

Core Strategy DPD &
Development Policies DPD
- Soundness Self
Assessment



Local Development Framework

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Development Policies DPD
- Soundness Self
Assessment

Information

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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) 306495



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1 Introduction

Introduction

1.1 Under the new planning system Local Development Framework (LDF) development plan documents (DPDs) will be considered at Public Examination. The Inspector will consider whether the LDF satisfies the requirements of the Act ⁽¹⁾ and the Regulations ⁽²⁾ relating to the preparation of DPDs in terms of procedure and whether they are "sound".

1.2 Planning Policy Statement 12 'Creating Local Development Frameworks' (PPS 12) states that "*Local planning authorities should ensure that development plan documents are sound when submitted for examination*" (paragraph 4.15). Local planning authorities (LPAs) may find it useful to carry out an objective self assessment process having regard to the tests in PPS 12 to satisfy themselves that they have produced a sound DPD. Where they do this, their assessment can be used as part of their evidence for the Public Examination.

1.3 The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has issued guidance ⁽³⁾ which sets out how the Inspector will manage the examination to assess whether the DPD is sound. In addition to soundness the examination has to consider whether the authority has complied with all the statutory requirements. While some statutory requirements are covered by the first five soundness tests, many are not. Proof that requirements have been met will therefore need to be included in the self-assessment statement.

1.4 This guidance has been taken forward by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), with the support of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and PINS through production of the 'LDF soundness self-assessment toolkit' (September 2006). The soundness toolkit provides a framework to assist LPAs to draw up an appropriate self assessment statement. It is in two parts, the first provides guidance to assist in the preparation of DPDs, and the second provides the basis for the self assessment statement.

1.5 The soundness toolkit has been used as the template for the City of Wakefield MDC Soundness Self Assessment Statement for the LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD.

1.6 As set out above, the Local Development Framework documents are subject to a number of tests of their soundness once they are submitted to the Secretary of State. The tests are set out below:

| | |
|----------|--|
| 1 | It has not been prepared in accordance with the authority's Local Development Scheme (LDS). |
| 2 | It has not been prepared in compliance with the Statement of Community involvement (SCI), or where no SCI exists, it has not been prepared in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. |
| 3 | The plan and its policies have not been subject to Sustainability Appraisal. |
| 4 | It is not a spatial plan, or it has not properly had regard to any other relevant plans, policies and strategies relating to the area or to adjoining areas, and/or it is inconsistent with national planning policy and/or it is not in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy (or spatial development strategy in London). |
| 5 | It does not have regard to the Authority's Community Strategy. |
| 6 | The strategies/policies/allocations in the plan are not coherent and consistent within and between Development Plan Documents (DPDs) prepared by the Authority and by neighbouring Authorities, where cross boundary issues are relevant. |

1 *The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*

2 *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004*

3 *Development Plans Examination - A guide to the process of Assessing the Soundness of Development Plan Documents 2005*

| | |
|----------|---|
| 7 | The strategies/policies/allocations fail to represent the most appropriate in all the circumstances, having considered the relevant alternatives, and they are not founded on a robust and credible evidence base. |
| 8 | There are no clear mechanisms for implementation and monitoring. |
| 9 | The plan is not reasonably flexible to enable it to deal with changing circumstances. |

Table 1 Tests of Soundness

2 Statutory Requirements

2.1 This section sets out how the Council has complied with formal procedural requirements of producing the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. It is organised by each stage of DPD production and identifies the activities that are required at each stage as set out in the Planning Advisory Service LDF Soundness Self-Assessment Toolkit.

Stage 1 - Pre-Production

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE REQUIRED |
|---|---|--|
| Is the DPD identified in the LPA's adopted LDS? | The Act s19(1) | Work commenced on the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs under the LDS 2005 ⁴ . It proposed the preparation of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs during the period mid-2004 to mid 2007 and to the end of 2008 respectively (Table 1 p.9, p.12 and 15). |
| Have you recorded the commencement of the DPD? | Not Statutory | Pre-production and early community engagement were undertaken primarily in July to December 2004 as the first stages of continuous engagement on the LDF, as set out in the LDS 2005 (p.12 and 13). This was carried out in parallel with early community engagement for the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs, and is recorded in the Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation published January 2006 (p.3). Information was also posted on the Council's web-pages and in the Council's community newspaper "The Citizen" (Winter edition 2004). |
| Have any details set out in the LDS such as the role, rationale or scope of the DPD been met? | The Act s19(1) | Section 3.0 of the LDS 2005 sets out the " <i>Profiles of Each Local Development Document</i> " and provides details of the role of the two DPDs (p.12 and 15). Section 3.0 of the LDS 2006 sets out the " <i>Priorities for the Local Development Framework</i> " and Table 3 " <i>Profiles of Each Local Development Document</i> " and provides details on the joint Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD (p.25). |
| Is baseline information being collected and evidence being gathered to set the framework for the SA? | The Act s19(5) | The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Chapter 5 (p.15-19) sets out baseline information which is summarised in Table 2 (p.16). Chapter 7 outlines the Sustainability Appraisal Framework through which the DPD will be assessed. |
| Are you collecting information on the conservation objectives of any European wildlife (Natura 2000) sites? | Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 | The Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD contains this information. |
| Have you consulted the four statutory environment consultation bodies for five | Regulations 9 and 13 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and | Consultation letters and copies of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report were sent to the statutory bodies and some additional bodies on 30 November |

4 A Draft LDS was approved by the Council in September 2004, and following some changes and consideration by the Secretary of State, the final version became effective from 1 July 2005

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE REQUIRED |
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| weeks on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA report? | Programmes Regulations 2004 specify the consultation procedures for plans requiring SEA. | 2004. Details are given in the Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation (p.9). |

Table 2 Stage 1 Pre-Production

Stage 2 - Issues and Options (Regulation 25 Consultation)

