

Sustainability Appraisal of
The Core Strategy &
Development Control Policies
Development Plan Documents
- Preferred Options Reports



Local Development Framework Preferred Options

Sustainability Appraisal of
The Core Strategy &
Development Control Policies
Development Plan Documents
- Preferred Options Reports

The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report, the Development Control Policies Preferred Options Report and their accompanying Sustainability Report are available to view on the Council's web-site at: 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.

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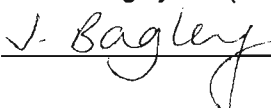
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Sustainability Appraisal Report

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DPD, WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

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.

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 legislation¹ and regulations². 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.

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.

THE LDF OBJECTIVES

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; and
 - 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.

¹ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

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

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- 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, 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.

THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL PROCESS

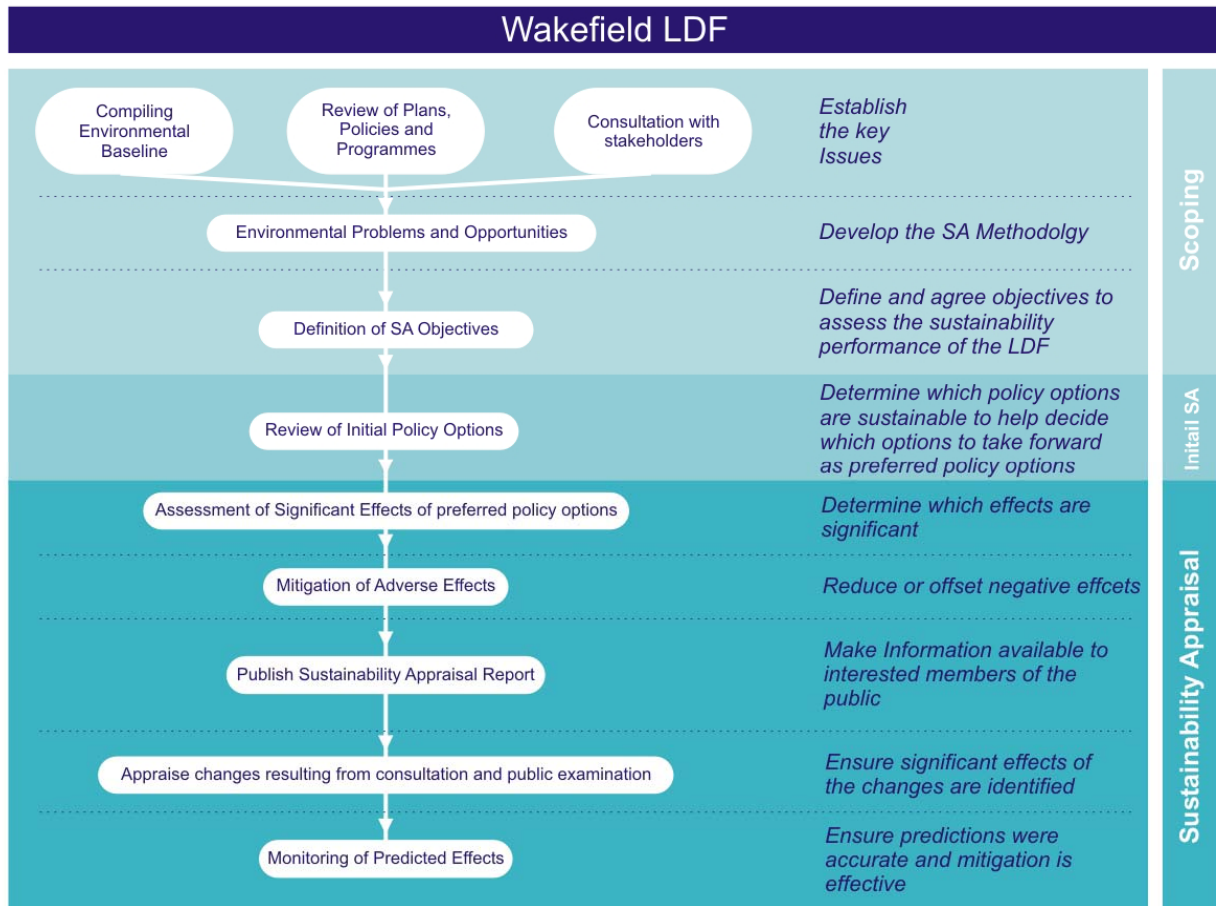
The SA process used in Wakefield is summarised in Figure 1 below. The assessment to date, has comprised three stages as follows:

- Determining the key issues upon which the SA should focus and setting and agreeing sustainability objectives, a process known as 'Scoping';

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- 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



SCOPING

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:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population – Human health – Biodiversity, flora and fauna – Soil – Water – Air | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Climatic factors – Material Assets – Cultural heritage – Landscape – And the interrelationship between these factors |
|---|--|

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

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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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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

There is a need for affordable housing throughout the District and the number of new homes built on previously developed land should to be maintained at current levels.

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

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.

Air Quality along the M1 Motorway and the A1 near Darrington, is worse than national 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.

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

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slowed in the last few years however. A clean environment should be promoted and maintained, including the quality of rivers.

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.

The amount of waste recycled in recent years has increased significantly to 21% which is more than the Regional average.

SA Objectives

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

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

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

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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.

INITIAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

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.

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.

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

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'.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

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

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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
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	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	?	?	✓	-	-

**SA Report, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Core Strategy and Development Control DPD**

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
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	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-

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Summary of Development Control DPD Preferred Policies Assessment (Cont)

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	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-

Significant Positive Effects

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.

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Significant Negative Effects

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

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

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

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.

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;

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- 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.

HOW THE ASSESSMENT HAS INFLUENCED THE PLAN

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.

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

MONITORING PROPOSALS

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.

NEXT STEPS

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.

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.

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HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

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.

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;
- fill in the form and return it to the address below; or
- e-mail your comments to 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.

THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the emerging development plan for Wakefield. LDFs are the new form of spatial development plan introduced by the Government's planning reforms in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). The LDF, once adopted, will replace the adopted Wakefield District Unitary Development Plan 1st Alteration. The LDF will set out the strategy for the way in which land is used and guide new development in the District for the period up to 2021. A plan of the District is included as **Figure 1** overleaf. The LDF will be a portfolio of local development documents. These are of two types, Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which form part of the statutory development plan and Supplementary Planning Document (SPDs).

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) to be carried out on Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), Development Plan Documents (DPDs), and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). SA's help planning authorities to fulfil the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in preparing their plans through a structured assessment of the objectives and policies against key sustainability issues for the area.

Draft Planning Policy Statement PPS 1: Creating Sustainable Communities³ states:

A Sustainability Appraisal is intended to assess the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective. It is first and foremost a process. It is intended to test the performance of a plan against the objectives of sustainable development and thereby provide the basis for its improvement.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (referred to as "the SEA Regulations") which implement European Directive 2001/42/EC, known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, require SEA of a wide range of plans and programmes, including LDFs. SEA is a process to ensure that significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated to decision-makers, monitored and that opportunities for public involvement are provided.

The objective of the SEA Directive is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to promoting sustainable development'⁴.

SEA and SA are very closely linked. SA aims to integrate sustainability issues into decision making by appraising the plan or strategy using environmental, social and economic objectives. SEA also aims to facilitate sustainable development but its emphasis is on integrating environmental considerations into decision making through a thorough analysis of environmental issues.

Although the requirement to carry out both an SA and SEA is mandatory, it is possible to satisfy the requirements of both pieces of legislation through a single appraisal process, and research has shown that integrated appraisal has many benefits⁵.

³ Draft Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities, ODPM, 2004.

⁴ EC Directive 2001/42/EC

⁵ Environment Agency, 2004

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1.2 THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

1.2.1 What is the LDF?

WMDC's Local Development Framework (LDF) forms part of a structured hierarchy of land use development plans in England. The overarching guidance for these is provided by a series of National Planning Policy Statements (PPS). These PPSs are replacing the old Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) (1-25)⁶. Using the policies and principles set out in PPSs / PPGs, Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS)⁷ set the strategic policy framework for new development in each region. The relevant RSS for Wakefield is the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber. The current RSS is under review. A revised RSS will be submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2005. The RSS will not be finally adopted until the summer of 2007, after public consultation and examination.

Informed by the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber, the Wakefield LDF provides detailed objectives and policies to guide development at a district level.

The LDF consists of a series of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). WMDC's initial LDF comprises:

- The Core Strategy DPD;
- Development Control Policies DPD;
- Site Specific Policies and Proposals DPD; and
- Wakefield Central Area Action Plan.

In addition to DPDs, there are Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which also require SA under ODPM guidance. Typically these could include Design Guides, Development Briefs and Thematic/ Issue based guidelines. The timetable for implementing other parts of the LDF is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme which is updated annually.

Note: The initial LDF, comprising the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs will not include proposals and policies relating to retailing/town centres and leisure/open space. WMDC recognise that further work is needed on these uses which cannot be completed within the time frame of the initial LDF. The existing parts of the adopted UDP relating to these topics will therefore remain in force beyond 2007 until they can be replaced by new DPDs. Details of these will be included in annual reviews of the LDS. As DPDs, they will be subject to their own SA process at a later date during the course of their preparation.

1.2.2 LDF Objectives

The objectives of the LDF set out what the plan is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms, and set the context for development of options for the DPDs. The LDF objectives have been largely derived from Wakefield's Community Strategy, '*Fast Forward*', and other national, regional and local strategies and programmes. The objectives have been re-worded since the scoping stage and initial SA to reflect comments from consultees, further thought by WMDC and to more fully reflect the spatial vision for Wakefield. However, the revised objectives are still intended to achieve the same outcome. The objectives that have emerged are:

- 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.

⁶ PPSs 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 22 and 23 have superseded the existing Planning Policy Guidance Notes.

⁷ Regional Spatial Strategies are replacing the old system of Regional Planning Guidance (RPGs).

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- 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, 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.

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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.

These LDF objectives have been re-tested against the SA objectives to check the compatibility and identify any potential conflicts as presented in Section 4 of this report. .

1.3 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.3.1 The Approach

This report details the process and findings of the SA undertaken on the following documents of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's (WMDC) LDF:

- The Core Strategy DPD; and
- The Development Control Policies DPD.

Sustainability Appraisals of the other documents forming WMDC's initial LDF will follow in due course. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework and information gathered to prepare the Sustainability Appraisal Framework has, however, been designed to be applicable to all of WMDC's LDF documents.

WMDC has adopted an integrated approach to SA, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Regulations. The approach and methodology used conforms to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), and is in full accordance with ODPM guidance.

During the timeframe of this SA, the Government guidance for incorporating SA into LDF documents has been evolving, and the project team have modified their approach to take into account the changes to the guidance where necessary. The final SA guidance issued in November 2005⁸ has been used to guide the production of this report, whilst the draft SA Guidance⁹ was used to guide the production of the Scoping Report and Initial SA Report. Both these guidance documents incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive. A summary of the methodology used for all stages of the process is presented in **Appendix A**.

For the purposes of this report the term SA is used throughout, however it is important to note that SA refers to both the SA and SEA process. Details of how the report has incorporated the requirements of the SEA Regulations and SA, as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, is also presented in **Appendix A**.

This report has been prepared to follow on from the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report, issued for consultation in December 2004 and January 2005, respectively.

This appraisal was undertaken for WMDC by Waterman Environmental Ltd and the Centre for Sustainability at TRL Limited between September and December 2005.

1.3.2 The SA Report Structure

This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been structured as follows:

Section 2 details the consultation that has been undertaken and how members of the public and other interested parties can comment on the SA, draft Core Strategy or Development Control DPD;

⁸ 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents [ODPM, 2005]

⁹ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents – Consultation Paper [ODPM, 2004]

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Section 3 details other relevant plans, programmes and strategies that have been taken into consideration as part of the assessment process; contains a summary baseline characterisation of the social, economic, and environmental information for Wakefield district; provides a summary of the key sustainability issues based on the baseline research; and presents the Sustainability Appraisal Framework which provides the structure through which the assessment takes place;

Section 4 provides an analysis of whether the LDF plan objectives are compatible or in conflict with the SA objectives.

Section 5 summarises the SA of the LDF policy options that were considered in the initial sustainability appraisal, and identifies those options that were rejected or added.

Section 6 describes the predicted effects of the preferred options against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and recommends mitigation measures.

Section 7 describes the implementation of the LDF and suggests methods of monitoring the predicted significant effects and uncertainties.

Section 8 presents a summary and the conclusions of the sustainability appraisal.

Appendices are contained within a separate document entitled 'Appendices to the Sustainability Appraisal Report, Local Development Framework, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council' January 2006.

A **Non Technical Summary (NTS)** has also been prepared to provide a summary, in non-technical language, of the principal findings of the SA.

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2. CONSULTATION

This section outlines the consultation approach and bodies consulted as part of the Scoping stage and the Initial SA Report, as well as the intended consultation approach for the SA Report.

2.1.1 Scoping Report

A copy of the Scoping Report was sent out for a five week consultation period ending on December 31st 2004. In accordance with the SEA Regulations the following four statutory consultee bodies were consulted:

- Countryside Agency
- English Nature
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency

In addition, and in accordance with PPS12¹⁰ and ODPM guidance, the following bodies were also consulted:

- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
- Leeds City Council
- Yorkshire Forward
- City of Bradford Council
- Wakefield First
- Calderdale District Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Council
- Learning and Skills Council for West Yorkshire
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Selby District Council
- West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan SEA Team

The following bodies responded to WMDC as part of the scoping exercise:

- Environment Agency
- West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan SEA Team
- Countryside Agency
- Yorkshire Forward
- English Heritage
- Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- English Nature
- Selby District Council

The consultation responses received were summarised in the Initial SA Report and amendments made to the SA Framework and baseline information have been included in this report. The Initial SA Report can be accessed via the following weblink: www.wakefield.gov.uk/ldf or by contacting the spatial policy team (details presented below).

2.1.2 Initial SA Report

Consultation on the Initial SA report was undertaken over a 6 week period during February and March 2005. The Initial SA Report was made available for comment to all the organisations listed above as well as the general public and the organisations selected for consultation on the Issues and Options Report.

The consultation generated a total of 1,358 responses from 114 respondents. Comments on the SA included requests for a new indicator on levels of employment in leisure and recreation and new sub-

¹⁰ Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, ODPM, 2004.

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objectives on geomorphology, re-use of existing buildings and protecting material assets. A request was also made for more baseline data on Wakefield Nature Areas and Ancient Woodland.

How consultation has been undertaken, and a summary of consultation responses will be published separately by WMDC.

2.1.3 SA Report Consultation

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.

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;
- fill in the form and return it to the address below; or
- e-mail your comments to 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.

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3. SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES AND BASELINE CHARACTERISATION

3.1 REVIEW OF RELEVANT STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

The LDF may be influenced in various ways by other plans and programmes and by external sustainability objectives, such as those laid down in policies or legislation. International, National, Regional and Local policies, plans, programmes, and strategy documents have been reviewed as part of the scoping study to determine the objectives and targets relevant to the LDF, and to identify synergies or inconsistencies between these and the LDF objectives.

As part of the review of relevant plans, programmes and strategy documents, policies relevant to the LDF have been identified and listed. Furthermore, where indicators and targets were specified they are also presented and finally commentary is provided on their implications for the LDF preparation. The relevant sustainability objectives that were identified have been compared to the LDF objectives, as set out in Section 1.2.2. The findings were that the LDF objectives are compatible with the identified plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.

Indicators and targets that were identified during the review have influenced the SA indicators and targets established in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (Section 3.4). It is relevant to note that most indicators and targets appear in regional and local plans, programmes and strategies and these are generally of most relevance to this SA as they are area specific.

