

CHANGES TO CORE STRATEGY TEXT

Deprivation and Health Inequalities

- 2.30 In terms of health, Leeds performs well compared to the other core cities in England (Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) and has the lowest mortality rate for males and females of all ages. There have been huge improvements to life expectancy in the last decade, which has increased by two years for both men and women and over the same period, the mortality rate fell by over 18%. *Whilst the health of Leeds has improved overall, the City is performing below the England average, consequently, the need to tackle health issues and disparities across the District is a major challenge for improvement.*
- 2.31 *Narrowing the health gap within Leeds is a priority within the Leeds City Priority Plan and the Leeds Health and Well Being Strategy.* Despite becoming wealthier as a city over the last 20 years, Leeds still has too many deprived areas, where there is a poor quality of life, low educational performance, too much crime and anti-social behaviour, poor housing, poor health, and families where no one has worked for a few generations. The gap in life expectancy between the most disadvantaged parts of Leeds and the rest of the city remains at around ten years. *In seeking to address this key cross cutting issue through the Development Plan and in reflecting the duty to improve Public Health (Health & Social Care Act 2012, Section 12), an integral part of the Core Strategy therefore, is to seek to 'narrow the gap', through the overall approach and policy framework.*
- 2.32 Out of 476 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Leeds, the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that there are 92 which fall into the most deprived 10% in the country. In 2007, Leeds had 22 SOAs that were ranked in the most deprived 3% nationally, this number rose to 25 in 2010. Overall, 154 improved their ranking but 322 fell between 2007 and 2010. Gipton and Harehills is the only ward with all of its SOAs ranked in the most deprived 20% nationally. There is therefore a clear need to continue to tackle the multiple problems of poverty and to improve all parts of Leeds. Improving the health of the city's population is a key objective to be the best city in the UK. A thriving economy where people have access to jobs and a decent income is essential to good health. *Within this context also, information provided through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Leeds, highlights the wide range of health issues and factors across the District and their associated implications. These include population change and key groups within the population (including children and an aging population), behaviours and specific health conditions. The plan provides an opportunity to tackle health priorities in relation to a number of key social determinants of health (including the delivery of high quality housing, the provision of greenspace and in promoting opportunities for cycling and walking).*

Map 2 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Key Challenges

2.42 Leeds is a large and diverse city, with a proud heritage, a quality environment and home to a wide range of communities and businesses. As outlined above there are major opportunities for growth and regeneration and a desire for this to be achieved and managed in a way, which reflects the unique character of the district and the principles of sustainable development. In the preparation of the Core Strategy therefore there are a number of key challenges the overall spatial vision, development strategy and policy framework is seeking to meet. These include:

- Planning for population growth and the complex needs of a diverse population (*including opportunities to improve public health*),
- Facilitating local opportunities for urban regeneration and economic growth, within the context of major changes and uncertainty in the national and international economy,
- Planning for housing growth in a sustainable way in suitable locations, whilst meeting a range of housing needs,
- Ensuring that opportunities for regeneration and economic growth support the aspirations of the community in delivering needed jobs and homes,
- Ensuring that the physical development and growth of the District, is managed in a sustainable way, to respect the local identity, character and distinctiveness of communities and delivers high quality design and environment enhancement,
- Opportunities for regeneration and growth are supported with the necessary infrastructure,
- The need to maintain and develop, a longer term partnership approach to development and growth within the District, with a range of stakeholders including communities, investors and infrastructure providers.