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| Have the "specific consultation bodies" been consulted - or are there any of these bodies which, because of the nature of this DPD, do not need to be consulted at this stage? | Regulation 25(1)(a) | All specific consultation bodies have been consulted. These are listed in Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation (Appendix A), and in The Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 2) |
| Have the "general consultation bodies" been identified and consulted - and are those bodies consulted consistent with the approach set out in the adopted SCI? | Regulation 25(1)(b) | General consultation bodies have been consulted in accordance with the approach set out in the SCI. These are listed in Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation (Appendix A), and in The Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 2). |
| Does the consultation contribute to the development and sustainability appraisal of the options? | The Act s19(5) | Consultation on the Issues & Options Report and Issues & Options Initial Sustainability Appraisal was carried out between January - March 2005. The Initial Sustainability Appraisal set out a range of options and tested these against Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation (Appendix E) summarises representations made and the Council's response to these. |
| Are you keeping a record of the bodies being consulted, how they are being consulted, and the main issues they have raised? | Regulation 28(1)(c) | This information is contained in the Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation report which sets out which bodies were consulted and how this was undertaken (p.6-9 and Appendix A & B). The issues raised and the Council's response to these are summarised in Appendices C, D & E. Records of all representations that have been made are kept both on file and electronically on the Council's Limehouse database. |
| Are you developing a framework for monitoring the effects of the DPD? | Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 specifies the requirements for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of plans | <p>At Issues and Options stage, monitoring frameworks were not in place, however frameworks were being developed which were in place by Preferred Options stage. The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD describe the arrangements for monitoring and identify the indicators, main agencies involved and proposed targets (Core Strategy Appendix 2). Table 4 of Appendix 2 (p.125-128) shows Core Strategy policies with links to strategic objectives, Initial Sustainability Appraisal, and monitoring.</p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2005 sets out indicators against which the progress of the DPD and the effects of its policies and proposals can be monitored. It will assess</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress in preparing LDDs compared with the milestones set out in the LDS, and what changes |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | <p>to the scheme may be needed may be needed; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent to which policies and related targets in LDDs are achieving their intended purposes and where policies may need to be reviewed. <p>The AMR 2005 presented data in response to the National Core Output Indicators set out in 'Local Development framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide' (ODPM March 2005 and update 1/2005). It is anticipated that each AMR will include indicators and targets relating to LDF documents as and when they reach submission stage.</p> <p>The Initial Sustainability Appraisal Chapter 5 "The Sustainability Framework" (p.21) sets out objectives, baseline information and indicators for monitoring the environmental effects of the DPD.</p> |
| Have you arranged to send to the GO copies of documents used in consultation? | Not statutory | Copies of the Issues & Options Report and all supporting documents and a letter were sent to GOYH on 13 January 2005. |

Table 3 Stage 2 Issues and Options (Regulation 25 Consultation)

Stage 3 - Preferred Options (Regulation 26 Consultation)

