District need to be encouraged, and conditions that enable economic growth developed.

**2.1.6** Shops, manufacturing work and health and social work are the largest employers in the District but jobs in the financial and other business services, leisure and recreation, hotels and catering and other professional services are increasing. However, Wakefield has the smallest number of offices in West Yorkshire, with most located in Wakefield City centre. Demand for office accommodation is growing outside established town centres in the District.

**2.1.7** There is a continuing demand for sites of 2-8 hectares for distribution warehouses, mainly at the industrial estates in the motorway and A1 corridors and on open greenfield land.

### ***Social Issues***

**2.1.8** The impact of the decline of the traditional industries in areas of the south east and north of the District has resulted in higher than the national average levels of social and economic hardship.

**2.1.9** The number of adults with qualifications in the Wakefield District is relatively low although the number of pupils achieving GCSE Grades A to C has increased, so that it is now in line with the regional average.

**2.1.10** Wakefield has a relatively high level of burglary and theft from motor vehicles compared with the national average and car crime has been increasing.

- 2.1.11** There is a need for affordable housing throughout the District and the number of new homes built on previously developed land should be maintained at current levels.
- 2.1.12** The proportion of residents with limiting long-term illness is relatively high and has risen from 15.3% in 1991 to 22.4% in 2001. Almost half of these are of working age.

### ***Environmental Issues***

- 2.1.13** Protected ecological sites cover only 2% of Wakefield District's land area. Woodland cover in the District is just 3.8%, compared with the national figure of 10.5%. Due to the decline of coal mining and other traditional industries, the district has suffered significant environmental degradation, dereliction and (in part) potential for suspected ground contamination. Future development should increasingly be on previously developed land, and, where possible, enable the clean-up of contaminated land.
- 2.1.14** Air quality along the M1 Motorway and the A1 near Darrington, is worse than national air quality targets, and in these specific areas Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared. Traffic is the main source of the pollutants in these locations, and therefore it is important that development decisions do not contribute to a worsening of the current situation.
- 2.1.15** The water quality of the Rivers Aire, Calder and Dearne has improved over recent years largely as a result of improvements to sewage treatment and industrial waste discharges. Rates of improvement have slowed in the last few years however. A clean environment should be promoted and maintained, including the quality of rivers.
- 2.1.16** The District has a lower level of carbon dioxide emissions per head than the Region as a whole. Ferrybridge Power Station has also begun using renewable energy sources, as well as coal, as an energy source and so the amount of energy from renewable sources is increasing but still remains relatively low.
- 2.1.17** The amount of waste recycled in recent years has increased significantly to 21% which is more than the Regional average.

**SA Objectives**

**2.1.18** Based on these key issues, fifteen SA Objectives were developed as shown below. These were then agreed with environmental bodies and others and uses as the basis for the appraisal.

- SA1** Good quality employment opportunities available to all;
- SA2** Conditions which enable business success, economic growth and investment;
- SA3** Education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities;
- SA4** Conditions and services to engender good health;
- SA5** Safety and security for people and property;
- SA6** Vibrant communities to participate in decision making;
- SA7** Create, enhance and provide accessibility to culture, leisure and recreation activities;
- SA8** Local needs met locally;
- SA9** Quality housing available to everyone;
- SA10** To provide a transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts;
- SA11** A quality built environment that protects and enhances its historic assets, and efficient land use patterns that make good use of derelict sites, minimise travel and promote balanced development;
- SA12** A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment;
- SA13** Minimal pollution levels;
- SA14** Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change; and
- SA15** Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste.

**Testing the LDF Objectives**

**2.1.19** In order to ensure that the LDF objectives don't conflict with the sustainability objectives, they were tested against each other. No significant conflicts were found. However, increases in development proposed by the LDF objectives could affect the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and level of waste produced. However, this needs to be balanced against the need to provide economic growth, employment and housing for the people of the district.

**Consultations on the Scope**

**2.1.20** Consultations on the key issues and SA objectives were undertaken with the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, and the Environment Agency to confirm that they were in agreement with the findings of the initial stages, and to provide an opportunity to suggest changes to the assessment. Consultation with these bodies is a legal requirement however, in addition, a wider group of local stakeholders were also included in the consultation exercises so that input could be provided on the approach to assessing the social and economic factors covered by the assessment, as well as the more local environmental issues.

## 2.2 Initial Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.2.1** One of the requirements of SA is to consider alternative approaches to achieving the objectives of the plan, so that the effects of these alternatives can be assessed. The Issues and Options Report for the Core Strategy and Development Control DPD proposed a number of options for achieving the LDF objectives.
- 2.2.2** These policy options were assessed against the agreed SA objectives. The purpose of this appraisal, known as an 'Initial Sustainability Appraisal', was to help to guide the Council on choosing preferred options.
- 2.2.3** The policy options available to plan makers in seeking to meet the objectives are heavily constrained by national and regional planning guidance, and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal found that, in most cases the proposed options that were the least sustainable were those that looked at the 'do nothing' option, these being the options that did not follow the new guidance.