3. SPATIAL VISION

Spatial Vision and Objectives

- 3.1 Leeds has been successful in recent years in regenerating its older urban areas, attracting inward investment, strengthening the role and attractiveness of the City Centre and protecting the District's distinctiveness and character. However, much remains to be done, especially given the consequences of the economic downturn and the reduction of public finance. In order for Leeds to move forward and to fulfil its potential as a major City and regional capital, a clear spatial vision is required to guide decisions on future developments and the policies that will help to deliver these. An integral part of this 'vision' is that local communities will be fully engaged with the need to bring about the sustainable growth of the city and to help the Council to manage investment in a way that delivers tangible community benefits.
- 3.2 The long term vision for the Leeds metropolitan district is that by 2028:
- Leeds will have maintained and strengthened its position at the heart of the City Region and has grown a strong diverse and successful urban and rural economy, with skilled people and competitive businesses, which are sustainable, innovative, creative and entrepreneurial. All communities will have equal chances to access jobs and training opportunities through the growth of local businesses.
 - Leeds City Centre will remain a successful destination for the people of Leeds and beyond, with a vibrant commercial, leisure and cultural offer. The Trinity and Eastgate centres will be well established and the South Bank will be integrated into the City Centre, which includes a new City Centre park acting as a gateway to the Aire Valley.
 - The spatial management of growth will be planned to balance the use of brownfield and greenfield land in a sustainable way, as part of an overall framework promoting development in suitable locations as a basis to meet identified needs.
 - The distinctive settlement pattern within the Leeds district will be maintained and their character enhanced, whilst providing for and supporting new housing growth opportunities. The main urban area of Leeds will support the diverse and distinctive communities that surround it, separated by agricultural land, woodland, valuable green spaces, habitats, and amenity areas.
 - Town and local centres will remain at the heart of their communities and provide a good range of shopping, services and local facilities.
 - Aire Valley will become an innovative new living and working community which is a national model for sustainable development, accommodating up to 9,000 new homes and 35,000 new jobs within a distinctive green environment. An integral part of the urban eco-settlement will be the

establishment of low carbon solutions, and energy requirements in established communities will have been significantly reduced by retrofitting.

- The Regeneration Priority Areas will have undergone successful transformations, in terms of having more attractive environments, improved choice and quality of housing, better access to employment through improved education and training, and increased connectivity to adjoining neighbourhoods, including the City Centre.
- In reflecting the role of Leeds as a strategic transport hub (including Leeds City Station and Leeds Bradford Airport), serving existing communities and in planning for new growth, sustainable forms of development are delivered (which include public transport as an integral part). Consistent with the ambitions to be ‘the best city in the UK’, the Leeds will be better connected, by an accessible and integrated transport system, which supports communities and economic competitiveness.
- Leeds will have a wide network of multi-functional Green Infrastructure (including green space areas) which provides an improved quality of life for residents to enjoy healthier lifestyles. This will also be a strong incentive in attracting new business to the area. Through new development, opportunities will be taken to improve connections between Green Infrastructure to enhance its value and achieve a better spatial distribution.
- Leeds will be resilient to climate change through the use of innovative techniques and efficient use of natural resources.
- Place making will be embedded into the planning process which has led to the creation, protection, and enhancement of buildings, places and spaces that are valued by people. This will have a positive contribution towards better *public* health and wellbeing, especially in communities where there have been clear health disparities and disadvantage.

Objectives

3.3 In reflecting this Spatial Vision, the following Objectives are set out below:

(i)	City Centre: In supporting the continued vitality, economic development and distinctiveness of the City Centre as the regional centre, the Core Strategy will:
1.	Accommodate first and foremost the needs of offices, shops, hotels, institutions and leisure and entertainment uses, accepting that there is a place for residential and supporting facilities such as parks, convenience stores, health centres, nurseries and schools;
2.	Give priority to the development of land opportunities in the southern half of the City Centre.
3.	Strengthen the vibrancy, distinctive character and cultural appeal of the City Centre,
4.	Make the City Centre accessible to all, including improved pedestrian and cycle links to adjoining neighbourhoods.