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| Is the DPD being prepared in accordance with the LDS? | The Act s19(1) | <p>Work commenced on the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD documents under the first LDS (which came into effect on 1 July 2005). The documents were listed separately as the 'Core Strategy DPD' and the 'Development Control Policies DPD' and were current at the time of consultation on the Issues and Options, which was carried out in January and February 2005.</p> <p>The revised LDS became effective on 1 October 2006 after milestones for the dates of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs were missed. The Preferred Options consultation was current with this second LDS and was carried out in January to February 2006. By this time it was decided the documents would be published together in a single volume for submission and listed as the 'Core Strategy & Development Policies DPD' although consultation at Preferred Options stage was carried out separately for each DPD.</p> |
| <p>Have you assessed the preferred options against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistency with national policy? • general conformity with the RSS? • conformity with the core strategy DPD or old policy? | The Act s19(2), s24 and Schedule 8 Regulation 13(6) | <p>The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report makes regular reference/ links to national policy. Examples of this are in the Housing section, paragraphs 5.5.2, 5.5.3 and 5.6.2 of the Report. Reference is made to "PPG3" and "New draft Government guidance". Details of the national, regional and local policy context are also outlined in Appendix 4 of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>The Development Control Policies Preferred Options Report makes references/links to national policy throughout. Examples of this are shown in the 'Context' section- paragraphs 2.2, 2.3, and 2.5 - whereby reference is made to PPS12 and how the document has been designed "reflect national planning guidance." Specific policies also have regard to national policies, for example, 'Housing Density' paragraph 3.2.2, 'Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople' section 3.7, and 'Major Developed Sites' paragraph 6.7.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD - Preferred Options Report (the Report) is in general conformity with the RSS. Appendix 5 of the Report provides evidence of how the "LDF Core Strategy Objectives" conform to the "Regional Spatial Strategy Themes" (i.e. economic regeneration and growth, urban and rural renaissance, promoting social inclusion, and conserving and enhancing natural resources).</p> <p>Following on from Appendix 5, Appendix 2 of the Report demonstrates how the Core Strategy Preferred Options policies conform to the LDF Core Strategy</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | <p>Preferred Options spatial objectives which were developed alongside regional and national policy/strategies.</p> <p>The Development Control Policies DPD - Preferred Options Report is in conformity with the Core Strategy which in turn is in general conformity with the RSS. RBP was consulted and did not make any comments on the Development Control Policies document.</p> <p>Confirmation of the approach taken was sought through correspondence with GOYH during consultation on Issues and Options (letter requesting comments dated 13 January 2005, and response from GOYH dated 21 February 2005) and at Preferred Options stage (letter requesting comments on Core Strategy and Development Control Policies documents dated 16 January 2006, and response from GOYH dated 1 March 2006). Comments made by GOYH were taken into account when finalising the Preferred Options documents.</p> <p>Confirmation of the approach was also taken through correspondence with the RPB (YHA) during consultation on Issues and Options (letter requesting comments dated 13 January 2005, and response from YHA (informal comments only) dated 28 February 2005) and at Preferred Options stage (letter requesting comments dated 16 January, and response from YHA (informal comments only) dated 1 March 2006). Comments made by YHA were taken into account when finalising the Preferred Option documents.</p> |
| Are you having regard to adjoining RSS? (if appropriate) | The Act s19(2) Regulation 15(1)(g) | Given Wakefield's position in the Yorkshire and Humber region this was not necessary as none of the District's boundaries abut another region i.e. North West, North East and East Midlands. |
| <p>Are you having regard to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the community strategy of the authority? • any other LDD adopted by the authority? | The Act s19(2) | <p>At Preferred Options stage the Wakefield District Community Strategy was called 'Fast Forward' although at later stages this was revised and named 'Developing Knowledge Communities'. The Core Strategy makes reference to how the main local policy context for the LDF is provided by the Community Strategy and how the vision will be delivered (section 2 (Context) of the Core Strategy DPD, paragraphs 2.3.3 to 2.3.6 and Appendix 4, paragraphs 4.19 to 4.23).</p> <p>Appendix 5 of the Core Strategy DPD, 'Core Strategy Objectives – Links to Higher Level Strategies' provides evidence of how the preferred options for the Core Strategy links to the five challenges in Fast Forward.</p> <p>The Development Control Policies DPD is in conformity with the Core Strategy DPD and so the evidence provided for this activity will relate to both documents</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | <p>produced. However, reference to the Community Strategy is made within the former report, (e.g in the 'Context' section, chapter 2, paragraph 2.21, it is stated how development policies are one of the main methods of implementing the land use objectives set out in Fast Forward).</p> |
| <p>Are you having regard to the other matters and strategies relating to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources? • the RDA's Regional Economic Strategy? • infrastructure provision in any transport plan? • utilities infrastructure? • integration of transport and land use policies? • waste strategies? • hazardous substances and accidents? • climate change? • air quality strategy? | <p>The Act 19(2) Regulation 15</p> <p><i>matters referred to in Annex B of PPS 12 additional to the requirements set out in the Act and regulations</i></p> | <p>The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options report indicates that the issues identified were taken into account in developing the document.</p> <p>Appendix 4 of the Core Strategy DPD relates to national, regional and local policy context. Paragraph 4.24 relates to how spatial implications of other plans, strategies and programmes at regional, sub-regional and local level will influence and be influenced by the LDF. A list is also included in the Appendix which names those other documents.</p> <p>RSS matters are referred to throughout the Core Strategy, especially in Appendix 4. The programme by Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency (RDA) who deliver the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) is specifically regarded in section 2.3.7-2.3.10 'Urban Renaissance' and expands on the renaissance vision for the Wakefield District.</p> <p>The integration of transport objectives and land use policies via strategies such as Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) and the present second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) are regarded in Chapter 7 'Transport and Travel' of the Core Strategy DPD. Section 7.1.8. This is addressed particularly in relation to minimising travel and increasing accessibility (Policy CS21), increasing walking and cycling (Policy CS22) and developing public transport (Policy CS23).</p> <p>Within the Development Control Policies DPD, transport and travel is considered in Chapter 5 and LTP2 and RSS is regarded in Policy T1 'Transport and Travel'. The Leeds City Region development plan is regarded in Appendix 4 of the Core Strategy section 4.16 -4.18 and notes most development should take place in the south of the sub-area.</p> <p>Chapter 14 of the Core Strategy DPD and Policy CS37 relates to waste management. Hazardous substances and accidents are regarded in Chapter 10 of the Development Control Policies DPD, section 10.10 Hazardous Operations. Policies EIC11 and EIC12 'Protection from Hazardous Operations' have been developed regarding the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and this is stated in section 10.10.1. Chapter 13 of the Core Strategy DPD regards climate change. Section 13.3.3 'Climate Change' regards current RSS</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | <p>Policy S5 and that “all new development should take account of climate change”. Air Quality is regarded in Chapter 13, section 13.3.8 'Air Quality' of the Core Strategy and Chapter 10, section 10.6, Policy EIC6 'Air Quality', of the Development Control Policies DPD. It includes how a number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been designated and the preparation of the Air Quality Action Plan being prepared by the Council's Environmental Health Service.</p> <p>The relevant bodies have been consulted on the preferred options and issues were raised and appreciated following Issues and Options correspondence. In particular, correspondence has been received from GOYH, the Planning and Transport Team at the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and Yorkshire Forward. Comment was also given to Yorkshire Forward responding to the consultation on the RES by John Foster, Wakefield Council's Chief Executive dated 26 September 2005. A summary of the consultation process, and the comments received is given in the Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation, chapter 3 and Appendix C.</p> |