The full review of relevant plans, programmes and strategy documents is attached as **Appendix B**. Key objectives, targets and indicators, taken from relevant plans, programmes and strategies, have been summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Objectives, Targets and Indicators taken from relevant Strategies, Plans and Programmes

Objectives	Targets, Indicators and Source
<p>Business: Create conditions enabling business growth, economic regeneration, growth and investment including an increase in business start-ups.</p> <p>Encourage investment and enterprise in the District and the development of clusters of economic development.</p>	<p>Double the rate of business start-ups per 10,000 population by 2010 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Treble investment by 2010 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>A year on year increase in GDP growth above EU average by 2010 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Employment: Good quality employment opportunities available to all.</p>	<p>Create 150,000 new jobs in the Region by 2010 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Employment rate in the Region to be above 72.8% by 2005 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Increase productivity in the Region by at least 6% by 2005 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Education and Training: Develop education and training opportunities to build the skills and capacities of the population and ensure a healthy labour market without skills gaps or shortages.</p>	<p>3 million people in the Region trained in IT skills by 2010 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Achieve Learning and Skills Council targets on structured learning, NVQ level 2 & 3, numeracy and literacy skills and workforce development by 2005 (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Safety and Security: Promote safety and security for people and property.</p> <p>Reduce crime rates and levels of fear of crime within high crime areas.</p>	<p>Reductions in actual crime levels and fear of crime (<i>Community Strategy – Fast Forward</i>).</p> <p>Wakefield to become the safest Metropolitan District in West Yorkshire to live in by 2010 (<i>Community Strategy – Fast Forward</i>).</p>

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Objectives	Targets, Indicators and Source
<p>Reduce crime and antisocial behaviour through 'designing out crime' and 'designing in safety'.</p> <p>Improve safety in areas where people live and work, town centres, public spaces and parks and around public transport services.</p>	<p>Increase the percentage of residents who feel safe while outside in the District during the day and at night (<i>Community Strategy – Fast Forward</i>).</p>
<p>Housing: Ensure sufficient new, affordable and quality housing provision for local people.</p> <p>Ensure fair access to quality housing for all groups.</p> <p>Improve homes to meet decent standards and aspirations.</p>	<p>Increase new housing developed on previously developed land to 61% between 1998- 2016 (<i>Regional Housing Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Achieve 100% 'decent homes standard' in the public sector by 2010 (<i>Wakefield Housing Strategy</i>).</p> <p>No properties in the district to be valued below £25,000 by 2005 (<i>Wakefield Housing Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Additional affordable housing to the value of £2 million per annum through the planning system (<i>Wakefield Housing Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Communities: Create vibrant communities where people can participate in decision making and shaping and enhancing the environment.</p> <p>Ensure local needs are met locally.</p> <p>Promote social inclusion and improve the quality, popularity and sustainability of deprived neighbourhoods through regeneration and renewal.</p> <p>Reconnect the Coalfield Communities in the south east of the District (Reconnection primarily refers to the social inclusion of these towns within the District as a whole, including links to Wakefield City, but also relates to the provision of services and accessibility)</p> <p>The Five Towns Initiative</p> <p>Promote the value of Greenspace as a major contributor to the social well being of local communities.</p> <p>Develop cohesive communities – where all are valued, tackling discrimination, celebrating diversity; communities where local people have the opportunity to be involved in community life.</p>	<p>Reduce levels of deprivation (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Increase the number of residents that live within the catchment area of accessible Greenspace (<i>Wakefield Greenspace Strategy – Consultation Draft</i>).</p>
<p>Health: Generate conditions and services engendering good health.</p> <p>Promote cycling, walking and physical recreation.</p> <p>Reduce health inequalities between communities.</p> <p>Improve the safety of the transport network, to reduce the number and severity of road casualties.</p>	<p>Reduce the percentage of people with limiting long term illnesses (<i>Community Strategy – Fast Forward</i>).</p> <p>Reduce fatal and serious cyclist and pedestrian casualties by 40% by 2010 (<i>Wakefield Cycling Strategy - source: West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (2000)</i>).</p>
<p>Culture, Leisure and Recreation: Provide culture, leisure and recreation opportunities available to all.</p> <p>Establish the principles of sustainability at the heart of the region's cultural development.</p> <p>Ensure that the region's historic environment is understood, appreciated and where necessary enhanced.</p>	<p>Increase the number of residents that live within the catchment area of accessible Greenspace (<i>Wakefield Greenspace Strategy – Consultation Draft</i>).</p> <p>Increase the number of children who live within the catchment area of 'kickabout' areas (<i>Wakefield Greenspace Strategy – Consultation Draft</i>).</p> <p>Increase participation levels in sport by 1% per annum. (<i>Yorkshire Plan for Sport</i>)</p>

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Objectives	Targets, Indicators and Source
<p>Built Environment: Create a quality built environment with efficient land use patterns making good use of derelict sites and existing buildings, minimising travel and promoting balanced development.</p> <p>The Urban Renaissance of Wakefield City.</p>	<p>Increase the proportion of development on previously developed land (<i>Regional Environmental Enhancement Strategy</i>).</p> <p>Increase new housing developed on previously developed land to 61% between 1998- 2016 (<i>Regional Housing Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Transport: Create an effective, well connected transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts.</p> <p>Improve transport choice and make it easier to get around.</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel through land use planning.</p> <p>Improve operational efficiency in the transport system and maintain the transport infrastructure to an appropriate standard.</p> <p>Promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for access to transport.</p> <p>Reduce the impacts of transport on air quality and noise.</p> <p>Reduce the contribution of transport to overall greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Encourage a greater proportion of journeys to be made by public transport, cycling and walking.</p>	<p>AM peak inbound traffic crossing the cordon around Wakefield centre not to grow by more than 3% (<i>West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan</i>).</p> <p>Increase the use of public transport in the District, with bus use to increase by 3% and rail use by 40% (<i>West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan</i>).</p> <p>A 10% increase in cycling by 2010/11 with a 20% increase in cycling trips to Wakefield City Centre (<i>Provisional Local Transport Plan</i>).</p> <p>Halt the overall long term decline in journeys made on foot and increase the proportion of pedestrian journeys by children and young people (<i>West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan</i>).</p> <p>Maintain the pedestrian share of journeys to work at 11% by 2011 (<i>Wakefield Walking Strategy</i>).</p>
<p>Natural Environment: Create a bio-diverse and attractive natural environment. Decisions to be based upon a real understanding of the environment and a desire to repair and enhance it.</p> <p>Create healthier environments through tree planting and making woodlands accessible.</p>	<p>Increase the tree cover in the District from 1,258 hectares to 1,764 hectares by 2009. This represents a 7% year on year increase in actual tree cover. A <i>Tree and Woodland Strategy for Wakefield District 2004 - 2009 (Consultation Draft)</i>.</p> <p>Ancient Woodland: Ensure all ASN woodland is being appropriately managed by 2010. Plant 50 ha of new broadleaved woods adjacent to existing or linking existing sites ASNW by 2010. Ensure 20% of all broadleaved woods are in appropriate management by 2010 and 50% by 2015. (<i>Wakefield Biodiversity Action Plan April 2001</i>).</p> <p>Create 10 hectares of Lowland Heath through appropriate management by 2020. Create 10 hectares of Marshland and Wet Grassland through appropriate management by 2020. Create 10 hectares of Magnesian Limestone Grassland through appropriate management by 2020. Establish 2 new Great Crested Newt breeding sites by 2005. Increase the District Lapwing population by at least 20% by 2015. Halt the decline in breeding numbers on farmland within 5 to 10 years. Increase the District population of Skylark by at least 10% by 2015. Improve the water vole habitat along 5km length of river/ditch/lakeside by 2010, targeting areas that will link existing populations. (<i>Wakefield Biodiversity Action Plan April 2001</i>).</p>
<p>Pollution: Minimise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions with a managed response to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Promote and maintain a clean environment.</p>	<p>Cut greenhouse gases by over 20% of 1990 levels by 2010 and support regional targets for electricity from renewable sources [i.e. a renewable energy generation target of 10% by 2010] (<i>Regional Economic Strategy</i>).</p>

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Objectives	Targets, Indicators and Source
<p>Improve the quality of rivers. Reduce air and noise pollution.</p>	<p>To meet UK Air Quality Strategy standards by their relevant objective dates. The dates are different for each pollutant, a full list is provided in The UK Air Quality Strategy (DETR, 2000) (<i>Air Quality Strategy: Working together for Clean Air</i>).</p>
<p>Natural Resources and Waste: Use energy and natural resources prudently and efficiently to reduce the region's consumption. Reduce waste production and increase re-use, recycling and composting. Manage residual waste in the most sustainable way. Move waste disposal methods away from landfill.</p>	<p>Reduce the annual increase in waste production per household to 2% by 2008/9 (<i>Regional Waste Strategy</i>). Increase the amount of waste recycled to 18% by 2005/6 (<i>Wakefield Municipal Waste Strategy</i>).</p>

3.2 BASELINE CHARACTERISATION

The SEA Directive requires a description of the baseline environment. An extensive search for baseline information has been undertaken using a range of sources including web based databases and publications, personal communications, published reports and stored information. The baseline data presented is based on all available sources at the time of publication. Monitoring of the LDF once it is adopted will provide further more detailed baseline information for use in future SAs. The full review of baseline data, including data sources, is provided in **Appendix C**, with a summary being provided in Table 2. This information is representative of the current situation in the District, including, where possible, any trends, and identifies the key sustainability issues.

Table 2: Summary of Baseline Information

Subject	Baseline Information
Demographics	<p>The Wakefield District resident population as measured in the 2001 Census stood at 315,172, of which 49% were male and 51% female. When compared with the 1991 mid-year estimate the resident population has grown by 0.3% compared with 2.5% nationally. Wakefield District's population is projected to rise by 9% to 346,900 by the year 2028</p> <p>According to the Census, 21% of the resident population were aged under 16, 72% were aged between 16-74 and 7% aged 75 and over. The average age was 39 and is equal to the national average.</p>
Employment	<p>Unemployment has been falling steadily in Wakefield over the past decade. Much of the new employment created however, has been in temporary, part-time and lower paid jobs.</p> <p>High unemployment still exists in some parts of the District, mainly the south east and north east of the District and parts of the city of Wakefield especially the former Wakefield East ward.</p> <p>According to the 2001 census, 81,472 (35.7%) people aged between 16 and 74 living in the Wakefield District were economically inactive; the majority (60.3%) were female. The District has a higher proportion overall of economic inactivity compared to the national average.</p> <p>Ill-health and premature retirement are considered to be major contributors to worklessness within the District, due to some extent to the legacy of former traditional industries.</p> <p>Since 1984 more than 17,000 mining jobs have been lost, although some 600 mineworkers are still resident in the District. The majority of these commute to Kellingley colliery in North Yorkshire.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
	<p>Retailing remains one of the largest employment sectors in the District. Other growth sectors are financial and other business services, leisure and recreation, hotels and catering and other professional services. Traditionally, public administration has been a major employer in Wakefield.</p> <p>Manufacturing is the second highest employment group. Health and social work is the third most significant employment group and over 81% of employees in this sector are female.</p> <p>In 2001 only 2.3% of working age residents were employed in mining and energy industries compared with 10.9% ten years previously.</p>
Economic Performance	<p>The per head Gross Value Added figure for Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield in 2001 was £10,595. This has steadily increased since 1995. This is below the regional and national averages. The average annual growth in Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield between 1995 and 2001 has been 4.3% (the same as the regional average). This compares to a national average of 5%.</p> <p>Since the early 1980's there has been a growing demand for office accommodation outside established town centres. About 23,000sq.m of new B1 office floor space has been completed in the District during the UDP period. Over two-thirds has been built in the Western Plan Area.</p> <p>Another significant feature in recent years has been the requirement for sites of 2-8 hectares for distribution warehouses, mainly at the industrial estates in the motorway and A1 corridors.</p>
Deprivation	<p>Severe deprivation can be found around the former coalfields of the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Wakefield is the 11th most deprived district in England if measured using only the ODPM employment scale. It is the 29th when using the income scale. In total Wakefield is the 54th most deprived district in England (IMD 2004 Data).</p> <p>There are several areas within Wakefield District in need of regeneration, largely as a result of the dramatic restructuring of the local economy over the last 20 years. The impacts of the decline of the traditional industries whilst particularly pronounced in the eastern half of the District have not been confined solely to that area, with some parts of the western half also exhibiting higher than average levels of social and economic deprivation.</p>
Education and Skills	<p>Adult educational attainment in the Wakefield District is low. Over 39% of Wakefield residents aged between 16 and 74 have no qualifications. This is the 3rd highest rate in the region and is ranked 20th highest of the 328 local authorities in England and Wales. The level of people educated to degree level is the lowest in West Yorkshire and significantly below the national average.</p> <p>The percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C or equivalent showed an increase from 44.5% in 2001/02 to 45.7% in 2002/03, which is in line with the Regional Average.</p>
Crime	<p>For the year 2000-2001, Wakefield had relatively high levels of Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles. The rate of Sexual Offences is marginally higher than the national average, whilst offences of Violence against the Person, Robbery and Theft of Motor Vehicle are all below.</p> <p>The Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) for vehicle crime per 1,000 population showed an increase from 19.2 in 2001/02 to 27.5 in 2003/04 whilst burglaries per 1,000 households has remained fairly static.</p>
Housing	<p>The demand for housing has been high recently, particularly in the Northern and Western parts of the District. Completions for the years 2000-2004 averaged 1,155 per annum, 22% above the housing requirement for the District set in Regional Planning Guidance [now the Regional Spatial Strategy]. Demand for new housing has also been high in some parts of the South East of the District but other parts have experienced market failure necessitating action to bring about renewal.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
	<p>House prices have risen steeply throughout the District, leading to local shortages of affordable housing in all areas. Shortages are most acute in the Northern and Western areas where prices are highest but even in the South East there are local shortages of some types of affordable housing. Average house prices do however remain 7% lower than the regional average.</p> <p>5.3% of the District's housing is classified as "unfit dwellings". This compares to 6.8% in the region, and 5.6% nationally.</p> <p>Table A6.1 in the Core Strategy shows the availability of local services to residents of Wakefield City and the main towns and local centres in the District. This demonstrates that Wakefield City has the best provision of local services followed by the towns of Castleton, Pontefract, South Emsall/South Kirkby and Hemsworth</p>
Health	<p>Life expectancy between 2001 and 2003 in Wakefield was below the national average at 79.7 years for females and 75.1 years for Males. This is steadily increasing.</p> <p>The proportion of residents with limiting long-term illness has risen from 15.3% in 1991 to 22.4% in 2001. Almost half of these are of working age.</p> <p>Accident rates reported in the local authority BVPIs show a mixed trend, with pedal cyclists being the only group that saw a reduction in both serious and slight injuries between 2001/02 and 2003/04. Serious motorcycle incidents have increased year on year between 2001/02 and 2003/04.</p>
Leisure and Recreation	<p>Wakefield Sports and Recreation Service manages 175 pitches and 75 sites across the district, of which 24 have changing facilities. In addition to football and cricket, the council also provides pitches for rugby league, rugby union, hockey, lacrosse, rounders and American football. Over 200 teams use WMDC sports pitches and 31 different leagues and associations are represented.</p> <p>There are 3 leisure and sports centres within the district as well as 6 council run swimming pools and 6 public golf facilities.</p> <p>There are two multi screen cinemas in Wakefield and two theatres including Wakefield Theatre Royal and Wakefield Arts Centre</p> <p>There are 22 urban parks managed and maintained by the council. Wakefield Countryside Service manages over 1100 acres of land including 2 country parks, nature reserves, woodlands and commons for the benefit of wildlife and for people to enjoy. The Service is also responsible for the maintenance and development of Wakefield District's 350 mile network of public rights of way and permissive paths. In general there is considered to be insufficient provision of green and open space within the District.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>There are numerous sites of archaeological importance (some of are national importance) on the Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service.</p> <p>There are 23 Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Wakefield, 23 Grade I Listed Buildings, 60 Grade II* Listed Buildings and 663 Grade II Listed Buildings.</p> <p>There are 4 entries to English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register in Wakefield, 3 of which are Grade II* Listed and 1 is an unlisted scheduled monument. Wakefield has seen a fall in the number of Buildings at Risk, with 9 being on the list in 1999. The 2003 Yorkshire Register of Buildings at Risk shows that the region has a higher proportion of Grade I and Grade II* Buildings at Risk than the national average (5.3% as opposed to 3.6%).</p> <p>There are 27 Conservation Areas in Wakefield. Within Yorkshire there are 118 registered historic parks and gardens, with 3 of these being in Wakefield. There is 1 locally designated site of a historic battle in the District.</p> <p>A historic landscape classification of the District has not yet been undertaken.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
	<p>In terms of modern cultural heritage, the Waterfront regeneration development will include a gallery dedicated to the works of Barbara Hepworth. Wakefield is also home to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which is one of Europe's leading open-air art organisations showing modern and contemporary work by leading UK and international artists, and the National Mining Museum.</p>
Transport	<p>The District's road network consists of a three-sided 'box' of strategic long distance routes (M1, M62 and A1) on the fringes of the District with the other major roads crossing the area on diagonals. Except for the 'motorway box', the A639 and the A628, all main roads converge on Wakefield. Pontefract is a secondary focus in the network, where the A645 and A639 cross.</p> <p>Peak period traffic has been a problem in the city centre over the last 3-4 years in particular with over 76% of people arriving in the city centre by car in the peak hours. Peak hour traffic has risen 13% between 1999 and 2002/03. This causes significant peak hour queuing problems at several points throughout the city. There is also evidence of very low cycle use in the city and some evidence that bus use is falling. This may be because linking of key destinations such as employment, retail and health care facilities is poor.</p> <p>In terms of rail, there are good intercity and local passenger services via Westgate and Kirkgate although improvements are needed to Kirkgate station.</p> <p>Traffic problems are also experienced in other areas of the District with congestion being experienced in Pontefract. Public transport services are poor in many areas including the Five Towns and between different parts of the District.</p> <p>New road links that are proposed in the West Yorkshire Provisional LTP 2006-2011 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemsworth A1 Link; and • Glasshoughton Coalfields link road.
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>Protected sites cover just 2% of Wakefield District's land area. The District contains one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The internationally important SAC is 'Denby Grange Colliery Ponds', a 18.53ha site primarily designated for its important population of great crested newts.</p> <p>Of the six SSSIs, three are in a favourable condition, two have areas in both favourable and unfavourable conditions and one, Nostell Brick Yard, has been destroyed by a landfill site.</p> <p>The District also has 24 Sites of Scientific Interest (SSIs), 10 Local Nature Reserves, and 86 'Wakefield Nature Areas', these being sites which have been locally designated for their nature conservation value. The majority of the protected sites are in the southwest of the District or along the River Calder corridor to the east and north of Wakefield City.</p> <p>Woodland cover in the District is just 3.8%, compared to the national figure of 10.5%. The majority of woods in the District are in the south and west of the District. The woods in the west of the District form part of the strip of oak-birch woodland running up the side of the Pennines. Ancient woodlands are few in number making them all the more important. They may be particularly vulnerable due to disturbance by cultivation or drainage.</p> <p>Wakefield District has Biodiversity Action Plans for 12 habitats and species.</p>
Land and Soil	<p>The solid geology over much of the district is the exposed coalfield of the Middle and Upper Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous Period. These deposits of alternating bands of sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, shales and coal seams dip eastwards to become the concealed coalfield beneath the later Permian Period deposits in the east.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
	<p>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 contamination. Approximately 700 hectares of the District are derelict, however many more hectares have been or are currently being transformed by reclamation schemes.</p> <p>The BVPI for percentage of homes built on previously developed land has shown a significant increase from 49.0% in 2001/02 to 76.2% in 2003/04.</p>
Landscape	<p>The vast majority of the Wakefield District falls within the 'Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields' character area, with the north eastern side of the District just falling in the 'Southern Magnesian Limestone' character area.</p> <p>This part of the 'Southern Magnesian Limestone' character area is characterised by industrial influences, with mines, shale tips, transport routes, power lines and industrial settlements. The predominantly Magnesian Limestone geology influences soils and ecological character.</p> <p>Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) assessments carried out by the Countryside Agency indicated that in the period 1990-98 the 'Southern Magnesian Limestone' character area saw 'limited or small changes consistent with character'. During this period the woodland area increased and there was a good uptake of Countryside Stewardship. There were however some areas of marked residential and commercial development in rural areas and village envelopes.</p> <p>The 'Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields' area is characterised by widespread evidence of industrial activity including mine buildings, former spoil tips, and iron and steel plants. The area has a complex mix of built-up areas, industrial land, dereliction and farmed open country. Many areas are affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented and downgraded landscapes, however there are substantial areas of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use.</p> <p>CQC assessments indicated that in the period 1990-98 the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields Character Area saw 'some changes inconsistent with the character' of the area. Examples of reasons for this change include; marked development pressure in urban areas and inner urban fringe, and higher rates of conversion from undeveloped to developed in the relatively small rural areas that remain.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken a more detailed Landscape Character Assessment of the District which will be used to ensure that the character of the countryside and other open landscapes throughout the District are protected and enhanced.</p>
Air Quality	<p>There are 36 Part A authorised industrial processes in the Wakefield District, predominantly in the chemicals industry. These are mainly located to the north of Castleford and to the east of Knottingley. There are 96 Part B authorised industrial processes in the Wakefield District, of which two thirds are associated with mineral and coating processes. These are mainly distributed in the northern half of the district, with clusters in Wakefield, Normanton and Castleford.</p> <p>Sources of uncontrolled and fugitive emissions within the District include: storage of spoil and processed coal; a large landfill site; and a number of small sand, gravel and stone quarries.</p> <p>Exceeding the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective has resulted in Air Quality Management Areas being declared for an area along the entire M1 motorway corridor within the district, and an area encompassing houses in West Park Terrace and West Park Drive, adjacent to the A1 near Darrington. Traffic is the main source of NO₂ in these locations.</p> <p>A second review and assessment commenced in 2003. This focused on pollution levels on A roads and particularly around major junctions. As a result, the areas identified as likely to exceed the guideline levels have now been extended to include Wakefield city centre and surrounding suburbs, Normanton, Castleford, Pontefract, Knottingley and Darrington.</p> <p>An Air Quality Action Plan is currently under development.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
Climatic Factors	<p>The Regional Greenhouse Gases Emissions Monitoring and Modelling Study showed that total greenhouse gases in the region reduced by 6.8% between 1990 and 2001. This is mainly due to reduced emissions from industry and a result of regulation, more efficient technologies and a decline in manufacturing. However, regional emissions per head are higher than the England average due to a concentration of heavy industry.</p> <p>Renewables capacity in the region has increased by over 21 MW between 1999 and 2002. This is in part due to Ferrybridge coal fired power station, located within Wakefield District, beginning to co-fire biomass with coal.</p> <p>The BVPI which monitors the average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating of local authority housing shows a slight increase from 51.0 in 2001/02 to 53.0 in 2003/04. SAP is the Government's recommended system for energy rating of dwellings. The SAP rating is used to fulfil requirements of Building Regulations to notify and display an energy rating in new dwellings.</p> <p>The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires that local authorities report on progress towards meeting objectives to improve the energy efficiency of residential properties in the area. The 2004 figures show that there was a 14.2% improvement in domestic energy efficiency in Wakefield between 1996 and 2004. The average for all the Yorkshire and Humberside local authorities is 13.2%.</p> <p>The results of a project commissioned by Defra to produce an experimental set of statistics of carbon dioxide emissions for local authorities estimates that the per capita CO₂ emissions per annum for Wakefield is 8.6 tonnes, compared to an average for the Yorkshire and Humber region of 11.5 tonnes.</p>
Water Resources	<p>Wakefield lies within the three major catchments of the Rivers Aire, Calder and the combined catchment of the Don, Dearne and Rother. Many of these are at or near maximum capacity in annual storm conditions and there are more than 40 locations in the district that flood on a regular basis. Properties that are at risk from flooding are predominantly situated on the River Calder, River Aire and River Went.</p> <p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield was published in May 2005. This assessed the housing and employment sites that were put forward in the existing UDP in terms of their risk from flooding. The results are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% of the housing allocations and 50% of employment sites are allocated in Low Risk Zone 1. • Of the 18 allocations located in the high risk zone, 8 are located in Zone 3b (Undeveloped and Sparsely Developed Areas) – it is recommended that these sites are reconsidered. • All of the allocations within the high risk zone are considered sustainable. <p>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.</p> <p>In terms of groundwater resources, the District essentially falls into two categories: Minor Aquifer and Major Aquifer of high vulnerability through high leaching potential of the over lying soils. The thick horizons of Coal Measures sandstones, present beneath most of the District, are classed as minor aquifers. The Magnesian Limestone is classified by the Environment Agency as a major aquifer.</p> <p>The decline of deep mine coal extraction in recent years has led to the reduction in pumping groundwater from the mines. As a consequence water table levels are rising. In so doing they are inundating old workings at progressively higher levels and displacing gases associated with coal measures strata mainly methane and blackdamp. Such gases are likely to issue at the surface in increasing volumes and localities as concentrated emissions possibly in such dangerous areas as foundations of buildings and other confined spaces as explosive and or poisonous mixtures.</p>