### Consultation

- 2.2.4** The 'Initial Sustainability Appraisal' report was sent out with Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's 'Issues & Options Report' for widespread consultation with interested parties including the public, in January and February 2005. This consultation generated a total of 1,358 separate comments from 114 different respondents and the results have been used, together with the Initial SA, to develop the options into preferred policies. These are now presented in the 'Preferred Options Reports' which are accompanied by the 'Sustainability Appraisal Report'.

## 2.3 Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.3.1** The preferred policies chosen by the Council have been appraised against the agreed SA Objectives. The appraisal has focused on identifying the significant environmental, social, and economic effects which may result from the implementation of the policies. The policies were assessed for their likely impact against the 15 SA objectives, and the findings of the assessment are summarised below. The key to the tables below is as follows:

✓✓	Very sustainable
✓	Sustainable
?	Uncertain
-	Neutral
×	Unsustainable
××	Very unsustainable

Policy (Abridged)		SA Objective (Abridged)														
		SA1. Employment	SA2. Economy	SA3. Education	SA4. Health	SA5. Security	SA6. Participation	SA7. Leisure	SA8. Local Needs	SA9. Housing	SA10. Transport	SA11. Land use	SA12. Natural Environment	SA13. Pollution Levels	SA14. Climate Change	SA15. Natural resources
CS1	Location of Development	✓	✓	-	?	?	-	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CS2	Sustainable Development	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CS3	Development Criteria	✓	-	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
CS4	High Quality Design	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
CS5	Scale of Additional Housing	?	✓	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	-	?	?	xx	xx	xx
CS6	Location of Housing	-	?	-	?	-	✓	-	✓	?	✓	-	?	?	?	✓
CS7	Housing Allocations	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓
CS8	Phasing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
CS9	Greenfield Windfall Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	?	-	-	✓
CS10	Brownfield Windfall Sites	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	?	?	?	?	✓
CS11	Housing Mix	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
CS12	Affordable Housing	✓	✓	-	-	?	?	-	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	?
CS13	Affordable Housing	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	?	✓	-	?	-	-	-	-
CS14	Existing Housing	-	-	-	✓	?	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓
CS15	Scale of Employment Land	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	?	?	xx	xx	xx
CS16	Location of Employment	✓	✓	-	-	-	?	-	✓	-	✓	?	?	-	?	✓
CS17	The Rural Economy	✓	✓	✓	-	?	-	?	-	?	?	-	?	-	?	✓
CS18	Rural Employment Sites	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
CS19	Employment Zones	✓	✓	-	-	-	?	-	✓	?	-	?	-	-	-	-
CS20	Local Economy	✓	✓	✓	-	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
CS21	Transport and Development	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
CS22	Walking and Cycling	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	-
CS23	Public Transport	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	?	✓	-	✓	✓	-	?	✓	-
CS24	The Highway Network	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	?	?	-
CS25	Freight	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	?	?	?	-
CS26	Demand Management	✓	?	?	✓	✓	-	?	?	-	?	✓	?	?	?	-
CS27	Disused Railways/Waterways	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	?	?	?	?	-
CS28	Retailing and Town Centre	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	x	-	✓
CS29	Community Facilities	✓	?	-	?	?	✓	?	✓	?	✓	?	?	-	✓	✓
CS30	Mixed Use Development	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	?	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
CS31	Leisure & Recreation	✓	-	?	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-
CS32	Community Safety	-	✓	-	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
CS33	Green Belt	x	x	-	✓	-	-	✓	?	x	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓
CS34	Natural/Cultural Environment	-	✓	?	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
CS35	Environmental Impact	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
CS36	Natural Resources	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
CS37	Waste Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	?	-	?	✓	✓
CS38	Mineral Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CS39	The Provision of Minerals	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓
CS40	Coal Mining	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	?	?	✓	-	-