| Have you undertaken the necessary sustainability appraisal of alternatives in arriving at the preferred options? | The Act s19(5) | <p>Consultation on the Issues & Options Report and Issues & Options Initial Sustainability Appraisal was carried out between January - March 2005. The Initial Sustainability Appraisal assessed Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD policy options put forward for consultation as part of the Issues and Options Report and used their appraisal to select preferred options.</p> <p>A further Sustainability Appraisal was carried out on the preferred options and rejected options to demonstrate their relative sustainability. This report was published alongside the Preferred Options Reports.</p> |
| Have you prepared the Sustainability Report? | The Act s19(5) | <p>The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD was published in January 2006 at the Preferred Options stage, and provided a full assessment (Appendix D) of the preferred options selected and those not selected. The document came in three parts - a Summary version, the Full Sustainability Appraisal and the Full Sustainability Appraisal Appendix.</p> |
| Have you screened the plan options for likely significant effects on European wildlife (Natura 2000) sites? | Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 | <p>The plan options have been screened. Refer to the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Policies document for details.</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| If necessary have you made an Appropriate Assessment of the plan options in Habitats terms? | Draft Habitats Regulations no 85B Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 | Refer to Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Policies document for details. |
| Have you set out clear reasons for the preferred options and a precis of the alternatives and why they were rejected? | Regulation 13(1) | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and the Development Control Policies DPD Preferred Options Reports take the same approach to identifying preferred options. Throughout the documents there is an initial explanation of the policy situation which relates to the situation of the district and the preferred policy option. The preferred policy option then follows within a box. Rejected options are then found following this in a second box along with reasons for their rejection.</p> <p>Section 5.4 of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs, published at Preferred Options stage, regards the rejected and preferred options and describes reasons for rejecting the options. The sustainability appraisal of preferred options selected is also shown in Appendix D.</p> <p>The Assessment of Options document shows how final options have been reached by regarding Preferred Options and Issues and Options stages and the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> |
| Are you ready to seek participation on the preferred options and consult on the sustainability report (including any findings on Appropriate Assessment)? | Regulation 26 | <p>Members' support for the consultation of the draft Core Strategy Preferred Options Report and joint Sustainability Appraisal was sought on 25 November 2005 and approved by the Deputy Chief Executive on 28 November 2005.</p> <p>Members' support for the consultation of the draft Development Control Policies Preferred Options Report and joint Sustainability Appraisal was sought on 9 December 2005 and approved by the Deputy Chief Executive on 12 December 2005.</p> |
| Have you prepared a housing trajectory (where relevant to the DPD)? | Not statutory | <p>Housing trajectories were prepared via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR 2005, published 31 December 2005, has a housing trajectory covering both UDP and LDF requirements found in Chapter 2.</p> <p>The AMR 2006, published 31 December 2006, has a housing trajectory covering LDF requirements found in Chapter 4 under Housing at Core Indicator 2a 'Housing Trajectory'.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD specifically regards the housing trajectory in para. 5.4.7 and in Appendix 2 the housing trajectory is linked to objectives, sustainability appraisal and monitoring of policies.</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | A separate housing evidence paper also backs up the preferred options for housing delivery. |
| <p>Where sites are to be identified or areas for the application of policy defined, are you preparing sufficient illustrative material to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable you to amend the currently adopted proposals map? • inform the community about the location of proposals? | Regulation 9 | <p>The Core Strategy Key Diagram at the back of the document shows main villages and larger settlements within the District based on hierarchy. It also shows proposed road links and upgrades, indicative Green Belt boundaries and key development sites.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Networks in the Development Control Policies DPD (area based) (section 9.3) refer to existing Green Corridor UDP Proposal Maps until the first LDF Sites Proposals Maps are produced.</p> |
| <p>Have you made copies of the "pre-submission proposals matters" available for inspection?</p> | Regulation 26(a) Regulation 27 allows anyone to make representations and specifies a period of six weeks | The Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs and statement of proposal matters were made available for inspection for the period 19 January until 01 March 2006 (6 weeks). Documents were available for inspection at deposit venues, housing offices, local libraries, council offices and community centres. Two notices were given in four local papers with a week interval and these fell on either 19 and 26 January 2006, or 20 and 27 January 2006. |
| <p>Have you published the pre-submission proposals documents, proposals matters and a statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times) on the website?</p> | Regulation 26(b) Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation facilitates representations (see above) | At Preferred Options stage the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs and supporting documents, proposals matters and a statement that the documents were available for inspection were placed on the Council's website www.wakefield.gov.uk (accessed via Planning and Regeneration). This showed the documents themselves and a list of places in the District where the information could be found. |
| <p>Have you sent to the "DPD bodies" (ie all those you consulted at the Regulation 25 stage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposals for the DPD? • supporting that are relevant to the body/ • notice of proposals matters • a statement that the documents are available for inspection (at specified places and times)? | Regulation 26(c) Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation facilitates representations (see above) | <p>Statutory consultees were sent letters on 16 January 2006 along with a notice of proposal matters, the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options DPDs, Core Strategy Preferred Options DPD Summary and Sustainability Report Summary. The other consultees were sent letters on 16 January 2006 and were provided only with the Core Strategy DPD Preferred Options Report Summary Leaflet and the letter explaining when, where and how documents would be available for inspection.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 2) identifies both statutory and non-statutory consultees consulted at Preferred Options stage and the bodies are listed in the Initial Statement of Pre-submission Consultation (Appendix A).</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| Have you advertised in a local paper giving notice of the proposals matters when and where the pre-submission proposals documents can be inspected? | Regulation 26(d) Regulation 24 gives definitions and Regulation facilitates representations (see above) | Two notices were given in four local papers with a week interval for the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD Preferred Options reports consultation and the DPD Proposals Matters. The dates of these fell on either 19 and 26 January 2006, or 20 and 27 January 2006. Various press articles have also been published with reference to the consultations and responses throughout the DPD production. |
| Do the participation arrangements comply with the SCI? | The Act s19(3) | The Initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation describes the consultation undertaken at Issues and Options Stage and demonstrates that requirements were met. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how people and organisations are to be involved in the planning process. Chapter 2 sets out the new processes of preparing development plans and states the groups that need to be consulted and how they will be consulted, and methods of community engagements are outlined in a table on p.9. Chart 1 (p.14-16) sets out the methods of engagement at each stage and process and these have been met for the Preferred Options stage. |
| Have you sent the GO and the Planning Inspectorate copies of the proposals for the DPD and supporting documents? | Not statutory | GOYH was sent a letter on 16 January 2006 regarding proposals for the DPD and supporting documents with two copies of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options Reports, the Sustainability Appraisal Summary, the Sustainability Appraisal Report and Appendices (1 copy only supplied), the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options Reports Proposals Matters, the Core Strategy Preferred Options Summary, the initial Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation and the Preferred Options Comments Form. PINS was sent a letter on 16 January 2006 regarding proposals for the DPD and supporting documents with only the Core Strategy DPD Preferred Options Report Summary Leaflet provided. |
| Are you keeping a record of the number of representations made and the issues raised? | Regulation 28(1)(d) | Consultation responses for the Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Sustainability Appraisal Preferred Options Reports have been recorded and kept both on file and electronically on the Council's Limehouse database. The Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation contains information relating to consultation procedures and outcomes. |