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Subject	Baseline Information
Waste	<p>Household waste is collected from approximately 138,000 properties in the District, totalling 125,655 tonnes/year. The overall amount of waste produced per household in Wakefield in 2001/2 was 1.25 tonnes per household per year.</p> <p>In 2001/2 7.4% of the District's household waste was recycled. 6% of the total municipal waste is recycled. All waste which is not recycled is disposed of to landfill at Welbeck, Skellbrook and Darrington. As stated in the Environment Agency's Strategic Waste Management Assessment (2000), Wakefield District had approximately 14 million m3 of landfill void space remaining.</p> <p>The percentage of household waste recycled increased from 4.7% in 2001/02 to 9.4% in 2003/04. This compares to a regional average of 10.3%. However, since these figures were produced, levels of recycling in the District have increased significantly and now stand at approximately 21%, and the Council have received a good report from the Audit Commission with regard to its waste services.</p> <p>The percentage of waste composted increased from 2.7% to 7.6% over the same period (BV82b).</p> <p>There is currently no heat, power or other energy generated from waste within the district.</p> <p>The amount of waste generated per head showed a decrease from 541kg to 494kg per annum between 2001/02 and 2003/04.</p>

3.2.1 Limitations and Outstanding Data

Whilst a substantial amount of new baseline data has been gathered since the Initial SA Report, some deficiencies have been highlighted during the appraisal process including:

- Information on the level of volunteering and voluntary activities available in the District;
- Information relating to water supply across the District;
- More detailed information relating to the commercial office market in the District;
- Outputs from the studies using the accessibility planning software "Accession" are not yet available to inform the appraisal of the key accessibility issues that exist within the District, This work is underway and the results may be available for any further appraisal work that would be required if there are significant changes made to the policies of the LDDs.

Any further baseline data gathered during the course of the consultation period will be considered in the light of the SA Statement, as appropriate.

3.3 KEY ISSUES

Key sustainability issues have been identified from the review of planning documentation and baseline information and following discussions with WMDC planning officers. These are described below.

3.3.1 Economic

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 and many new employment opportunities are in temporary, part time and lower paid jobs. Good quality employment opportunities need to be provided in all areas of the District to reduce the levels of deprivation.

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Economic growth in the District is below the national average. Investment and enterprise in the District needs to be encouraged, and conditions that enable economic growth developed.

Retailing, manufacturing and health and social work are the largest employment sectors in the District. Growth sectors include financial and other business services, leisure and recreation, hotels and catering and other professional services. However, Wakefield has the smallest commercial office market in West Yorkshire, with Wakefield city centre dominating the commercial office sector. Demand for office accommodation is growing outside established town centres in the District.

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.

3.3.2 Social

As a former coal mining area Wakefield is relatively deprived. 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 average levels of social and economic deprivation. These communities need to be reconnected, and the quality, popularity and sustainability of these deprived neighbourhoods need to be improved through regeneration and renewal.

Adult educational attainment in the Wakefield District is relatively low but the percentage of students achieving grades of A to C is increasing. Learning and skills needs to be encouraged and improved to provide a healthy labour market without skills gaps or shortages.

Wakefield has a relatively high level of burglary and theft from motor vehicles within its Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and vehicle crime has been increasing. At both the regional and local level it is recognised that crime and antisocial behaviour can, and should, be reduced through urban design and provision of adequate infrastructure to ensure safety and security for people and property.

There is a need for affordable housing throughout the District. There has been a problem in many areas in securing an adequate supply of affordable housing for local needs where demand has driven up house prices. Sufficient new, affordable and quality housing provision for local people needs to be ensured and there is a desire for fair access to quality housing for all groups.

The proportion of residents with limiting long-term illness has risen from 15.3% in 1991 to 22.4% in 2001. Almost half of these are of working age. There is a need to generate conditions and services engendering good health and reduce health inequalities between communities. The promotion of cycling, walking and physical recreation will improve health in the District.

3.3.3 Environmental

Although Wakefield has the smallest number of Listed Buildings of the authorities in West Yorkshire, at over 11% of its total, it has by far the greatest percentage of Listed Buildings in the highest two Grades. However, it is clear that, compared to other West Yorkshire authorities, its historic assets are a scarce resource that need to be adequately protected. There is a need to ensure that the District's historic environment is understood, protected and appreciated.

Protected ecological sites cover just 2% of Wakefield District's land area. The majority of the protected sites are in the southwest of the District or along the River Calder corridor to the east and north of Wakefield City. Woodland cover in the District is just 3.8%, compared to the national figure of 10.5%. The majority of woods in the District are in the south and west of the District. A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment should be created. Decisions should be based upon a real understanding of the environment and a desire to repair and enhance it. Healthier environments should be created through tree planting and making woodlands accessible. Enhancing areas close to communities and improving connectivity can improve accessibility. Consideration should be given to restoring Brownfield sites for nature conservation and soft end uses / amenity purposes.

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 contamination. Future development should increasingly be on previously developed land. However, new developments should be of a high quality with efficient land use patterns, near to transport networks and promote balanced development.

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There are clusters of controlled emission sources in the northern part of the District, especially in Castleford, Wakefield and Normanton. Exceedence of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective has resulted in Air Quality Management Areas being declared for an area along the entire M1 motorway within the District, and an area encompassing houses in West Park Terrace and West Park Drive, adjacent to the A1 near Darrington. Further review and assessment in 2003 have identified other areas as likely to exceed the guideline levels including Wakefield city centre and surrounding suburbs, Normanton, Castleford, Pontefract, Knottingley and Darrington. Traffic is the main source of NO₂ in these locations. Therefore, it is important that development decisions do not contribute to a worsening of predicted exceedences and if possible seek to reduce current levels of NO₂.

There is an aspiration to minimise pollution levels including greenhouse gas emissions and a regional target of cutting greenhouse gases by over 20% of 1990 levels by 2010 has been set. This may be achieved in part by the target to increase renewable energy generation to 10% of the total energy generation by 2010. Ferrybridge Power Station is contributing towards this Regional target through co-firing of biomass with coal. Requiring energy efficient buildings will also be important in reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

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 although rates of improvement have slowed in the last few years. A clean environment should be promoted and maintained, including the quality of rivers.

The overall amount of waste produced per household in Wakefield in 2001/2 was 1.25 tonnes per household per year. However, since this time the percentage of waste recycled has increased from 4.7% to 21%. All waste which is not recycled is disposed of to landfill at Welbeck, Skellbrook and Darrington. Regional and Local objectives aim to reduce the production of waste and should seek to maximise recycling. The annual increase in waste production per household should be reduced to 2% by 2008/9.

3.4 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

The following section presents the Sustainability Appraisal Framework through which the policy options taken from the DPDs have been assessed. It is important to note that the SA objectives listed below are separate from the objectives set out in the LDF.

In accordance with best practice, and after consultation on both the Scoping Report and within WMDC, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework has used both the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF) produced in November 2000 and the RSDF Update 2003-05 as core documents through which sustainability objectives and indicators have been derived. Further minor adjustments were made to the SA Framework following consultation on the Initial SA Report.

It is appropriate to develop targets as early as possible to allow the DPD policies to be appraised and monitored. At this stage not all specific indicators and targets have been assigned as further consultations are required within WMDC and with relevant stakeholders to establish which indicators and targets should be applied, improved or new ones developed. Further consideration will be given to this task after consultation on this document, and these will be incorporated in the final monitoring programme which will be produced for the DPD adoption stage. The indicators will also be subject to modification following the publishing of the Annual Monitoring Report.

The SA objectives and indicators for economic, social and environmental issues are identified in Table 3 below. The SA Framework below incorporates changes made as a result of the consultation processes that have taken place to date.

The following notes are applicable to Table 3 below:

- The indicators used are based on ODPM guidance and guidance from the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly. The source of the indicator where known is number referenced (1-5) and listed below:
 - (1) Local Quality of Life Counts (DETR, July 2000)
 - (2) Quality of Life Counts (DETR, December 1999)

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- (3) Audit Commission Voluntary Quality of Life Indicators (Definitions Handbook, Audit Commission, 2002-2003)
- (4) DTI Business Competitiveness Indicators (Unitary/Local Authority/Learning and Skills Council areas/NUTS areas)
- (5) DETR Indices of Deprivation, 2000

Please note that the indicators above are updated regularly and the dates refer to when they were originally produced.

- Some sustainability objectives have a wide scope and involve an overlap between themes (e.g. a quality built environment and efficient land use patterns that make good use of derelict sites, minimise travel and promote balanced development). In such cases the use of indicators may be repeated.
- Some themes have indicators which are potentially very accurate (e.g. unemployment figures) and other themes such as cultural, leisure and recreation have considerably less certain indicators based on qualitative and subjective outputs.
- When establishing monitoring programmes in the future it may not be applicable to use all the indicators listed but those that are most relevant or most recent / accurate.
- Whilst the indicators provided will respond directly to the main objectives they might not address all of the sub objectives.

Table 3: The Amended Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Wakefield's LDF

SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
Economic		
Good quality employment opportunities available to all (SA1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide employment opportunities that match and enhance the skills of the local workforce? • Will it enhance the development of economies and employment opportunities in those areas that have suffered economic decline or with above average or seasonal unemployment levels? • Will it promote or support equal employment opportunities? • Will it promote healthy working lives (including health and safety at work, work-life/home-life balance, healthy workplace policies and access to occupational health)? • Will it offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups (including people with mental health problems, disabilities and people from black and ethnic minority groups)? • Will it ensure employment opportunities are accessible by public transport? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment & Claimant count (4), Ethnic minority employment and unemployment (2) • Proportion of people of working age who are in work (2) (3) • Proportion of people of working age in workless households (2) • Proportion of people of working age out of work for more than two years (2) • Proportion of unemployed people claiming benefits who have been out of work for more than a year (3) • Proportion of lone parents, long-term ill and disabled people who are economically active (2) • Average earnings – average hourly earnings (including overtime and premium pay) for full-time employees only (4)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
Conditions which enable business success, economic growth and investment (SA2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it support the voluntary sector and /or promote volunteering? ● Will it maximise local skills? ● Will it encourage investment? ● Will it enhance competitiveness through advice, mentoring and/or support? ● Will it set up and support local and regional supply chains? ● Will it increase investment in plant, machinery and R&D? ● Will it support community-based businesses and/or support local self-help schemes e.g. credit unions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Labour productivity (2) ● Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area (3) ● social and community enterprises (1) ● Business start ups and closures (1) (2) ● Growth of local businesses by turnover and employee numbers ● Employment land availability ● Number of business applications granted planning consent ● Research and development and employment in high and medium-high technology industries (4) ● Enquiries to business advice services (Business Link)
Social		
Education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities (SA3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it promote lifelong learning and widening participation in lifelong learning activities? ● Will it provide appropriate on-the-job training? ● Will it Improve levels of basic skills and/or information/communication technology (ICT)? ● Will it support the voluntary sector and /or promote volunteering? ● Will it ascertain skills/skills training gaps and/or promote specialised training for areas in transition? ● Will it build the confidence, self-esteem and capacity of individuals? ● Will it provide and promote sustainable development education? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualifications at age 19 (2): Young people with Level 2 qualifications (a) the proportion of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications (5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or NVQ equivalent) (b) BV38 percentage of 15 year old pupils in schools maintained by the local authority achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or equivalent (3) ● 16 year olds with no qualifications (2) ● Qualifications/skills – percentage of working age population (16 to 64/59) with qualifications to either NVQ Level 1 / 2 equivalent, NVQ Level 3 or 4 or a trade apprenticeship or with no formal qualifications (4) ● Adult education facilities ● Learning participation (2)
Conditions and services to engender good health (SA4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it improve equitable access to health service (especially to groups of people most excluded and in highest need)? ● Will it improve the quality and integration of health services? ● Will it promote positive health and prevent ill-health? ● Will it address health inequalities (address the gap between those with worst health and those with better health)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mortality by cause (1) / Death rate by case (3) & Infant mortality (3) ● Death rates from cancer, circulatory disease, accidents and suicides (2) ● Respiratory illness (2) ● Work fatalities and injury rates; working days lost through illness (2) ● Access to a hospital ● NHS hospital waiting lists (2) ● Access to a GP (5)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in sport and cultural activities (2) • Proportion of journeys on foot or by cycle • Access to local green space (2) • Achievement of accessible natural greenspace • How do school children travel to school? (1) (2) • Access to the countryside (2) • Health inequalities (2) • Trends in numbers killed and seriously injured on the roads
<p>Safety and security for people and property (SA5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce crime through design measures? • Will it address the causes of crime and/or reduce crime through intervention? • Will it reduce burglaries? • Will it reduce car crime? • Will it reduce fear of crime? • Will it reduce causes of accidents (including measures to reduce road accidents such as speed restrictions and traffic calming)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of crime (2) • Domestic burglaries per 1,000 households (3) • Violent offences committed per 1,000 population (3) • Vehicle crimes per 1,000 population (3) • Fear of crime (1) (2) • Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' after dark whilst outside in their local authority area • Percentage of residents surveyed who feel 'fairly safe' or 'very safe' during the day whilst outside in their local authority area (3)
<p>Vibrant communities to participate in decision making (SA6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it build social and community capital, capacity and confidence? • Will it improve social cohesion in deprived former mining communities? • Will it increase community participation in activities and/or in the democratic process? • Where appropriate, will it devolve decision-making to communities? • Will it support civic engagement? • Will it encourage supportive personal and community networks? • Will it improve and increase community facilities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social participation (1) • Percentage of adults surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their own local area (3) • Percentage of people who feel that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously (3) • Community well being (1) • Tenant/satisfaction/participation (1) • Voluntary activity (2) • Percentage of voluntary/community organisations in a specified locality per 1,000 that performed well or very well in the past year (3) • Extent of informal volunteering (3)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
<p>Create, enhance and provide accessibility to culture, leisure and recreation activities (SA7)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it increase provision of culture, leisure and recreation (CLR) activities/venues? ● Will it increase non-car-based access to CLR activities? ● Will it increase participation in CLR activities by tourists and local people? ● Will it provide support for CLR providers and/or creative industries? ● Will it preserve, promote and enhance regional culture and heritage? ● Will it improve access and affordability of CLR facilities which engender health, quality of life and learning? ● Will it increase access to open countryside? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of leisure and recreation facilities ● Number of leisure and recreation groups / clubs ● Proximity of facilities to public transport nodes ● Numbers of tourists visiting the district ● Km of public footpaths ● Level of employment in leisure and recreation sector ● Number of accessible natural greenspace sites
<p>Local needs met locally (SA8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it provide direct support for local traders and suppliers through advice, information and training? ● Will it support the formation, maintenance and use of local and regional supply chains for goods and services? ● Will it ensure that essential services (e.g. health services and shops) and resources to serve communities are available within reasonable non-car based traveling distance? ● Will it provide appropriate housing for local needs? ● Will it support the vibrancy of city, town and village centres? ● Will it investigate information/communication technology (ICT) links to connect geographically remote and disadvantaged groups to services and resources? ● Will it support and encourage sharing of information/resources and co-operative ways of working? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services ● Percentage of residents defined as within a distance of 500m (15 minutes walk) of key local services (3) ● Access to a post office (5) ● Access to food shops (5) ● Access to a GP (5) ● Access to a primary school (5) ● Access to a natural greenspace ● New retail floor space in town centres and out of town (2) ● Social investment as per cent of GDP (2) ● Number of childcare places available per 1,000 population of children under 5 not in early education (3) ● Facilities for young people (3) ● Modal split in local service centers (LTP Monitoring Report)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
<p>Quality housing available to everyone (SA9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it make housing available to people in need (taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability)? ● Will it provide affordable housing opportunities throughout the District? ● Will it enable people to obtain and maintain tenancies? ● Will it Improve the quality of housing stock (increase safety and security, reduce unfit housing, improve accessibility for people with disabilities)? ● Will it improve the energy efficiency and insulation in housing to reduce fuel, poverty and ill-health? ● Will it increase use of sustainable design and sustainable building materials in construction? ● Will it reduce the number of empty and difficult to let properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homelessness (1) & Temporary accommodation (2) ● Affordable housing (house price/earnings affordability ratio) (3) ● Availability of good quality housing for all social groups including low income households, lone parent households, ethnic minorities, disabled and young people ● Housing completion figures ● Affordable housing completion figures ● Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings (3)
Environmental		
<p>To provide a transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts (SA10)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it reduce the need to travel by increasing access to key resources and services by means other than the car (e.g. by improving public transport)? ● Will it provide/improve/promote information about alternatives to car-based transport? ● Will it support less use as well as more efficient use of cars (e.g. car sharing)? ● Will it improve access to opportunities and facilities for all groups? ● Will it make the transport/environment attractive to non-car users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists)? ● Will it improve the environmental performance of vehicles? ● Will it encourage freight transfer from road to rail and water? ● Will it encourage employers to develop green travel plans for staff travel to/from work and at work? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Real changes in the cost of transport (1) ● Distance travelled relative to income (2) ● Access to services in rural areas (2) ● Access for disabled people (2) ● Road traffic (2) ● Annual average flow per 1,000km of principal roads (3) ● Density of development ● Heavy goods vehicle mileage intensity (2) ● Passenger travel by modes (2) ● Percentage of residents surveyed using different modes of transport, their reason for, and distance of, travel (3) ● Percentage of children travelling to (a) primary school and (b) secondary school by different modes of transport (3) ● Leisure trips by mode of transport (2)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
<p>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 (SA11)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it promote the development of communities with accessible services, employment, shops and leisure facilities? ● Will it improve the resource efficiency of buildings (water, waste, energy, density, use of existing buildings, designing for a longer lifespan)? ● Will it prevent inappropriate development in flood plains? ● Will it increase the use of sustainable urban drainage (which reduces run-off and improves water quality)? ● Will it increase safety and security in buildings and developments? ● Will it ensure new developments provide essential services accessible without use of a car and are accessible by public transport? ● Will it ensure new development is well designed and appropriate to its setting? ● Will it support local distinctiveness? ● Will it maintain the Countryside Character of the area? (Countryside character can be referred to as landscape character) ● Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets? ● Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings? ● Will it protect materials assets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentage of new housing development on previously developed land (3) ● Vacant land and properties and derelict land (2) ● Proportion of land stock that is derelict ● Land covered by restoration and aftercare conditions (2) ● Loss or damage to listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments or other nationally/regionally important archaeological sites, historic parks and gardens, historic landscapes and their settings and regional examples that have been identified as worthy of preservation and identified as such in West Yorkshire's Historic Environment Record. ● Percentage of Conservation Area demolished or otherwise lost ● Loss or damage to important views and vistas (e.g. identified historic landscapes) ● Level of local tranquillity. ● Area under Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Grant schemes
<p>A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment (SA12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it protect areas in the greenbelt? ● Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species and provide for appropriate long term management of wildlife habitats? ● Will it protect and enhance individual features such as hedgerows, dry stone walls, ponds and trees? ● Will it increase understanding of ways to create new environmental assets and restore wildlife habitats? ● Will it make use of opportunities wherever possible to enhance the environment as part of other initiatives? ● Will it increase the quality and quantity of woodland cover in appropriate locations using native species? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extent of development in greenbelt areas ● Net change in natural/semi-natural habitats (1) ● Changes in populations of selected characteristic species (1) ● Trends in plant biodiversity (2) ● Native species at risk (2) especially protected species ● Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets ● Extent and management of SSSIs (2) ● The area of land designated as an SSSI which is in 'unfavourable condition' (3)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it protect and enhance the region's rivers? ● Will it promote, educate and raise awareness of the enjoyment and benefits of the natural environment and biodiversity and promote access to wildlife on appropriate sites? ● Will it take into account the geomorphology of the land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sites affected by abstraction (2) ● Area of woodland in the UK (2) ● Area of woodland in the District ● Area of ancient semi-natural woodland in GB (2) ● Sustainable management of woodland (2)
Minimal pollution levels (SA13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it clean up contaminated land? ● Will it reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution? ● Will it raise awareness about pollution and its effects? ● Will it provide support, advice and encouragement for the business sector to reduce pollution? ● Will it promote innovative and less harmful uses of potential pollutants? ● Will it include measures and research to identify and reduce pollution? ● Will it reduce the risk of pollution incidents and environmental accidents? ● Will it reduce pollution to water bodies and gaseous emissions from former mine workings? ● Will it lead to an improvement in air quality within the designated AQMAs? ● Will it control land allocation for housing or amenity space in the AQMAs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of days of air pollution (1) ● Number of days per year when air pollution is moderate or higher for PM10 ● Annual average nitrogen dioxide concentration ● For rural sites, number of days per year when air pollution is moderate or higher for ozone (3) ● Concentrations of NO₂ in the AQMAs ● Concentrations of selected air pollutants (2) ● Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxides emissions (2) ● Acidification in the UK (2) ● Population living in Air Quality Management Areas ● Achievement of Emission Limit Values ● Percentage of main rivers and canals of good or fair water quality (3) ● Dangerous substances in water (2) ● Nutrients in water (2)
Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change (SA14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport? ● Will it reduce methane emissions from agriculture, landfills and past and present mining activities? ● Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources? ● Will it increase energy efficiency in all sectors? ● Will it research and monitor the likely effects of climate change and provide evidence and advice on the predicted consequences for affected areas and sectors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CO₂ emissions by end user (2) ● CO₂ emissions by sector and per capita emissions (tonnes per year) (3) ● Energy use (gas and electricity) (1) ● Energy use per household (2) (3) ● Energy efficiency of the economy (2) ● Thermal efficiency of housing stock (2)

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SA Objectives	SA Sub-Objectives	Indicators and Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change? ● Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources that is generated and consumed in the region? ● Will it reduce risk from flooding? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Energy efficiency of road passenger travel/average fuel consumption of new cars (2) ● Proportion of energy supplied from renewable sources ● Depletion of fossil fuels (2) ● Ozone depletion (2) ● Road traffic growth levels
<p>Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste (SA15)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will it increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use? ● Will it develop renewable energy/resources? ● Will it make efficient use of land (appropriate density, protect good agricultural land, use Brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites)? ● Will it increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste? ● Will it increase awareness and provide information on resource efficiency and waste? ● Will it reduce use of non-renewable resources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Household waste recycling ● Average energy efficiency of housing stock

4. TESTING THE PLAN OBJECTIVES

It is important that the objectives of the LDF are in accordance with sustainability principles. They have therefore been tested for compatibility with the SA objectives using a matrix. This is presented in Table 4. LDF objective and SA objective numbers can be found in Sections 1.2 and Section 3.4 respectively.

This analysis of objectives supersedes that provided in the Scoping Report and Initial SA Report, taking into account the new set of spatial objectives that have been developed to guide the production of the preferred policy options.

The findings of this new analysis largely support the previous findings, and no significant incompatibilities have been identified.

Where compatibility is unclear, or assumptions have been made, comments and/or recommendations have been made. These are presented below:

- **LDF Objectives 10 and 11 versus SA Objectives 1, 2 and 9** - The LDF objectives to protect the natural environment, and reduce waste and pollution, could conflict with both the need to provide economic growth and employment, and the objective to meet the housing needs of the District.
- **LDF objective 7 versus SA objectives 11 and 12** – These objectives could possibly conflict if the sites chosen for new development impact on local landscape or areas of importance for biodiversity.
- **LDF objectives 2, 5 and 7 versus SA objectives 13, 14 and 15** – The economic and housing growth that are supported by these LDF objectives will result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, resource use, waste generation. There is also the potential for increased levels of pollution and loss of greenbelt land. Policies will need to be put in place to limit the scale of any potential conflict that arises.

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Table 4: Appraisal of the LDF Options

Objective	LDF1	LDF2	LDF3	LDF4	LDF5	LDF6	LDF7	LDF8	LDF9	LDF10	LDF11
SA1	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	?	?
SA2	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	?	?
SA3	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
SA4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓
SA5	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓
SA6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
SA9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	?	?
SA10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
SA11	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA12	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	?	✓	✓	✓	✓
SA13	✓	?	✓	✓	?	-	?	-	-	✓	✓
SA14	✓	?	✓	✓	?	-	?	-	-	-	✓
SA15	✓	?	✓	✓	?	-	?	-	-	-	✓

✓	Objectives are compatible
?	Compatibility is unclear and may depend on how the objective is implemented
✗	Objectives are incompatible
-	No obvious relation between the objectives

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5. CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DPD OPTIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Issues and Options Report that was produced in January 2005 included a series of Core Strategy and Development Control Policy options. These options had been appraised using the SA Framework, and the results of this appraisal were presented in the Initial SA Report. Both reports were subject to consultation during February/March 2005.

It is important to note that the SEA Directive requires the assessment of 'reasonable alternatives'. For the purposes of this document and the appraisal, 'options' and 'alternatives' have the same meaning.

Further policy development has taken place between the publication of the Issues and Options Report and the Core Strategy and Development Control DPD Preferred Options Reports. As a result, the latter reports contain options that were not included in the initial appraisal, but these have been subject to the appraisal presented in this report.

Appendix 2 of both the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Preferred Options Reports provide tables which explain how their policies relate to those included in the Issues and Options Report.

In order to map the development of the options to identify how the results of the initial appraisal have influenced further policy development, and to highlight those policies which have not previously been subject to assessment, a matrix was developed to track the initial options through to the preferred options. The results of this mapping exercise are summarised below.

5.2 ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

The Initial Sustainability Appraisal made recommendations for new or additional options which could be developed to cover topics which were under represented in the Issues and Options Paper. Table 5 summarises how these recommendations have been addressed during the development of the Preferred Options Reports for the Core Strategy (CS) and Development Control (DC) DPDs.

Table 5: Options developed to fill gaps identified in Initial SA Report

Options recommended in the Initial SA Report	How the Preferred Options have changed
Addressing provision of shopping and other retail facilities	Core Strategy policy for retail now included (CS28) Retail policies from UDP are being saved.
Development of tourism	DC DPD policy on tourist accommodation added (EMP4)
Specific types of employment to be encouraged	Partly addressed by Policy CS16 – Location of Employment Development.
Specifically encourage cycling and walking	Policy CS22 – Walking and Cycling now included
Discourage the use of private cars in town centres e.g. pedestrianisation, traffic calming measures	Policy CS26 – Demand Management addresses this issue.

5.3 CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Additional options were also considered during the development of the Core Strategy following completion of the Initial SA Report. Those that have been carried forward into the Preferred Options

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Report are detailed in Table 5, and these have been subjected to appraisal during the SA process that has followed the publication of the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The Issues and Options Report which put forward the initial options that were appraised in the Initial SA Report concentrated on presenting the issues facing the District. As a result of the ongoing DPD development process, and the consultation process that took place on the Issues and Options Report, a much broader and more detailed series of policy options have now been developed. Some of the policies shown in Table 6 are completely new, whilst others pick up on the themes that were presented in the Issues and Options Report, but which were not necessarily expressed as discrete options

Table 6: Options not appraised in the Initial SA Report

Policy Option	Topic Covered by Policy Option
CS2	Sustainable Development
CS3	Development Criteria
CS4	High Quality Design
CS7, CS8	Housing Allocations and Phasing of Housing
CS10	Brownfield Windfall Housing Sites
CS11	Housing Mix
CS13	Affordable Housing on Exception Sites
CS14	Existing Housing
CS18	Protection of Existing Employment Sites in Rural Areas
CS20	Supporting the Local Economy
CS22, CS23	Walking and Cycling and Public Transport
CS24	The Highway Network
CS25	Freight
CS27	Disused Railways and Waterways
CS28	Retailing and Town Centre Uses
CS31	Leisure, Recreation and Open Space
CS34	Historic and Natural Environment, Landscape Character and Bio-Diversity
CS35	Environmental Impact
CS38	The Protection of Mineral Reserves Other Than Coal
CS39	The Provision of Minerals (Other Than Coal)
CS40	Coal Mining
H2, H3, H4, H5, H6	Housing Development Control Policy Options
EMP4	Employment Development Control Policy Options
GB3, GB4	Green Belt Development Control Policy Options
HIS1 – HIS7	Historic Environment Development Control Policy Options
NAT1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8	Natural Environment Development Control Policy Options
EIC1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12	Environmental Impact and Control Development Control Policy Options
BED4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Built Environment and Design Development Control Policy Options

5.4 REJECTED AND PREFERRED OPTIONS

Although none of the initial options that were considered unsustainable in the Initial SA report have been taken forward as preferred options, a number of options that were considered sustainable, to varying degrees, have been rejected. Table 7 below describes WMDCs reasons for rejecting these options.

In several cases the reason for not taking the option forward as a preferred option was because there was often more than one option proposed to cover the particular issue, and an equally sustainable or more sustainable option was chosen in preference to those that were rejected. The Core Strategy and

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Development Control DPD Preferred Options Reports provide further details of options that were considered but rejected, and these will include those that were found to be unsustainable at the Initial SA Report stage.