Figure 2 Summary of Core Strategy Preferred Policies Assessment

Policy (Abridged)	SA Objective (Abridged)															
	SA1. Employment	SA2. Economy	SA3. Education	SA4. Health	SA5. Security	SA6. Participation	SA7. Leisure	SA8. Local Needs	SA9. Housing	SA10. Transport	SA11. Land use	SA12. Natural Environment	SA13. Pollution Levels	SA14. Climate Change	SA15. Natural resources	
H1	Housing Densities	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	-	-	✓	✓
H2	Intensification	-	-	-	-	✓	?	-	✓	✓	?	✓	-	-	-	✓
H3	Access to Undeveloped Land	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
H4	Open Space	?	-	?	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	-	-	✓	-
H5	Multiple Occupation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-
H6	Gypsies & Travellers	-	-	?	?	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	?	-	-	✓	-
EMP1	Employment Land	✓	✓	-	-	-	?	-	✓	-	-	?	-	?	-	-
EMP2	Mixed Use Zones	✓	?	-	?	?	?	?	✓	?	✓	-	?	-	✓	-
EMP3	Farm Diversification	✓	✓	-	-	?	✓	?	✓	-	?	?	?	?	-	✓
EMP4	Tourist Accommodation	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	?	?	✓	✓	-	-	?	-
T1	Transport and Travel	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
GB1	Development in Green Belt	-	x	-	✓	-	✓	✓	?	x	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓
GB2	Green Belt Location & Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
GB3	Agricultural/Forestry Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GB4	Development Abutting Green Belt	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓
GB5	Existing Uses in the Green Belt	x	x	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
GB6	Infilling of Major Developed Sites	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	✓	✓	-	-	✓
GB7	Redevelopment of Major Sites	x	x	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
SL1	Protected Areas of Search	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
HIS1	Archaeological Sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
HIS2	Historic Locations	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
HIS3	Historic Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
HIS4	Listed Buildings	-	-	-	-	?	-	✓	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
HIS5	Conservation Areas	-	-	-	-	?	-	✓	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
HIS6	Conservation Area Open Space	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
HIS7	Buildings of Local Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
NAT1	Ecological Protected Sites	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT2	Ecological Protected Sites	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT3	Ecology of Water Bodies	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT4	Wildlife Habitat Network	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT5	Protection of Trees	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT6	Development Affecting Trees	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT7	Areas of Open Land	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
NAT8	Protection of Agricultural Land	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NAT9	Landscape Character	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-
EIC1	Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-
EIC2	Flood Risk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	?	✓	✓	-
EIC3	Development in Floodplains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	?	✓	✓	-
EIC4	Protection of Groundwater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
EIC5	Pollution control	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
EIC6	Air Quality	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
EIC7	Noise Pollution	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
EIC8	Light Pollution	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
EIC9	Contaminated Land	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-	-
EIC10	Contaminated Land	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	?	?	-
EIC11	Hazardous Operations	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-
EIC12	Hazardous Operations	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-

Figure 3 Summary of Development Control DPD Preferred Policies Assessment

Policy (Abridged)		SA Objective (Abridged)														
		SA1. Employment	SA2. Economy	SA3. Education	SA4. Health	SA5. Security	SA6. Participation	SA7. Leisure	SA8. Local Needs	SA9. Housing	SA10. Transport	SA11. Land use	SA12. Natural Environment	SA13. Pollution Levels	SA14. Climate Change	SA15. Natural resources
BED1	Design of New Development	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED2	Landscape Design	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED3	Design for Safety & Security	-	-	-	-	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED4	Extensions & Alterations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED5	Waterfront Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED6	Cabling and Pipelines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED7	Advertisements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BED8	Shopfront Design	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEL1	Telecommunication Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REN1	Renewable Energy	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
REN2	Renewable Energy Generation	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	-	-
REN3	Energy Efficiency	-	-	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MIN1	Mineral Extraction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 4 Summary of Development Control DPD Preferred Policies Assessment (Cont)

### Significant Positive Effects

**2.3.2** As shown above, significant positive effects were identified for all 15 of the SA Objectives in either or both of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. These include:

- Encouraging skills training and protecting employment land to enhance the level of employment in the District;
- Protecting existing community facilities, leisure and recreation and encouraging new facilities to be provided within new developments;
- Helping to increase the number of journeys made by means other than the car, including by walking, cycling or public transport;
- Protecting the greenbelt, greenspaces, areas of nature conservation importance and local landscape character from inappropriate development;
- Making sure new developments consider safety and security;
- Providing new housing, including affordable housing;
- Protecting and enhancing areas of cultural, environmental and historic interest;
- Encouraging the efficient use of natural resources and waste minimisation or recycling; and
- Minimising the risk of pollution and encouraging renewable energy generation.

### Significant Negative Effects

**2.3.3** The only significant negative effects identified during the assessment resulted from the level of proposed new development on:

- Air, water, land, noise and light pollution - All new development has the potential to result in increased emissions and pollution;

- Carbon dioxide emissions – new development will increase the amount of energy used and therefore the carbon dioxide emissions given off;
- Natural resource use – construction and use of new developments will increase the amount of energy, water, building materials and land used; and
- Waste production – increased activity in the District will increase the amount of waste produced.