Table 4 Stage 3 Preferred Options (Regulation 26 Participation)

Stage 4 - Submission

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|---|--|--|
| Have you prepared the DPD in accordance with the LDS? | The Act 19(1) and s20(5) Regulation 9 | <p>Work commenced on the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD documents under the first LDS (which came into effect on 1 July 2005). The documents were listed separately as the 'Core Strategy DPD' and the 'Development Control Policies DPD' and were current at the time of consultation on the Issues and Options, which was carried out in January and February 2005.</p> <p>The revised LDS became effective on 1 October 2006 after milestones for the dates of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs were missed. The Preferred Options consultation was current with this second LDS and was carried out in January to February 2006. By this time it was decided the documents would be published together in a single volume for submission and listed as the 'Core Strategy & Development Policies DPD' although consultation at Preferred Options stage was carried out separately for each DPD.</p> <p>Further timetabling delays in the production of the DPDs resulted in the third revision of the LDS, the LDS 2007, being submitted to Government Office for consideration. The LDS 2007 pushed consultation on Submission of the DPDs back to January to February 2008 and was approved by the Council on 12 September 2007, replacing the LDS 2006 with effect from 1 October 2007. At this stage the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs were again listed as separate documents.</p> |
| Have you prepared the DPD in compliance with the SCI and the Regulations? | The Act s19(3) and s20(5) Regulation 28(1) | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation describes the consultation undertaken at the stages of Regulations 25 and 26 and identifies how and who was consulted at these stages and arrangements and events held for the Submission consultation. Appendix A lists all consultees consulted under Regulation 25 and Appendix F lists all consultees consulted under Regulation 26.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in February 2006 also sets out how people and organisations are to be involved in the planning process. Chapter 2 sets out the new processes of preparing development plans and states the groups that need to be consulted and how they will be consulted, and methods of community engagements are outlined in a table on p.9. Chart 1 (p.14-16) sets out the methods of engagement at each stage and process and these have been met for the formal consultation stage. The approach followed at each</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|---|---|---|
| | | stage of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD in accordance with the intentions of the SCI. |
| Have you undertaken sustainability appraisal and prepared a SA Report? | The Act s19(3) and s20(5) Regulation 28(1) | The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Submission Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD was carried out in October 2007 and a SA Report has been prepared. |
| Have you amended the screening (and Appropriate Assessment where needed) to take account of any changes since Reg 26 participation? | Draft Habitats Regulations no 85B Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 | In view of comments made by Natural England on the Preferred Options consultation of the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD and on consultation on the draft Appropriate Assessment (carried out in February and March 2007) both DPDs and the Appropriate Assessment report have been amended. Natural England were then re-consulted on the revised AA in September and October 2007 and comments taken into account. |
| Have you considered representations made on the preferred options? | Regulation 27(3) | <p>The Assessment of Options document shows how final options have been reached by regarding Preferred Options and Issues and Options stages and the Sustainability Appraisal.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation describes the consultation undertaken at the stage of Regulation 26 and identifies how and who was consulted at these stages. In line with Regulation 27, section 4.1 describes who was consulted (listed in Appendix F) and the methods used for consultation. Numbers of responses for the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD Preferred Options consultation are provided in section 4.3, and a summary of the numbers of comments via topic representation is provided in section 4.4. A detailed summary of comments is provided for the Core Strategy (Appendix K) and Development Policies DPD (Appendix L).</p> <p>The Preferred Options consultation is also outlined in the submission Core Strategy DPD 'Introduction and Explanation' chapter under 'The Submission Stage-Consultation' section.</p> |
| Are you likely to be in general conformity with the RSS? | The Act s24 Regulation 30 | The Core Strategy Submission DPD demonstrates that it conforms with the RSS. Under the 'National, Regional and Local Policy' chapter, there is a section relating to 'Conformity' and that the RPB (the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly) have been consulted on whether it is in general conformity with the RSS. There is also a 'Regional Spatial Strategy' section which states how current RSS, issued in 2004, provides the regional policy context for the preparation of the LDF until it is replaced by a new RSS. |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | <p>The table in Appendix 4 shows how the Core Strategy objectives link to higher level strategies and demonstrates that the Core Strategy is rooted in and conforms to RSS themes.</p> <p>The RPB were consulted at the Preferred Options stage and the Core Strategy document was found to address the regional context in a satisfactory manner overall. Specific comments were made regarding the settlement classification used, the sequential approach and noting where the location of housing will be provided and these comments were taken into account for the Submission version as far as possible.</p> <p>The Development Policies DPD - Preferred Options Report (the Report) is in conformity with the Core Strategy which in turn is in general conformity with the RSS. The document also makes reference throughout to the conformity of policies with the RSS. RPB was consulted and did not make any comments on the Development Policies document.</p> |
| Is the DPD to be submitted consistent with national policy and in conformity with the core strategy DPD or old policy? | The Act s19(2) and Schedule 8 Regulation 13(6) | <p>The submitted Core Strategy DPD makes regular reference/ links to national policy throughout and the DPD demonstrates that conformity with national policy has been sought. The 'National, Regional and Local Policy' chapter, relates to such consistency with, for instance, under the 'Conformity' section it is noted that the LDF must take account of national policy.</p> <p>Appendix 3 shows how national planning policy has been considered within the Core Strategy through objectives such as sustainable communities and sustainable development.</p> <p>There is also a 'Conformity' chapter within the submitted Development Policies DPD. The themes within this document reflect the themes of the Core Strategy and its objectives which in turn is in general conformity with national policies. There are references throughout the document to the core strategy, regional and national policy.</p> <p>GOYH were consulted at the Preferred Options stage on the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs and various comments were received which have been taken into account in the Submission documents.</p> |
| Have you sufficient regard to all those matters required by the Act, including in respect of any changes made since the | The Act s19(2) Regulation 15 | The submitted Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs and the Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation indicate that the issues identified were taken into account in developing the documents. The Preferred Options documents were amended in light of latest government policies, draft RSS and various comments to produce the Submission documents. |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|---|---|---|
| preparation of the preferred options? | | The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD - Assessment of Options Report reviews how alternative options have been dealt with since the preparation of the Preferred Options. |
| Have you prepared a housing trajectory (where relevant to the DPD) | Not statutory | <p>Housing trajectories are prepared via the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR 2005, published 31 December 2005, has a housing trajectory covering both UDP and LDF requirements found in Chapter 2. The AMR 2006, published 31 December 2006, has a housing trajectory covering LDF requirements found in Chapter 4 under Housing at Core Indicator 2a 'Housing Trajectory'.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD specifically regards the housing trajectory in the 'Meeting Local Needs in Sustainable Locations' chapter under Policy CS2, which also includes a basic interim housing strategy comparing current and past housing completions against the current and new RSS housing requirements. In the 'Delivering and Monitoring' chapter the housing trajectory is linked to objectives, sustainability appraisal and monitoring of policies.</p> <p>A separate housing evidence paper also backs up the Preferred Options for housing delivery.</p> |
| Are there any policies applying to sites or areas by reference to an Ordnance Survey map or to amend an adopted proposals map? If so, have you prepared a submission proposals map? | Regulations 6, 9, 13(4) and 14 | There is a Context Map and Key Diagram in the submitted Core Strategy DPD Maps section. In the Development Policies DPD some policies make reference to proposals which will be shown on the Proposals Map which will accompany the Site Specific Proposals DPD, for example, the Wildlife Habitat Network. Until these policies/ proposals are adopted the Council will rely on the current UDP proposals maps. |
| Have you identified all policies that are to be superseded by a policy or policies in the DPD? | Regulation 13(5) | All superseded policies have been acknowledged by a 'Replaced UDP Policies' section at the bottom of each policy section within the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD. Appendix 2 of the Core Strategy DPD and of the Development Policies DPD also includes a table to show how policies have been replaced. |
| Are you ready for submission? Have you a good evidence base to support your DPD, and does it contain sufficient reasoned justification? | The Act s20(5)(b) Regulation 13(1) and 13(2) Regulation 28(1) | <p>The main supporting documents are the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing, Employment Land and Settlement Technical Papers • Sustainability Appraisal • Appropriate Assessment • Assessment of Options Appraisal document • Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD - Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation and Soundness Toolkit <p>The full list of background documents to support the evidence base are published on the website.</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|--|---|--|
| Have you got all your supporting documents ready? | Regulation 28(1)(e) | A copy of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, Pre-Submission Statement of Consultation and Assessment of Options Report will be submitted with the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD. |
| Have you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarised the issues raised in the consultation on issues and options? • prepared a statement on the consultation, the issues and how they have been addressed? | Regulation 28(1) | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD - Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation covers consultation under Regulation 25 in chapter 3 'Issues and Options'. Appendix C covers a summary of comments received and the Council's response and Appendix D covers a summary of workshops held.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD - Assessment of Options Report sets out how alternative options have been dealt with.</p> |
| Have you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • summarised the issues raised in representations on participation on the preferred options? • prepared a statement on the representations and how the issues have been addressed? | Regulation 28(1) | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development policies DPD - Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation covers consultation under Regulation 26 in chapter 4 'Preferred Options'. Appendix I covers the focus group report. Appendix K covers a summary of comments received and the Council's response for the Core Strategy DPD and Appendix L covers a summary of comments received and the Council's response for the Development Policies DPD.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD - Assessment of Options Report sets out how alternative options have been dealt with.</p> |
| Have you considered how the plan will be implemented and set out how it is to be monitored? | The Act s20(5)(b) and s35 Regulation 48 | <p>Detailed information on the delivery and implementation of each part of the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD is set out at the end of each policy. Additionally, for the Core Strategy DPD, a full section on how the Council will monitor the effectiveness of policies to ensure the LDF delivers its objectives is set out in the 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapter of the Core Strategy DPD, and the Development Policies DPD.</p> <p>The AMR 2007 includes a schedule of indicators proposed to monitor the effectiveness of the policies in the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD and suggests potential sources of data. Subsequent AMRs will report on these indicators alongside national core output indicators. Where monitoring suggests that policies are not working as intended, the opportunity will be taken to consider whether the policy should be revised or deleted.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal Report also includes information on implementation and monitoring of proposals.</p> |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|---|---|---|
| Do you have evidence that the DPD can deal with changing circumstances? | The Act s 20(5)(b) | Both the submitted Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD have been designed to provide a flexible policy framework and this is discussed in more detail in relation to each policy. The policies are all associated with targets and monitoring indicators so that the success in delivering the spatial vision and objectives can be assessed and kept under review in case of changing circumstances via the AMR. The 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapter of the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD set these out. |
| Has your authority approved the DPD for submission? | Regulation 2 of the Local Authorities Functions Regulations | The Submission versions of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD went for submission on 15 November 2007. |
| Have you sent the Secretary of State copies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DPD? • the submission proposals map | The Act s20(1) Regulation 13(4) | These are to be sent in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| Have you sent the Secretary of State copies of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA Report (as amended after consultation/ participation)? • SCI? • statement of regulation 25 consultation? • statement on representations made under Regulation 27 at the Regulation 26 participation? | The Act s20(3) Regulation 28(1) and (2) | These are to be sent in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| Have you sent the Secretary of State copies of the supporting documents? | The Act s20(3) Regulation 28(1) and (2) | These are to be sent in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| Have you made copies of the following available for inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPD? • the SA Report? • the statement on Regulation 25 consultation? | Regulation 28(3) | These are to be made available for inspection at Council offices and main libraries in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. Copies were also published on the Council's website (www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf) as set out in the matters and press notices. |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting documents? • a statement of the "DPD matters" | | |
| <p>Have you published on your website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DPD documents? • the DPD matters? • details of where and when documents can be inspected? | Regulation 28(3) | These are to be made available on the website (www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf) in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| <p>Have you sent the bodies consulted under Regulation 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DPD? • the SA Report? • the statement on Regulation 25 consultation? • supporting documents relevant to the body? • notice of the "DPD matters" • details of where and when documents can be inspected? | Regulation 28(3) | These are to be sent in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| <p>Have you advertised in a local paper covering the whole of your area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the DPD matters? • details of where and when the documents can be inspected? | Regulation 28(3) | <p>Two notices are to be given in four local papers with a week interval for the Submission stage consultation on the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Control Policies DPD and the DPD's Proposals Matters.</p> <p>Various press articles have also been published with reference to the consultations and responses throughout the DPD production.</p> |
| <p>Have you informed those who asked at Regulation 26 to be notified of the submission of the DPD?</p> | Regulation 28(3) | Letters are to be sent in January 2008 prior to consultation for Submission stage. |
| <p>Have you requested the opinion of the RPB on the general conformity of the DPD with the RSS?</p> | The Act s24 Regulation 30 | The RPB (YHA) were asked for their opinion at the Preferred Options consultation stage. Regarding the Core Strategy, the document was found to address the regional context in a satisfactory manner overall. Specific comments were made regarding the settlement classification used, the sequential approach and noting where the location of housing will be provided and these comments were taken into account in the Submission version. RBP did not propose to make any comments on the Development Policies |