Table 7: Sustainable Options Rejected

Options Considered Sustainable by the Initial Sustainability Appraisal	WMDC's Justification for Exclusion from the Preferred Options Reports
Option H10: Base the scale and distribution of new housing on the scale of identified urban potential in each urban area	Sites identified in the Urban Potential Study will be included as one of the sources for housing allocations in the proposed Site Allocation DPD. However, the identified urban potential is not enough on its own as a basis for housing allocations to meet housing requirement.
Option H13: Prevent new housing taking place on any greenfield windfall sites	This option was rejected under CS9 since this might lead to some greenfield land for which there is no beneficial use being left unused or require brownfield land in a remote location to be used. The preferred option will prevent this from occurring whilst tightly controlling when greenfield land can be developed.
Option H15: Leave the current Brownfield target at 61%	No policy in Core Strategy – figure to be determined by RSS – proposed target of 65% in draft RSS has come too late for inclusion in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report. However, this will be included within the submission document of the Core Strategy.
Option H16: Increase the Brownfield target above current 61%	No policy in Core Strategy – figure to be determined by RSS – proposed target of 65% in draft RSS has come too late for inclusion in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report. However, this will be included within the submission document of the Core Strategy.
Option T5: Amend maximum car parking standards to make them more stringent than current levels	Rejected option under Policy CS26. The policy seeks to apply stricter standards in city/town centres where public car parking or alternative modes of transport are available but to apply stricter standards everywhere might deter investment, undermine the viability of services or lead to more on-street parking. WMDC's standards are also already consistent or more stringent than national and regional guidance.
Option GB2: Delete Protected Areas of Search (PAS) designation from the proposals maps and add sites that border the Green Belt to the Green Belt	Rejected option under Core Strategy paragraph 12.2. As when taking land out of the Green Belt, there have to be exceptional circumstances why land should be added to it
Option DC3: Use existing criteria based approach to the consideration of proposals for waste management and treatment facilities (UDP) (do nothing scenario)	Rejected option under Policy CS37. Sustainable waste management requires a managed approach including the identification of sites to accommodate new facilities to ensure national and regional targets are met. The criteria-based approach would not comply with national and regional planning policy guidance
Option DC5: Identify specific opportunities for energy from waste facilities	Rejected option under Policy CS37. Producing energy from waste comes low down the waste hierarchy. Incineration is not favoured by the public because of their perception of potential adverse effects on the environment. Treating waste through incineration is considered unsustainable, but it is better than landfilling.
Option DC16: Incorporate guidance in Supplementary Planning Guidance into policy to improve control over advertisements and Shop Front design affecting both Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings	Option not taken forward. Detailed guidance and requirements not appropriate for LDF policies. Possibility of future Supplementary Planning Document. There are also new policies in the DC DPD to control development.

6. APPRAISAL OF THE CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DPD PREFERRED OPTIONS REPORTS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This stage of the SA involves predicting the environmental, social and economic effects that are likely to result from the implementation of the preferred policy options, and then evaluating the significance of the predicted effects.

6.2 METHODOLOGY

The assessment was carried out by taking each SA objective in turn and predicting the effect of each of the Core Strategy and Development Control policies on that objective. This approach provides a streamlined presentation of the assessment findings, and also assists in the evaluation of the cumulative effects that may result from the implementation of the preferred options.

The assessment tables are included in full in **Appendix D**, with Section 6.3 summarising the significant positive and negative, as well as where the effects are uncertain. The assessment tables provide commentary on the scale and timing of the effect with a brief justification for the assessment. The assessment was undertaken using professional judgement and by comparing the potential effects to the baseline situation present in the District.

Based on the assessment tables, the performance of the policies against the SA sub-objectives has been described, as presented in Section 6.4 below.

In order to see how individual policies perform against each of the SA objectives, the results have been summarised on a policy by policy basis and these are presented in **Appendix E**.

6.2.1 Cumulative Effects

In accordance with the SEA Directive, secondary or indirect effects, cumulative and synergistic effects have been considered. These are collectively referred to as cumulative effects and the assessment is presented in Section 6.4 under each SA Objective heading. Secondary effects are indirect effects and cumulative effects are the combined effects of several policies, plans or schemes. Whilst the individual effects of each policy, plan or scheme may not be significant, when they are considered together, a significant effect can arise. Synergistic effects are additive effects where the total effect is greater than the sum of individual effects. For example, the combination of increased traffic and associated reductions in air and noise quality may result in synergistic effects on nearby residents.

6.2.2 Mitigation

The SEA Directive requires that measures should be considered to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects that have been identified during the assessment process. Guidance also recommends that consideration is given to enhancement of beneficial effects, although this is not mandatory.

In nearly every case where significant negative effects and other less significant negative effects have been identified during the assessment process, the Development Control DPD policies have put forward the mitigation measures required to prevent or reduce the severity of this effect. However, a number of proposed mitigation measures, or areas recommended for additional consideration before publication of the final DPDs, have also been described in Section 6.4.

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6.3 APPRAISAL OF THE CORE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL DPD PREFERRED OPTIONS REPORTS

The significant effects that have been predicted to result from the implementation of the preferred policy options are summarised in Table 8. A more detailed analysis of how the policies perform against each of the SA sub-objectives is presented in Section 6.4.

6.3.1 Significant Beneficial Impacts

The vast majority of the predicted effects are positive against the SA objectives and 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.

6.3.2 Significant Adverse Impacts

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.

6.3.3 Significant Uncertainties

The strategic nature of the Core Strategy preferred options has made prediction of the significant effects difficult, and this is exemplified by the land-use and biodiversity objectives (SA11 and SA12) where the nature and level of effects will be very much dependant on the locations of the sites chosen for development. However, it is not just these objectives which are affected, and the high degree of uncertainty across all the objectives is illustrated in Table 8.

As well as the uncertainty that arises due to the lack of detail with regards to the location of the proposed development, many of the effects that have been questioned are down to the need for certain options to

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be complemented by others in order to enhance the positive effects or reduce negative effects. An example of this is the requirement for new employment opportunities to be provided locally, in order to match the need for jobs created by the provision of new housing (SA1).

Uncertainty is not confined to the high level Core Strategy preferred options, but also exists within the Development Control DPD preferred options. Again, this is down to both locational and implementation issues, although the specific nature of the options does reduce the level of uncertainty when predicting effects.

Table 8: Predicted significant effects

Sustainability Objective	Policies Predicted to have Significant Positive Effects	Policies Predicted to have Significant Negative Effects	Policies where the effect is Uncertain*
SA1 Good quality employment opportunities for all	CS17, CS20, EMP3		CS5, H4
SA2 Conditions which enable business success, economic growth and investment	CS15, CS16, CS17, CS20.		CS6, CS25, CS29, CS36, EMP2,
SA3 Education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities	CS20, CS30		CS5, CS10, CS26, CS31, CS34, H4, H6, REN1, REN2, REN3
SA4 Conditions and services to engender good health	CS22, CS30, CS31		CS1, CS3, CS5, CS6, CS7, CS29, H6, EMP2
SA5 Safety and security for people and property	CS32, BED3		CS1, CS5, CS12, CS14, CS17, CS20, CS29, EMP2, EMP3, HIS4, HIS5
SA6 Vibrant communities to participate in decision making	CS20, CS28, CS30		CS5, CS12, CS16, CS19, CS32, H2, EMP1, EMP2, BED1, BED2, BED3, TEL1
SA7 Create, enhance and provide accessibility to culture, leisure and recreation activities	CS2, CS3, CS22, CS28, CS31, CS34, H4		CS23, CS26, CS29, CS30, CS32, EMP2, EMP3, BED3,
SA8 Local needs met locally	CS20, CS29, CS30, CS3, EMP2		CS5, CS12, CS13, CS26, CS33, H3, H5, EMP4, GB1, BED5
SA9 Quality housing available to everyone	CS2, CS3, CS11, CS12, CS13, CS36, H5, REN2, REN3		CS1, CS5, CS6, CS8, CS19, CS29, EMP2, EMP4
SA10 To provide a transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts	CS1, CS2, CS7, CS21, CS22, CS23, CS25, CS28, CS29, CS30, CS31, EMP2, T1		CS17, CS26, CS27, H2, EMP3, GB6

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Sustainability Objective	Policies Predicted to have Significant Positive Effects	Policies Predicted to have Significant Negative Effects	Policies where the effect is Uncertain*
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	CS1, CS2, CS3, CS4, CS7, CS16, CS34, CS36, H1, HIS1, HIS2, HIS3, NAT9, EIC2, EIC3, BED1, BED2, REN2, REN3		CS1 (long term) , CS5, CS13, CS15, CS16 (long term) , CS17, CS19 , CS20, CS29, CS37, CS39, CS40, H1 (long term) , EMP1 , EMP3, HIS4, HS5, HIS7
SA12 A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment	CS33, CS34, GB4, GB5, GB6, GB7, NAT1, NAT2, NAT3, NAT4, NAT5, NAT6, NAT7, NAT9, EIC4, BED2.		CS5 , CS6, CS9 , CS10 , CS15 , CS16 , CS21, CS22 , CS25, CS26, CS27, CS29 , CS36 , CS39 , CS40 , H4, H6, EMP2, EMP3, EIC2, EIC3, REN2
SA13 Minimal pollution levels	EIC4, EIC5, EIC6, EIC7, EIC8, EIC9	CS5, CS15	CS6, CS10, CS17 , CS23 , CS24 , CS25, CS27, CS37, EMP1 , EMP3, EIC11, EIC12
SA14 Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change	CS21, CS22, CS23, CS35, CS36, REN1, REN2, REN3	CS5, CS15	CS6, CS10, CS16, CS24 , CS25, CS26 , CS27, EMP4 , EIC10
SA15 Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste	CS36, CS37, CS39, REN1, REN2, REN3	CS5, CS15	CS12, EIC10

* Although all of the uncertainties have been listed, many of them are either not considered to be significant or are considered likely to result in additional positive effects rather than negative effects. Those policies with uncertain effects that are considered to be potentially significant, and therefore require monitoring in the future, have been highlighted in bold.

6.4 PERFORMANCE AGAINST SUB-OBJECTIVES

The sections below describe the effects of the policies against each Sustainability Appraisal sub-objective.

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6.4.1 Objective: SA1 Good quality employment opportunities for all.

Table 9: Performance of Policies against SA1 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
<p>Will it provide employment opportunities that match and enhance the skills of the local workforce?</p>	<p>Policy CS15 allocates land to different employment types, and Policies CS17 to CS20 of the Core Strategy protect and enhance employment zones and areas allocated for employment. The designation of the types of employment is outside the scope of the LDF. However, Policy CS20 supports activities and proposals which help to create a dynamic local economy, particularly where they help to increase the level of skills and educational attainment of the District's workforce. In this way, the skills of the local workforce should match the employment opportunities available. However, policies do not approach this from the other angle i.e. matching employment with the existing skills base. This should be considered as it may take some time to increase skill levels of the existing workforce, particularly if this is reliant on improvements to levels of educational attainment.</p> <p>A key employment concern in Wakefield is the quality and vulnerability of the employment opportunities being created. Policy CS2 promotes sustainable economic growth and employment which together with Policy CS20 should assist in creating a more dynamic, sustainable economy.</p> <p>Restriction of development in the Green Belt through policies CS33, GB5, GB6, and GB7 may discourage inward investment into the communities neighbouring the Green Belt but this is not considered likely to be a significant effect.</p>
<p>Will it enhance the development of economies and employment opportunities in those areas that have suffered economic decline or with above average or seasonal unemployment levels?</p>	<p>Policy CS1 encourages development in areas suffering from high levels of deprivation. These are identified in the introductory sections of the Core Strategy. 35% of the District's population, based on Super Output Areas, live in areas that are amongst the 20% most deprived nationally and the Core Strategy aims to increase the prosperity of the district as a whole as well as specific deprived areas. Policy CS7 primarily encourages development in the City and towns that are accessible by public transport, thereby enhancing access to employment for all sectors of the society. The rural areas of the district to the south are also associated with the former coal mining industry and Policies CS17 and CS18 seek to protect the rural economy by protecting existing employment sites and supporting new appropriate economic developments. However, there is potential for areas surrounded by the Greenbelt to be disadvantaged by a lack of developable area but Policies CS33 and GB5 do allow for development in the Greenbelt in very exceptional circumstances and this is not considered likely to be a significant effect.</p>
<p>Will it promote or support equal employment opportunities?</p>	<p>This is largely outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPD. However, policy CS4 requires all development proposals to take full account of the needs of people with disabilities and BED1 requires new development to be accessible to all sections of the community, which will ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to work at these locations. Policy CS20 states the Council's aim to improve the economic performance in line with the aims of the Community Strategy, which supports equal opportunities.</p>
<p>Will it promote healthy working lives (including health and safety at work, work-life/home-life balance, healthy workplace policies and access to occupational health)?</p>	<p>The Core Strategy and Development Control DPD, primarily control the spatial framework for delivering this sub-objective in line with the Community Strategy. The Core Strategy encourages, through Policy CS21 location of development with good access to public transport and through Policy CS23, provision of new public transport facilities. Policy CS30 aims to secure good quality community services and facilities to meet the needs of local communities. The policies that cover hazardous operations (Policies EIC11 and EIC12) provide some coverage of the health and safety aspect of this sub-objective. Other policies on air and noise pollution will encourage awareness raising and ensure that information is available through other strategy documents produced by the Council.</p>
<p>Will it offer employment opportunities to disadvantaged groups (including people with mental health problems, disabilities and people from black and ethnic minority groups)?</p>	<p>This is largely outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs. However, policy CS4 requires all development proposals to take full account of the needs of people with disabilities and BED1 requires new development to be accessible to all sections of the community, which will ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to work at these locations. The needs of other minority groups are not addressed. Policy CS2 promotes safe and inclusive communities by reducing social inequalities and disadvantages and through improving health, economic and social wellbeing.</p>

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it ensure employment opportunities are accessible by public transport?	A number of policies ensure that employment opportunities are accessible by public transport. Notably CS1 requires a sequential approach to locating development, with highest priority to land within urban areas and those that are accessible by public transport. Policy CS21 & T1 also support development that is located where it can be served by public transport, walking and cycling. An option to allocate more employment land adjacent to the motorway corridors was rejected due to its unsustainable location.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effect of introducing the policies on Objective SA1 will be positive, particularly in the medium to long-term when the policy measures have had time to take affect and provide conditions for the economic growth required to generate the required level and range of employment opportunities to meet the needs of the district.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Policies should be more explicit as to how the employment needs of the former mining communities will be met;
- The key areas of deprivation should be identified within the policies;
- Equal opportunities/minority groups should be mentioned; and
- The existing skills base versus employment opportunities should be examined.

6.4.2 Objective: SA2 Conditions which enable business success, economic growth and investment.

Table 10: Performance of Policies against SA2 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it support the voluntary sector and/or promote volunteering?	This is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs. Policy CS30 supports the provision of good quality community services which should encourage voluntary participation and Policy CS2 promotes safe and inclusive communities by reducing social inequalities and disadvantages and through improving health, economic and social wellbeing. This can be achieved through volunteering and the voluntary sector.
Will it maximise local skills?	The ability of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs to meet this sub-objective is uncertain. The policies do however encourage a mix of new employment types. Policy CS20 seeks to support an increase in the skill levels of the local workforce, but policies do not approach this from the other angle i.e. matching employment with the existing skills base.
Will it encourage investment?	<p>The Core Strategy aims to increase the prosperity of the District as a whole and a number of policies provide the conditions to encourage investment into the area. For example, Policy CS16 makes provision for an additional 265 hectares of employment land to be developed in the District between 2004 and 2016, whilst Policies CS18 and CS19 protect existing employment sites and designated areas. Policy CS20 particularly supports development that promotes the District as a place to invest and Policy CS28 encourages proposals which enhance the range and quality of retail, leisure, office, cultural and tourist facilities. Increased housing and encouraging an integrated freight distribution network may enhance business success and economic growth.</p> <p>Some policies, whilst not directly discouraging investment, may result in indirect impacts. For example, a reduction in car parking spaces in town centres (Policy CS26), may encourage people to shop elsewhere and outside of the District and creation of mixed use zones (Policies CS29 and EMP4) may prevent business expansion in these areas. Similarly, there is potential for areas surrounded by the Greenbelt to be disadvantaged by a lack of developable area but Policy CS33 does allow for development in the Greenbelt in very exceptional circumstances and this is not considered likely to be a significant effect.</p>

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it enhance competitiveness through advice, mentoring and/or support?	Whilst direct provision of advice, mentoring and support is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs, increased investment in the district should increase competitiveness and Policy CS20 supports proposals which support business start ups and enterprise.
Will it set up and support local and regional supply chains?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to meet this sub-objective is uncertain. However, Policy CS17 supports developments that strengthen and diversify the rural economy, which should increase the potential for local and regional supply chains to be created.
Will it increase investment in plant, machinery and R&D?	Policy CS15 makes land provision for light and general industry and wholesale and freight distribution, both of which would encourage investment in plant and machinery. Policies do not specifically encourage R&D (e.g. provision of science parks) as Wakefield has stronger links with the media and arts sectors and these would be encouraged ahead of R&D for the foreseeable future.
Will it support community-based businesses and/or support local self help schemes e.g. credit unions?	Policy CS20 supports business start-ups and enterprise.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effect of introducing the policies on Objective SA1 is generally positive. Encouraging a range of employment types, increasing skill levels of the local workforce, designating key sites for employment and encouraging investment in the area, should enable business success, economic growth and investment.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Policies should make it clearer that employment opportunities need to cater for the existing skills of the workforce as well as the longer term aspirations;
- More emphasis should be given to local and regional supply chain support; and
- Policies should include reference to diversification of the urban economy as well as the rural economy.

6.4.3 Objective: SA3 Education and training opportunities to build skills and capacities.

General Comment: Whilst it is the role of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to provide the spatial planning framework for enabling educational facilities to be developed, the majority of the sub-objectives are outside the scope of the policies, and are addressed by other strategies.