### **Significant Uncertainties**

**2.3.4** As the LDF aims to guide Development, there are a number of cases where the effect of the plan is uncertain. The significant uncertainties include:

- The locations of development. The location of new houses and businesses is a key factor in working out what the actual effects of the plan will be. The location of the developments will be determined, in part, by another planning document controlling which areas of the District will be allocated for which use, known as Site Specific Policies and Proposals DPD. This will also undergo a SA, to help guide the Council on which sites are more sustainable; and
- How some policies will relate with other policies in the plan. For example, restricting business in certain areas may improve the environment but may affect employment levels in that area.

### **Cumulative Effects**

**2.3.5** Cumulative effects are those effects that when added together become more significant even if on their own they do not appear to be significant. Cumulative effects can occur with other plans and policies as well as within the plan itself. The cumulative effects of the SA are generally positive and include:

- The additive effects of encouraging development near to public transport links, improving public transport and encouraging walking and cycling, all of which should help to reduce car usage;
- The additive effects of encouraging economic development which can also lead to improved feelings of wellbeing and reduced levels of crime.

### **Mitigation Measures**

**2.3.6** SA Guidance requires that measures should be considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant negative effects that have been identified during the assessment process.

**2.3.7** In nearly every case where significant negative effects and other less significant negative effects have been identified during the assessment process, the Core Strategy and Development Control DPD policies have put forward the mitigation measures required to prevent or reduce the severity of this effect. For example, provision of a policy to require renewable energy use in new developments and policies to minimise the potential for increasing air pollution, particularly in designated Air Quality Management Areas. However, additional mitigation measures have been recommended including:

- Increasing links between the Core Strategy and Development Control policies and other strategy documents produced by the Council. This will help to ensure that issues that cannot directly be addressed by the LDF, can be addressed by other plans and strategy documents;

- Including a requirement in the transport policies for developers to consider speed restrictions and traffic calming measures. This will help increase the ability of the plans to reduce the number of accidents;
- Providing more emphasis on cultural activities, as well as leisure and recreation facilities. At the moment the policies focus on leisure and recreational facilities rather than cultural activities; and
- Including a new policy in the Development Control DPD to cover sustainable buildings. This will help to reduce natural resource use by encouraging, for example, use of environmentally friendly building materials, recycling of building materials and installation of energy efficient heating and lighting.

### **3 How the Assessment has Influenced the Plan**

**3.1** The process of undertaking sustainability appraisal on the emerging policy options for the LDDs is not a 'rubber stamping operation' that is carried out once the policies have been determined, but instead is an interactive process which informs the option development process. This has resulted in:

- Revisions to the LDF objectives as a result of the initial SA stages;
- Guiding the selection of preferred policies; and
- Recommending mitigation measures to include into the preferred policies and planning documents.

**3.2** Options that were shown to be unsustainable in the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report have not been carried forward into the Preferred Options Reports.

## 4 Monitoring Proposals

4.1 Once the plans are implemented, their effects on the environment, society and economy are to be monitored to allow action to be taken to reduce and/or offset any significant effects. The monitoring programme will be finalised for inclusion in the SA Statement which will accompany the adopted plans. Where possible the monitoring will make use of existing arrangements, such as those reported in the WMDC LDF Annual Monitoring Report. The recommended monitoring includes:

- amount of development constructed on previously developed land;
- long term unemployment;
- household waste recycling levels;
- road traffic growth levels; and
- regional data on carbon dioxide emissions.

## **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1** The publication of the Sustainability Report signifies the start of a consultation process, whereby key stakeholders and the public are given the opportunity to comment on the contents of both the draft LDDs and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
- 5.2** The results of the consultation process will be used to guide the development of the LDDs. Once the documents have been finalised, they will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination, accompanied by an 'SA Statement' and 'Consultation Statement' which will explain how the sustainability appraisal and consultation process have influenced the final documents.

## 6 How Can I Get Involved?

6.1 Wakefield Metropolitan District Council is writing to:

- consultees identified in the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement;
- all those who responded to the Issues & Options Consultation; and
- any one else who has asked to be kept informed about the preparation of the LDF;

to let them know that the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options Reports and this accompanying Sustainability Report are available for comment. If you are aware of anyone else who may wish to be informed, let us know and we will write to them.

6.2 If you have comments on the Council's preferred options reports or the Sustainability Appraisal, please:

- comment online on the Council's web-site at [www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf);
- fill in the form and return it to the address below; or
- e-mail your comments to [stratpoludp@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:stratpoludp@wakefield.gov.uk)

**All comments should reach us by 5.00 p.m. on *Wednesday 1st March 2006*.**

Send your comments to:  
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council  
Spatial Policy Group  
Regeneration & Housing Services  
PO Box 92  
Newton Bar  
Wakefield  
WF1 1XS  
Fax: (01924) 306660

If you wish to be kept informed of progress in preparing the LDF and be notified of future consultation stages tick the relevant box on the form or e-mail us with details and we will add your name and address to our mailing list.