| ACTIVITY | STATUTORY REQUIREMENT | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
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| | | DPD. Further opportunity to comment is to be made at the Submission stage consultation for which the letter will go out in January 2008. |

Table 5 Stage 4 Submission

Stage 5 - Post-Submission

2.2 This stage covers the period between the submission of the documents to the Secretary of State and the opening of the first hearing session of the examination. Essentially it is concerned with receiving and considering representations, and preparing for the hearing part of the examination.

2.3 The Council will provide a further update using the soundness self-assessment toolkit at the end of that stage to demonstrate how it has met these procedural requirements.

3 Soundness

3.1 This section sets out the view of the Council that the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD is sound in terms of the statutory provisions and guidance. PPS 12 indicates that soundness should be judged through 9 tests. This section addresses each of the soundness tests in turn and sets out the Council's evidence.

Test 1

| Soundness Test 1 | |
|---|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Is the DPD identified in the authority's LDS? | <p>Work commenced on the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD documents under the first LDS, which came into effect on 1 July 2005. The documents were listed separately as the 'Core Strategy DPD' and the 'Development Control Policies DPD' and were current at the time of consultation on the Issues and Options consultation.</p> <p>The revised LDS became effective on 1 October 2006 and the Preferred Options consultation was current with this second LDS. The documents were now to be published together in a single volume for submission and listed as the 'Core Strategy & Development Policies DPD' although consultation at Preferred Options stage was carried out separately for each DPD.</p> <p>The third revision of the LDS, the LDS 2007, came into effect from 1 October 2007 and is current for the Submission stage. The 'Core Strategy DPD' and 'Development Policies DPD' were again listed as separate documents.</p> |
| Have the details set out in the LDS such as the role, rationale or scope of the DPD been met? | <p>The LDS 2007 sets out the profiles of the DPDs in table 3. It is stated that the role of the Core Strategy is to set out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy for Wakefield District which is conveyed within the Core Strategy DPD</p> <p>It is stated that the role of the Development Policies DPD is to provide policies designed to guide the location and manage the quality of development, and to conserve and enhance buildings or sites needing specific protection which is conveyed within the Development Policies DPD.</p> |

Table 6 Soundness Test 1

Test 2

| Soundness Test 2 | |
|--|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Having regard to the nature of the DPD, were all the relevant consultation/ participation procedures set out in the SCI carried out? | <p>Consultation and community engagement were carried out in accordance with the SCI, which was adopted on 8th February 2006.</p> |

Table 7 Soundness Test 2

Test 3

| Soundness Test 3 | |
|--|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Was a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) carried out in relation to the particular DPD in question? | Each stage of the preparation of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD has been subject to SA which was undertaken by independent consultants Waterman Environmental. The Issues and Options Initial Sustainability Report was published in January 2005. At Preferred Options the SA was combined for both the documents in line with their combined submission at the time and was published in January 2006. A final SA Report has been prepared and has been submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD. |