Table 11: Performance of Policies against SA3 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it promote lifelong learning and widening participation in lifelong learning activities?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to achieve this sub-objective is uncertain. Policy CS3 supports development that includes education facilities and Policy CS20 supports development that will help to increase the level of skills and educational attainment of the District's workforce. Policy CS30 also supports development that provides good quality community services and facilities and this may help to promote lifelong learning. Provision of recreation and leisure facilities (Policies CS31 and H4) may encourage participation in learning activities, dependent upon the facilities provided. However, the level of housing proposed in the District (Policies CS5 and CS10) may put pressure on existing educational establishments.
Will it provide appropriate on-the-job training?	A range of employment types are encouraged by the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs which may result in a corresponding range of training opportunities.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it improve levels of basic skills and/or information/communication technology (ICT)?	Policy CS20 seeks to support an increase in the skill levels of the local workforce.
Will it support the voluntary sector and/or promote volunteering?	Policy CS30 supports the provision of good quality community services which should encourage voluntary participation.
Will it ascertain skills/skills training gaps and/or promote specialised training for areas in transition?	This is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs. However, the Core Strategy and DC DPDs do support developments that diversify employment and encourage investment in the deprived areas of the district. This may assist in promoting specialised training.
Will it build the confidence, self-esteem and capacity of individuals?	The provision of new employment land to encourage a range of new jobs and services, and the intention to support the local economy (CS20) should help to provide conditions which will engender self-esteem by developing the skills of local people. Policy CS2 supports development that promotes safe and inclusive communities by reducing social inequalities and disadvantages. This should build the confidence, self-esteem and capacity of individuals and communities.
Will it provide and promote sustainable development education?	Although raising awareness on sustainable development is outside of the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs, the policies which encourage or require renewable energy technologies to be incorporated into new developments should encourage awareness raising and ensure that information is available through other strategy documents produced by the Council.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of the policies on Objective SA3 are likely to be beneficial as they support regeneration of disadvantaged communities and aim to provide employment opportunities to improve the skills of the local workforce. Achievement of the objective will rely on an adequate provision of new educational facilities to support the growth predicted for the District.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Policies should provide more emphasis to the role of ICT both in improving skills and also in encouraging home working; and
- Policy CS30 (as well as the preceding text) should include reference to the type of facilities covered, which includes educational facilities.

6.4.4 Objective: SA4 Conditions and services to engender good health.

Table 12: Performance of Policies against SA4 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it improve equitable access to health service (especially to groups of people most excluded and in highest need)?	Policy CS30 and to some extent Policy CS1 and CS3, support the provision of community facilities, particularly where they support the more deprived members of society. The policy also requires these facilities to be accessible by public transport, cycling or on foot which should facilitate access by all members of society. However, the level and distribution of housing proposed within the District (Policies CS5, CS6 and CS7) may put pressure on the existing health facilities.
Will it improve the quality and integration of health services?	Provision of new facilities through the implementation of Policy CS30 will help achieve improvements to quality, however not necessarily integration. This is considered to be outside the scope of the LDF.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it promote positive health and prevent ill-health?	A number of policies encourage the provision of open space and recreation facilities, including CS3, CS31 & H4. Numerous policies also aim to protect the countryside from development. These policies will enhance feelings of wellbeing, as well as encouraging physical activity. Policy CS14, which aims to improve the quality of housing, may also improve health through enhanced thermal and sound insulation. Policy CS22 also encourages walking and cycling which will assist in reducing ill-health. Other policies, such as Policies EIC6, EIC7 and EIC8 aim to reduce the pollution resulting from development and the associated health effects.
Will it address health inequalities (address the gap between those with worst health and those with better health)?	Policy CS30 supports the provision of community facilities, particularly where they support the more deprived members of society.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of the policies on Objective SA4 are likely to be beneficial as they support regeneration of disadvantaged communities and aim to provide improved access to facilities, including healthcare facilities. The policies also secure access to the countryside and improvements to the provision of leisure and recreation facilities. However, as with SA3, achievement of the objective will rely on an adequate provision of new healthcare facilities to support the growth predicted for the District and prevent existing facilities being put under pressure.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- The wording of Policy CS30 should provide some detail of the types of facilities covered. The supporting text makes it clear that healthcare facilities are covered, but this is not carried forward into the wording of the policy;
- Links to Accessibility Strategies being developed as part of LTPs should be made. These strategies will be generating detailed data on access to healthcare facilities; and
- Links to Rights of Way Improvement Plans should be developed to utilise the existing network more effectively.

6.4.5 Objective: SA5 Safety and security for people and property.

Table 13: Performance of Policies against SA5 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it reduce crime through design measures?	Policy BED3 specifically deals with design for safety and security and specifically includes the design of car parks, due to the issue of car crime in the District. Wakefield MDC also consults the Police Architectural Liaison Officer as part of planning applications. However, the desire to protect historic buildings and conservation areas (HIS4 & 5) may result in some security measures being discouraged but this is considered unlikely to be significant.
Will it address the causes of crime and/or reduce crime through intervention?	Although addressing this sub-objective directly is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs, by providing conditions which encourage economic prosperity for all sections of the community and address housing needs, there should be a positive effect on reducing the causes of crime. Promoting the design of developments that discourages crime (Policies CS3, CS32, CS35 and BED3) should help to reduce crime through intervention.
Will it reduce burglaries?	Policy BED3 promotes design for safety and security in new developments, which should help to reduce the potential for burglaries from these properties.
Will it reduce car crime?	Specific policies to reduce car crime are not included as part of the Core Strategy or DC DPDs. However, Policy BED3 specifically requires the safety and security of car parking areas to be considered which should reduce car crime.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it reduce fear of crime?	Policy BED3 promotes design for safety and security in new developments which should contribute towards a reduction of fear of crime.
Will it reduce causes of accidents (including measures to reduce road accidents such as speed restrictions and traffic calming)?	Policy 28 (Demand management) should encourage conditions which will enable pedestrianisation and traffic calming to be considered. Policy CS22 encourages segregated cycling routes, and improved priority to cyclists and pedestrians over the private car.

Cumulative Effects

There is a limited impact that the policies can have on helping to achieve this objective, however overall the cumulative effects of implementing the policies are likely to be beneficial, particularly in new developments where safe design can be built in. Policies that support improvements to existing communities should help to encourage community vitality which may help to address safety and security issues.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Policies should show the link with the LTP to demonstrate how the different policy documents are integrated e.g. accidents;
- Speed restrictions and traffic calming can be linked through planning policies and therefore should be considered in Policy T1;
- Add link to the LTP in Policy CS21; and
- Include reference to the consultation process with the Police Architectural Liaison Officer in the text preceding BED 3.

6.4.6 Objective: SA6 Vibrant communities to participate in decision making.

Table 14: Performance of Policies against SA6 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it build social and community capital, capacity and confidence?	The provision of new employment land to encourage a range of new jobs and services, and the intention to support the local economy (CS20), together with Policy CS28 which aims to increase the vitality of city, town and local centres, should help to provide conditions which will build community confidence. The provision of community facilities, open space, and recreation facilities (Policies CS30, CS31 and H4) will further support this sub-objective. Policy CS2 requires that new development should promote safe and inclusive communities by reducing social inequalities and disadvantages and through improving health, economic and social wellbeing. This should support this sub-objective. Replacing unfit housing (Policy CS14 and H2) and provision of new housing (Policy CS5) may also improve community vibrancy and confidence.
Will it improve social cohesion in deprived former mining communities?	Policy CS20 supports the local economy and should help to provide conditions to improve social cohesion, although the ability of the policies to achieve this will depend upon the sites chosen for employment (CS16, CS19 and EMP1). Policies CS12 and CS13 (affordable housing) should enable people to continue to live in the areas in which they have grown up, rather than having to move into the nearby towns. Provision of a mix of housing types as promoted by Policy CS11 should also encourage social cohesion.
Will it increase community participation in activities and/or in the democratic process?	The provision of community facilities (Policy CS30), and support for development that improves educational achievement (Policy CS20) will provide some support towards meeting this sub-objective, however this is largely outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs. Increased community safety (Policies CS32 and BED3) may also encourage community participation.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Where appropriate, will it devolve decision-making to communities?	This is considered to be outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs.
Will it support civic engagement?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to meet this sub-objective is uncertain. The provision of community facilities (Policy CS30) may provide some support towards meeting this sub-objective.
Will it encourage supportive personal and community networks?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to meet this sub-objective is uncertain. The provision of community facilities (Policy CS30) will provide some support towards meeting this sub-objective.
Will it improve and increase community facilities?	Policies CS30, CS31 and H6 aim to secure improved community facilities and increased recreational opportunities.

Cumulative Effects

The mix of policies within the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs will have a positive effect on encouraging community participation and vibrancy. However, it is difficult to determine the cumulative effects of the policies for this objective as the desired outcomes cannot be met by spatial planning policies on their own.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Investigate the potential to make further links to Community Strategy and Statement of Community Involvement in the Core Strategy policies to cover some of the sub-objectives; and
- Consider being more explicit in the policies as to how the needs of the former mining communities will be addressed.

6.4.7 Objective: SA7 Create, enhance and provide accessibility to culture, leisure and recreation activities.

Table 15: Performance of Policies against SA7 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it increase provision of culture, leisure and recreation (CLR) activities/venues?	Policies CS2, CS28, CS30, CS31 and H4 encourage the creation of leisure, cultural, tourist and community facilities and services, as well recreation facilities. Policy CS20 also encourages new facilities to be provided for tourists, which will also be available to the local population. Policy EMP3 encourages farm diversification, which may increase the provision of CLR activities/venues.
Will it increase non-car-based access to CLR activities?	Policies CS2, CS30 and CS31 encourage community and leisure facilities to be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling. Policy CS23 should improve public transport provision which may increase access to CLR facilities. In mixed use zones (Policies CS29 and EMP2), there may be improved access to CLR facilities in town centres, but access to the countryside may be reduced.
Will it increase participation in CLR activities by tourists and local people?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs to meet this sub-objective is uncertain as these documents relate to spatial issues. However, provision of additional CLR facilities (Policies CS30 and CS31) and tourist accommodation (Policy EMP4) will facilitate additional participation in CLR activities by both tourists and local people. An increased feeling of safety (CS32 and BED3) may also encourage participation in CLR activities.
Will it provide support for CLR providers and/or creative industries?	The Core Strategy and DC DPD do not directly provide support for such providers but policies which promote new facilities (CS30 and CS31) and additional tourist accommodation (Policy EMP4) will support CLR providers.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it preserve, promote and enhance regional culture and heritage?	Policy CS34 of the Core Strategy and Policies HIS1 to HIS7 of the Development Control DPD aim to preserve the historic environment including sites of archaeological importance, listed buildings and buildings of local importance. Policy CS34 also states that the Council will work with its partners to enhance and manage the District's historic environment. However, promotion is not specifically mentioned.
Will it improve access and affordability of CLR facilities which engender health, quality of life and learning?	Access to CLR facilities should be improved by supporting proposals that are accessible by means other than the private car. The policies do not specifically mention to affordability of CLR facilities, although Policy CS30 and CS31 do aim to secure facilities that meet the needs of local communities, particularly the less mobile or more deprived members of the community. This will therefore encourage the facilities to be affordable to all sectors of society.
Will it increase access to open countryside?	Open countryside will be protected through Policies CS33, CS34 and GB1, however access is not necessarily improved. Links to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan could be provided to make the connection between the spatial plan and provision of access.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of the policies will be broadly positive in creating and enhancing access to culture and leisure facilities. The emphasis on protecting and creating open space will encourage recreational activities, and the new facilities that will be provided with new development will improve the range and number of facilities available within the District.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Provide more emphasis on cultural activities, for example in Policy CS31. The bias is currently towards leisure and recreation;
- Provide more emphasis on promotion, access and participation in CLR activities, as well as preservation;
- Provide links to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Annex to the Provisional LTP); and
- The Core Strategy could provide background to the reasons why the Central Wakefield Area Action Plan is being developed, including how it will enhance CLR facilities.

6.4.8 Objective: SA8 Local needs met locally.

Table 16: Performance of Policies against SA8 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it provide direct support for local traders and suppliers through advice, information and training?	The ability of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPD to directly support local traders and suppliers is limited. However, Policy CS20 supports the local economy and seeks to increase the level of skills of the District's workforce.
Will it support the formation maintenance and use of local and regional supply chains for goods and services?	The ability of the Core Strategy and DC DPD to meet this sub-objective is limited. However, Policy CS17 supports developments that strengthen and diversify the rural economy, which should increase the potential for local supply chains to be created. All policies that aim to enhance levels of services and protect existing employment sites (CS1, CS18, CS19 and EMP1) will facilitate the creation of local and regional supply chains.
Will it ensure that essential services (e.g. health services and shops) and resources to serve communities are available within reasonable non-car based travelling distance?	Policies CS2, CS28, CS30 and H4 support the objective of providing community services and facilities, and the retention of existing facilities. However, in those areas that are surrounded by the Greenbelt, restrictions on development through policies CS33 and GB1 may mean that essential services cannot be provided within reasonable non-car based travelling distance. However, provision of essential services may be considered a very special circumstance, and therefore the development may be permitted. The effect is therefore considered unlikely to be significant.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it provide appropriate housing for local needs?	Policies CS5, CS6, CS11, CS12, CS14, H5 and H6 specifically support this sub-objective, in terms of housing numbers, housing affordability, and housing location. The Core Strategy policies set levels for the percentage of a development that is required to be affordable, as well as the threshold for the size of development when this becomes a requirement. However, the ability of the policies to meet the local needs for affordable housing is uncertain as, in many cases, it is dependent on provision by Registered Social Landlords.
Will it support the vibrancy of city, town and village centres?	Several policies support this sub-objective, including the strategic policies CS1, CS14, CS20 and CS28. Policies within the Development Control DPD, including Policies H1, H2, EMP4, BED1 and BED2 may also enhance the vibrancy of existing towns and the City although the ability of the policies to achieve this in every case is uncertain. Policies CS29 and EMP2 also encourage mixed use development which often creates a vibrant 24 hour society. However, Policy CS26, which aims to control demand for car use in town and city centres, may encourage people to use other centres which could affect those areas where car parking is reduced. Similarly, provision of park and ride (Policy CS26) may encourage people to use main town centres rather than local facilities.
Will it investigate information/communication technology (ICT) links to connect geographically remote and disadvantaged groups to services and resources?	The Core Strategy and Development Control DPD provide limited reference to use and availability of ICT other than in Policy TEL1, which considers the location, scale and design of telecommunications equipment.
Will it support and encourage sharing of information/resources and co-operative ways of working?	This is considered to be outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPD.

Cumulative Effects

The policies are generally supportive of the requirement to improve local facilities and encourage the provision of housing, jobs and services to support local needs. The cumulative effects of the policy mix will be beneficial towards meeting objective SA8.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Provide more reference and support for ICT. Again, perhaps explore ways to link into the Community Strategy in the Core Strategy;
- Provide links to the Accessibility Strategy in the LTP; and
- Provide links to Community Strategy regarding co-operative ways of working.

6.4.9 Objective: SA9 Quality housing available to everyone.

Table 17: Performance of Policies against SA9 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it make housing available to people in need (taking into account requirements of location, size, type and affordability)?	Policies CS11, CS12, CS13, H5 and H6 require a mix of accommodation types, including affordable housing, to be provided. However, the ability of the policies to meet the local housing and accommodation needs is uncertain. Policies CS1 and CS6 require a sequential approach to be applied to housing location ensuring that new houses are located in areas where services are available.
Will it provide affordable housing opportunities throughout the district?	Policy CS11 and CS12 require local needs in terms of size, type, tenure and affordable housing requirements to be considered in new developments. However, the policies do not require new developments to be located in areas of particular affordable housing needs and therefore the ability of the policies to encourage housing in these areas is uncertain.

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Sub Objective	Comment
	Restriction of development in the Greenbelt may affect land available for housing supply, although Policy CS13 does allow affordable housing to be provided on exception sites where local needs cannot be met in any other way and the effect is therefore not considered to be significant.
Will it enable people to obtain and maintain tenancies?	Policy H5 and H6, which allow for multiple occupation and accommodation for itinerant groups respectively.
Will it improve the quality of housing stock (increase safety and security, reduce unfit housing, improve accessibility for people with disabilities)?	Policy CS14 supports proposals to improve the quality or make efficient use of the District's housing stock, whilst Policies H5 and H6 aim to ensure that houses for multiple occupation and accommodation for itinerant groups are suitable for the proposed uses. Policies CS32 and BED3 aim to enhance community safety, whilst Policy CS4, BED1 and BED2 encourage good quality design. Policy CS4, amongst others, supports accessibility for the disabled.
Will it improve the energy efficiency and insulation in housing to reduce fuel, poverty and ill-health?	Policy REN3 encourages energy efficiency, which, together with Policy BED1, building design, should help to reduce fuel poverty and ill health.
Will it increase use of sustainable design and sustainable building materials in construction?	Policies CS2 and CS3 encourage sustainable building techniques, whilst Policy REN3 encourages consideration of energy efficiency in the design of new developments.
Will it reduce the number of empty and difficult to let properties?	Policy H2 allows for redevelopment of existing residential sites and Policy H5 allows conversion of existing houses to multiple occupation. Policy CS14 supports proposals to improve the existing housing stock, however, replacement of existing unfit housing cannot be required by the LDF unless a planning application is submitted for an area of unfit housing.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effect of the policies will be largely beneficial towards meeting this sub-objective. It is only the policies which place restrictions on development in the Green Belt area which may have an adverse effect, although the relatively high levels of available sites in non-Green Belt areas in those areas of the District where WMDC intends to focus the majority of development, should mean that this is not an issue during the lifetime of this plan.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- A new policy should be included in the Development Control DPD to encourage use of local building materials, the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Methodology (BREEAM), use of recycled aggregates, and additional information on natural resource efficiency. The policy could also refer to the Council's SPG on Sustainable Development;
- A bullet point should be included in CS2 regarding environmental impact of building materials; and
- Policy CS1 should provide a reference to the need for affordable housing in all areas of the District.