(ii)	Managing the Needs of a Successful District: To manage the needs of a growing City, the Core Strategy needs to:
5.	Plan for population growth and the implications of demographic change (<i>including opportunities to improve public health</i>).
6.	Promote a diverse, enterprising and competitive economy supported by a skilled work force.
7.	Deliver economic development which makes best use of land and premises across the district in sustainable locations, accessible to the community and wider labour market.
8.	Deliver housing growth in sustainable locations related to the Settlement Hierarchy, by prioritising previously developed land in urban areas and through the phased release of greenfield sites to ensure sufficiency of supply and provision of supporting infrastructure.
9.	Plan for a sufficient mix, tenure and type of housing to meet a range of community needs including affordable and specialist housing.
(iii)	Place making In supporting distinctive and cohesive places, the Core Strategy will:
10.	Promote the role of town and local centres as the heart of the community which provide a focus for shopping, leisure, economic development and community facilities, while supporting the role of the City Centre.
11.	Support the provision of community infrastructure that is tailored to meet the needs of the community including high quality health, education and training, cultural and recreation, and community facilities and spaces.
12.	Support high quality design and the positive use of the historic environment to create distinctive and cohesive places that include measures to improve community safety.
13.	Promote the physical, economic, and social regeneration of areas taking into account the needs and aspirations of local communities.
14.	Support the improved <i>public</i> health and wellbeing of Leeds' residents and workforce.
(iv)	A Well Connected District : In the delivery of an accessible and integrated transport system to support communities and economic competitiveness, the Core Strategy aims to:
15.	Increase the use of sustainable forms of transport by facilitating the delivery of new infrastructure and the improvement and management of the existing system, transport hubs and interchange (including Leeds City Station).
16.	Ensure new development takes place in locations that are or will be accessible by a choice of means of transport, including walking, cycling, and public transport.
(v)	Managing Environmental Resources : In safeguarding the environment of the District, the Core Strategy needs to:
17.	Protect natural habitats and take opportunities to enhance biodiversity through the creation of new habitats and by improving and extending wildlife corridors.
18.	Secure development which has regard to its impact on the local environment and is resilient to the consequences of climate change, including flood risk.
19.	Promote opportunities for low carbon and energy efficient heat and power, for both new and existing development.
20.	Make efficient use of natural resources, including the implementation of sustainable

	design and construction techniques, the use of minerals, and the effective minimisation and management of waste.
21.	Protect and enhance Green Infrastructure, strategic green corridors, greenspace, and areas of important landscape character, taking the opportunity to improve their quality, connectivity and accessibility through the development process.
vi)	Implementation and Delivery : In progressing the proposals of the Core Strategy, the Council will:
22.	Work in partnership with a wide variety of sectors and agencies including the Leeds City Region in the delivery of the Core Strategy and as a focus to explore opportunities for funding and delivery.
23.	Work with local communities in Leeds to ensure that local people are involved in shaping the future growth of the city with appropriate community benefits.
24.	Ensure that new development is served by appropriate levels of infrastructure to support the delivery of the Core Strategy.

4. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Overview and Location of Development

- 4.1.1 The Spatial Development Strategy outlines the key strategic policies which Leeds City Council will implement to promote and deliver development. The intent of the Strategy is to provide the broad parameters in which development will occur, ensuring that future generations are not negatively impacted by decisions made today. The Spatial Development Strategy is expressed through strategic policies which will physically shape and transform the District. It identifies which areas of the District play the key roles in delivering development and ensuring that the distinct character of Leeds is enhanced. It is complemented by the policies found in the thematic section, which provide further detail on how to deliver the Core Strategy. *Integral to this approach, the plan reflects the duty to improve public health as a cross cutting issue, incorporated within a number of key policy topic areas. This includes housing (improving the supply and quality of new homes in meeting housing need), the economy (providing opportunities for local employment opportunities and job growth), the role of centres (in providing the facilities and services for the community in accessible locations), regeneration (targeting specific priority areas across the District), transport and accessibility (improving public transport and opportunities for walking and cycling), place making (maintaining and enhancing local character and distinctiveness) and the environment (the protection and enhancement of environmental resources including local greenspace).*
- 4.1.2 The Key Diagram is presented at the end of this section, and compiles these Policies to provide a broad illustration of what the Plan will achieve by 2028. It highlights how and where development will occur, and those development areas which are key to delivering the Core Strategy. The Key Diagram is indicative only, and does not set out site boundaries or define the extent to which development is proposed to occur.
- 4.1.3 The level of housing growth expected to occur by 2028 within Leeds is greater than any other authority within England. A growing and diverse economy brings a need for new housing, sustainable and reliable transport systems, and services to meet the changing needs of the population. Bringing this future growth and prosperity to all residents remains a key consideration for the district.