Table 8 Soundness Test 3

Test 4

| Soundness Test 4(a) | |
|---|--|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Does the DPD reflect the guidance on spatial planning which is set out in national planning policy? | <p>The Core Strategy is a spatial plan which sets out the broad visions, themes, objectives and spatial development strategy to be achieved via the strategic policies. The DPD makes regular reference to national policy guidance, and there is a 'National, Regional and Local Policy' chapter. Appendix 3 also regards the 'National, Regional and Local Policy Context'.</p> <p>The Development Policies DPD also makes regular relevant reference to national planning policy. There is a 'Conformity to National, Regional and Local Policy' chapter and Appendix 4 also regards the 'National, Regional and Local Policy'.</p> |
| Has adequate account been taken of the relationship between the proposals in the DPD and other requirements, such as those of utility companies and agencies providing services in the area including their future plans and strategy and any requirements for land and premises, which should be prepared in parallel? | Consultation took place with a wide range of service providers and comments received were taken into account when preparing the DPDs. Details of consultation are set out in the Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation. Appendix 3 of the Core Strategy and Appendix 4 of the Development Policies DPD set out the policy context and strategies that have been taken into account when preparing the DPDs. |
| Is it clear how the DPD relates to other plans and strategies such as local transport plans which will influence the delivery of policies and proposals within the plan? | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD have been prepared having taken into account many other plans and strategies. Plans, policies, strategies and programmes which form the context for the Core Strategy DPD and links between the Core Strategy and objectives to Regional Spatial Strategy themes and the Government's sustainable development aims can be found in the Appendices.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also sets out the plans, policies strategies and programmes which form the context for the Development Policies DPD. The Development Policies DPD reflects the Core Strategy themes and reference is made to the</p> |

| Soundness Test 4(a) | |
|---|--|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| | relevant policies in the Justification text. The Delivery and Monitoring sections within the DPDs also demonstrate how policies are related to other plans and strategies. |
| Does the DPD integrate effectively with plans prepared by the County Council? | Wakefield MDC is a unitary authority. |

Table 9 Soundness Test 4a

| Soundness Test 4(b) | |
|---|--|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national planning policy and, if so, is there a local justification? | The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD are considered to be consistent with national planning policy. A number of policies at Preferred Options stage have been amended and reviewed to take latest Government policy and guidance and recommendations made by GOYH into account. Appendix 3 makes reference to the 'National, Regional and Local Policy Context'. |

Table 10 Soundness Test 4b

| Soundness Test 4(c) | |
|--|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Does the DPD contain any policies and proposals which are not in general conformity with the RSS? If so, is there a local justification? | The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD are considered to be consistent with RSS. Yorkshire and Humber Assembly made several recommendations and these have been amended and reviewed as appropriate. Appendix 3 makes reference to the 'National, Regional and Local Policy Context'. |

Table 11 Soundness Test 4c

Test 5

| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
|--|---|
| Does the DPD have regard to the Wakefield Community Strategy, by setting out policies and proposals which deliver key components of that strategy so that they are consistent with or in general conformity with higher level planning policy and relate to the use and development of land? | <p>The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the Community Strategy. 'Fast Forward' was the Community Strategy of Wakefield MDC from 2003 up until March 2007 when it was replaced by 'Developing Knowledge Communities'. Aspects of the Vision for the Community Strategy have a spatial dimension which the LDF can help to deliver. The Core Strategy makes regular references to the Community Strategy and in the 'Spatial Vision, Objectives, Themes and Development Strategy' chapter there are details regarding the relationship between the Community Strategy and the LDF. A table demonstrating links between the Core Strategy objectives and the Council's Community Strategy can also be found in Appendix 4 'Links to Higher Strategies'.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD Development Policies DPD themes reflect the vision and strategic objectives of the Council's Community Strategy, and the policies in both documents are set out under these themes.</p> |

Table 12 Soundness Test 5

Test 6

| Soundness Test 6 | |
|---|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Do the policies clearly relate to the objectives in the submitted DPD? | The submitted Core Strategy DPD links policies to objectives via five strategic themes to provide a coherent link between the spatial vision and spatial objectives. The themes embody the aims of higher level strategies, including the Government's guiding principles of sustainable development, the RSS core approach and the Community Strategy and LDF visions. A table showing how the themes relate to the aims and priorities in higher level strategies can be seen in Appendix 4 of the Core Strategy DPD. The Development Policies DPD themes and policies reflect those in the Core Strategy DPD. |
| Are the policy objectives within the DPD themselves consistent? | <p>The Core Strategy DPD policies provide consistent policy objectives. Spatial objectives are set out in the chapter Spatial Vision, Objectives, Themes and Development Strategy and the five strategic themes are identified to provide a coherent link between the spatial vision and objectives for the policies. The Development Policies DPD sets out policies which will be used in conjunction with the strategic policies and objectives of the Core Strategy DPD.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD aims and objectives were also appraised against Sustainability Appraisal objectives and this also identified that there were no instances where these spatial objectives were incompatible with the LDF's Sustainability Appraisal objectives.</p> |
| Is it clear how the DPD relates to other plans in the authority's LDF and to other relevant plans prepared by neighbouring authorities? | <p>Figure 1 in The Core Strategy DPD 'Introduction and Explanation' chapter contains a diagram entitled 'How does it fit into the LDF', demonstrating how the DPD relates to other plans in the Council's LDF. Figure 1 of The Development Policies DPD 'Introduction and Explanation' chapter also has a similar diagram relating to how this DPD fits into the LDF.</p> <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD have been prepared within the context of the RSS and are considered to be consistent with this. Neighbouring authorities have also been consulted at each stage of preparing the DPDs and there are reference to links with neighbouring authorities throughout where appropriate. The Key Diagram in the Core Strategy DPD also provides the means to show links and relationships with other strategies and with the plans of neighbouring areas.</p> <p>The LDS 2007 also demonstrates that there are good joint working practices with neighbouring authorities, in section 4.11, via for example, collaboration with Kirklees and Calderdale Councils is shown in the production of a joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p> |
| Where there are overlaps, are these consistent/complementary? | <p>The Core Strategy is at the heart of the LDF document process and the basis of the strategy is to ensure a consistent approach with other LDDs. The Core Strategy DPD identifies where there is a particular link with another strategy or programme to ensure that each takes account of and is consistent with the other.</p> <p>The Development Policies DPD is considered to be consistent with the Core Strategy and makes reference to other plans and strategies where appropriate.</p> <p>Comments from GOYH relating to the Core Strategy DPD at Preferred Options suggested that this DPD was too detailed and with too many policies. In light of this the number of policies in the Core Strategy has been shortened from 40 policies to just 16 by amalgamating the preferred options and proposals The</p> |

| Soundness Test 6 | |
|--|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| | Assessment of Options document helps clarify this process. The five strategic themes were also incorporated into the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD to provide more streamlined policy objectives. |
| Are there any obvious gaps in the coverage of the DPD having regard to its purpose and the relevant requirements set out in national planning policy statements? | It is not considered that there are any gaps within the coverage of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD. The five strategic themes of the DPDs are intended to cover all aspects of the policy objectives. |
| Is it clear how cross boundary issues are addressed? | Cross-boundary issues are generally set out in the RSS which covers the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber. Significant links and relationships with surrounding authorities are shown on the Key Diagram and neighbouring authorities have been consulted throughout the preparation of the DPDs. |