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6.4.10 Objective: SA10 To provide a transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts.

Table 18: Performance of Policies against SA10 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it reduce the need to travel by increasing access to key resources and services by means other than the car (e.g. by improving public transport)?	Numerous policies support the provision of key services and leisure facilities in areas that are accessible by means other than the car, including Policy CS1, CS2, CS21 and CS28 to CS31. Policies CS22 and CS23 also aim to increase walking and cycling and provision of public transport, whilst CS26 proposes demand management measures to encourage use of alternative forms of transport than the car. However, this may result in people travelling to other areas where there are car parks.
Will it provide/improve/promote information about alternatives to car-based transport?	This is not a spatial planning issue, however by adopting the sort of policies described in the previous sub-objective, this will encourage the provision of information to promote alternative transport modes. Policy CS22 specifically refers to promoting the integration of cycling and walking with public transport.
Will it support less use as well as more efficient use of cars (e.g. car sharing)?	Several of the policies support less use of cars, with CS21 requiring major travel generating developments to submit Travel Plans with planning applications. CS26 also aims to manage the demand for car parking by limiting spaces in areas where alternative forms of transport are available. However, Policy CS26 which aims to limit the number of car parking spaces in busy town centres, may encourage people to travel longer distances to centres with sufficient car parking spaces. Requiring the efficient use of cars is considered to be outside of the scope of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs.
Will it improve access to opportunities and facilities for all groups?	Policies CS30 and CS31 require new community, leisure and recreation facilities to be accessible by means other than the private car. The policies require the facilities to meet the needs of local communities, which together with improved accessibility, should facilitate access for all groups. Policy CS23 gives priority to public transport serving rural areas and the South East of the District, where public transport accessibility is poor. Policy CS17 and EMP4, which aim to strengthen and diversify the rural economy should improve access to opportunities for local people although there is potential for traffic to increase in the vicinity.
Will it make the transport/environment attractive to non-car users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists)?	Segregated cycle routes and priority to pedestrians will be implemented through Policy CS22, to encourage cycling and walking. Policies are proposed which will reduce the impacts of traffic, particularly in town centres, including Policy CS26.
Will it improve the environmental performance of vehicles?	This sub-objective is not covered as part of the Core Strategy or Development Control DPD as it is not a spatial planning issue. However it could be covered as part of CS23 (Public Transport), CS35 (Environmental Impact) or EIC6 (Air Quality), particularly in relation to the buses used within the District.
Will it encourage the freight transfer from road to rail and water?	Policy CS25 supports freight transfer to rail or water, and CS27 protects disused railways and waterways from development in order to safeguard them for future extensions to the transport network.
Will it encourage employers to develop green travel plans for staff travel to/from work and at work?	Policy CS21 requires major travel generating developments to submit Travel Plans with planning applications. Other policies proposed (e.g. CS26: Demand Management) will provide conditions to encourage a take-up of work place travel plans.

Cumulative Effects

Policies will have an overall beneficial cumulative effect on this objective, with emphasis being provided on the location of new development close to public transport networks, and the encouragement of cycling

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and walking within new and existing development. Policies also seek to discourage the use of private cars in urban centres.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Ensure that the proposed site allocations are accessible by public transport;
- Provide clearer links to the LTP proposals and objectives;
- Provide more encouragement for less polluting and more energy efficient vehicles; and
- Provide more encouragement for travel plans for existing employers.

6.4.11 Objective: 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.

Table 19: Performance of Policies against SA11 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it promote the development of communities with accessible services, employment, shops and leisure facilities?	CS2, CS3, CS18, CS21, CS28 and CS30 all promote developments in areas that either have accessible services, employment, shops and leisure facilities, or encourage new developments to provide such facilities.
Will it improve the resource efficiency of buildings (water, waste, energy, density, use of existing buildings, designing for a longer life span)?	Policies REN2 and REN3 regarding energy efficiency and energy conservation provide some support for this sub-objective. Policies CS2 and CS3 also promote water and energy conservation.
Will it prevent inappropriate development in flood plains?	Policies EIC2 and EIC3 explicitly address this sub-objective. These policies have been written to reflect national and regional guidance, and have also taken into account the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment that was undertaken for Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale Councils.
Will it increase the use of sustainable urban drainage (which reduces run-off and improves water quality)?	Policies EIC1 and CS3 support the use of sustainable urban drainage systems.
Will it increase safety and security in buildings and developments?	Policy BED3 encourages improved design for safety and security, whilst Policy CS32 requires developments to take account of crime and promote safe living environments. However, protection of the character and appearance of historic buildings and conservation areas, may limit the potential for improving safety and security in these specific areas, but this is considered unlikely to be significant.
Will it ensure new developments provide essential services accessible without use of a car and accessible by public transport?	Numerous policies support either the provision of key services and leisure facilities within new developments or the location of new developments where key services are accessible by means other than the car, including Policy CS1, CS2, CS21, CS28 to CS31 and H4.
Will it ensure new development is well designed and appropriate to its setting?	Policy CS4 and policies BED1 to BED5 specifically promote well-designed, high quality developments that relate to the existing character of the locality. However, policies regarding provision of waste management facilities, coal and mineral extraction (CS37, CS39 and CS40) may adversely affect the visual amenity in the local area. Similarly, pressure to provide the housing requirements as set by the Regional Spatial Strategy may mean that developments are located in more sensitive locations near to heritage assets or areas of high landscape character.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it support local distinctiveness?	Policy CS4 specifically aims to protect and enhance local distinctiveness and character, whilst Policies CS34, HIS1 to HIS7, NAT1, NAT2 and NAT7 are in place to enhance and protect Wakefield's historic assets, open space and landscape character.
Will it maintain the Countryside Character of the area? (Countryside Character can be referred to as landscape character.)	Policies CS33 and GB1 to GB7 aim to protect the Greenbelt and its countryside character. Policies CS34, NAT7 and NAT9 also aim to protect the landscape character of the District. Policies BED6, BED7 and TEL1 also aim to protect the landscape character from potential amenity effects from cables and pipelines, advertisements and telecommunications equipment.
Will it preserve or, where appropriate, enhance architectural, archaeological or other heritage assets?	Core strategy policies CS2 and CS34 refer to the need to enhance the historic and natural environment as well as protect and manage it. However, the suite of heritage policies in the DC DPD (HIS1 – HIS7), whilst they will help to achieve this sub-objective in terms of protection, do not necessarily meet the needs for enhancement.
Will it encourage the reuse of existing buildings?	Policies CS14, CS17, GB1, encourage the reuse of existing buildings.
Will it protect material assets?	Protection of valuable material assets is a theme of several policies. Policy CS38 requires protection of mineral reserves whilst protection of land, housing stock and cultural heritage assets is a key theme of numerous policies.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of policies against this objective are likely to be largely positive, as they support the protection of cultural heritage, the preservation of the landscape and encourage the efficient use of natural resources. There are some question marks against some of the policies in terms of how they will perform against the objective, however any adverse effects that could arise should be mitigated by the requirements of other policies (e.g. environmental protection and building design policies).

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Policy CS36 could include more details on the efficient use of natural resources (e.g. use of recycled materials);
- A new policy on sustainable buildings should be provided as described under SA9 above;
- Provide a more comprehensive coverage of the need to clean up the damage done by coal mining and other industrial activities;
- Heritage policies (HIS1 –HIS7) should encourage enhancement, where appropriate, of heritage assets as well as protection; and
- Encourage the use of Town Design Statements, Village Design Statements, parish plans, and Conservation Area Appraisals.

6.4.12 Objective: SA12 A bio-diverse and attractive natural environment.

Table 20: Performance of Policies against SA12 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it protect areas in the greenbelt?	Policies CS33 and GB1 to GB7 specifically aim to protect the greenbelt from inappropriate development.
Will it protect and enhance existing priority habitats and species and provide for appropriate long term management of	Policies CS34, NAT1 to NAT7 and NAT9 aim to protect and enhance areas of ecological value. However, protection of specific priority habitats and species is not required by any policy and long term management is not necessarily required although Policy CS3 does require future maintenance to be provided for in new developments and both NAT3 and NAT4 require appropriate management schemes to be developed.

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Sub Objective	Comment
wildlife habitats?	Increasing development pressure, for housing and employment land (Policies CS5 and CS15), may put pressure on priority habitats and species and overall biodiversity. Similarly, new cycle ways, footpaths and freight routes (Policies CS22 and CS27) may affect existing areas of habitat.
Will it protect and enhance individual features such as hedgerows, dry stone walls, ponds and trees?	Policy NAT9 addresses protection and enhancement of landscape character and individual landscape features, whilst NAT5 requires trees, woodland and hedgerows to be protected. However, diversification of farms (Policy EMP3) may result in existing features such as dry stone walls to become neglected.
Will it increase understanding of ways to create new environmental assets and restore wildlife habitats?	This is considered to be outside of the scope of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPD. However, Policy BED2 encourages development to integrate areas of valuable habitat for wildlife which should increase understanding of ways to create new wildlife habitats.
Will it make use of opportunities wherever possible to enhance the environment as part of other initiatives?	Environmental enhancement and creation of new areas of open space, landscape planting and wildlife habitats are encouraged by several policies including CS2, H4 and BED2.
Will it increase the quality and quantity of woodland cover in appropriate locations using native species?	Policy CS34 (3) specifically addresses the sub-objective to increase the quantity of woodland. However, there is no policy to protect areas of ancient woodland. With regard to the use of native species, the policy states that the planting of native species will be preferred. Policy BED2 provides further reference to the planting of native species, although this is in a landscape design context rather than being specific to new woodland.
Will it protect and enhance the region's rivers?	Policy EIC4 aims to protect water quality.
Will it promote, educate and raise awareness of the enjoyment and benefits of the natural environment and biodiversity and promote access to wildlife on appropriate sites?	A number of policies aim to protect existing areas of the natural environment, and specifically those sites with a high ecological value. Whilst access and education is not specifically encouraged, this will form part of a separate DPD on Recreation and Leisure.
Will it take into account the geomorphology of the land?	Areas of geological conservation designation are provided with protection through Policies NAT1 and NAT2.

Cumulative Effects

The overall cumulative effects of the policies against objective SA12 are positive with sites designated for their biodiversity importance being protected, and new areas of biodiversity value being created. It must however be noted that whilst policies encourage re-use of previously developed sites, these can have biodiversity value. Much will depend on the location of the sites chosen for development as to the overall impacts on biodiversity resulting from the implementation of the preferred policy options.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Include reference to priority habitats and species in policies including those referring to restoration and aftercare of mineral extraction sites (Policies CS39 and CS40);
- Long term management of wildlife sites needs to be considered when new areas are being introduced into developments. This could be achieved by expanding the wording of BED2;
- Given the limited amount of ancient woodland within the District, a policy should be included to protect existing areas of ancient woodland;

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- Increase the strength of Policy CS34 regarding native species by providing a link to the requirements of the Wakefield Tree and Woodland Strategy;
- Make the wording of EIC4 more specific to include the water resources covered by the policy; and
- Include a general commitment to improved access, promotion, education, and awareness raising within the Core Strategy or Development Control DPD and this can then be further expanded in the future Recreation and Leisure DPD.

6.4.13 Objective: SA13 Minimal pollution levels.

Table 21: Performance of Policies against SA13 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it clean up contaminated land?	Wakefield has a large amount of contaminated land remaining as a legacy from previous mining and industrial activities. Policies EIC9 and EIC10 specifically deal with the issue of remediating contaminated land. The Core Strategy also requires development to be located in urban areas, town and local centres, with preference for previously developed land. This will also encourage potentially contaminated land to be investigated and remediated, if required.
Will it reduce air, water, land, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution?	<p>Policies EIC4 to EIC8 specifically aim to reduce the potential for pollution from new developments and alterations to existing developments. Numerous policies also aim to reduce the need to travel, and specifically travel by car. However, the scale of new development proposed (Policies CS5, CS15 and CS28) is likely to result in increased traffic with associated noise and air pollution. In addition, whilst improved public transport through Policy CS23, is likely to result in increased use, the age and quality of buses used may not result in reduced emissions, since older buses have higher noise, nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions. An improved highway network (Policy CS24) may also encourage increased car usage. In general, increased development also increases the risk of all forms of pollution.</p> <p>Reduction in pollution from existing activities cannot be controlled by the Core Strategy or Development Control DPD. Other legislative controls are in place to control existing potentially polluting activities.</p>
Will it raise awareness about pollution and its effects?	This is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and DC DPDs. However the range of policies proposed which require pollution to be considered should contribute towards raising awareness of the issues.
Will it provide support, advice and encouragement for the business sector to reduce pollution?	Policy CS2 requires developments to consider pollution and contaminated land. This will encourage the business sector to reduce the potential for such pollution in new developments. Support and advice is provided by the Council as required although this isn't specifically covered within a policy of the Core Strategy or Development Control DPDs.
Will it promote innovative and less harmful uses of potential pollutants?	Policy CS37 promotes opportunities for on site management of waste, making waste a useful material rather than a potential pollutant. The policy also supports co-location of waste facilities which can, for example, use by products of waste for energy generation, therefore minimising potential pollution.
Will it include measures and research to identify and reduce pollution?	Policy EIC10 requires developers to carry out site investigations on sites suspected of being contaminated to identify the levels of pollution and determine remediation methods as appropriate to reduce the levels of pollution. Policies REN1 to REN3 also encourage development of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures which will in turn, encourage research and implementation of effective technologies and efficiency measures.
Will it reduce the risk of pollution incidents and environmental accidents?	Policies EIC4 to EIC8, EIC11 and EIC12 will help reduce the risk of pollution or environmental accidents from new development and alterations to existing developments.
Will it reduce pollution to water bodies and gaseous emissions from former mine	Policy EIC4 provides protection to water bodies. There are no policies specifically dealing with gaseous emissions from mine workings. This is outside of the scope of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs.

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Sub Objective	Comment
workings?	
Will it lead to an improvement in air quality within the designated AQMAs?	The major sources of pollutants in the two AQMAs are traffic on the M1 motorway and the A1 trunk road near Darrington which are administered by the Highways Agency. Policy EIC6 aims to prevent the situation within these areas from becoming worse, however it is unlikely to lead to an improvement in air quality.
Will it control land allocation for housing or amenity space in AQMAs?	Whilst a policy is in place to ensure that new developments which may contribute towards increased air pollution levels will not be permitted (Policy EIC6), there is no policy to specifically control land allocation or development within an existing AQMA, unless the Council considers that the AQMA will be affected by the development. The situation with regard to this issue may be clarified when the Air Quality Action Plan is completed.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of the policies on this objective are uncertain. Whilst there are several policies which seek to minimise pollution, particularly from new developments, the growth that is planned for the District in terms of new housing and industry may result in increased levels of pollution as a result of the increase in activity.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Modify Policy EIC6 to address, not just the risk of a development making the air quality worse, but also the effect that the existing poor air quality would have on new, sensitive development (e.g. housing). This will supplement policy EIC5 which provides general protection from pollution;
- Provide more encouragement for less polluting and more energy efficient vehicles; and
- Consider light pollution from advertisements within BED7.

6.4.14 Objective: SA14 Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change.

Table 22: Performance of Policies against SA14 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport?	Numerous policies require new development to be accessible by means other than the private car and location of developments in main urban centres should reduce the need to travel. Both will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. However, increased development, prosperity and improvements in the highway network are likely to increase the number of cars on the road, which may off-set reductions made in greenhouse gas emissions from other policies. The locations of land allocated for various types of development, including housing and employment, will be key to a reduction in transport pollution and determine the ability of the LDF to meet this sub-objective.
Will it reduce methane emissions from agriculture, landfills and past and present mining activities?	Policy EIC10 requires contaminated land to be remediated. This may result in methane from landfills and mining activities being managed and reduced.
Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions from domestic, commercial and industrial sources?	Policies CS36 and REN1 to REN3 encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in new developments. However, increased development, as proposed in Policies CS5 and CS15, will increase the level of greenhouse gas emissions. Existing developments will not be affected by these policies, except where substantial alterations are made to the existing buildings.
Will it increase energy efficiency in all sectors?	Policies CS2, CS3, CS36 and REN1 to REN3 encourage energy efficiency and/or renewable energy technologies to be incorporated into all new developments. The ability to improve energy efficiency in existing developments is outside the scope of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it research and monitor the likely effects of climate change and provide evidence and advice on the predicted consequences for affected areas and sectors?	This is not a function of the Core Strategy or Development Control DPDs.
Will it plan and implement adaptation measures for the likely effects of climate change?	Policies EIC3 and EIC4 seek to restrict development in existing flood plains. Policy CS35 aims to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce the risk from flooding.
Will it increase the amount of energy from renewable sources that is generated and consumed in the region?	Policies REN1 and REN2 support or require energy to be generated from renewable sources
Will it reduce risk from flooding?	Policies seek to restrict development in existing flood plains. Policies CS2, CS3 and EIC1 also encourage Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to be incorporated that will reduce the risk of flooding.

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of implementing the policies are uncertain. Those policies which encourage a move away from the reliance on the private car, seek to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and increase the use of renewable energy sources, should help to restrict the growth in greenhouse gas emissions. However this may be offset by emissions resulting from the increased activity from the new houses and employment growth that are proposed for the District.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Adaption to the impacts of climate change needs to be addressed in more detail;
- Include reference to methane reduction from mining and landfill activities in future; and
- Provide a new policy on sustainable buildings as described under SA9 above.