Table 13 Soundness Test 6

Test 7

| Soundness Test 7 | |
|--|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Is it clear that the LPA considered all reasonable options and alternatives in preparing the DPD? | <p>The Assessment of Options Document shows how the Council has considered the relevant alternatives.</p> <p>At each stage of the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs process consultations and a Sustainability Appraisal were carried out to assess options and alternatives. At Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy a set of preferred and rejected options were set out in the DPD with justifications for each. For the submitted Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD justification is given for each policy in the supporting text.</p> |
| Are the assumptions in the DPD set out clearly and are they supported by evidence? | In the Core Strategy DPD the overall vision, objectives and strategy for development draw upon the evidence base, the District profile and the national, regional and local policy context. The 'District Profile' chapter sets out the assumptions and background for which the policies are based on and the 'Issues Facing the District' chapter also sets out the evidence base for the document's preparation. In the Development Policies DPD Appendix 3 also sets out the 'Issues facing the District'. The Sustainability Appraisal Report also includes information about the District and baseline data and indicators. |
| Does the evidence clearly support the policies in the DPD? | Policies are supported by evidence from the evidence base and background studies, a full list of which can be viewed on the Council's website. These include the Housing, Employment and Settlement Technical Papers and the Landscape Character Assessment. |
| Is the evidence robust and credible - ie has it been prepared in accordance with national policy and good practice guidance? | The Sustainability Appraisal Report sets out the methodology followed and how this conforms with the SA guidance. The other supporting documents and evidence bases were all carried out according to Government Guidance and other relevant guidance and in consultation with various bodies/ organisations where appropriate. |

| Soundness Test 7 | |
|---|--|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Where a balance has been struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives - is it clear how these decisions have been taken? | The Options Appraisal document sets out which options were preferred and explains how alternatives were considered. The Statement of Pre-Submission Consultation also provides a summary of comments received at the Issues and Options and Preferred Options consultation stages for the two DPDs and the Sustainability Appraisal stages in the Appendices and gives a summary of the 'Council's Response' for each, which demonstrates how decisions have been taken. |

Table 14 Soundness Test 7

Test 8

| Soundness Test 8 | |
|---|--|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Does the DPD contain targets and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies? | The mechanisms for implementation and monitoring are set out at the end of each policy and more details on targets and indicators are provided in the 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapter of the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) also includes national core output indicators, targets and the housing trajectory. The Sustainability Appraisal also contains a monitoring proposal framework for identified significant effects for the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD. |
| Is it clear how these are to be measured and are these linked to the production of the Annual Monitoring Report? | The 'Delivery and Implementation' sections at the end of each policy and the 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapters of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD make regular references to how policy delivery is linked to the AMR. It is made clear in section 2.2 of the AMR 2006 that the AMR is to be the main means of assessing which policies and related targets in LDDs are achieving their intended purposes and where policies may need to be revised. The AMR 2007 includes a schedule of indicators proposed to monitor the effectiveness of the policies in the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD and suggests potential sources of data. Subsequent AMRs will report on these indicators alongside national core output indicators. |
| Are the delivery mechanisms and timescale for implementation for the policies clearly identified? | Targets and indicators for the policies are clearly identified in the 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapters of the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD. |
| Is it clear who is intended to implement each policy? Where the actions required to implement the policy are outside the direct control of the LPA is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to implementation of the policies? | The 'Delivery and Implementation' section at the end of each policy sets out mechanisms for delivery of policies, including utilising Council decisions on planning applications, the Site Specific Proposals DPD and the Development Policies DPD, and outside agencies and strategies assistance. The tables in the 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapters for the Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD also include a 'Delivery Agency' section. Where outside commitment is necessary, this has been demonstrated by full inclusion of key partners throughout the preparation process of the DPDs. |
| Do the processes for measuring the success of the DPD accord with national guidelines? | The 'Delivery and Monitoring' chapter of the Core Strategy DPD and of the Development Policies DPD note how the indicators have been developed in accordance with the national guidance on monitoring and that in accordance with |

| Soundness Test 8 | |
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| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| | <p>the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council has produced an AMR. The AMR 2006 goes on to state further guidance utilised to prepare and monitor the LDF in the Policy Background, section 2.4.</p> <p>The national core output indicators are set out and reported on in the AMR in accordance with advice in 'Local Development Framework Monitoring: A Good Practice Guide', and Update 1/2005 (ODPM 2005). New indicators and targets have been devised in accordance with advice in the same document. In all cases regard has been had to advice that sources should be consistent and reliable.</p> |
| Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? | Delivery and implementation methods are explained at the end of each policy for the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD. There is also a Delivery and Monitoring chapter in both the Core Strategy DPD and the Development Policies DPD. Appendix 4 of the Core Strategy DPD also relates to 'Links With Higher Level Strategies' and how the strategic themes and the Core Strategy DPD objectives fit in with these. |

Table 15 Soundness Test 8

Test 9

| Soundness Test 9 | |
|---|---|
| KEY QUESTION | EVIDENCE PROVIDED |
| Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in circumstances? | <p>The Core Strategy DPD and Development Policies DPD have been designed to provide a flexible policy framework and this is discussed in more detail in relation to each policy. The Core Strategy sets out a strategic framework for the LDF, giving a local dimension to reflect the development needs of the Wakefield District. Each policy and proposal has been developed to allow for flexibility and to ensure its endurance.</p> <p>The AMR provides mechanisms to monitor the delivery of the DPDs and will assess whether reviews are necessary in case of changes or circumstances.</p> |
| Are Development Control Policies written in a generic form to enable them to provide a robust and consistent framework for considering planning applications? | The Development policies have been written in a generic form to enable a robust and consistent framework for considering planning applications and take local circumstances into consideration. This was ensured by consultation with GOYH and other bodies and ongoing internal consultation with Development Control Officers. |

Table 16 Soundness Test 9