6.4.15 Objective: SA15 Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste.

Table 23: Performance of Policies against SA15 Sub-objectives

Sub Objective	Comment
Will it increase efficiency in water, energy and raw material use?	Policies CS2, REN1, REN2 & REN3 encourage energy and water efficiency in new developments. However, the scale of new development proposed in Policies CS5 and CS15 will result in a high use of natural resources including energy, water and raw materials. Efficient use of raw materials is not well covered in either the Core Strategy or Development Control DPDs, although use of secondary aggregates is encouraged within Policy CS39. A number of policies, including CS17 and EMP3 also encourage re-use of existing buildings, thereby reducing the amount of natural resources required.
Will it develop renewable energy/resources?	Policies CS36, REN2 and REN2 encourage development proposals for the generation of power from renewable sources
Will it make efficient use of land (appropriate density, protect good agricultural land, use Brownfield land in preference to greenfield sites)?	Numerous policies encourage use of previously developed land, and provide protection to greenfield sites. Minimum densities are also specified in accordance with PPG3 under Policy H1 and high quality agricultural land is protected in NAT8.

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Sub Objective	Comment
Will it increase prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste?	Policy CS37, in conjunction with other policies (e.g. CS39 for recycled aggregates, and BED1 – facilities for recycling), will help meet this sub-objective.
Will it increase awareness and provide information on resource efficiency and waste?	Although raising awareness on resource efficiency and waste is outside of the scope of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs, the policies that encourage waste minimisation and resource efficiency, including CS2, CS36, CS37 and CS39 will encourage awareness raising and ensure that information is available through other strategy documents produced by the Council.
Will it reduce use of non-renewable resources?	Policies CS36, REN1 and REN2 encourage development proposals for the generation of power from renewable sources. Policy REN3 also encourages energy conservation, which should minimise the use of non-renewable energy resources.

Cumulative Effects

As with objective SA14, the cumulative effects of implementing the policies are uncertain. Those policies which encourage efficient use of land and materials, and the improved energy efficiency of buildings, should help to restrict the growth in the consumption of these assets. However this may be offset by increased material usage and waste generation that will result from the construction of, and increased activities from, the new houses and employment sites that are proposed for the District.

Recommendations/Mitigation

- Provide more emphasis on efficient use of raw materials e.g. recycled aggregates in new developments. This could be added as an extra point in CS2;
- Provide a new policy on sustainable buildings as described under SA9 above;
- Provide links to waste management plans and policies; and
- Waste policies should address the collection and use of landfill gas.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 ADOPTION PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS IN THE SA

The publication of the Sustainability Appraisal Report signifies the start of a consultation process, whereby stakeholders and the public are given the opportunity to comment on the contents of both the LDDs and the Sustainability Report.

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.

As with the Sustainability Appraisal Report, the SA Statement must be made available to the four Statutory Environmental Bodies and also the public. The purpose of the SA Statement is to outline how the findings of the SA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the LDDs, and how sustainability considerations have been integrated.

The SA Statement will document any additions, amendments or deletions within the LDDs which have resulted from the findings of, and consultation on, the SA Report. This will provide detail on how the plan was modified to take account of the issues raised, and if no changes are made in response to an issue, reasons will be given.

At this stage information will also be provided to explain why the options carried forward into the plan have been accepted, and why other reasonable alternatives were rejected prior to the LDDs being submitted for adoption.

The SA Statement will also provide details of how monitoring will be carried out during implementation of the LDD.

7.2 MONITORING PROPOSALS

The SEA Directive explicitly requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. A monitoring system is being designed which will help to fulfil the following requirements:

- To provide baseline data for the next SA and to provide a picture of how the environment / sustainability criteria of the area are evolving;
- To monitor the significant effects or uncertainties of the plan; and
- To ensure that action can be taken to reduce / offset the significant effects of the plan.

Monitoring already plays a large role in the performance management of Wakefield MDC, and additional monitoring requirements will result from the introduction of Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR), which are being introduced to track the performance of the Local Development Scheme and associated documents. There is also considerable monitoring activity being carried out for other plans (e.g. West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan) and by bodies such as the Environment Agency.

Where relevant, use will be made of these existing monitoring processes for the monitoring proposed as part of this SA, to avoid duplication of effort.

The monitoring measures proposed in this section relate to the significant adverse effects and uncertainties that have been predicted to result from option implementation. These include the uncertainties highlighted during the comparison of the policies against the SA sub-objectives and recommendations. In these instances a specific policy reference has not been given in the table below.

At this stage proposals have not yet been identified to monitor the significant positive effects that have been predicted to result from plan implementation. This will be addressed when the monitoring programme is finalised.

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The monitoring programme itself will not commence until the DPDs are adopted in 2006. By then the monitoring requirements may have changed, either as a result of changes to the DPDs or due to other external influences on the baseline situation. In addition, WMDC's AMR may be revised by the time the plans are adopted and this may influence the monitoring procedures proposed for the Sustainability Appraisal. In light of the changes that may arise prior to plan adoption, the monitoring proposals presented below should therefore be viewed as provisional.

Table 24 sets out the indicators that are proposed to monitor the significant effects and uncertainties that have been predicted to arise on the implementation of the LDDs.

Table 24: Monitoring Proposals to Assess Significant Adverse Effects and Uncertainties

Significant Effect/ Uncertain Effect	Monitoring Proposal
SA1 – Good Quality Employment Opportunities for All	
A key concern in Wakefield is the quality and vulnerability of the employment opportunities being created.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term unemployment • Percentage of land developed for employment by type
Policies do not specifically mention equal opportunities/minority groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of lone parents, long term ill, disabled, over 50 working age and ethnic minorities who are economically active.
SA2 – Conditions which enable business success, economic growth and investment	
CS26 Reduced car parking facilities in town centres may result in people going elsewhere to shop and reduce attractiveness for city centre business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Health Checks • Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in retail centres
CS29 and EMP2 Potential to prevent business expansion in areas designated as mixed use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in mixed use areas
CS36 Developers may look to locate elsewhere if they are required to include renewable energy measures (which could be an additional cost burden on their proposals).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop indicators in conjunction with RSS monitoring
SA3 – Education and Training Opportunities to Build Skills and Capacities	
CS5, CS10 and H6 New housing or accommodation could put a strain on education facilities. This would be dependent on the provision of new educational facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School class sizes/ capacity • Educational achievement indicators
CS26 If public transport not provided to new training facilities it could limit access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring to be developed as part of the Accessibility Strategy
SA4 – Conditions and Services to Engender Good Health	
CS5, CS6, CS7 and H6 New housing or accommodation could put pressure on local facilities, if additional facilities are not provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to health care facilities including GPs and hospital • Provision of new health care facilities per year • Comparison of number of healthcare facilities against local population
SA6 – Vibrant Communities to Participate in Decision Making	
CS12 Potentially insufficient affordable housing to meet the District's requirements. Problems include lack of social cohesion and reduced community vibrancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new community facilities provided and usage
CS16, CS19 and EMP1 Community vibrancy in deprived communities could be affected by employment provision in these areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual workplace employment figures by Ward

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Significant Effect/ Uncertain Effect	Monitoring Proposal
SA7 – Create, Enhance and Provide Accessibility to Culture, Leisure and Recreation Activities	
CS26 Limiting car parking may reduce participation in CLR activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in sport and cultural activities. • Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre
CS29 and EMP2 These policies should improve access to town centre facilities in mixed use zones but may result in less access to the countryside.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to local greenspace • Access to the countryside
SA8 – Local Needs Met Locally	
CS5 Additional housing provision may put pressure on local essential services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents within 500m of key local services
CS26 People may decide to shop outside the city centre, where there is parking readily available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Health Checks
SA9 Quality Housing Available to Everyone	
CS1, CS5, CS6, CS8, CS19, CS29 and EMP2 Insufficient affordable housing may be provided, or housing may not be provided in areas where it is needed, or sites allocated for employment and mixed uses may prevent housing being provided in areas of need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable housing provision • Homelessness/temporary accommodation • Unfit dwellings
SA10 To Provide a Transport Network which Maximises Access whilst Minimising Detrimental Impacts	
CS17, EMP3 and GB6 Economic development in rural areas may increase traffic levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road traffic growth levels in rural areas • HGV/freight movements • Congestion index – vehicle delay on key routes
CS26 Reducing car parking in new developments may result in more people travelling elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new park and ride schemes per year • Road traffic growth levels • LTP Annual Performance Report indicators
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.	
CS1, CS16 and H1 long term impact only - the availability of urban locations for development will become less over time, with subsequent pressure on greenfield sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of derelict land • Percentage of developments on previously developed land
CS5 and CS15 The level of proposed development and its location may affect heritage assets or landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or damage to heritage assets • Changes to landscape character areas [Countryside Agency Countryside Quality Counts data]
CS19 and EMP1 May prevent regeneration of run down areas by restricting development in employment zones to employment uses only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of derelict land within employment zones
CS37, CS39 and CS40 Waste facilities and mineral extraction sites may have adverse visual impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be assessed on a case by case basis at the planning application stage in accordance with the policies in the LDF
SA12 A biodiverse and attractive natural environment	
CS5 and CS15 Increased development may put pressure on biodiversity through land take and increased disturbance (e.g. dog walkers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in areas and populations importance including i) change in priority habitats and species (by type), ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value.
CS6 Concentrating development within the urban areas may impact upon valuable areas of urban ecology and local biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality [Environment Agency data]

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Significant Effect/ Uncertain Effect	Monitoring Proposal
CS9 and CS10 Development on unallocated land may impact upon biodiversity.	
CS16, CS29 and EMP2 Sites allocated for employment or mixed uses may have biodiversity value.	
CS22 Cycleways could reduce green verges or wildlife corridors	
CS25 Increased use of waterways for the transportation of freight could impact upon the regions rivers and canals.	
CS26 Dependent on site selection for park and ride schemes, there could be an impact on biodiversity.	
CS27 Using old railways and waterways for recreation and commercial purposes has the potential to disturb or destroy habitats that may have established.	
CS36, CS39, CS40 and REN2 Sites chosen for renewable energy technologies and mineral extraction may have a high biodiversity value	
SA13 Minimal pollution levels	
CS5 and CS15 the scale of new development proposed is likely to result in increased traffic with associated air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road traffic growth levels. • Air quality monitoring data
CS17, EMP1 and EMP3 Employment in rural areas may lead to increased noise and light pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments contravening environmental protection legislation
CS23 Policy aims to increase the use of public transport but the age and quality of buses used may not result in reduced emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportions of Euro IV and Euro V buses in the public transport fleet
SA14 Minimal greenhouse gas emissions and a managed response to the effects of climate change	
CS5 and CS15 New development is likely to result in increased emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO₂ emissions per capita [Regional data only]
CS26 Park and ride schemes could increase overall car usage by encouraging previous users of public transport into cars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road traffic growth levels • Number of new park and ride schemes per year
EMP4 Tourist accommodation may not be accessible by means other than the private car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of tourist accommodation
SA15 Prudent and efficient use of energy and natural resources with minimal production of waste	
CS5 and CS15 The scale of new development will result in high use of natural resources including energy, water and raw materials e.g. aggregate use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of construction waste recycled [Regional data] • Renewable energy capacity installed by type (Megawatts) • Number of new dwellings completed to Eco-Homes 'very good' or 'excellent' standard (via planning applications)
CS5 and CS15 New development will result in increased waste production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal waste recycling rates • Commercial/industrial waste production

8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An assessment of the draft Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs for Wakefield has been undertaken by Waterman Environmental Ltd. and the Centre for Sustainability at TRL Ltd on behalf of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council.

A sustainability framework was drawn up based upon local, regional, national and international policies, objectives and targets together with existing baseline data for the District. Following consultation and assessment, a number of changes were made to the objectives of the LDF and the sustainability framework. The alterations to the LDF objectives included reference to equal opportunities for small settlements, a new objective to create an environment that promotes and maintains a good 'Quality of Life' and a new objective to protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment. Alterations to the SA Framework included new sub-objectives regarding access to the countryside, maintaining countryside character and preserving, or enhancing heritage assets.

WMDC's Issues and Options paper set out a variety of policy options for the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs. These were assessed against the sustainability objectives to assist WMDC to determine which options to take forward as preferred options. As the policy options available to plan makers are heavily constrained by Government planning guidance, the Initial Sustainability Appraisal found that the 'do nothing' options were the least sustainable; these being the options that did not follow Government guidance.

Based on the findings of the Initial SA and consultation on the Issues and Options paper, WMDC determined which options to take forward as preferred options. None of the options assessed as being unsustainable were taken forward as preferred options, however some of the options that were considered sustainable were not taken forward, This was mainly as a result of an equally sustainable alternative being available, although in some cases the option was rejected as it was not seen as a realistic option to address the particular needs of the area.

The preferred options were appraised against the sustainability objectives, and focussed on identifying the significant environmental, social and economic effects that may result from implementation of the policies. The appraisal found that the vast majority of the predicted effects are positive against the objectives and 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.

The only predicted negative effects are those which relate to:

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- The effect that the proposed level of development within the District will have on carbon dioxide emissions;
- The effect that the proposed level of development within the District will have on pollution;
- The effect that the proposed level of development within the District will have on raw material use; and
- The effect that the proposed level of development within the District will have on waste generation.

Due to the high level, strategic nature of many of the preferred options, the appraisal has identified a relatively high level of uncertainty when predicting the effects. This is often down to the lack of detail provided in the options with regard to the locations for future development, but is also due to uncertainties of the mix of options that will be carried forward into the adopted LDDs.

Mitigation measures and identification of issues requiring further consideration during the consultation stage of the adoption process were identified. In nearly every case where significant negative effects and other less significant negative effects have been identified during the assessment process, the 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;
- Including a requirement to consider speed restrictions and traffic calming measures;
- Providing more emphasis on cultural activities, as well as leisure and recreation facilities; and
- Including a new policy to cover sustainable buildings.

In order to determine the effects of the plans into the long term and ensure that the effects can be monitored to reduce and/or offset significant adverse effects, monitoring proposals have been put forward for those effects considered to be significant. The monitoring proposals include:

- Accessibility to GP Surgeries and hospitals
- Affordable housing provision
- Municipal recycling levels
- Road traffic growth levels
- Air quality monitoring data
- Renewable energy capacity installed by type (megawatts)
- Percentage of developments on previously developed land

This SA report has resulted in changes to the LDF to enhance beneficial effects and minimise the adverse effects and uncertainties. The changes include:

- 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.

Further changes to either the SA or the Core Strategy and Development Control DPDs is likely to occur as a result of consultation. When the DPDs are adopted, they will be accompanied by an SA Statement which will explain how the sustainability appraisal and consultation have influenced the final document.

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GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

For the purpose of this report the following terms and definitions apply:

Affordable Housing	Housing that is available to those whose housing needs are not met through the normal operation of the housing market by reason of cost. It may include housing for sale or rent.
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area - An area identified by Local Authorities where statutory UK air quality standards are being, or are expected to be breached up to the end of 2005.
Aquifer	A below ground, water bearing layer of soil or rock. Major aquifers tend to yield large quantities of water and are often used for public water supplies. Minor aquifers yield relatively high quantities of water which can be used for local and industrial supplies. Non-aquifers do not yield significant quantities of water and are rarely used for water supply.
Brownfield Site	Brownfield land also known as previously-developed land is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings), and associated fixed surface infrastructure. The definition covers the curtilage of the development. Previously-developed land may occur in both built-up and rural settings. The definition includes defence buildings and land used for mineral extraction and waste disposal where provision for restoration has not been made through development control procedures.
Conservation Area	An area designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings And Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance.
DPD	Development Plan Document – A Local Development Document which forms part of the statutory development plan, including the Core Strategy, Proposals Map and Area Action Plans
LDD	Local Development Document – comprising two types, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, which together form the Local Development Framework.
LDF	Local Development Framework – the portfolio of Local Development Documents which sets out the planning policy framework for the district.
LDS	Local Development Scheme - a three year project plan setting out the Council's programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents, reviewed annually in the light of the Annual Monitoring Report
Listed Building	A building included on a list of buildings of architectural or historic interest, compiled by the Secretary of State, under the Planning (Listed Buildings And Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
LTP	Local Transport Plan
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance - Guidance documents which set out national planning policy.
PPS	Planning Policy Statement – Guidance documents which set out national planning policy. They are replacing PPGs.
RPG	Regional Planning Guidance – Guidance prepared by the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and issued by the Secretary of State in October 2001, which has been replaced by the Regional Spatial Strategy.
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategies – Guidance documents which set out regional planning policy. They are replacing RPGs.
SA	Sustainability Appraisal - A process by which the economic, social and environmental impacts of a project, strategy or plan are assessed.
Scheduled Ancient Monument	A nationally important archaeological site included in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments maintained by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement – sets out the Council's vision and strategy for the standards to be achieved in involving the community and stakeholders in the preparation of all Local development Documents and in decisions on planning applications.

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SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment - systematic method of considering the likely effects on the environment of policies, plans and programmes.
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document – a Local Development Document which is part of the Local Development Framework but does not form part of the statutory development plan. SPDs elaborate upon policies and proposals in a Development Plan Document and include development briefs and guidance documents.
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance – guidance which elaborates upon policies and proposals in the Unitary Development Plan.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest - The best sites for wildlife and geological features in England as designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
UDP	Unitary Development Plan – the statutory development plan for the district adopted by the Council in January 2003.
WMDC	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council